TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICE
NEW HAMPTON, NH  03256

April 4, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Irvine, Mr. Mertz, and Mr. Denoncour were present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Mrs. Lucas

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Mertz called the meeting of the Board to order at 6:30 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Manifests, bills, requisitions, purchase orders and leave request forms.

The board approved purchase requisitions for Hwy Dept (sweeper wafers on backhoe), Town Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund (deposit for roof replacement to Town House), General Buildings (flag pole for Veteran’s Park)

The board reviewed the following Building permit:
1. Vacation Camp Resorts, Tax Map R-20, Lot 1; HELD for further information.
2. New Hampton Route 104 LLC, Tax Map R-4, Lot 90K; Approved

The board approved the following Intents to Excavate:

The board reviewed the following Veteran’s Tax Credit:
1. Dana Witham – Tax Map R-3, Lot 34. Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to approve the tax credit. Vote was unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS

7:00 PM
Councilor Mike Cryans was present. Senator Bob Guida was also present for a 7:30 pm. appointment. Residents Robert Barry and Pat Schlesinger were present.

He asked for input from Selectmen on the issues concerning them. Selectmen and Mrs. Lucas reviewed concerns:
• Individuals becoming commissioners with a vesting interest in a particular agenda item; Discussion with some business owners that there seems to be a negative DRA attitude towards local businesses;
• Cost shifting from the state level to the local governments;
• Change in retirement payments;
• Rooms & meals tax calculations;
• Process with red-listed bridges and applicable grants;
• Issue with short-term rentals, enforcing regulations, and Airbnb circumventing requirements to protect the public.

Mrs. Lucas advised that there has been preliminary discussion with NHDOT on Alex Ray’s possible project on Route 104 and would like to keep apprised of any further information and stressed the importance of vehicle safety on Route 104 and Exit 23. Mr. Mertz said interconnectivity should be considered.

7:30 PM
Senator Guida remained while Councilor Cryans left.
Senator Bob Guida

Highlights of the discussion included: cost shifting, revenue sharing, property tax relief, road conditions. There was discussion on short-term rentals and whether they should be assessed for commercial use instead of residential, whether income made should be considered in the value, and that this issue could bring litigation and new legislation. Discussion on educational funding and disparity between communities, and utility valuation and the impact to municipalities.

Senator Guida said he would address the issues discussed earlier on bridge aid with the legislature.

Mr. Irvine expressed frustration with Senator Guida’s office, when he wanted Senator Guida to submit legislation on utility property valuation, on behalf of the town’s constituents.

DISCUSSION

The Board reviewed the following:

- The board approved and Chairman signed the Quarterly Federal Tax Return.
- Review of balances owed for OT related to Longevity Payments to 5 employees at $148.94.
- The board reviewed revised contract for assessing firm Commerford, Nieder, Perkins. Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to enter into a 3-year contract with CNP. Vote was unanimous.
- The board reviewed a request for charitable exemption for land belonging to New England Forestry Foundation. Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to deny the request. Vote was unanimous.
- Monitoring Report from NHDRA, 4/1/19. Errors did not exceed 6 monitoring points.
- Copy of notice from Tax Collector Ms. Adams that tax bills were mailed 12/21/18.
- Town Clerks report of current auto registration collection Jan-Mar 2019, showing an increase.
- Email from Atty. Whitley, dated 4/4 advising of Supreme Court date of 5/15 for Northern Pass.
- Notice of surplus auction.
- Phone conversation with Mary-Jo Vien on posthumous award of Boston Post Cane to her mother, Kathryn Rakowski. Appt. with Mrs. Vien to be scheduled when plaque is done.
- Primex report on wire taken down on Straits Road and tire blow out on 2013 International truck. Stone was being tailgate spread and driver didn’t see the wire. International sustained damaged during blow out.
- Mrs. Lucas advised that the current employee policy states that you must work the day
before and the day after a holiday in order to be paid for that holiday, unless one of those days was an arranged vacation day. She said new employees don’t have vacation time in the first year, but have personal time, and asked the board their opinion on the employee using a personal day before or after a holiday, with advance notice, to qualify for the paid holiday. The board agreed to take this under advisement for continued discussion.

- Mrs. Lucas said she had left a message for Mr. Wells with no response.

OTHER BUSINESS
- Personnel policy draft meeting – 4/8/19.
- Discussion on possible PD Revolving Fund that Police Chief Stevens is interested in. Finance Officer Ms. Duggan doing some further research on how this might work.

MINUTES
- Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to approve the minutes of 3/21 & 3/28 as written. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was none.

NON PUBLIC SESSION
At 9:46 pm Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to go into Non-Public Session, according to RSA 91A:3 II (a) Personnel. Vote passed. Roll call was taken, Mr. Irvine - Y, Mr. Mertz –Y, Mr. Denoncour – Y.

PRESENT
Mr. Irvine, Mr. Mertz, Mr. Denoncour, and Mrs. Lucas

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION
At 10:42 pm, Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Irvine, to come out of Non-Public Session. Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mertz, to seal the minutes for 5 years. Votes passed.

NON PUBLIC SESSION
At 10:43 pm Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Irvine, to go into Non-Public Session, according to RSA 91A:3 II (a) Personnel. Vote passed. Roll call was taken, Mr. Irvine - Y, Mr. Mertz –Y, Mr. Denoncour – Y.

PRESENT
Mr. Irvine, Mr. Mertz, Mr. Denoncour, and Mrs. Lucas

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION
At 10:48 pm, Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to come out of Non-Public Session. Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to seal the minutes for 5 years. Votes passed.

Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour that based on the performance review presented for Finance Officer Ms. Duggan at the end of her probationary period, to approve a payroll rate increase of $1.00/hour making Ms. Duggan a permanent full-time employee. Vote was unanimous.

NON PUBLIC SESSION
At 10:49 pm Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to go into Non-Public Session, according to RSA 91A:3 II (a) Personnel. Vote passed. Roll call was taken, Mr. Irvine - Y, Mr. Mertz –Y, Mr. Denoncour – Y.

PRESENT
Mr. Irvine, Mr. Mertz, Mr. Denoncour, and Mrs. Lucas
RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

At 10:52 pm, Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Irvine, to come out of Non-Public Session. Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to seal the minutes for 5 years. Votes passed.

Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour that based on the performance review presented for Highway/Transfer Station employee Justin Hanser at the end of his probationary period, to make him a permanent full-time employee. Vote was unanimous.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

At 10:53 pm Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mertz, to go into Non-Public Session, according to RSA 91A:3 II (a) Personnel. Vote passed. Roll call was taken, Mr. Irvine - Y, Mr. Mertz – Y, Mr. Denoncour – Y.

PRESENT

Mr. Irvine, Mr. Mertz, Mr. Denoncour, and Mrs. Lucas

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

At 10:57 pm, Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to come out of Non-Public Session. Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to seal the minutes for 5 years. Votes passed.

It was the consensus of the board to approve Fire Chief Drake’s recommendation to make a conditional offer of employment for Eric Potter.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Irvine made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denoncour, to adjourn at 10:58 pm. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Vose