

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2024**

Present: James Bailey – Chairman, Richard Pelletier – Selectman, Iris Campbell – Selectwoman and Laura Buono, Town Administrator

Others present: Joyce Bosse, Leigh Bosse, Riche' Colcombe, Kelly D'Errico, Ernie Butler

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. OPEN SESSION

State Road Maintenance/Over-Growth (across from Rite Aid): Riche' Colcombe followed up with the Selectmen regarding the discussion that took place during the July 24th Selectmen's meeting about the state and the lack of overgrowth maintenance. Riche' asked the Board if they want her to follow up as a state representative as stated in the July 24th minutes. Riche' did suggest at that meeting the Board write a letter as well and asked if they intend to do so. Chairman Bailey said he is not clear where the states responsibility begins and ends as far as off-road maintenance. Hillsborough's Road Agent has spoken to the new state road agent about the road maintenance and maybe a little pressure from Riche' may help. Chairman Bailey did say that the work may already be on a schedule. Riche' said the state said they would get to it last year and never did, same about a tree from 3-years ago. Riche' also noticed the Welcome to Hillsborough sign coming in from Antrim is all overgrown, same for the sign on Route 202. Riche' said she will create a letter including the Selectmen.

Non-public Session: Ms. Colcombe asked the Board if they could provide any information from the nonpublic session they had on July 24th. Ms. Buono said that information is available in the July 24th meeting minutes which the Board will approve tonight.

Jones Road: Ms. Colcombe said she previously talked to the Board about the changing erosion on Jones Road. She said she went on Google Street View and could see how the road was prior to 2021, where the run-offs are and where the new run-offs are on Jones Road. Ms. Colcombe shared this information with the hopes of the town re-evaluating what is going on with Jones Road. Chairman Bailey said the Road Agent looked at Jones Road and feels there hasn't been that much change, but, you can't fight Mother Nature. Ms. Colcombe said it's not Mother Nature, there is no longer a crown in the road and the forces of Mother Nature have been compounded because of the changes made in the drainage. Chairman Bailey will speak to the Road Agent to look at the road again. Ms. Colcombe said the work the Road Agent is doing on Jones Road is creating bigger issues for the drainage and encouraged them to see what is going on with the road themselves.

2. DOG ISSUES

Kelly D'Errico talked to the Board about a neighborhood dog that has been defecating on her lawn for the past two years as well as other lawns and is an aggressive dog. She has called the police, and the police has encouraged her to call every time there is an issue. Ms. D'Errico doesn't blame the dog, she blames the owner of the dog. Ms. Buono said she spoke to the police chief about this, the dog owner went to court in March, pled guilty and was fined \$300, most of that was suspended, but now she has 2 more court dates in September, the fine will probably need to be paid at that time. The owner is being summoned every circumstance and it is clearly understood the dog is a

nuisance. Between January and August there have been 7 complaints filed. The Board encouraged Ms. D’Errico as well as the neighbors to call the police when there is an issue with the dog. Selectman Pelletier asked if the dog is loose can the dog be impounded. Ms. Buono said yes, if the dog is loose, the dog will be picked up.

3. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – TIRE CHANGER AND OTHER BUSINESS

Tire Changer - Road Agent Ernie Butler asked the Board to approve the purchase for a new tire changer, he presented 3 bids. The item would be purchased from money in the capital reserve which has a \$15,511.86 balance.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the purchase of a tire changer in the amount of \$10,697 from Car Parts, Hillsborough, NH. Selectwoman Campbell seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Knot Weed – Mr. Butler informed the Board that he will be spraying the knot weed around town, he has received several complaints about the weed. The spraying will take place in September.

Driveway Permits – Mr. Butler recommends charging for driveway permits. Ms. Buono said Mr. Butler would need to put a recommendation together for the Board to consider, then a public hearing would be held. Ms. Buono recommended including this with the public hearing that will be needed to adjust the Transfer Station fee structure. Ms. Colcombe is not in favor of establishing fees for driveway permits. Chairman Bailey told her she can have her say during the public hearing. Selectman Pelletier has a concern as well about adding another fee. Mr. Butler explained the driveway permitting process and the amount of time it takes out of his day, and how the permitting has increased.

4. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated July 24, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

5. MANIFEST

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 19526 – 19598 a/k/a Vouchers #31, 32 & 33 in the amount of \$364,917.70 (includes 317 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 032191 – 032333 a/k/a Voucher #29 & 30 in the amount of \$1,900,843.52. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

A/P Checks include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$1,068,320.59 and deposits to the CRF’s as voted in at Town Meeting.

6. SEALED NONPUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to unseal nonpublic meeting minutes from 2005; September 14, August 10, May 25, November 30, November 23, December 14, December 21, August 31, and August 24. Selectwomen Campbell seconded the motion, the motion passed.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for August 14, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- Solar Exemption – Map 8 Lot 106-3
- Veterans Tax Credit – Map 8 Lot 106-3
- Yield Taxes Assessed – Map 8 Lot 1 \$106.94; Map 8 Lot 121 \$341.20; Map 5 Lot 659 \$324.44

8. TOWN PROPERTY – CLEAN UP (ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC)

Ms. Buono talked to the Board about applying for a Brownfields Grant for the Associated Electric property on W. Main St. The applications are opening in September and to do so, certain documents and tests are required that will cost approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000 before applying for the funding. Sanborn and Head who are currently working at the property will work up a proposal if the Board is interested. In the past, Brownfields was used for Woods Woolen Mills clean up. The application would be for \$200,000 to \$300,000 towards the clean-up of the property. The funds for the testing/report would come from the building's capital reserve fund. Currently, all the work that has been done on the property has been funded by grants via the EPA and NHDES.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to move forward with the engineering study estimate needed to apply for a Brownfields application. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

9. SIDEWALK PROJECT

At this time the project is dealing with easements on the properties involved. One property owner, Mr. Hagstrom, was offered \$5,000 for a drainage easement and has told the office staff that the money is not enough, he said he will provide a figure of what he thinks it's worth or the sidewalk can go across the street. And then another landowner said after they spoke with Mr. Hagstrom, they want more money. Ms. Buono doesn't know where this is going to go, this is not the first time Mr. Hagstrom has been approached about the sidewalk project. Ms. Buono will be speaking to the state about this, the sidewalk will not be on Mr. Hagstrom's property, it's in the right of way. The drainage easement is on his property. Ms. Buono will keep the Board updated. The project is scheduled to go out to bid next spring. Selectman Pelletier doesn't understand why Mr. Hagstrom doesn't feel \$5,000 isn't enough when the project is paying for the drainage on his property, there is no money burden to Mr. Hagstrom.

10. LIVE STREAMING MEETINGS

Ms. Buono spoke with the Town of Henniker, they have two rooms set up with cameras and recorders, they pay \$320 per month to stream their meetings. Selectman Pelletier said the school live streams and the company that they use provided the equipment. The only conference rooms available are at the Police Department and Fire Department. Selectman Pelletier asked Ms. Buono to find out from the school about the cameras and how they archive.

11. PARK & RIDE

Ms. Buono spoke with Chief Parsons who spoke with the new foreman at the state shed. The foreman had spoken to Concord and learned the state is not interested in removing the barriers at the park & ride. The state is interested in using the excess space for motorcycles and CDL testing.

12. INVEST NH

Ms. Buono spoke with the auditors about the Invest NH money the town applied for and received as part of the affordable housing program. The auditors said the reporting procedure is moving forward with spending from those funds, we will need to use a warrant article at Town Meeting to either spend it on individual projects as they come up, or to move it into the infrastructure capital reserve fund, or other capital reserve funds, to put it toward future projects. The Board will have a future discussion about this during budget season.

13. MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

Selectman Pelletier feels members of the public should be part of the municipal complex planning discussions. He wants the Board to think about it. Chairman Bailey feels that could be time consuming at this phase because right now, the Board is simply coming up with a plan. Public hearings will be held once a plan is in place. Selectwoman Campbell agrees, stating that the public wouldn't know what the interior needs are to operate the departments. Selectman Pelletier feels having public input with some expertise would be helpful.

14. PICKLEBALL

Selectman Pelletier feels there is a need for another pickleball court to be built because there is a lot of interest in the game. Currently there is a newly built court just for pickleball and the tennis courts are painted to allow for them to also be used for pickleball. The Board will discuss this more during the budget season.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman