

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2024

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

Others present: Walter Rutter, Dylan Theroux, Riche' Colcombe, JT Clough

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

1. OPEN SESSION

Old Henniker Road and Rats: Walter Rutter talked to the Board about the excessive speed on Old Henniker Road and would like to see the speed limit lowered and more enforcement. The other problem Mr. Rutter has is rats in the neighborhood, his son killed 12 rats in the last week. Ms. Buono said the Health Officer is working with neighbors in that area by beginning to remove the trash and debris. Mr. Rutter said he will be obtaining a quote from an exterminator and asked if the town could help with that. Chairman Bailey said any exterminator would be the homeowner's responsibility, but the Health Officer is working with the neighbors to eradicate the rats.

Tax Deeded Property on Severance Road: Dylan Theroux is interested in Map 1 Lot 71 after learning the original bidder backed out of the purchase. Mr. Theroux was also a bidder on the property but lost to a higher bidder. The Board agreed to accept Mr. Theroux bid in the amount of \$5,000.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to accept the bid amount of \$5,000 for Map 1 Lot 71 on Severance Road to Dylan Theroux. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Report of Concerns: Riche' Colcombe asked the Board when the washed-out area on Jones Road will be paved, she said the area is getting bigger. Ms. Colcombe asked if some trees on W. Main could be trimmed that are blocking the parking sign and the directional sign. Chairman Bailey said the Road Agent is aware the trim is needed. Ms. Buono mentioned there is a function on the town's website, "Report a Concern" Ms. Colcombe can use as well, the report will be directed to the department that is chosen.

2. GRIMES FIELD

Playground: Youth Services Director, JT Clough said he has been approached by community members regarding the playground at Grimes Field and the need for new playground equipment. A draft plan was created including ADA compliant structures, shade, and more modern structures. Money for the effort will be deposited in the Parks & Rec Revolving Fund, applying for grants and fund raising will be considered.

Skatepark: Mr. Clough is also looking into resurfacing the skate park. Selectwoman Campbell has a concern about the basketball court and the drop off along the edges, the baskets are too close to the edge as well. Mr. Clough said he has been talking to American Ramp Company about redesigning the skatepark to a more inclusive feature and is including fixing the basketball court.

Mr. Clough said they also want to fundraise for dug outs on field 2, open air dug outs air being considered. The cost for material is \$6K - \$7K for each dugout.

Ms. Buono said the \$17,000 provided by the Trustees of the Trust Funds from the Mildred Nelson Fund can be used on any of these projects. The Selectmen agree with the projects presented by Mr. Clough this evening.

Dock: Mr. Clough explained the installer is still working on leveling the dock by driving the pilons further down.

3. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes dated May 22, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

4. MANIFEST

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 19336 – 19411 a/k/a Vouchers #22, 23, 24, 25, 25A & 26 in the amount of \$2575,138.87 (includes 377 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 031765 – 032020 a/k/a Voucher #21, 22, 23, 24 & 25 in the amount of \$2,872,409.39. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**A/P Vouchers include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$1,902,202.62

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for June 27, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- 2023 Abatement Denial – Central Rivers Power Hydro
- Intent to Cut – Map 1 Lot 41 access via Kingsbury Hill Rd, Washington: Map 5 Lot 96 East Washington Road
- Department of Revenue PA-28 Form
- Department of Revenue PA-16 Form
- Welfare Lien Discharge – Map 8 Lot 16
- Cemetery Deed – Harvey Memorial Cemetery – Dubuque
- Solar System Exemption – Map 23 Lot 167
- 2023 Approved Abatement – Map 5 Lot 56-2; Map 25 Lot 78
- Oath of Office – Keegan Finley
- Class VI Road Agreement & Release – Poverty Plain Road Map 7 Lot 89

6. MILDRED NELSON FUND FOR CHILDREN RECREATION

Riche' Colcombe, a Trustee of the Trust Funds said the town has received all the funds that were in the Mildred Nelson Fund in the amount of \$17,000 closing out the account and now, she is asking the Board to consider a request from a student asking for help to attend a volleyball camp in Spain. If the Trustees still had the funds from Mildred Nelson they would have granted some money to the student. The money from the fund was granted to the town in May, and the student applied to the Trustees for help in May as well but the money was already turned over to the town.

The student did apply to Dunkin Jenkins but was denied. Selectman Pelletier is concerned about setting a precedent.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to award \$500 to Rebecca Chadwick for a volleyball camp, this is a one-time motion for funds to be expended from the Mildred Nelson Fund. The balance of the Mildred Nelson Fund will be used towards Grimes Field improvements. Selectwoman Campbell seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion passed. Selectman Pelletier asked the Board if funding should be made available for other similar cases. The other Board members disagreed. Ms. Colcombe provided the backstory of the funds, she said Mildred Nelson provide \$3,000 to the library and \$3000 to the town as a gift, not as a trust, the money's purpose is to be used for children's recreation. In the 1990's a trust fund was created only to use the earnings. Because of the lack of activity and because the money was originally a gift, the Trustees closed the account and provided the balance to the town.

7. PARK & WHITTEMORE STREETS SIDEWALKS

The Board was asked what type of material they want for the sidewalks on Park Street and Whittemore Street, asphalt, or concrete. Chairman Bailey said asphalt, and asked if the sidewalks will be maintained in the winter. If salt is going to be used on the surface it will eat through concrete.

8. TOWN WEBSITE

Ms. Buono asked the Board if they were ready to go live with the new website. The Board asked Ms. Buono if she feels it's ready and she does. Ms. Colcombe suggested some changes to the new website and in speaking with Selectman Pelletier, it was felt that most of those suggestions were preferences and could be addressed during the employee training session. The Board agreed to go live with the new website.

9. CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Ms. Buono said there are already campaign signs cropping up and it was noted that one candidate has signs at the Transfer Station. Chairman Bailey said technically no permission has been given for anyone over the years to place signs at the facility but it has been tradition. Ms. Buono will try and contact the owner of the campaign signs and have them hold off placing the signs there until August.

10. STREAMING SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS

Ms. Buono said she spoke with Comcast and learned they do offer a public education or government access channel. The cost is also significant, no amount was provided, but the cost would be passed through the subscribers. Ms. Buono can arrange a meeting with the Board.

Selectman Pelletier recommended authorizing Ms. Buono to investigate the cost for streaming Selectmen's meetings on the town's website.

11. HILLSBOROUGH HEIGHTS

The Board talked about the Hillsborough Heights meeting with the Selectmen about \$165,000 over charge by the water commissioners and since learning the commissioners informed the project in a will serve letter about that cost. The miscommunication wasn't with the water commissioners, it was with Hillsborough Heights. Ms. Buono will send an email to Hillsborough Heights requesting reimbursement.

12. COMMUNITY POWER

The Community Power program is monitoring the electric rates since the current rates with Eversource are now lower, but the program is on track to start in Fall once Eversource sets their new rates sometime in July.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman