

HOLLIS SELECT BOARD
September 27, 2021
PUBLIC MINUTES 6:30 PM
Approved 10/11/2021

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Select Board present: Chair David Petry, Mark Le Doux, Susan Benz and Paul Armstrong

Select Board absent:

Staff present: Lori Radke, Town Administrator; Joe Hoebeke, Police Chief

COMMUNITY ROOM

This meeting was conducted in the Hollis Town Hall Community Meeting Room, located at 7 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire.

AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

APPOINTMENT

1. Board of Directors, Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaboration

a. Virginia Mills, Regular Member (term expires 04/2024)

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve the appointment of Virginia Mills as a Regular Member of the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaboration, Board of Directors, with a term to expire 04/30/2024. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

2. Planning Board

a. Julie Mook, Regular Member (term expires 03/2024)

Chair Petry explained that J. Mook would be promoted from alternate member to regular member and J. Peters would move from regular member to alternate member.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve the appointment of Julie Mook as a Regular Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire in March of 2024. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

b. Jeffrey Peters, Alternate Member (term expires 03/2022)

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve the appointment of Jeffrey Peters as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire in March of 2022. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

RESIGNATIONS

1. Hollis Select Board

a. Peter Band, effective September 15, 2021

Chair Petry expressed his thoughts on the behavior that transpired at the previous meeting, stating that the expectations of the board and the residents at meetings is to be respectful of one another regardless of public comments and opinions.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board reluctantly accept the resignation of Peter Band from the Hollis Select Board, effective 09/15/2021. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

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The Board will send Mr. Band a letter thanking him for his 18 years of dedicated service to the town.
The Board would like to recognize his service at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the discontinuance of the AccuVote voting machines

It was discovered that there is no ability to utilize both the voting machine and the hand count. It will need to be one or the other. The ballots get sent through the machine, the tape is printed and the ballots are then boxed and sealed. The only ballots that are touched are the ones that are kicked off to the side because of a mistake or the machine can't read it. Members of the board received input from residents regarding which approach they would like to see.

Selectman Le Doux felt that he did not have all of the data to make a decision at this time, adding that it would be helpful to have feedback from the Ballot Law Commission, Secretary of State's Office and the Attorney General's Office.

Selectwoman Benz questioned what the problem was that they are being asked to solve. She questioned if there had been any problems in the past and did not feel it was beneficial to spend a lot of effort on something that doesn't appear to be a problem.

Selectman Armstrong agreed that he did not see where there's been any problems and does not see where the machine was not producing an accurate number of votes. He questioned whether hand counting would be any more accurate than the machine.

Lori Radke, Town Administrator provided information related to Senate and/or House Bills that were submitted to legislation, for consideration. There have been proposed bills, allowing moderators to choose whether or not to perform an audit count, however no bills have passed legislation, at this time. As a result of her research, it would appear that the Secretary of State is not in favor of doing an audit count. An 'audit count' is meant to verify a machine count. L. Radke was directed to draft a letter to our two state representatives and senator, urging them to support that bill and to follow up with an update to the Select Board.

Chairman Petry would like the state representatives to ask the governor, the Secretary of State and the Election Council about the status for new machines and the plan for the old machines. Additionally, he would like to know when the machines will be 'second sourced' opposed to 'one sourced'.

It was stated that the town has the ability to recount a vote, which would be done by hand. A recount would need to be announced after 5PM on the Friday of the week of the election and could potentially occur the following week.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board endorse the use of the AccuVote voting machines for future elections in the Town of Hollis. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Benz and Armstrong. Le Doux was opposed. The motion PASSED 3-1-0.

2. Appointment of Hollis Select Board member (term to expire 3/2022)

a. Rick Towne, term expiration date of March, 2022

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board appoint Rick Towne as Hollis Select Board member with a term expiration date of March 2022. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

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It is anticipated that the candidate will not run in the local election, held in March. R. Towne will perform the Oath of Office at the following meeting.

3. Acceptance of the Highway Safety Grant Agreement (\$3,400.00)

MOVED by Mark Le Doux seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the Highway Safety Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire, in the amount of \$3,400.00. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approval of Warrants

a. Wages	\$173,289.68	09/16/2021
b. Accounts Payable	\$593,597.96	09/16/2021
c. Benefit Strategies	\$ 1,717.50	09/16/2021

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

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Public Minutes from 09/13/2021

MOVED by Mark Le Doux seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the public meeting minutes from September 13, 2021. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

b. Non-Public Minutes from 09/13/2021

MOVED by Mark Le Doux seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the Non-Public meeting minutes from September 13, 2021 and keep them sealed. Voting in favor of the motion were Petry, Le Doux, Benz and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The meeting schedule was announced through October 11, 2021. The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2021 at 6:30PM in the Town Hall Community Meeting Room. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place on October 2, 2021 from 8AM-12PM at the Nashua City Park & Ride, located at 25 Crown Street, Nashua, NH.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Petry explained that he relocated the 'public comment' section to the end of the agenda in order to complete the business portion of the meeting, which coincides with the guidelines from NHMA. The discussion of the rules of public comment were stated as such:

- One (1) person speaks at a time, no interrupting
- No one speaks until recognized by the Chair
- Speaker must sign in to indicate an intent to speak during public comment
- Speaker must identify him or herself when beginning to speak
- Public Comment is a time for members of the public to speak. It is not a question and answer session with the public body.
- Each speaker will be limited to a limited time period

This discussion took place back in 2019, at which time 'public comment' was not on the agenda. The decision to add 'public comment' to the agenda came about because there were people disrupting meetings, who were

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speaking from the audience, and were frustrated with the fact that they weren't allowed to speak, so the 'public comment' section was instituted. The Chair reminded everyone that the Board also has the ability to not have 'public comment' on the agenda at all, pursuant to RSA 91-A:II. The Board can be contacted via email any time about a particular agenda item. The public is invited to attend meetings, but it is the opportunity for the Select Board to conduct town business and town business is what is on the agenda. The agenda is set by the Chair, in consultation with the Town Administrator and Vice Chair.

Al Fulchino (Pine Hill Rd) stated his initial goal was to validate a side by side count (referring to a machine count with a hand count). He felt that the town agreed to continue on without independent validation that the system runs right. He added that a hand count could still be done.

Thom Davies (Forrest View Dr) stated that we've been committed to keeping politics out of the election process and maintained a level of integrity for the election process. A party challenged the integrity of the process and he applauded the Select Board for the decision made earlier in the meeting.

Chet Wizboski (Farm Pond Ln) stated that the integrity of the election officials was not being challenged, but the integrity of the program or machine, more specifically the person who is programming it. To his knowledge it is one person who programs all of the machines. Who is that person? What is that person's politics? Are they neutral? He feels those questions should somehow be investigated.

Mary Ann Damian (Farm Pond Ln) is not questioning anyone's integrity in town and for her it is not a political issue. She votes for the best person, not the politics. In her opinion, we should question people who make processes outside of our town and bring it in.

Joe Garruba (Winchester Dr) felt that public comment at the beginning of a meeting is often the only time residents can speak about something on the agenda, before a vote is made by the board. The value of a comment after a vote is taken is a 'bit less'. By moving public comment to the end of the meeting, the board does not hear from the residents prior to making a decision.

Michelle St. John (Orchard Dr) stated that she appreciated the vote tonight and respects the decision to move public comment to the end of the meeting, noting that email is an option so residents can provide their input, but not necessarily in a public forum. It was suggested that the town provide information, especially to new residents about voter registration and same day voting, absentee voting, etc. She added that a welcome packet that is easily accessible would be helpful to reach those people.

Mark Constantian (Twiss Ln) agrees with validating the current voting system. Residents will either be relieved that the system is working correctly, or we make corrections to it.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Board adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Herrera, Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resource Coordinator