

**Holderness Select Board
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022**

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

Others Present: Town Administrator, Michael Capone

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM in the second-floor meeting room of the Town Office.

Correspondence Items: Reviewed and discussed

5:30PM Agenda Items: Second Floor Meeting Room

Approval and Signing of Payroll and Payables Checks: Mr. Brickley 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 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2022: Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the public minutes of the January 3, 2022 meeting as written. There was a second from Mr. Laverack. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda/ Signature file: Abatement Response Map 245 Lot 039 sub lot B11
Intent to Cut Map 216 Lot 002
Veterans Tax Credit Map 228 Lot 039
Police Officer Appointment – Brian Morrill
2021 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate

Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Brickley provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

New Business: 2022-2023 Operating Budget Discussion- Mr. Laverack and the Town Administrator provided a review of the Budget Committee Meeting of January 13 for the other Board members. No changes were recommended by the Budget Committee and the budget as proposed by the Select Board will go to the public hearing on February 2, 2022 beginning at 6:30 in the Holderness Central School Cafeteria. The Town Administrator will notice the public hearing on the website.

Old Business: COVID 19 Protocols -update – the Board and the Town Administrator discussed reimplementing a bank of sick time for use by employees who are impacted by COVID 19. The employee will have up to ten days of additional sick time to use, but only for illness related to COVID 19. The Board discussed making the allotment retroactive to January 1, 2022. The Town Administrator will research that option.

Mr. Brickley made a motion to reinstate a bank of up to ten days of sick time to be used for employees impacted by COVID 19. Mr. Laverack provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Public Participation: none

Town Administrators Report January 18, 2022

1. The US Department of the Treasury has published the Final Rule regarding the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. It will take effect on April 1, 2022. It appears that the lost revenue rule has been expanded up to 10 million dollars which means the funds we have received could be spent on any regular budgeted items, capital expenditures, or other government activity allowable following the Uniform Guidance and Federal Procurement standards, not just the categories listed on the interim final rule. Also, RSA 31:95-b allows the governing body to accept and expend these funds with no further action. These funds are 'off book' and would not be included in the budget.
2. The engineering firm that is working on the Transmission Line Replacement project for Eversource has asked that the project be exempt from Site Plan Review under section 400.19 of the Zoning Ordinance as it fits the definition of an essential service. The request has been forwarded to the Planning Board for their possible consideration at their meeting this week. If the project is found to be exempt from site plan review it will still be subject to permitting from the Select Board under section 500 of the zoning ordinance which pertains to steep slopes. If the Planning Board were to determine that the project should come for site plan review, their decision could be appealed to the ZBA. *The Town Administrator reported that the Planning Board had deemed the project not eligible for site plan review under section 400.19 of the Zoning Ordinance, but did request that the Select Board forward a copy of any plans received to them to consider at a regularly scheduled meeting.*
3. The Budget Committee reviewed and approved the Select Board's operating budget and voted to recommend the draft warrant article submitted to date. The first public hearing on the Budget is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2 beginning at 6:30 in the cafeteria of the Holderness Central School.

4. We have received an updated and approved Groundwater Management Permit for the Transfer Station. It is good for another five-year period. It does call for continued monitoring of the off-site private well and has been amended to include biennial sampling of MW-2, MW-3 and the adjacent residential well for PFAS.

5. I have contacted eX2 Technology, the engineering firm doing the preliminary design work for the Grafton County Broadband project. They are currently collecting utility pole data along the proposed fiber routes throughout the County. In the coming weeks they will be reaching out to conduct site surveys for the drop point site of each town in the project.

Non-Public Session: RSA 91A:3, II (e), (l) -none

Board Member Reports: - Mr. Francesco mentioned that the Planning Board was looking for one additional member and two or three alternate members.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francesco moved, with a second from Mr. Brickley to adjourn the meeting at 6:20PM. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator