

HOLLIS SELECT BOARD
February 24, 2020
PUBLIC MINUTES 6:30 PM
Approved 03/09/2020

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Select Board present: Chairman Mark Le Doux, David Petry, Frank Cadwell, Susan Benz and Peter Band
Select Board absent: None
Staff present: Lori Radke, Town Administrator; Rachael Gosselin, Finance Officer; Ashley Schoff,
Tax Collector/Deputy Finance Officer; Joe Hoebeke, Police Chief; Brendan LaFlamme,
Police Captain; Bill Moseley, Camera Operators

COMMUNITY ROOM

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:32PM Chairman Le Doux opened the Public Hearing of the Hollis Select Board, pursuant to RSA 40:14 to consider petition warrant article asking voters of the Town to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (Senate Bill 2-SB2).

Doug Davidson (Rideout Road) made a presentation in support of SB2. The slideshow presentation can be viewed through Meeting Videos, at the town website at www.hollisnh.org. Overall, he felt the SB2 process eliminates the extremely lengthy meetings and avoids the suppression of the voters that are not able to spend the duration of the meeting at Town Meeting. SB2 is a two-step process where the first step, the Deliberative Session, similar to Town Meeting with the Town Moderator, is where all warrant articles are created, discussed, amended and published leading to a finalized list of warrants. The second step is where warrant articles are voted on via ballots during an all-day voting scenario. He felt SB2 greatly eases the burden and responsibility to participate, resulting in greater voter participation, keeping the benefits of a Town Meeting, with no more extraordinary energy required, and to become informed and vote.

Tom Dufresne (Pound Road) spoke against SB2, stating that since Town Meeting has been on Saturday, he doesn't recall having the meeting last longer than 6 hours and didn't feel it was a burden. He didn't feel any more people would attend the deliberative session than town meeting as it is now. He was concerned with misinformation that could be distributed via social media and felt town meeting requires people to attend the meeting in person to hear the discussion first hand.

Jim Belanger (Plain Road) spoke against SB2, stating that ballot votes are only yes or no votes. He felt the process eliminates the opportunity to modify or amend a vote. What is on the ballot on Election Day was already decided on at the deliberative session. He felt the same participation issues would occur for the deliberative session than town meeting. If the budget fails at the polls, the town has to utilize the default budget. The default budget can be padded and covers certain issues the town may want. He suggested pursuing a Charter Town process oppose to SB2.

Doug Davidson (Rideout Road) reiterated that the comments made by the prior to residents, were the typical objections to SB2. Approximately 70 towns, including the Town of Brookline currently use SB2.

Peggy Gilmour (Depot Road) spoke against SB2, stating that a town can have a low turnout at the deliberative session where few people could make significant changes to the ballot. She stated that it is concerning to have a small group make such a significant change in the way the town functions.

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Carol Roy (South Merrimack Road) spoke against SB2 stating that although she understands the difficulty with attending town meeting, she didn't feel that anyone would be more informed by the deliberative session process than by town meeting. Her concern was that some people will attend the deliberative session, some will attend the voting and will not be any more informed than had the attended a traditional town meeting, where all articles are explained. The ballot does not come with a full explanation of every article. Although SB2 would be convenient, it would not provide the result that we all want. She suggested exploring the option of utilizing groups/organizations to provide childcare to help with attendance at town meeting.

With no further discussion, the public hearing was closed at 6:54PM.

M. Le Doux explained that the town changed town meeting from the evening to a Saturday to accommodate the community in order to obtain as much inclusion as possible for the voters. The overall consensus from the Select Board was not in favor of SB2. The budget cycle begins in the fall and many meetings are held and posted in order to provide information to the community. Town meeting brings people together to work through the issues and to interact with each other in order to come to a consensus.

M. Le Doux stated that the board received a lot of feedback on the proposed petition warrant articles. Although he was under the impression that both article 17 (*Petition Article for Proposing Bylaw*) and article 19 (*Petition Article for Preservation and Protection of "Passive" Uses on Town Own or Steward Properties*) were advisory in nature, that is in fact not the case. Following consultation with legal counsel, article 17 is not advisory, but mandatory. After discovering this information, M. Le Doux asked the Board for permission to publish the legal analysis from Attorney Drescher, so residents have an opportunity to review and process the information, prior to town meeting.

MOVED by Peter Band seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve releasing and publishing the legal opinion for petition warrant article 17 to the town website. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

Doug Arseneau (resident, address not given) spoke from the audience, questioning why the information is being released three weeks before town meeting, which he felt was not sufficient time. He questioned by the information wasn't provided with the budget, in the fall.

M. Le Doux explained that petition warrant articles were due February 4th, so this is the first meeting since the Board received the legal opinion and wanted to share it with the community as soon as possible. It will be posted the following day, which is approximately three weeks before town meeting. The opinion will also be posted at town meeting.

M. Le Doux added that since the interest rates are the lowest they've been in 60 years at 1.396% on 10 year bonds, the town should consider refinancing all outstanding bonds for the town.

Doug Davidson (Rideout Road) requested that the Select Board send a letter to the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District encouraging them to consider refinancing their bonds as well.

APPOINTMENT

Ashley Schoff, Tax Collector/Deputy Finance Officer was introduced to the Board. Ashley has a Bachelor's Degree from Franklin Pierce College. She worked in the tax office in both Manchester and Bedford and is excited to be with the town.

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MOVED by David Petry seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board appoint Ashley Schoff as the Tax Collector/Deputy Finance Officer for the Town of Hollis. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

MOVED by David Petry seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board delegate deposit authority to Ashley Schoff, Tax Collector/Deputy Finance Officer. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Eagle Scout Presentation

The Select Board read the Eagle Scout proclamation to Giovanni Silvestro and presented him with the proclamation and certificate. Giovanni was applauded and congratulated by the board and members of the audience.

Hillsborough South Adult Drug Court Presentation

Peggy Gilmour gave a slide show presentation on the drug court program. Although requests for financial assistance from the town is outside of the budget cycle, Ms. Gilmour would like to pursue financial assistance for next year, specifically for the recovery coaching aspect of the program, which is the most underfunded portion of the program. A former Hollis resident spoke about his experience with the program. They are asking each of the towns within the county for \$5,000 to assist with the program.

Lori Radke, Town Administrator explained the process for budget requests for agencies, such as this. The Board agreed to use \$5,000 from the contingency fund for this program.

MOVED by Peter Band seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve expending \$5,000 from the contingency fund out of this year's budget for the Hillsborough South Adult Drug Court program. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Hollis Police Department

Chief Hoebeke is requesting permission to apply for funding through a federal grant called the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) which is funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ). The program provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire existing career law enforcement officers. The department would like add a police officer to the department with the grant and reassign a current office as a School Resource Officer (SRO) to the Hollis School District.

MOVED by Mark Le Doux seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board authorize Chief Joseph Hoebeke to file an application on behalf of the Hollis Police Department for the COPS Hiring Program (CHP). Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

Street Names – Matties Way & Withold Way

Becky Crowther recommended names for two common driveways. The first is located on Route 111 near the Nashua town line. Matties Way is recommended after longtime resident Mattie Runnells who died in the 1900's. Withold Way, located off the unpaved section of Nartoff Road is recommended after the father from the Surwells family who has owned the property since 1938.

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MOVED by Mark Le Doux seconded by David Petry that the Select Board approve the common driveway off Route 111, near Nashua Town line, Matties Way and the common driveway off Nartoff Road, Withold Way, as recommended by Becky Crowther. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

Property Donation – Lot 25-5

Tom Dufresne, Conservation Commission Chair explained that Gateway Homes, LLC would like to donate 15.5 acres of land off Nartoff Road, which is part of a pending subdivision of the William Corosa land on the east shore of Flints Pond. Access to the property will be off the east side of the State Right of Way. The donation would allow the Conservation Commission to protect more than 700 feet of shore line on Flints Pond.

MOVED by David Petry seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the donation of MBLU 26-5, as submitted in attorney Zall's letter. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Assessing Work

Report of Wood or Timber Cut

Operation #	MBLU	Owner	Timber Tax Levy
19-223-12	029-011	Chase Farms Riding Academy LLC	\$3054.57

MOVED by David Petry seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve the Report of Wood or Timber Cut for Operation #19-223-12, as submitted. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber

Operation #	MBLU	Owner	Location
19-223-17	037-012	Joseph & Barbara Rock Revoc Trusts	50 Shattuck Lane
19-223-18	038-037	Raisanen Homes Elite LLC	43 Farley Road
		and for the 2020-2021 Tax Year, beginning on April 1, 2020	
20-223-01	017-024	Beaver Brook Association	Proctor Hill Road
20-223-02	037-012	Joseph & Barbara Rock Revoc Trusts	50 Shattuck Lane
20-223-03	038-037	Raisanen Homes Elite LLC	43 Farley Road

MOVED by David Petry seconded by Frank Cadwell that the Select Board approve the Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Operation # 19-223-17, 19-223-18, 20-223-01, 20-223-02 and 20-223-03, as submitted. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

Approval of Warrants

MOVED by Peter Band seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the following warrants:

• Wages	\$ 167,474.30	02/06/20
• Wages	\$ 164,994.10	02/20/20
• Accounts Payable	\$1,566,748.32	02/06/20
• Accounts Payable	\$ 61,985.52	02/20/20
• Benefit Strategies	\$ 8,194.16	02/06/20
• Benefit Strategies	\$ 7,764.16	02/20/20

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

Hollis resident, Evan Dascolis addressed the Board stating that he worked for Travis Spaulding and recently submitted a bid for ground maintenance and wanted to introduce himself to the Board. He graduated in 2016 from Hollis.

Approval of Minutes

Public Minutes from 01/27/2020 & 02/10/2020

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by David Petry that the Select Board approve the public meeting minutes from January 27, 2020 and February 10, 2020. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

Non Public Minutes from 01/27/20

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by David Petry that the Select Board approve the non-public meeting minutes from January 27, 2020 and keep them sealed. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

Meetings & Announcements

The meetings were announced for February 25, 2020-March 9, 2020.

The Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Lawrence Barn Community Center from 9AM-10:30AM. The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:00PM for election set up. Town Elections will be held at the Lawrence Barn Community Center on March 10, 2020 from 7:00AM-7:00PM.

The Hollis School District Annual Meeting will be at the HB Middle School on March 11, 2020 at 7:00PM (alternate date is March 13, 2020). Town Meeting will be on March 14, 2020 at the HB High School at 10:00AM (alternate date is March 21, 2020). The HB Cooperative School District Annual Meeting will be on March 17, 2020 at the HB High School at 7:00PM (alternate date is March 19, 2020).

NON PUBLIC SESSION

RSA 91-A:3-II (c) reputation & RSA 91-A:3-II (d) land acquisition

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by David Petry that the Select Board enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3-II (c) reputation and RSA 91-A:3-II (d) land acquisition. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

The Board entered non-public session at 7:55PM

CONCLUSION OF NON PUBLIC SESSION

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by David Petry that the Select Board come out of Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3-II (c) reputation and RSA 91-A:3-II (d) land acquisition. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.

The Board came out of non-public session at 8:45PM

PUBLIC SESSION

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238 *MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by David Petry that the Select Board approved a step increase for Town*
239 *Administrator Lori Radke and Finance Officer, Rachael Gosselin, as a result of a satisfactory evaluation, as*
240 *recommended by David Petry. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No*
241 *one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.*

242
243 **ADJOURNMENT**

244 *MOVED by Frank Cadwell seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor*
245 *of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.*

246
247 The Board adjourned at 8:50 PM.

248
249 Respectfully Submitted,
250 Christine Herrera, Assistant Town Administrator