



BARRINGTON, NH SELECT BOARD MINUTES

Monday, December 14th, 2020

The Select Board meeting for Monday, December 14th, 2020 began at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held by remote participation via a Microsoft Teams Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with [Emergency Order #12](#), pursuant to [Executive Order 2020-04](#). In attendance were Chairperson Hardekopf, Vice-Chair Knapp, Selectperson Bailey, Selectperson Ayer, Selectperson Saccoccia, Town Administrator (TA) MacIver, Municipal Office Administrator (MOA) Caudle, as well as Advisory Budget Committee (ABC) Chair Steve Saunders, member Dannen Mannschreck, John Morse, and Town Treasurer Peter Royce.

6:30pm. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hardekopf.

RSA 91-A EMERGENCY PROVISIONS/SELECT BOARD CHAIR EMERGENCY DETERMINATION

6:30pm. Chairperson Hardekopf read the emergency provisions of the State of Emergency and explained how this meeting is accessible as well as how to access future meetings.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

6:32pm. Select Board attendance was taken via Roll Call: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Present, Saccoccia – Present, Knapp – Present, Hardekopf - Present. Each Select Board member shared their location and stated that at present, they were alone in their respective rooms with no one influencing their votes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6:33pm. Chairperson Hardekopf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Sale of Map 22 Lot 0001 per RSA 41:14-a

6:35pm. Tax Deeded in 2020, the owner of Pumpkin Hollow, where the property is located, would like to purchase this property. Comments from the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board included that the cost should be closer to market value. The Town is unable to retain anything greater than the amount owed, all additional proceeds are paid to the prior owner or lienholders.

6:37pm. The Public Comment section of the hearing opened. There were no comments.

6:38pm. The public hearing closed.

6:38pm. Chairperson Hardekopf recused herself, Vice-Chair Knapp stepped in.

[Map 262-14-9 Per RSA 41:14-a](#)

6:38pm. The Board has recommended this property for sale previously. This is not a tax-deeded property, so must be disposed of through RSA 41:14-a process. An owner was identified at auction on December 12th, 2020, with Tracy Hardekopf as the high bidder.

6:41pm. Public Hearing opened. Selectperson Ayer shared that he was pleased with the Public Auction.

6:42pm. Hearing opened to the public. There were no comments from the public.

6:43pm. The public hearing closed.

6:43pm. Chairperson Hardekopf resumed Chairperson duties.

APPOINTMENTS

[2021 Budget and Warrant Article Finalization](#)

6:43pm. At the previous ABC meeting, the committee agreed the Emergency Communications Capital Reserve should be increased from \$50,000 to \$60,000. It was included in the agreed upon suggestions previously but was not specifically discussed. It is intended for use for communications by the Fire, Police, and Highway Departments to improve and replace communications equipment.

ABC Chair Steve Saunders encouraged the Select Board to discuss the Library Article (#7) further, and instead of removing funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance, to instead make it a tax-related article. ABC Member Dannen Mannschreck further explained the need to increase the Emergency Communications Capital Reserve due to all electronics needing to be changed at once.

TA MacIver reviewed the [2021 Draft](#) and [Default Budgets](#), which can be changed through Deliberative Session. A [Petitioned Warrant Article](#) was submitted requesting an increase of the All Veteran's Credit to the full \$750 allowed by the state over a three-year period from the current \$450. The article may need to be adjusted at Deliberative Session as the three-year phase in may not be legal. The Supervisors of the Checklist have not reviewed the signatures, but it does appear to have sufficient signatures.

The [2021 Draft Warrant](#) and [2021 Warrant Articles](#) are in process, pending further discussion and Select Board decisions.

January 12th is the deadline for petitioned warrant article. If an appropriation article comes in after January 4th, an additional meeting will need to be held on January 18th.

The Select Board agreed by consensus to move discussion on warrant article support to after new business.

Public Comment

7:04pm. Treasurer Peter Royce requested information about how the Veteran's Credit is not an appropriation, and raised concerns about the amount of funds being set aside for the Fire Department. The ABC sought to plan ahead to achieve the Fire Department's Chairperson Hardekopf reminded all that there should not be discussion during Public Comment.

Karen Towne – Requested further explanation about the reduction in the Library Capital Reserve. Administrator MacIver explained the amount is through fund balance, not a tax impacting item. Chairperson Hardekopf reminded all that during Public Comment the Select Board is not able to participate in a Question and Answer session.

Selectperson Bailey – Shared his recommendation at that meeting was to submit the article to the Select Board as he is unable to make a decision.

Selectperson Dan Ayer – Called a point of order, no debates during public comment.

7:17pm. Public comment closed.

Review of Minutes 11/30/2020

7:17pm. Selectperson Ayer motioned to accept the [November 30th, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#), seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Knapp – Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

STAFF REPORTS

8:34pm. TA MacIver shared the Town's Land Sale auction was successful. Held on December 12th, the Town successfully sold 5 properties, and will be collecting more than \$169,000 in amounts owed to the Town.

Request for Signatures

8:36pm. MOA Caudle requested signatures for the following:

- Payroll Manifest 2020-97a
- One agreement for assessing services for 2021
- There is still one electronic packet in need of review and signature, will be re-sent following this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Department Ultra-Terrain Vehicle (UTV)

7:20pm. The Firefighter's Association has voted to contribute up to \$16,000 in matching funds towards the purchase of an UTV. The proposed Warrant Article is a vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000 for the purpose of purchasing an ultra-terrain vehicle and necessary equipment for fire and rescue operations, with up to \$16,000 to be donated from the Barrington Firefighter's Association. The Select Board still has the final decision to spend the funds if the \$16,000 is not donated.

Motion to place the UTV Warrant Article [as proposed](#) on the 2021 Warrant by Chairperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Knapp – No, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Greenhill and Old Settlers Bridge Amendment

7:51 pm. There are new Department of Environmental Services (DES) requirements that must be met for the Green Hill Bridge, and an endangered vine was found and will need to be relocated. At Old Settler's Bridge an old mill and blacksmith site have been discovered, which has necessitated a phase 2 archaeological dig.

Motion to approve the [Greenhill Bridge Amendment 3](#) by Chairperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Knapp – Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Motion to approve the [Old Settlers Amendment 2](#) and to authorize TA MacIver to sign the required documents for the additional scope and fee by Selectperson Bailey, seconded by Chairperson Hardekopf. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Knapp – Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Panish Conservation Easement Acquisition

7:57pm. The Select Board discussed concerns regarding the limitations set on the use of the property. The Select Board has previously agreed to acquire this easement. The access road and parking lot may be built along with forestry activities with minor landscaping required.

Motion to approve the acquisition of the Panish-Hall Conservation Easement and authorize the \$1176.50 expenditure from the conservation fund as appropriated from the Conservation Commission by Selectperson Ayer, seconded by Vice-Chair Knapp. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Abstain, Knapp – Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

NEW BUSINESS

Barrington Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

8:14pm. Motion to approve the tentative [collective bargaining agreement](#) for inclusion in the 2021 warrant and recommend approval of the cost items by Town voters at the annual meeting by Chairperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Knapp – Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Health Insurance Review

8:20pm. In the interest of increasing savings, the Town and School District are considering the possibility of merging health plans. After review, there appears to be an increased savings and benefit if the School opts to [join the Town's health plan](#). The School District will further consider this option. Selectperson Bailey requested further information about the pending Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). TA MacIver shared that the School Board has not yet acted on the MOU.

Deliberative Session

8:29pm. The Select Board was asked to consider how to hold an in-person Deliberative Session can be held with consideration to Covid-19 precautions.

Motion to continue with an in-person Deliberative Session with designated area for those without masks, temperature checks at entrance, and forms for contact tracing with required social distancing by Chairperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Ayer.

Bailey requested two microphones; one for those with and another for those without masks.

The Select Board clarified that the temperature check and questionnaire is requested, not required, and the Supervisors of the Checklist will have a list of all those who check in to participating. If someone is not registering, they request those not registering otherwise identify themselves for contact tracing if necessary.

2021 Prosecution Service

8:41pm. Chief George Joy has requested to change prosecutorial services to a contract prosecutor. There was discussion about the need for the contract prosecutor to hold professional liability insurance as recommended by the Town's attorney and insurance provider.

Motion to increase the contract price to include insurance cost for discussion only by Selectperson Bailey. There was no second. ***The motion did not advance.***

Motion by Select Board to engage services of Jean Reed at a contract price of \$15,000 and to waive the purchasing policy requirement by Selectperson Bailey, seconded by Chairperson Hardekopf. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Knapp – Present, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Budget/Warrant Article Finalization

8:51pm. TA MacIver clarified that the Select Board approved up to \$32,000, while Chief Walker stated the price estimate is \$30,500.

Motion to adjust amount to \$30,500 by Vice-Chair Knapp. There was no second. ***The motion did not advance.***

Motion to finalize the 2021 Budget and Warrant Articles by Selectperson Bailey, seconded by Chairperson Hardekopf. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Knapp – Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

SELECTPERSONS REPORTS

8:55pm.

Selectperson Ayer –Conservation Commission walk is scheduled for 12/15 at 1pm at 38 Province Road, the Leighton property. Select Board members are encouraged to go. The Town Lands Committee was having technical difficulties at their last meeting, and they ad

Selectperson Bailey – Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Vice-Chair Knapp – A Planning Board meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, and the Technology Committee meeting was held last week.

Selectperson Saccoccia – Was unable to attend Recreation meeting as it's scheduled at the same time as the Select Board meeting.

Chairperson Hardekopf – Was unable to attend the ABC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

8:57pm. Public comment opened.

8:58pm. There were no public comments. Public comment closed.

NONPUBLIC SESSION

8:58pm. Motion to enter non-public session for reasons of personnel by Chairperson Hardekopf, seconded by Vice-Chair Knapp. Roll call vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Knapp- Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

The Select Board left the public meeting for nonpublic session at 8:59pm.

8:59pm. Nonpublic session opened, with Chairperson Hardekopf, Vice-Chair Knapp, Selectperson Bailey, Selectperson Ayer, Selectperson Saccoccia, TA MacIver, and MOA Caudle present.

Town Clerk/Welfare Changes

8:59pm. The Select Board had no objection to TA MacIver's recommendations regarding changes to the assignment of the Town Clerk Assistant position to part-time and transitioning the Deputy Town Clerk position to a full-time position. TA MacIver is currently researching options for the Town's welfare responsibilities and will assume all welfare responsibilities until a suitable option is found.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

9:08pm. Public session resumed, with Chairperson Hardekopf, Vice-Chair Knapp, Selectperson Bailey, Selectperson Ayer, Selectperson Saccoccia, TA MacIver, and MOA Caudle present. In non-public session, the Select Board discussed one personnel matter and took no action.

9:09pm. Motion to adjourn by Chairperson Hardekopf, seconded by Vice-Chair Knapp. Roll call vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Knapp- Aye, Saccoccia – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Links to all reviewed documents can be found in the December 14th, 2020 [Town Administrator's Report](#).

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Tracy Hardekopf

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Chairperson T. Hardekopf

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Andrew Knapp

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Vice-Chairperson A. Knapp

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J. Saccoccia

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Selectperson J. Saccoccia

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G. Bailey

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Selectperson G. Bailey

Selectperson D. Ayer

January 4th, 2021

Date Minutes Were Approved