

TOWN OF TAMWORTH  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
84 MAIN STREET  
TAMWORTH, NH 03886  
TELEPHONE: (603) 323-7525 FAX: (603) 323-2349  
[WWW.TAMWORTHNH.ORG](http://WWW.TAMWORTHNH.ORG)

Selectmen's Work Session 5:30pm  
Town Office

Thursday, January 2, 2020

WORKSESSION MINUTES

Present: Selectmen Ricker, Farnum, Mason and Streeter, Police Chief Littlefield, Advisory Budget Committee members, Cook, Siniscalchi, Mason, Linda Cook, Jason Baker, Jessica Perkins, Heidi King, Julie Mason, Jacy Baumann, Alan and Kathy Bunker, Brian Hoag, Sue Eldridge, Bill Willis, Mark Plouche, Town Administrator McWhirter, Governmentoversite.com, many members of the public.

- CALL TO ORDER: Selectman Farnum called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Selectman Farnum read a statement as follows:

"Due to personnel issues, which we cannot discuss. Based on the programs that the recreation director gave the board of Selectmen the position does not warrant 40 hours per week."

The board allowed the audience to speak for 15 mins.

- Resident Jason Baker stated that the Recreation Director has been a dedicated employee for the town for 25 years. There are things that Mr. Roberts does for his program that no other director in any other town does or would do. He seems to have been pushed the door. It is sad and classless the way he has been treated.
- Resident Jessica Perkins commented about all the preparation, picking up uniforms, tending the fields, phone calls, scheduling is part of the programs. That cannot be accomplished in 15 hours per week. Has the board thought about what happens to the children?
- Resident Heidi King expressed her concerned with the director's hours being dropped from 40 to 15 hours per week. She commented that the kids need a program. She really hopes this issue gets fixed, the residents deserve it.
- Resident Julie Mason stated that the Recreation Director is always working. He is working for the good of the children. He truly cares about the kids and this community.
- Resident Jacy Baumann, president of the PTA spoke on behalf of the Recreation Director stating that he is a fantastic influence for our children. He is wonderful teaching our children the fundamentals of sports.
- Resident Alan Bunker stated that the 2019 town meeting fully funded the recreation program. He suggests the board reinstate Mr. Roberts to full time with benefits for the next 3 months and have the decision be made at the 2020 town meeting.

- Resident Brian Hoag, teacher in Moultonborough stated strongly that the Recreation Department needs a full-time director. You cannot get a good quality program with a part time position.
  - Resident Kathy Bunker said that Mr. Roberts goes above and beyond working with the children. The open gyms are needed for the teenagers in the community. There may not be a lot of kids participating in the programs, but the kids that do participate need the outlet. It is vitality important.
  - Resident Sue Eldridge reiterated how important the recreation program is for the children of Tamworth. In this area, there is not a lot of things for kids to do.
  - Resident Bill Willis stated that Mr. Roberts is the right man in the right position. He does a terrific job. He also stated that they were underhanded in the way they cut the director's hours during the holiday. One of 3 things should happen, reinstate the position, the board members resign or be subject to recall.
  - Resident Mark Plouche also called for the position to be reinstated.
- ADMINISTRATION:
    - Town Administrator McWhirter reported that the town received the Landfill Closure Grant Payment of \$11,871.87. They also received funds for the NE Solar Garden Agreement, fireworks and damage at the transfer station.

*Selectman Mason made a motion to accept \$50 for the damage done at the transfer station. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (4-0).*

*Selectman Mason made a motion to accept the \$1,000 from NE Solar Garden for the land lease at the old landfill. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Streeter and passed (4-0).*

*Selectman Farnum made a motion to accept the yearly \$6,000 donation towards the fireworks display. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).*

The board will have a full agenda at the January 9, 2020 which will include a full review of the 2020 budget. The Public Hearing for the 2020 budget will be held on February 6, 2020. A letter will be sent to the current Boston Post Cane holder to relinquish this honor as he has moved out of town. Mrs. McWhirter will answer correspondence as directed by the board to Standard Power, OPLC and NH DOT.
  - NEW BUSINESS:
    - The board briefly discussed a letter from a landowner offering to donate parcel 215-126-000. The board agreed to further research the property before accepting the offer. A letter will be sent to that affect.
  - OLD BUSINESS:
    - The board briefly reviewed the Transfer Station Manager and Road Agent job descriptions. They reviewed the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector Job descriptions with Mrs. Trammell.

*Selectman Farnum made a motion to approve and accept the job descriptions for the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector as revised. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).*

*Selectman Mason made a motion to approve accept the job descriptions for the Road Agent and Transfer Station Manager as revised. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (4-0).*

- Job descriptions for the Welfare Director and Swim Program Director will be reviewed by the Directors and discussed at a later meeting.
- The board discussed the policy to require the town office staff working all day take a 60-minute lunch break, this was voted on at a previous meeting. Town Administrator McWhirter asked if this was required for all employees. The board agree it should be. Mrs. McWhirter asked the board to reconsider its pervious vote and only require a 15- or 30-minute break. Selectman Mason reviewed correspondence from NH DOL regarding lunch breaks. She stated that exact wording should be included in the town policy. Selectman Ricker stated the staff should be able to decide how long they need for a break. After some discussion:

*Selectman Mason made a motion to require town employees to take a 30-minute lunch break working over 5 hours per day. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (3-0-1 Ricker).*

- After a review of the revised copy of the Traffic and Road Regulations and Policy:

*Selectman Mason made a motion to approve the Traffic and Road Regulations Policy as revised by Town Counsel. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (4-0).*

The regulation will be accepted after a Public Hearing which will be schedule at a later meeting.

- The Social Media Policy and Events Policy will be discussed further at a later meeting.
- SIGNATURES:
  - Selectman Farnum made a motion to approve and sign the 2019 Abatement – Map 214-154-014. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).
  - Selectman Farnum made a motion to approve and sign the Selectmen’s non-public sealed minutes of December 19, 2019. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).
  - Selectman Farnum made a motion to approve and sign the Selectmen’s non-public sealed minutes of December 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (3-0-1 Ricker).
  - Selectman Farnum made a motion to approve and sign the Selectmen’s meeting minutes of December 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (3-0-1 Ricker).
  - Selectman Farnum made a motion to approve and sign the accounts payable manifest dated January 2, 2020 in the amount of \$44,905.00. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (4-0).
- NON-PUBLIC per RSA 91-A:3, II (a)
  - Motion made by Selectman Farnum at 7:03 pm to enter a non-public session under RSA 91 A: 3 II (a). Motion seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed by roll call vote. Ricker Y, Farnum Y, Mason Y & Streeter Y.
  - Motion made by Selectman Farnum to reopen the regular session at 7:23 pm. Motion seconded by Selectman Mason and passed unanimously.

- RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING: Selectman Farnum reconvened the meeting at 7:24pm.

Selectman Farnum made a motion to approve and sign the accounts payable manifest dated January 2, 2020 in the amount of \$111.71. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (4-0).

Selectman Farnum shared that town counsel made some suggestions concerning the ambulance contract and those have been forward to the other towns involved in this process. The ambulance contract meeting will be held on January 6, 2020 with the hope that a final decision is made.

Advisory Budget Committee board member Art Mason suggested the board discuss putting a warrant article on the 2020 Warrant for an elected budget committee. An advisory budget committee does not have any authority to make change.

- ADJOURNMENT: AT 7:48pm, Selectman Mason made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene McWhirter  
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen

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Daniel J. Poirier

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Rebecca Mason

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Aaron Ricker

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Melanie Streeter

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William W. Farnum