

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

Present: Paul Hazelton, Pat Moriarty, Rich James, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

Others Present: Audrey Johnson, Tom Edwards (Newfound Area School District, Hebron School Board representative), John Fischer (Emergency Management Director)

2:30 P.M. **COMMENCED MEETING:** Chair Hazelton commenced the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

2:30 P.M. **AMBULANCE SERVICES – NON-TRANSPORT CALLS:** Audrey Johnson approached the Select Board to give an update on the research into compensating the ambulance service for responding to non-transport calls. Ms. Johnson attended the Ambulance Summit Meeting on August 30, 2023, and found that out of 116,000 EMS calls in New Hampshire in 2022 41,000 were transports, 16,000 were interfacility transfers which 15% were covered by regular insurances and 75% were covered by either Medicare or Medicaid. The balance of calls of 59,000 were Service Calls (non- transports) which are unpaid by Medicare and Medicaid insurance. This is typical of what the Hebron Fire Department is experiencing. Ms. Johnson recommended to the Board holding off on considering billing residents for non-transport ambulance calls and felt that this could be addressed through another avenue. Vice-Chair Moriarty asked Ms. Johnson if the private ambulance service companies were billing for non-transport calls. Ms. Johnson noted that she had only contacted municipal ambulance services to gather information. Ms. Johnson reported to the Board that the department does receive many private donations through various community events which are deposited into the Fire Department Improvement Fund. This fund is used to purchase necessary equipment for the Fire Department. Chair Hazelton commented that the property taxes subsidize the ambulance services that are nonbillable. The Board thanked Ms. Johnson for continuing this research.

2:45 P.M. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- The Select Board signed the **accounting manifests**.
- The Board reviewed the **letter from Beach Attendant, Donna Bryant**. The Board asked Ms. Sanborn to obtain clarification on the incident.

2:50 P.M. **NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT – HEBRON SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Chair Hazelton looked to Tom Edwards for thoughts of the proposed independent school district. Mr. Edwards expressed concerns to the Board if the reasons behind the proposal to leave the NASD were based on the discussion of formula changes for the seven towns. Chair Hazelton relayed to Mr. Edwards that the perceived view of the towns in the NASD is that Bridgewater and Hebron have been continuously labeled as the “rich” towns but overall ~~Hebron-Groton~~ had the lowest household income. Changing the formula will not address the issue of funding education or reduce the funding in each town as there are many moving parts in the equation. Chair Hazelton relayed to Mr. Edwards that the towns need to know if the NASD is willing to work on a tuition agreement for the high school students or the ~~Board-Bridgewater, Hebron, Groton Steering Committee~~ will need to start discussions with the Plymouth School District. Vice-Chair Moriarty stated that the Hebron Select Board is open to continue working together with the NASD and discussions between both Boards should

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happen in order to work out a plan and give the public good answers. Mr. Edwards relayed to the Board that the NASD Board sees-perceives leaving the district as a threat. Chair Hazelton stated that this is not a threat, and the boards should be working together to have specific answers for the public. Mr. Edwards noted that there have been significant positive changes in the Newfound Memorial Middle School since a new principal was hired. Mr. Edwards felt that SAU 4 would be a better district with the seven towns. Chair Hazelton commented that a smaller district may be better. The Board thanked Mr. Edwards for coming to the meeting. Mr. Edwards thanked the Board for the invitation.

3:40 P.M. **FEMA DISASTER DECLARATION DECEMBER 24-26, 2022 UPDATE:** John Fischer approached the Board to give an update on the most recent FEMA meeting. Mr. Fischer informed the Board that a decision needs to be made with regards to Braley Road and addressing the washed-out pavement area. Also, a decision should be made with regards to whether or not to do the mitigation proposal made by Ben Hall, Highway Supervisor, to reduce the speed in the flow of water when the riverbanks overflow flooding the road. Vice-Chair Moriarty asked Mr. Fischer if the projects had to be completed or just proposed. Mr. Fischer replied that a solid proposal would be acceptable. Chair Hazelton inquired about doing the mitigation first and paving later. Selectman James felt that where the mitigation project costs less than the paving, the paving project could be proposed through a warrant article. Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that a one-time Highway funds check was received last year to be used towards infrastructure projects. Selectman James moved to do the mitigation project on Braley Road and patch the pavement but to move forward with a warrant article to pave Braley Road in the future, seconded by Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Fischer felt that the other work on Valley View Road had been taken care of and was holding up. Mr. Fischer stated that he would relay this information to FEMA representatives at the next meeting on September 11, 2023. Mr. Fischer suggested to the Board that when they decide to hire an Emergency Management Director to allow for at least 6 months training. The Board was handed the Emergency Management Director job description for review.

4:07 P.M. **DISCUSSION:**

- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board the **inquiry from the Hebron Common Landscape and Care Committee** to expand the number of members and to add a Historic District Commission member to the committee. The Board felt that the committee could consist of as many members as is willing, and it may be better to have a representative from the committee be the main contact with the Historic District Commission.

4:09 P.M. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- **Thank You** from the Hebron Historic District Commission
- **Notice from the State of NH Board of Tax and Land Appeals** – Motion for Reconsideration.

4:11 P.M. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Selectman James relayed to the Board that he was working with the technology company to address the **communication issues with the unit that was used for Zoom meetings upstairs.**
- The Board inquired about the one **outstanding legal case** and asked Ms. Sanborn to follow up with Attorney Grandy.

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- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board a **recommendation from the Planning Board regarding a new alternate member**. The Board asked Ms. Sanborn to review further with Ivan Quinchia, Planning Board Chair.
- **An Informational community open house** presented by Twin States Clean Energy Link will be held on Wednesday, September 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Hebron Community Hall at 16 Church Lane.
- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board the response from Katie Paight (State Floodplain Management Program Coordinator) on the recently approved **Floodplain elevation changes by the Federal Emergency Management Agency**. Ms. Sanborn stated that the Site Plan Regulations needed to be updated to address the changes.

4:25 P.M. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 17, 2023 and made the following corrections: page 1, under *Introduction -Interim Superintendent, Newfound Area School District (NASD)*, last sentence – change “from cooperation” to “for cooperation”, and page 2, top of the page, first full sentence – removed “as well”. The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 25, 2023. Chair Hazelton moved to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 17 2023 as amended and to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 25, 2023 as submitted, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

4:26 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Selectman James moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator