

Hull Board of Selectmen

Minutes

October 27, 2015

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, October 27, 2015, at the Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: John C. Brannan, Chair; Domenico Sestito, Vice-Chair; Christopher Mitchell, Clerk; John D. Reilly, Jr., Member, and Kevin Richardson, Member. Also present were Philip E. Lemnios, Town Manager; James Lampke, Town Counsel; and Catherine Goldhammer, recording secretary.

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APPOINTMENTS

Eileen White, Treasurer/Collector regarding bonds

White presented the selectmen with a document authorizing the refinancing of the Jacobs and Memorial School debt. The refinancing will commence on November 2, 2015. It will decrease the annual debt burden by about \$45,000. The motion to authorize the refinancing was read in full by Selectman Mitchell and unanimously passed, following which the selectmen signed the authorization document.

Motion	Sestito	Motion to approve as presented
Second	Reilly	
Vote	Unanimous	

Parks and Recreation Update

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Greg Grey was present at the meeting to provide an update on the Parks and Recreation Department’s projects and activities. The following were some of the points from the presentation, edited for this document. The full presentation is available on the town’s website.

- The Hull Parks and Recreation Commission meets once a month throughout the year on a volunteer basis. Its objectives are to offer a wide variety of activities for the community; to work closely with the DPW to keep all parks in the best possible condition; and to support the idea of a recreation center.
- Current Board Members are Greg Grey, Chairman; Gary Twombly, Treasurer; Ed Whelan, Secretary; Jim Quatromoni, Commissioner; Steve Williamson, Commissioner; Joe Menice, Program Director; and Katie Walper, Field Trip Coordinator and Summer Hoops Coordinator
- The department’s annual budgets is \$51,352.
- Its summer programs offer athletics, playground, swimming, tennis, Hull Children’s Theater, fitness center, summer hoops, surf camp, summer field trips, and sunset yoga.
- Fall/winter programs include women’s volleyball, night gym, Foxwoods field trip (adults only), and school vacation field trips.

- In January the department meets with youth and adult sports leagues to finalize permits and requests for field usage. It also meets with the DPW to go over maintenance needs throughout town, including fences, fields, and structures.

All programs are fee-based, except for Night Gym. There are also scholarships for the summer youth programs. In addition, Grey noted that it is difficult to find field space for all the town’s needs.

The selectmen thanked the Grey and the other commission members for their service to the town.

John Coggins regarding Square Dedication

John Coggins, of the War Memorial Commission, asked the selectmen to approve the Veteran’s Day dedication of a square at the intersection of Stony Beach Road and Atlantic Ave. for Ginny Sampson, U.S. Army Corporal in the Korean War. Coggins also offered an invitation to the World War II veterans living in Hull to contact the Veteran’s Agent and attend the Veteran’s Day commemoration and be recognized for their service.

Motion	Reilly	Motion to name corner at the eastern end of Atlantic Ave. and Stony Beach Rd. for Corporal Ginny Sampson, US Army, Korea.
Second	Mitchell	
Vote	Unanimous	

Applicants for Boards and Committees

Brannan read aloud the list of all members of town boards, commissions, and committees, as well as vacancies on same. Lemnios said that he would advertise all openings.

It was noted that two of the groups, the Weir River Estuary Committee and the Sustainable Transportation Committee had previously been dissolved as town committees. Reilly moved to reconfirm that dissolution.

Motion	Reilly	Motion to reconfirm votes to dissolve the Weir River Estuary Committee and the Sustainable Transportation Committee.
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	

Town Meeting Discussion

Brannan opened the meeting for discussion on the subject of the recent Special Town Meeting. He suggested that discussion focus not on the outcome, but rather on ways to improve future Town Meetings. The points discussed included, but were not limited to the following:

- Reilly noted that it is difficult to discuss Town Meeting without getting into the moderator and that care should be taken to not discuss him while he is not present. He said that it would be helpful to invite the moderator to a future meeting. He also suggested that having the next Town Meeting in the gymnasium may prevent overflow and standing room issues. In addition he suggested that the selectmen put out a call for a Government Study Committee.
- Lemnios noted that the process, in terms of the warrant and timeline, had worked, and that the issues seemed more related to how the rules are presented publicly so that all present are aware of them, a knowledge of what the rules are, and what is the authority of the moderator.
- Brannan presented a list of reforms that could be put forward. These included a cutoff time for discussing new articles; no reconsideration of articles after a set time; shorter time limits on all speakers, including town officials; warrant published two weeks before the meeting; and hecklers being asked to leave following one warning.
- Richardson noted that some of the rules of the meeting are dictated by town bylaws and some are dictated by the state. He also suggested that a committee that could look into the bylaws related to Town Meeting in order to make it a better process.
- Lampke discussed the timeline of the warrant given the requirements of state and local law and the pros and cons of lengthening or shortening it.
- Mitchell said that a committee would be helpful to delineate the rules clearly, put them in the warrant, identify issues from past Town Meetings, and propose solutions.

In addition residents contributed the following comments and suggestions:

- Joe Berkeley said that the motion to reconsider seemed to be the weapon of choice for “professional town meeting attendees” and didn’t represent the will of the people. Lampke noted that a motion to reconsider usually happens with every controversial article. He said that it also sometimes happens after a vote when someone thinks that a mistake has been made.
- Former Selectman Dennis Blackall noted that the moderator was an issue, but not the only issue. He said that people feel hoodwinked and cheated. He said that there are questions about how priorities are set or not set, with the turf field now being the first priority for potential debt exclusion funds.
- Rhoda Kanet had emailed the selectmen a list of procedural changes that she felt could be made without the need to change bylaws and asked if the moderator was the person who could make those changes. Lampke said that the moderator controlled procedural matters at Town Meeting, subject to town bylaws. Lemnios confirmed. Kanet also noted that a lot of people could not find parking and therefore did not attend the meeting. She suggested that a shuttle service might help solve this problem.
- Steve Forcum said that the Capital Outlay Committee had been created to assess the town’s capital priorities and that the board had then approved an article that bypassed that process. Article 6 was then passed by Special Town Meeting. He also introduced the citizens’ group, Association of Concerned Townspeople (ACT), which was created following the Special Town Meeting and in response to some of the issues related to it.
- Patrick Finn said that the large turnout led to issues and some confusion over the process. He also suggested starting the meeting earlier.
- Polly Rowe felt that before taking any vote, the moderator should inform the participants of any rules regarding that vote.
- Others noted that the cafeteria had only a small television monitor and people couldn’t see or hear it; that the needs of the elderly and handicapped should be considered in the future; and that there be tighter control over voter registration.

NEW BUSINESS

Richardson requested that a discussion about the hiring of new fire and police chiefs be scheduled on the agenda.

Mitchell thanked the minute-taker for her work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:15 p.m. Brannan made a motion to go into Executive Session to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual; to go into Executive Session to comply with or act under the authority of the Attorney-Client privilege; and to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel and obtain legal advice pursuant to the Attorney-Client privilege; and to not reconvene in open session. The matter to be discussed was a personnel issue.

Motion	Brannan	Motion to go into Executive Session to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual; to go into Executive Session to comply with or act under the authority of the Attorney-Client privilege; and to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel and obtain legal advice pursuant to the Attorney-Client privilege; and to not reconvene in open session.
Second	Richardson	
Vote	Approved	Richardson – Aye Brannan – Aye Sestito – Aye Mitchell – Aye Reilly – Recused himself from the Executive Session

The open meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The board will meet again on October 27, 2015.

Recorded by Catherine Goldhammer

Approved by:

Documents

The following documents were included in the Board of Selectmen’s packets or were presented during the meeting and are available in the Board of Selectmen’s office upon request:

- Board of Selectmen agenda and amended agenda for October 27, 2015
- Bond authorization Motion/Vote
- Parks and Recreation handout
- List of members and applicants for boards and committees

- Letter from Hull Historic Commission regarding outreach activities to district owners