

**HOLLIS SELECT BOARD**  
**March 9, 2020**  
**PUBLIC MINUTES 6:30 PM**  
**Approved 3/23/2020**

**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; 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 COMMENT**

Kent Blumenshine (Rideout Road) commented on RSA 159:26 as it relates to the proposed petition warrant article. His group reviewed the proposed language, but could not come to a compromise to change it. He is not in support for the petition warrant article.

Dave Werner (Ridge Rd) explained that he saw a similar movement happen in California as the laws slowly removed his rights to have firearms. He is concerned that this will happen in Hollis. He commented that the constitution states that one has the right to bear arms. It is constitutionally protected for one to have a weapon for self-defense. In his opinion self-defense includes the ability to target practice, although that term is not used in the language. His point is that one cannot effectively define oneself if one doesn't know how to operate a firearm correctly and the only way to operate a firearm correctly is to shoot it. He felt he has the right to discharge a firearm so he can properly defend himself.

Michelle St. John (Orchard Dr) commented that since the public lands in Hollis have such varied uses, the town should look at all town property to determine if there is a piece of land that could be designated for target practice in hopes to have a desirable solution for everyone.

Kat McGhee (Hayden Rd) felt that the intention of section 644 is to not take firearms away from people nor is it saying that people are not allowed to target practice, but states that there are rules around the places and locations where firearm discharging is not allowed because it poses a safety hazard. She added that this particular statute reflected unauthorized use of firearms in places where it is not. She didn't think anyone was oppose to people owning firearms. She commented that she was not entirely familiar with all of the laws and ordinances surrounding firearms.

Doug Davidson (Rideout Rd) felt that the legislation currently at the state house is the first step towards the removal of ones rights to own and operate firearms. He was discouraged that people in the positions of initiating and passing laws and legislations are ill informed about the laws for firearms and firearm safety. He explained that hunting season is in fact 365 days a year and 24 hours a day. People don't just hunt during specific seasons, like deer season. He is concerned with the lack of knowledge, comparing RSA 31:39 to RSA 159:26. Although the two laws deals with similar matters, they are not the same and are not related. RSA 31:39 does not say anything about shooting or firearms or anything related to conservation land or forests. There is no authority under that article that supersedes paragraph I of 159:26. He felt that quoting a law that is relevant to a topic, but doesn't state the topic anywhere in the law is absurd, in his opinion. He invited the legislators to talk to those people that are knowledgeable about those matters before drafting or making recommendations on legislation.

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Mike Werner (Ridge Rd) saw in incremental approached to what is going on. He is unclear on the validity on what is being proposed. He felt that one needs to train to be competent and felt it would be non-sensible to remove the aspect of training. He felt there should be a compromise, without infringing on one's rights. In his opinion he felt one's rights were slowly being taken away.

Joe Garubba (Winchester Dr) spoke about House Bill 1629, which is a bill about training for land use board members, such as zoning and planning. In his opinion the bill goes beyond just training. His concerns about the amendment to the bill include the lack of ability as a town to manage local zoning issues. The bill was amended and is currently in the senate. The density for housing for older persons is now going to apply to workforce housing throughout the town, regardless of what is in our zoning ordinance. The bill removes the Select Board's authority to extend the planning boards deadlines and remove the ability to interpret the zoning ordinance by identifying in writing which violations a development may present when it gets denied. M. Le Doux stated that the board discussed the bill and does not support it. J. Garubba asked the Select Board to testify against the bill.

**APPOINTMENT**

*MOVED by Peter Band seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board appoint James Plummer as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, with a term expiration date of 4/30/2023. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.*

**DISCUSSION WITH STATE LEGISLATORS**

Senator Melanie Levesque, Representative Michelle St. John and Representative Kat McGhee (via teleconference) briefed the Select Board on several house and senate bills. Discussion ensued and can be viewed via the Town Hall Streams through the town website at [www.hollisnh.org](http://www.hollisnh.org), meeting videos.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Congregational Church of Hollis-Sidewalk (Tom Hildreth)**

The church's pending renovation project will eliminate the diagonal sidewalk across the east lawn. The sidewalk dates back to 1923, predating the conveyance of the real estate from the Town to the church in 1925. While the church will not prevent the public from crossing its property, the community patio to be added to the east lawn will eliminate the natural path of cutting the Broad Street/Monument Square corner across the church lawn. The church would like to discuss options to extent the public sidewalk from its current terminus on Broad Street to the intersection with Monument Square. DPW provided a cost estimate to construct a 5' wide sidewalk at 100' to be roughly \$4,500. The church is requesting the town pay for the cost to construct a new sidewalk since it is a public sidewalk in the public Right of Way and benefits public safety. The church will be responsible for the construction of the sidewalk to align with the project and the town will contribute the funds for the construction.

*MOVED by David Petry seconded by Peter Band that the Select Board authorize the expenditure of not more than \$5,000 from the Road Maintenance fund in DPW's budget for the construction of a public sidewalk alongside of the Congregational Church of Hollis property and Depot Road and to sign any pertinent paperwork related to the ongoing maintenance of the sidewalk. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Petry, Benz, Band and Cadwell. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 5-0-0.*

**Bid Approval-Grounds Maintenance for town facilities (Todd Croteau)**

DPW Director T. Croteau reviewed the vendors that submitted sealed bids for the Town Ground Maintenance and Town Recreation Field Maintenance Request for Proposals. The low bid was submitted by NH Greenscapes in the amount of \$40,154. The bid represents a reduction of approximately \$5,000 per year from what the town has paid over the last five growing seasons. Funds for this service are budgeted in the

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Maintenance Ground account in the budget. D. Petry would like assurance that the contract includes an Assignment Clause and a Nonperformance Clause, to protect the town. T. Croteau will provide the Board with a copy of the current contract, for their review.

*MOVED by Peter Band seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the bid from NH Greenscapes in the amount of \$40,154 for the first year, 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.*

**Petition and Pole License-Pole #21-1500, Pine Hill Road**

*MOVED by David Petry seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve the Petition and Pole License for Pole #21-1500, Pine Hill Road, 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.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**Assessing Work**

**2019 Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) Abatement**

Case #	MBLU	Owner	Location	Amount to be Abated
2019-LUCT-02	007-045-001	Richard & Mary Snell	Flagg Road	\$0.00

*MOVED by David Petry seconded by Frank Cadwell that the Select Board deny the 2019 Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) abatement for Case #2019-LUCT-02, as recommended by MRI. 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 Frank Cadwell that the Select Board approve the following warrants:*

• Wages	\$ 163,582.05	03/05/20
• Accounts Payable	\$ 265,957.29	03/05/20
• Benefit Strategies	\$ 6,114.16	03/05/20

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**Public Minutes from 02/24/2020**

*MOVED by David Petry seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve the public meeting minutes from February 24, 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 02/24/20**

*MOVED by David Petry seconded by Mark Le Doux that the Select Board approve the non-public meeting minutes from February 24, 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 March 9, 2020-March 23, 2020. The annual Town Meeting can be viewed at [www.hollisnh.org](http://www.hollisnh.org) via live stream or on Charter channel 191 and TDS channel 12.

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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 (a) personnel**

*MOVED by David Petry seconded by Peter Band that the Select Board enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3-II (a) personnel. 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 8:27PM

**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 (a) personnel. 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 8:42PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

*MOVED by Frank Cadwell seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board adjourn the meeting. 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 adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Herrera, Assistant Town Administrator