

Draft

PRESENT: L. M. Smith, Chairman; J. E. Ziolkowski, Vice Chairman; R. P. McDermott, Selectman; S. H. Ayer, Secretary
NOT PRESENT: L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator

SELECTMEN’S PERMIT – USE OF TOWN HALL – FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – DANCE, Friday, April 7, 2017, 7 PM – 9PM: The Chairman heard this matter out of order to accommodate Library personnel who were present, and have their own meeting to attend. There was a brief discussion of the permit requested, which will be for a “Swing Into Spring” ballroom dancing event to raise money for the library through voluntary donations.

MOTION: To approve the request for a Selectmen’s permit for use of the Town Hall on April 7, 2017, from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM, waiving the certificate of insurance requirement, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

MOTION: R. McDermott
SECOND: J. Ziolkowski
UNANIMOUS

FINANCIAL REPORTS – GENERAL FUND BALANCE: Current balance not available at meeting time.

ACCOUNT PAYABLE / PAYROLL / TREASURER / TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUND WARRANTS:

MOTION: To approve the following warrants as presented by the Bookkeeper and Treasurer:

Accounts Payable Warrant #559	\$5,257.65
Accounts Payable Warrant #560	\$664,389.29
Accounts Payable Warrant #561	\$2,441.50
Accounts Payable Warrant #562	\$601,362.99
Accounts Payable Warrant #563	\$106,894.94
Payroll Warrant #371	\$14,751.98
Payroll Warrant #372	\$16,729.40
Treasurer’s Check Warrant #2017-4	\$643.50
Treasurer’s Check Warrant #2017-5	\$633.73
Treasurer’s Check Warrant # 2017-7	\$2,500.02

MOTION: R. McDermott
SECOND: J. Ziolkowski
UNANIMOUS

ACTUARIAL VALUATION POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS 2105 – 2017 (GASB 45):

L. Smith said that this is a review of the funding of the health insurance benefits provided under the NH pension system, having to do with retirees. As it is a complicated subject, he said he would postpone the discussion until the next meeting, on March 15.

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TOWN HALL SERVER – QUESTIONS OF SELECTMEN: L. Smith said this is something to think about, if it is better to store Town information on an external system such as Cloud. He said he would like to discuss this with 2-Way Communications, but they prefer to have questions of the Board sent to them in order to answer in writing. Selectmen are to send their questions with regard to a new server for the Town Hall to 2-Way via the Town Administrator as soon as possible.

OTHER

Asked about the status of the microphones for the Town Hall meeting room, J. Ziolkowski said he will be ordering them next week.

7:00 PM – PUBLIC HEARING – ACCESS EASEMENT (MAP 6, LOT 52): Shawn Hanson, Conservation Commission Chairman, and David Viale of Southeast Land Trust (SELT) were present to discuss the proposed access easement. S. Hanson explained that the easement was approved by the Selectmen on February 15, and this is the first of two required public hearings. He went on to give a brief description of the matter, saying that the land in question is a 100 acre lot that the current owner would like to give to SELT as a conservation easement. One requirement is that there must be a right-of-way for access to the land, for the purpose of monitoring and restoration of wetlands. If the Conservation easement is put in place, the Town will provide the access easement. There will be no cost to the Town for maintaining or monitoring this easement.

There was a brief question and answer period, in which it was established that the land is located off State Route 88 near the Wakeda Campground. The Taylor River runs through it, making it a very significant piece of property by conservation standards. It was purchased by the current owner in 2003 to protect it.

The public hearing was continued to March 15 at 7:00 PM.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION (CONS., ELECTION, PLANNING, ZBA, LIBRARY): The Selectmen reviewed a Volunteer application received from a new resident. Copies have been sent to all Committees/Boards she checked on the form, and they will contact her if there are openings to fill.

APPLICATION FOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION – SOLAR ENERGY (MAP 2, LOT44-3)
An exemption amount of \$15,000 was recommended by the Assessor for a property on Governor Powell Road.

MOTION: To approve a \$15,000 Solar Energy Systems exemption for property located at Map 2, Lot 44-3, as recommended by the Assessor.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

VOTING BOOTHS TO BE SET UP WEEKEND OF MARCH 11: This date was set for voting booths to be set up at the Town Hall.

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COMCAST (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016): The report of quarterly franchise fee receipts, in the amount of \$8,608.84, was reviewed by the Board.

MOTION: To accept the amount of quarterly receipts as they appear in the statement by Comcast.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY CHANGE FROM CALENDAR TO FISCAL YEAR: The Selectmen reviewed a letter dated February 21, 2017 from the Rockingham County Commissioners outlining this change. The Chairman read the portion which describes the effect on the Town; and said that basically the same amount of money will be owed, but paid on a different timetable.

ROCKINGHAM METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT: The Chairman asked R. McDermott if he would be willing to continue as the Town's representative to the Rockingham MPO on the Transportation Advisory Committee, and he said he would be.

MOTION: To appoint R. McDermott as Transportation Advisory Committee representative for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

MOTION: L. Smith

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

MOTION: To appoint J. Ziolkowski as Alternate Transportation Advisory Committee representative for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

MOTION: L. Smith

SECOND: R. McDermott

UNANIMOUS

MONTHLY REPORTS

SELECTMAN MCDERMOTT – LIBRARY: R. McDermott reported that both a wine tasting event and a presentation on Mary Todd Lincoln were very well attended. A glass case is to be purchased for historic books, in memory of Ann Haggart, who has recently passed away. The investment policy is being updated. A study of salaries has shown that the Hampton Falls library salaries are slightly less than those of nearby Towns' library personnel.

SELECTMAN SMITH - SCHOOL BOARD, RECREATION COMM., HERITAGE COMM., TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMM.: At the School Board meeting on February 10, the School Board reviewed the template for posting meetings on the Town's website, then met with Moderator J.P.

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Pontbriand to discuss the conduct of the deliberative session. L. Smith said he did not attend the February 23 meeting but understands this was an informative meeting about the building project for the community.

Recreation Commission activity included setting dates for the second Arts on the Common event, June 3, and for the Castleberry Fair to be held on May 13 and 14, and September 16 and 17, 2017.

The Town Improvement Committee continued its discussion of additional parking at Governor Weare Park. There is a problem with the proposed exit as there is not sufficient sight distance. Options are being discussed.

The TIC also continued discussion of the entrance door to the Town Hall, trying to work within the confines of the current configuration and keep costs down. Work is being done to resolve issues with drip edge work done on the Museum building's roof.

SELECTMAN ZIOLKOWSKI - PLANNING BOARD, CONSERVATION COMMISSION

J. Ziolkowski reported that the Planning Board had a full meeting that included two continued cases as well as a Design Review for a proposed 18,000 square foot automobile repair business on Lafayette Road.

J. Ziolkowski deferred to S. Hanson to report on Conservation Commission activity. S. Hanson said that Roadside Cleanup is set for April 15, 2017. He also said that there is potential to have half the cost of an appraisal for Toppan Lane paid for by a grant.

THE COALITION COMMUNITIES (HB 429): The Chairman read from a memo from the Coalition Communities to the House Legislative Administration Committee, in which they spelled out their reasons for not supporting HB 429, a bill that proposes that any laws made relative to an adequate public education "shall be incontestable and not subject to review by any court." L. Smith said the opposition has to do with former "donor communities" and state school taxes, and the Coalition Communities feel that this bill is overreach.

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO THIS MEETING'S AGENDA ITEMS

George Koch said he had heard unconfirmed reports that emails were sent out by people at the school, and that he is concerned this undermines the integrity of the Town election. He asked that the Select Board inquire to see if this communication was done "above board," sent by private citizens, in which case he said he is fine with it. However, if the emails represent electioneering at the school, he said that is not fine. He would like an official inquiry into the matter.

G. Koch said that he is concerned that the emails were sent to LAS parents by people representing themselves as public employees and not as private citizens, and that this seems to suggest politicking for a candidate.

L. Smith said that some parents had approached him concerning the same email, which if it was sent using the school directory, violates bylaws that specifically say it can't be used for that purpose. L. Smith added that RSA 654 prohibits such electioneering by public employees.

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J. Ziolkowski said that he has two children in the school system and did not receive any emails from the SAU email address, or from anyone representing themselves as a school employee.

L. Smith said he has contacted the school principal, who is currently on vacation. He also got in touch with School Board Chairman Mark Lane, who got right back to him and said he will look into the matter.

G. Koch asked the Board to please make findings available at the soonest opportunity.

S. Hanson, noting that the Town Election will take place on March 14th, thanked L. Smith for his years of service to the Town, noting that as there is a choice on the ballot it is possible he will be leaving the Select Board. He said that whatever happens, he appreciates all the hard work, often with difficult topics, over the years, and wished him luck on election Tuesday.

S. Hanson addressed the Board about possible solar energy panels for the Public Safety Building. He said that as there is grant money available for energy efficiency projects, it is a good time to revisit this topic. S. Hanson said he had asked the Fire Chief and Police Chief for permission to investigate options. Representatives of a solar energy company came out to take some measurements and look at sun exposure at the Public Safety Building in the past week. They will come back with a proposal. S. Hanson said the cost of such a project has gone down significantly, and would depend on the size of the system.

S. Hanson explained that while municipalities do not qualify for federal assistance, if a third party agreement is created, federal and state funds can be captured. The Town would enter a power purchase agreement that should pay off in about seven years.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: 2/15/2017

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of 2/15/2017 as written.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ENTER NONPUBLIC SESSION made by J. Ziolkowski, seconded by R. McDermott.

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:

XX RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.*

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session: Richard P. McDermott, Selectman

Y

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 1, 2017**

**6:30 PM
TOWN HALL**

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Larry M. Smith, Chairman	Y
James E. Ziolkowski, Vice Chairman	Y

Entered nonpublic session at 7:06 PM.

Motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session by R. McDermott, seconded by J. Ziolkowski.

Motion: PASSED.

Public session reconvened at 7:08 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:10 PM.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS