

HOLLIS SELECT BOARD
April 26, 2021
PUBLIC MINUTES 6:30 PM
Approved 05/10/2021

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Select Board present: David Petry, Susan Benz and Paul Armstrong
Select Board via Zoom: Peter Band
Select Board absent: Mark Le Doux
Staff present: Lori Radke, Town Administrator; Joan Cudworth, DPW Director; Joseph Hoebeke,
Police Chief; and Rick Towne, Fire Chief

COMMUNITY ROOM

This meeting was conducted in the Hollis Town Hall Community Meeting Room, located at 7 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire and virtually via Zoom, pursuant to Emergency Order #12.

AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of RSA 40:13 (SB2)

Chairman Petry stated that there was a petition warrant article for SB2, submitted by a resident, for the annual Town Meeting. The Select Board is required to hold a public hearing prior to the Town Meeting vote, pursuant to RSA 40:14. The Select Board will take no action, following the public hearing. Residents will have another opportunity to speak on the petition warrant article at Town Meeting on May 15, 2021. Chairman Petry recited the rules of the public hearing.

Doug Davidson (Rideout Rd) submitted the petition warrant article and was asked by the Board to make a brief presentation before receiving public comments. D. Davidson stated that is was a matter of voter rights as it relates to disenfranchised voters as they cannot attend a traditional town meeting. Additionally, the multi-hour traditional meeting format meant many voters won't show up to debate warrant articles and vote on all topics in one session. He felt that ballot voting removed any type of intimidation and provides a deliberative session several weeks in advance that gives voters time to educate themselves on important topics on the warrant. The process for SB2 was further explained where the warrant articles and budget are created in the 1st session or "deliberative session" and the voting is finalized via ballot on voting day during the 2nd session. There are over 73 towns in New Hampshire that adopted SB2.

Rep. Jim Belanger (Plain Rd) stated the town has been talking about SB2 since approximately 2006. J. Belanger spoke about the differences between a "traditional town" and a "SB2 town" and is in opposition of SB2, stating that SB2 communities are often guided by those who have strong opposition and seek to vote down select initiatives, where traditional town meeting allows for more opinions to be heard.

Karen Bridgeo (Buttonwood Dr) spoke in opposition of SB2, stating that 71 out of 221 towns in New Hampshire have SB2, which is only 32% of the towns in New Hampshire with SB2.

Sue Homola (Mendelssohn Dr) spoke in support of SB2, stating that she recently sat through a nine-hour school district meeting where about 450 voters decided the fate of the warrant, which is not represented democracy. She felt people are not able to attend lengthy meetings, because they may not physically able to attend all day or they may not be able to drive at night, or may have young families. With the option of the Zoom platform, the

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town can offer deliberation to more people who would not be able to attend the meeting, otherwise. She felt that just because people do not attend a deliberative session, does not mean they are uninformed voters.

Peggy Gilmour (Depot Rd) spoke in opposition of SB2. Of the 221 towns in NH, with approximately 73 with SB2, approximately 45% of those towns have tried to reverse the SB2 status. She represented SB2 towns in the past and witnessed a very small group of people make a significant change in the budget, which was very detrimental to that town.

Michelle St. John (Orchard Dr) spoke in opposition of SB2, stating that under the SB2 format, if a voter misses the deliberative session, there is no opportunity to make a change to a warrant article. Adding that residents are ultimately voting on whatever the majority of people who attend the deliberative session prefer. Until the town changes the form of government to a town council format, the deliberative session is a way for individuals to be involved.

Maureen Maisttison (Milton Pl) spoke in opposition of SB2 and felt SB2 was a bad Band-Aid for an antiquated system of government and would prefer another alternative, such as town council form of government.

Tracy Clifton (Federal Hill Rd) spoke in opposition of SB2 and will hold out for a town council form of government.

Rep. Kat McGhee (Hayden Rd) spoke in opposition of SB2, stating that a deliberative session cannot adequately replace a traditional town meeting. Adding, that there is often little discussion at deliberative session and it is not the same as a town meeting.

Eric Pauer (West View Rd, Brookline) spoke in support of SB2, adding that SB2 has been in place for the Brookline school district for about five years with a lot of participation. Although Brookline had the same number of participants at its deliberative sessions compared to town meetings, the number of voters was more than 10 times the amount who actually vote, which he considers democracy in action. More people are voting, more people are participating and more people are being heard. He felt over all, you get more participation with SB2.

With no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:06PM.

RESIGNATION

Cheryl Quaine, Conservation Commission, effective April 21, 2021.

On behalf of the Select Board, Chairman Petry thanked Cheryl for her service to the community.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the resignation of Cheryl Quaine, Conservation Commission, and effective April 21, 2021. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Public Works (Joan Cudworth, Director)

Reclaimed material at Stump Dump

Joan Cudworth, DPW Director reported that they are not having much luck trying to sell the reclaimed material. Therefore, it was recommended that DPW hire New England Mobile Crushing to crush the material on-site. Moving forward, the Transfer Station will no longer accept reclaimed material from commercial vendors at the Transfer Station. They will continue to accept the material from residents. J.

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Cudworth will notify abutters of the Transfer Station to let them know about the material crushing, as the process is very loud and may take up to six days to complete. The total cost will be approximately \$42,000.

Millyard Bank Paper Shred Day

The town received a request from Millyard Bank to have a paper shred day at the Transfer Station. There is no cost to the town for the event. Once the date is determined, the event will be publicized.

Hollis Energy Committee (Venu Rao) – Electric School Bus Presentation

Venu Rao made a presentation on a Feasibility Study to convert diesel school buses to electric school buses. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) Executive Committee established a subcommittee to explore the possibilities of replacing current school buses with electric school buses. Hollis Energy Committee (HEC) is also participating in the study and will collaborate with NRPC subcommittee. The presentation was informative and reviewed the benefits of electric buses. Although the school buses for Hollis are contracted to an outside agency, the other purpose of the presentation was to inform the Select Board of what the NRPC is working on as both Venu Rao and Bob Larmouth are Hollis representatives on the commission. The next step is to bring the stakeholders together and put together a plan. The Select Board applauded the group's efforts and thanked Mr. Rao for the information. The board expressed interest in learning more about electric vehicles for DPW, Police and Fire. V. Rao will provide updates to the board as the project progresses.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Meeting Start Time

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve holding the Town Meeting at 9:00AM on May 15th, as recommended by the Town Moderator. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Assessing Work

a. Current Use Applications

MBLU	Owner	Location	Acres to be enrolled
036-004-009 & 036-004-010	Crimson 9 Realty Trust	47 Woodmont Dr & Vacant Parcel	9.27

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the Current Use Application for MBLU 036-004-009 and 036-004-010, as submitted. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

b. Report of Excavation

Operation#	MBLU	Location	Owner	Gravel Tax Levy
20-223-01E	009-048	Depot Rd	Douglas Orde	\$7.12

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the Report of Excavation for Operation #20-223-01E, as submitted. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

c. Report of Wood or Timber Cut

Operation#	MBLU	Owner	Timber Tax Levy
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20-223-10 030-001 & 030-006 RM Timber Harvesting LLC \$2144.09

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the Report of Wood or Timber Cut for Operation #20-223-10. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

d. 2020 Abatements

Case #	MBLU	Owner	Location	Amount to be Abated
2020-010	014-066	CF Revocable Trust	12 Read Lane	\$2230.00
2020-011	003-008-001	KSPR Realty LLC	30 Worcester Rd	\$1569.00
TOAL:				\$3799.00

MOVED by Mark Le Doux seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the 2020 Abatement for Case #2020-010 and 2020-011. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

Approval of Warrants

a. Wages	\$192,110.64	04/15/2021
b. Accounts Payable	\$230,013.64	04/15/2021
c. Benefit Strategies	\$ 3,147.57	04/15/2021

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the warrants, as submitted. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

a. Public Minutes from 04/12/2021

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the public meeting minutes from April 12, 2021. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band, and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

b. Non-Public Minutes from 04/12/2021

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the non-public meeting minutes from April 12, 2021 and keep them sealed. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band, and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The meeting schedule was announced for April 27, 2021 through May 10, 2021. The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2021 at 6:30PM in the Community Meeting Room and via Zoom. The annual Town Meeting will be held at the Hollis Brookline High School (24 Cavalier Court) on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 9:00AM.

There will be a Blood Drive at the Lawrence Barn Community Center on Friday, April 30th from 10:00AM-6:00PM. The Colonial Garden Plant Sale will take place outside of the Lawrence Barn Community Center on Saturday, May 8th at 9:00AM. The Rocky Pond Boat Launch is open through October. The Rules and Regulations are listed on the website. Violators risk losing privileges for using the boat launch. Information about the Hollis Heritage Commission request for 2022 calendar scenic photo can be found on the town website.

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There is an employment opportunity for a full time firefighter/paramedic with the town. Additional information can be located on the town website. The Armenian flag was raised on April 23rd on the Town Common. Town employees were thanked and recognized for assisting in the ceremony.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel, (d) land acquisition and (l) legal

MOVED by David Petry seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3-II (a) personnel, (d) land acquisition and (l) legal. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Band, Armstrong and Benz. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:44PM

CONCLUSION OF NON PUBLIC SESSION

MOVED by David Petry seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board come out of Non-Public Session and seal the minutes, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3-II (a) personnel, (d) land acquisition and (l) legal. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Band, Armstrong and Benz. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

The Board came out of nonpublic session and entered public session to adjourn the meeting at 8:46PM

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 8:46PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Herrera, Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resource Coordinator