

**Holderness Select Board
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023**

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

Others Present: Town Administrator, Michael Capone, PSNH Representatives, Kurt Nelson, Connor Jennings, Brad Newell, Roy Sheehan, VHB Representatives, Mark Verostick, Andrew Mahoney.

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.

5:30PM Agenda Items: Second Floor Meeting Room

Public Hearing- PSNH Z180 Transmission Line Rebuild Project: Ms. White opened the public hearing at 5:30PM and reviewed the order of the hearing for those present. She noted that, although the project was not subject to site plan review per the Holderness Zoning Ordinance, the Select Board had the authority to review the plan with the applicant for its compliance with section 500 of the zoning ordinance. Ms. White also commented that the project was reviewed by KV Partners, an engineering firm selected by the Town and paid for by the applicant. Abutters had been properly noticed as had the public hearing. There were no abutters present. The Conservation Commission and the Planning Board had reviewed the plans with the applicant during their respective December meetings and had both advised the Board they had no concerns with the project moving forward.

PSNH representative Kurt Nelson provided a brief overview of the project for the Board noting that only two of the towers associated with this project were located in Holderness. Mark Verostick of VHB and Brad Newel of PSNH reviewed the project plans and provided satisfactory answers to the questions posed in the engineering review. It was noted that the project also had Alteration of Terrain Permit approval from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

Ms. White asked for questions or comments from the Board. Mr. Francesco asked if accommodations could be made to abutters so as to not have encroachments on their properties from the right of way. Brad Newell and Roy Sheehan responded that they would work with individual property owners as they had with the previous project to make certain appropriate measures were in place to minimize the impacts to abutters.

Ms. White mentioned that KV Partners had suggested surety in the amount of \$32,000 for the project and asked if PSNH had any issues with that amount. Mr. Nelson responded that surety was usually required in these instances and he would make the necessary arrangements to secure it.

With no other questions or comments forthcoming, Ms. White asked if a member of the board would like to make a motion. Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the Special Use permit application as submitted on November 21, 2022 by VHB on behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire for the Z180 Transmission Line Structure Rebuild and Optical Ground Wire Project subject to the requirements outlined in section 500 of the Holderness Zoning Ordinance.” Ms. Schwaner provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Ms. White thanked the representatives of both PSNH and VHB for their presentation.

Approval and Signing of Payroll and Payables Checks: Mr. Laverack made a motion to approve the payroll and accounts payable manifests and to issue checks accordingly. There was a second from Mr. Francesco. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2023: Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 3, 2023 as written. Mr. Laverack provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor approving the minutes as written.

Consent Agenda/ Signature file: Intent to cut Map 216 Lot 002
Health Insurance Deductible reimbursement
Abatement Response Map 241- Lot 106 and Lot 21

Ms. Schwaner made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. There was a second from Mr. Francesco. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

New Business —Capital Reserve Transfers Review and Discussion- The Town Administrator reviewed the proposed transfers with the Board. There were no questions from the members present. Mr. Laverack made a motion to approve the transfers of money from the general fund to the capital reserve accounts in the amounts noted. Ms. Schwaner provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Old Business: – Town Operating Budget and warrant 2023-2024 – The Town Administrator advised the Board that the budget committee would be meeting on Thursday evening to review both the Town and Holderness Central Schools budgets and warrants. They will vote to either amend or approve them to go to the February 8, 2023 budget hearing. The Town Administrator also noted that warrant article six had been changed to reflect the purchase of the 6500 series cab and chassis would occur independent of the Sander body, plow and wing.

Public Participation: None

Town Administrators Report

January 17, 2023

1. A copy of the audit for the year ended June 30, 2022 has been posted on the Select Board page of the Town website. A copy is also available in the lobby. The balance sheet will be published in the Town Report. Please let me know if you would like a hard copy for your personal use. *Ms. White requested a hard copy of the audit for her files.*
2. Scott and I are working on the 2022 facility report for the Transfer Station. It is due to NHDES by March. We are also reviewing the transfer station fee schedule and updating our facility permit.
3. Chief DiFilippe has provided some accident data on the intersection of Route 175 and Hardhack Road. I will be submitting it to NHDOT in support of our request for a Road Safety Audit in the next two weeks.
4. I recently contacted the project manager for the New Hampshire Electric Cooperatives (NHEC) broadband project for an update. He mentioned that the recent winter storms had damaged some of their equipment which would most likely delay the start up in Holderness to late summer or early fall. I will continue to monitor the progress of the project.
5. I had a Forest Ranger review a recent project in Town for compliance with Timber rules. Have not seen a report from him to date, but will follow up as time permits.
6. Will be contacting the Town of Plymouth for an explanation regarding their recent correspondence projecting another increase to our ambulance agreement. I have not seen a formula put forth or any quantifiable explanation for this and would like to better understand it.
7. Reviewed the initial transfer station pricing changes with Scott to get his input. *Mr. Francesco asked if the pricing for the disposal of some white goods (washing machines and dryers etc.) could be revisited. He also asked about batteries. The Town Administrator will speak with Scott to get his thoughts and report back to the Board.*

Board Member Reports: Mr. Laverack mentioned that the Conservation Commission would like to be notified when an intent to cut is issued.

Mr. Francesco asked if we could have Marybeth Walker attend an upcoming Board meeting to discuss the update of values anticipated for the summer of 2023. The Town Administrator will schedule something after Town Meeting.

Ms. Schwaner asked if all of the outstanding questions from the Budget Committee had been addressed. The Town Administrator commented that, to the best of his knowledge, they had been.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francesco moved, with a second from Ms. Schwaner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07PM. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator