

**Holderness Select Board
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2023**

Select Board Members Present: Chair, Jill White, Vice Chair, Woodie Laverack, Sam Brickley, Peter Francesco and Kelly Schwaner

Others Present: Town Administrator, Michael Capone, Transfer Station Supervisor, Scott Davis, Fire Chief, Jeremy Bonan, Trustee of Trust Funds Members, Bonnie Hunt and Barbara Laflamme.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM in the second-floor meeting room of the Town Office.

Correspondence Items: Reviewed by the Board members. Individual members reviewed the payroll and accounts payable manifests as well as the items in the consent agenda.

5:30PM Agenda Items: in the second-floor meeting room at the Town Office.

Department Head Visit-Transfer Station Supervisor – Scott Davis was present to provide an update on Transfer Station activity. Scott noted that most of the metal from the metal pile has been removed and the current vendor is keeping the ongoing accumulation to a minimum. He is going to schedule the removal of tires and electronics in the coming weeks. He also plans to have the repairs done the office building once the weather warms up.

Scott reviewed some of the expense numbers associated with the disposal of trash and recyclables with the Board. He has been monitoring the expenses to be certain that we are charged correctly for what is removed from the station. Given the present conditions in the recycling markets it actually costs more per ton to recycle, but the sense is that those conditions can change over time and recycling is still the right thing to do.

The Board thanked Scott, Cory and Hanz for all of their hard work

New Business: Trustee of Trust Funds- Bonnie Hunt and Barbara Laflamme-

Bonnie and Barbara were present to provide an update on the activity with the accounts under their jurisdiction. They mentioned that a recent increase in interest earned on the accounts in the Public Deposit Investment Pool (PDIP) was a welcome relief from the negligible interest earned in the past few years.

They also spoke about the scholarship accounts they manage for the SAU and some of the challenges they have encountered in that area. Bonnie mentioned that she had reached out to other SAU member Towns to ask if they would take over the Scholarship accounts, but there were no takers. Recently, they had received an inquiry from a trustee of one of the scholarship accounts to see if the account could be invested in a vehicle with a higher rate of return. This

led to a review of what options might be available and where the responsibility might lie for moving the account and if it was even an option.

It was suggested that perhaps Counsel could be consulted in that regard. The Town Administrator mentioned that he would follow up with Counsel. Mr. Brickley mentioned that he would follow up at the SAU office and perhaps speak to the SAU Business Administrator or the Superintendent to get their perspective on the matter.

The Board briefly discussed the open Trustees position. Bonnie mentioned that she was reviewing the list of folks who received write-ins at Town Meeting. Ms. White mentioned another possible candidate for consideration.

The Board thanked Bonnie and Barbara for their service and for attending the meeting this evening.

Fire Chief-Jeremy Bonan: Chief Bonan was present to advise the Board that he had the preliminary purchase agreement from the Fire Truck vendor for their consideration. Chief Bonan noted that approval of this agreement and payment of the final invoice in April would net the Town a discount on the purchase price purchase of just over \$30,000 dollars. After a brief discussion, Ms. Schwaner made a motion to accept the agreement and to further authorize Chair White to sign on behalf of the Board. Mr. Francesco provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Chief Bonan also advised the Board that Engine 3 was being towed to the Cummins shop in Concord to evaluate and error code that indicated a problem with the Turbo on the engine. He will advise the Town Administrator of their findings.

The Board thanked Chief Bonan for all of his work and the work of other department members in securing a discounted price for the Fire Engine.

Approval and Signing of Payroll and Payables Checks: Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the payroll and accounts payable manifests and to issue checks accordingly. There was a second from Mr. Laverack. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023: Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 13, 2023 as written. Ms. Schwaner provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor approving the minutes as written.

Consent Agenda/ Signature file: Boat Agent Appointments (2)
Yield Taxes Assessed 231-004 and 231-006.
Special Event Permit

Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. There was a second from Mr. Laverack. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

New Business-continued: Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Mr. Francesco made a motion to have both the Chair and Vice Chair continue in their present capacities for another term. Ms. Schwaner provided a second. Both Ms. White and Mr. Laverack indicated they would continue to serve in their respective roles. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Board Committee Assignments: The Board agreed to defer discussion on this item until their next meeting.

Old Business-Town Meeting Discussion: The Board briefly discussed some of the action items from Town meeting. Mr. Francesco indicated that the Planning Board would continue their discussion of a possible fireworks ordinance. The Town Administrator mentioned that he had begun a preliminary review of possible options for a Town Road Policy.

Old Business: Highway Department Equipment: The Board continued their discussion from the last meeting regarding the purchase of a used vibratory roller for the Highway department. Mr. Francesco provided some additional information to the Board to support his concern with the need to purchase this piece of equipment. He felt that we should save the money and use it to purchase additional equipment for the Highway Department from which they would derive more benefit. Mr. Brickley, did not necessarily disagree with Mr. Francesco's objection to the purchase, but felt that the request from the Highway Supervisor was reasonable. The other Board members agreed and noted that we should rely on the expertise of any department head to know what is best for their department.

Mr. Brickley made a motion to purchase the used Atlas-Copco CA1500D vibratory roller from MB tractor for \$45,000 with funds allocated under State Senate Bill 401. Mr. Laverack provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-1 in favor of the motion.

Public Participation: None

Mr. Laverack left the meeting at 6:45PM.

Town Administrators Report March 27, 2023

1. Peter suggested the **attached** road specifications from our subdivision regulations be provided to Board members as it might help with our road policy discussion. The relevant section is 6.19 and it begins about halfway down the first page.

2. Marybeth has provided a copy of the new FULL STATISTICAL REVALUATION agreement for 2023 (attached). I have reviewed and discussed it with her. Should you have the time to look through it, I will do my best to answer any questions you might have. Marybeth is sending it to DRA for their review and comment as well. Should they have any suggested changes, we can decide if we wish to incorporate them into the final document. Marybeth will be present at our May 22nd meeting to discuss the agreement and take questions from the Board.

3. The initial draft tuition reimbursement policy is attached, should the Board wish to discuss it. *Mr. Brickley asked the Board if he could review the draft with the Town Administrator and submit a final draft at a future date for the Board's consideration. The Board was in support of Mr. Brickley's suggestion.*

4. Have reached out to Ward regarding the ability of the public safety building roof to support a potential solar array.

5. Roger Larochelle reached out regarding next steps for the White Oak Pond parcel. I mentioned that the Board may wish to be compensated for the parcel and I would get back to him after speaking with you folks. *Ms. White asked the Board members to give some thought as to how they may best wish to proceed so the matter might be concluded at a future meeting.*

6. A follow up on the subpoena for information regarding PFAS sites from the McLane law firm representing 3M in a lawsuit with the State of New Hampshire. We have not been named a party in the suit. In following up with Counsel it appears that we are one of 37 of their clients who received subpoena's. Our Counsel did follow up by filing an objection on our behalf. Our current understanding is that the McLane law firm will be sending out a revised list of materials that we will need to review and collect any documents responsive to their inquiry. From there, our Counsel will work with us to compile the documents and provide them to the McLane law firm. The objection has nullified the current deadline and bought some additional months to pull this together. Unfortunately, Counsel was unable to completely eliminate our participation in this litigation, but they may have created better parameters as to the amount of information we need to provide as well as the timing for submission. I have inquired as to how the legal fees will be handled as it does not seem fair that Towns should have to incur legal expenses for a lawsuit brought by the State.

Board Member Reports: None

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francesco moved, with a second from Ms. Schwaner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator