

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Selectmen present: Chairman Mark Le Doux, David Petry, Peter Band, Frank Cadwell and Paul Armstrong
Selectmen absent: None
Staff present: Lori Radke, Town Administrator; Rick Towne, Fire Chief; Joe Hoebeke, Police Chief;
Brenden LaFlamme, Police Lieutenant; Todd Croteau, DPW Director, Dawn
Desaulniers, IT Director and Bill Moseley, Camera Operator

COMMUNITY ROOM

Hollis Town Hall Community Room, located at 7 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**1. 2019 Budget and Proposed Warrant Articles**

For more information, see Budget Committee Minutes dated February 4, 2019.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN**1. 2019 Town Warrant Article Recommendations**

On November 26, 2018 the Board of Selectmen recommended all warrant articles by a unanimous vote with the exception of the following articles, which will be acted upon this evening.

a. ARTICLE 2 – Land Acquisition (Hardy Property)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$750,000.00** (gross budget) to acquire full ownership interest to certain tracts or parcels of land, together with any buildings thereon, in the Town of Hollis and as more particularly specified below, on such terms and conditions as determined by the Board of Selectmen and as more particularly specified below.

Said funding shall be raised as follows:

- Not more than **\$80,000**, shall be raised hereby through *ad valorem* taxes; and,
- Not more than **\$450,000** shall be paid by the Conservation Commission from the conservation fund, on the condition that said Commission (as well as the Board of Selectmen) shall approve such acquisition in the manner required by **RSA 36-A:5, (II)**, prior to concluding the purchase; and,
- Not more than **\$200,000**, if available, shall be paid from the unassigned fund balance available as of December 31, 2018; and,
- Not more than **\$20,000**, if available, shall be paid from the Forest Maintenance Fund, as authorized by the Forestry Management Committee, it being a condition of such funding that all or a portion of the property referenced below shall be identified and designated as a 'Town Forest', within the meaning of **RSA 31:110-113**, said portion of said property being thereafter subject to the management and maintenance of said Forestry Management Committee.

The Board of Selectmen is also hereby authorized to apply for and accept gifts, grants, or other forms of assistance, from both public and private sources, to offset the raising and appropriating of the funds

referenced above. If the gross amount of this appropriation cannot be confirmed as available through one or all of the combination of the foregoing means on or before December 31, 2019, this appropriation shall be rendered void and shall lapse.

This acquisition shall also be subject to the following additional condition:

The property shall be conveyed to the Town subject to suitable conditions and use restrictions that shall insure that the property will be utilized in perpetuity for conservation purposes within the meaning of ***RSA 36-A:4***, forestry purposes, within the meaning of ***RSA 31:110-113***, and such additional passive recreation purposes as determined by the Board of Selectmen with the consent of the Conservation Commission, Forestry Management Committee and Trails Committee, which property, after such acquisition, shall be managed and maintained jointly by said committees, as the appropriate scope of their respective oversight(s) shall appear. Such restrictions shall be contained in the conveyancing instrument by means of which title to the Town is granted and shall restrict the property in perpetuity. If the said committees and Boards are unable to agree on the terms and conditions of said conditions by December 31, 2019, this appropriation and authorization shall be null and void and shall lapse.

The certain tract or parcel of land which are authorized be purchased hereby, is known as the 'Hardy Property, and is more particularly, described below:

<i>Tax Map/Lot</i>	<i>Owner (tax records)</i>	<i>Approx. Acreage</i>	<i>Book/Page Hillsborough Registry</i>
31-009	<i>Ernest E. Hardy and Jane E. Hardy Revocable Trust</i>	75.90	2254-0469 excepting 2774-0597

Subject to the conditions set forth above, this will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, III and will not lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation is made shall be completed. This is a special warrant article pursuant to RSA 32:3 (VI)(b).

MOVED by Peter Band, seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Selectmen recommend Article 2, Land Acquisition (Hardy Property), to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Cadwell, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

b. ARTICLE 5 – Multi-Purpose Dump Truck Lease Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen pursuant to RSA 33:7-e to enter into a five (5) year lease purchase agreement for the sum of \$230,000, for the purpose of lease purchasing one (1) dump truck with equipment and attachments for the Public Works Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease purchase agreement contains an escape clause.

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	TOTAL
\$23,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$23,000	\$230,000

MOVED by Peter Band, seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Selectmen recommend Article 5, Multi-Purpose Dump Truck Lease Purchase, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Cadwell, Band and Armstrong. Petry was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-1-0.

F. Cadwell would like to wait until next year to consider this lease purchase, adding that the DPW obtained 16 new vehicles/equipment over the past 10 years. P. Band agrees with the replacement of the truck, but would like to consider it for next year as well. D. Petry would like the board to consider waiting a year to fund the vehicle, or use funds from the Undesignated Fund Balance as the funding source. Le Doux supports this article since it is multi-functional and suggested funding the first year out of the Undesignated Fund Balance. This option could also be implemented on the floor at Town Meeting.

P. Armstrong stated that the proposed multi-purpose dump truck is replacing an older, used vehicle that is in dire need of replacement, due to safety concerns. He feels that a replacement is inevitable and recommends the purchase out of this year's budget.

DPW Director, Todd Croteau stated that this vehicle would be replacing the two oldest trucks in the fleet. He is attempting to implement a vehicle replacement and depreciation schedule to take place over a period of time, oppose to purchasing and/or replacing several vehicles within a short period of time.

MOVED by Peter Band, seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Selectmen modify the motion to recommend Article 5, Multi-Purpose Dump Truck Lease Purchase, to direct the first year payment in the amount of \$23,000 to be expended from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

After further discussion, P. Band withdrew the motion to modify the motion to recommend Article 5, Multi-Purpose Dump Truck Lease Purchase, to direct the first year payment in the amount of \$23,000 to be expended from the Unassigned Fund Balance. It was reiterated that any changes to the language in the proposed warrant article could be modified at Town Meeting.

c. ARTICLE 16 – Conservation Easement (Howe Property)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600,000 (gross budget), to allow the Conservation Commission, in the name of the Town and subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, (I), to acquire conservation easements on approximately 39 acres, more or less, consisting of two parcels of land located on Ranger Road, identified in the Town of Hollis Tax Maps as Map 26 - Lot 26 and Map 26 - Lot 80, said funding to be raised as follows:

- Not more than **\$200,000**, if available, shall be paid from the unassigned fund balance available as of December 31, 2018; and,
- Not more than **\$100,000** shall be paid by the Conservation Commission from the conservation fund, on the condition that said Commission (as well as the Board of Selectmen) shall approve such acquisition in the manner required by **RSA 36-A:5, (II)**, prior to concluding the purchase; and,
- Not less than **\$300,000**, in the form of a federal grant administered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

It is a condition of this appropriation that this appropriation shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year (December 31, 2019), if any of the above sources of funding have not been confirmed as available for this transaction by that time.

Further, it is understood that the conservation easements shall be identical in terms and conditions to

those reached by agreement between the Town (Board of Selectmen) and the Seller.

MOVED by Peter Band, seconded by Frank Cadwell that the Selectmen recommend Article 16, Conservation Easement, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Cadwell, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

d. ARTICLE 18 – Petition Article to Pave Fletcher Lane

Shall the Town vote to direct the Selectmen to pave Fletcher Lane as soon as possible. The full text of the petition is set forth for informational purposes.

We, the undersigned residents of Fletcher Lane in Hollis, NH and other Hollis residents respectfully request that the Town of Hollis pave Fletcher Lane as soon as possible.

We request this for a number of reasons, including but not limited to the following, many of which affect many town residents, in addition to Fletcher Lane residents. Paving Fletcher Lane would benefit far more town residents than just those of us living on Fletcher Lane.

1. The dust and dirt that traveling vehicles raise during dry weather not only is a health issue for anyone breathing in the dust, but enters homes and leaves behind residue and/or prohibits opening windows for fresh air. This is a serious and demonstrable health concern.
2. Rain or melting snow and ice causes long ruts that make steering vehicles difficult and when two vehicles meet, create a potentially dangerous situation.
3. Within a few days of being resurfaced with dirt and stone, the large ruts and potholes reappear, making repeated and frequent resurfacing a waste of time and money that paving would favorably resolve.
4. The large ruts and pot holes cause excessive noise, especially from the large trucks passing between Witches Springs Road and South Merrimack Road as they speed down the road and bounce up and down. The high traffic resulting from being a cut-through road exacerbates the dust, mud, rut and noise issues.
5. The ruts and furrows cause excessive tire wear and frequent front-end alignments to vehicles traveling on this road.
6. Using the dirt/stone mixture to resurface the road causes a great deal of stone to be left in driveways, shrubbery and bark mulch best near the road that is very difficult to remove. It is too large to use a leaf blower on and too small to rake effectively.

Paving Fletcher Lane will relieve the above problems, inconveniences and health issues as well as save the Town money and maintenance issues in the future.

Estimated cost to pave Fletcher Lane: \$130,000 (estimate provided by Todd Croteau, Hollis Public Works Director).

The Selectmen questioned whether a recommendation was required from the Board for this article. RSA 32:5-V was referenced and the implication was that a recommendation was needed.

MOVED by Peter Band, seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Selectmen recommend Article 18, Petition Article to Pave Fletcher Lane, to the warrant. Voting in favor of the motion was Le Doux. Petry, Cadwell, Band and Armstrong were opposed. The motion FAILED 1-4-0.

e. ARTICLE 19 – Petition Article to Pave the Dirt Section of Nartoff Road

Shall the Town vote to direct the Selectmen to pave the dirt section of Nartoff Road as soon as possible. The full text of the petition is set forth for informational purposes.

We, the undersigned residents of Nartoff Road, and other Hollis residents, respectfully petition to have the dirt section of Nartoff Road paved as soon as possible. We state the following reasons:

1. The dirt/rocky road has caused significant vehicle expenses and travel aggravation. The numerous potholes and rocks have caused alignment problems and wear on tires. Driving over large gravel is like riding over old cobblestone. Dirt has accumulated and become frozen on wheel axels and shafts, resulting in steering problems, which in turn cause safety issues. Dust and dirt from the road make it impossible to keep a vehicle clean and they ruin its finish. It is very aggravating to spend \$10 or more at a carwash, only to have a car become filthy after driving home the same day.
2. Residents have safety concerns when the road is dry or wet. The dust from the dirt road literally looks like a desert storm when a small car drives by at the 25-mph speed limit, causing breathing hazards. When a truck goes by, the dust is quite dense and breathing becomes more hazardous. The huge gravel makes the road difficult to walk and jog on, to ride a horse on, and impossible to ride a bike on. Muddy conditions on the road are treacherous, especially for the elementary school bus.
3. Residents on the dirt road are burdened with extra work and frustration. The rocks tossed into yards by snowplows get in the way of snowblowers and lawnmowers. The rocks are too big to rake and be moved by leaf blowers. Dust blowing onto driveways and being tracked into garages requires constant sweeping and removing. Dirt is collecting on houses as well. Residents have complained about sleep disturbances from the noise created when vehicles drive over the rocks.
4. Maintaining the dirt road has been a hassle for the town, dealing with complaints about potholes, mud, noise and dust storms. Crews have needed to surface the road more than once a month lately. By paving the road, this could be settled once and for all and save the town money and maintenance issues in the future.
5. The cost of maintaining the dirt part of Nartoff Road is estimated at \$14,800 per year. If that amount stayed constant for the next 20 years the maintenance cost would total \$296,000. The cost for paving is approximately \$280,000. Considering the yearly town expense to service Nartoff Road, the total amount residents on Nartoff Road expend because of the above factors described, and the health and safety concerns, the cost for paving the road is justified and makes sense.
6. Years ago, the road may have been described as "scenic," but this is no longer true. The road is nearly full of residences. Fuel, lawn maintenance, dry cleaners, trash removal, Fedex, UPS, and other trucks continuously stir up the rocks, dirt and dust.
7. It is time for us to be allowed to drive and live on a modern road instead of a dirt, or mud or cobblestone one.

MOVED by Peter Band, seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Selectmen recommend Article 19, Petition Article to Pave the Dirt Section of Nartoff Road, to the warrant. No one was in favor of the motion. Le Doux, Petry, Cadwell, Band and Armstrong were opposed. The motion FAILED 0-5-0.

F. Cadwell commented on how the community's perspective of paving gravel roads has changed over the past several years. At one time, residents did not wish to pave gravel roads and now there has been three petition warrant articles in the past two years to pave gravel roads.

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

251

252

D. Petry stated that the town is currently utilizing a road maintenance plan through Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), which includes a priority list based on the condition of each road. Gravel roads are not on the plan because they are not paved.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Peter Band, seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Selectmen adjourn the meeting.

Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Band, Cadwell and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 10:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Herrera, Assistant Town Administrator