

TOWN OF HILL SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 1, 2022

Selectmen Present: Tom Seymour, Shaun Bresnahan, Christopher Gronski & Lisa Seymour
(Administrative Assistant)

Selectmen Absent:

Public: Michael Stanley, Frank Razzaboni, Donald Sullivan, Joann Irving

Thomas Seymour brought the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Thomas Seymour made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session at 6:04 pm seconded by Shaun Bresnahan. Motion passed unanimously. (RSA 91-A:3, II (c))

Thomas Seymour made a motion to leave nonpublic Session and return to public session at 6:17 pm seconded by Christopher Gronski. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made to seal the minutes passed unanimously.

FIRE DEPT:

Chief Moulton no report at this time

HIGHWAY DEPT:

Dean Stevenson reported that things are falling apart. The sander in the Peterbilt is down. Dean is not sure but he thinks it might need a new belt and he needs a couple of good days to repair it. The wing on the International is broken as well.

The F550 was towed to Irwin Motors because it had more sensors errors. Service tech discovered the truck, needed a new air filter. The filter was very dirty and was on the verge of being sucked into the turbo.

The plow on the Peterbilt continuously loses its cutting-edge. Thomas Seymour asked if this is because Dale has more gravel roads to plow than Tony. Dean said he didn't think so. Christopher Gronski asked Dean for a list of the roads and asked him to categorize them as A (okay), B (needs some work) or C (dangerous and needs immediate attention). Shaun Bresnahan stated if we were to address all of the C roads, we would have about 9-1/2 miles of paved roads that need repairing. Christopher Gronski stated that we need to get started soon. At some point we will need a warrant article to start the repair of these roads. This would need to be voted on by the town. Shaun Bresnahan mentioned to Dean that about two weeks ago, on a Saturday, there were two of them riding around in the 550 checking for ice. Dean asked where and Shaun said it was on Murray Hill Road.

Shaun Bresnahan has been working with W L Construction to return saw blades that were shipped in error and he has finally received an RMA. Shaun asked are they really that good or can we find a better rate somewhere else. Dean said that they are expensive, but they last longer than other brands. Lisa Seymour mentioned that Jordon Equipment called and they have a cutting-edge blade that has been there since November and wanted to know if we are planning on picking it up.

Replacing the 550 is not going to be easy if the warrant passes. Shaun Bresnahan has been looking, but has had a hard time finding anything. Shaun looked at Chevy's & Dodges and located a 4500 series and a 5500 series. Shaun Bresnahan asked if a 5500 would be big enough. Dean Stevenson said that it

would not hold the sander and the plow because of the weight. Dean said that a 6500 series would be better.

Dean asked about daylight saving time starting on March 13th and inquired about whether the Highway department starting their 4 10-hour work weeks. It was discussed and we are changing this to April 10th because it is still dark in the morning and not much can be done.

The Board discussed posting the roads for mud season; looked at weather forecast. Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to post the town roads on March 7th per RSA 231:190. Christopher Gronski seconded the motion. All in favor. This road ban will remain in effect through mud season.

Shaun Bresnahan asked Dean why the library stairs were not cleared from the storm on February 5th; this creates a liability on the town. It is the responsibility of the Highway department to keep the town office building, including the library stairs and all walkways, cleared and sanded after every storm. Dean admitted he forgot to take care of them and will do so tomorrow morning.

POLICE DEPT:

Shaun Bresnahan asked Don Sullivan if he was aware of the break in on King Road and he was. Don said he has had residents reaching out to him about the drugs in town. In reviewing the issuance of keys in the Police Department, he has discovered that some keys that were issued were never returned. Don would like to have the Police Department rekeyed. The Board agreed and asked him to move forward.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR:

Shelly Henry discussed the upcoming election and town meeting. Shelly Henry asked for help in moving and setting up the election booths and other election materials on Monday March 7th after 3:00 pm at the Amsden auditorium. The Highway Department and the Selectmen will be there to help as they do every election. On Tuesday they will meet at 10 am for the balance of set-up. The Board of Selectmen will provide lunch and dinner. Thomas Seymour made a motion to cover the costs of lunch and dinner for the election staff. Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. All in favor.

HEALTH OFFICER:

Nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Michael Stanley came in to discuss the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative. On February 23, 2022 they had their annual meeting to present the Co-op proposed 2022 budget and to discuss the tipping fees per ton for waste. The 2022 pricing is \$74.70 per ton. This is Hill's last year on the contract with the Co-op and what would we need to decide what we would like to do going forward. Win-Waste Proposals for the co-op are for either a 5-year or 7-year agreement. The Board of Selectmen asked Michael to see if he could get more information on the future pricing.

Dave Hemon asked if the board would appoint Brian Sullivan to the water department as commissioner/secretary. The Board of Selectmen noted that the position of secretary is a hired position, not an appointed position. The Water Department may hire Mr. Sullivan provided it fits within their budget. The commissioner's position is an appointed position, but all three commissioner's positions are currently occupied. After town meeting Tony's position is up for re-appointment.

Frank Razzaboni asked if the ZBA will be meeting on March 10th. This would be a question for the chairman of the ZBA. The ZBA has been pulling together the information for The State of New Hampshire Housing Appeals Board.

Joann Irving asked why can't we fly the flag. The Board reminded her that it's supposed to have a light on it at night and that it needs to be lowered to half-staff when events prescribe. The flag being flown at half-staff has become more frequent. Joann asked who has been doing this? Thomas Seymour said that

after Mr. Magoon passed, Lisa Seymour had been doing it. During winter, snow and ice is not cleared from the flagpole making raising or lowering the flag very difficult. Christopher Gronski made a motion to unlock the flag box and leave it open. The motion never received a second. Shaun Bresnahan said that by the end of March the flag will be back up.

BOARD BUSINESS:

Building Permits:

Eugene Bailey & Randy Sanborn 222 Murray Hill Road Map R6 Lot 43-1. Remove existing enclosed porch and wood shed and in the same footprint install a foundation and new bedroom 16' x 22' to be attached to the existing foundation and house – Approved

Matthew & Shannon DuBreuil 736 Murray Hill Road Map R3 Lot 31-1. Are requesting permission to install a 40' x 16' fenced in in-ground fiberglass pool. The Town of Hill doesn't require a building permit for this.

Intent To Cut

None

Other Business:

Shaun Bresnan reached out to the Merrimack County Sheriff's for coverage at the Town Meeting and Annual School District Meeting. Captain Todd M. Cory responded that they will be able fulfill our request for police coverage (as a detail) for the Town Meeting on March 11th and the School Board meeting on March 16th. The detail rate for the Sheriff's office is \$74.00 per hour with a 4-hour minimum for each day. The total payment will be \$592.00. Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to have Merrimack County Sheriff's to cover the Town Meeting on March 10th and the Annual School District Meeting on March 16th and authorize the payment of \$592.00 to be split between the Town and School. Christopher Gronski seconded the motion. All in favor.

Christopher Gronski wrote a nice farewell to the Board of Selectmen. Please see the attachment to the meeting minutes.

Thomas Seymour thanked Christopher Gronski for all of his work as a selectman. Shaun Bresnahan also thanked Christopher for serving as a selectman and asking questions about different things that made us all think about difficult decisions that we face.

Thomas Seymour made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session at 8:58 pm seconded by Christopher Gronski. Motion passed unanimously. (RSA 91-A:3, II (c))

Christopher Gronski made a motion to leave nonpublic Session and return to public session at 9:19 pm seconded by Thomas Seymour. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made to seal the minutes passed unanimously.

With no further business to conduct, Christopher Gronski made the motion to adjourn the meeting Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously motion at 9:09 pm.

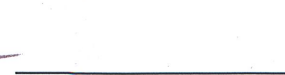
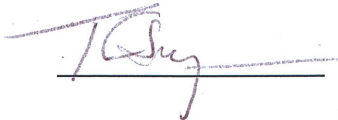
Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Seymour

Tom Seymour, Chair

Shaun Bresnahan

Christopher Gronski



March 1, 2022

Christopher Gronski
Selectman, Hill, New Hampshire
168 Murray Hill Road
Hill, New Hampshire

RE: Farewell from Selectman Gronski

One thing's for sure. If we keep doing what we're doing, we're going to keep getting what we're getting. One definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing and expect different results.

— Stephen Covey —

It is with much thankfulness that I leave office as Selectman in Hill, New Hampshire. As you know, I still desire to serve my local community by helping to reduce and/or eliminate property taxes. That hasn't changed.

It has been a fun learning experience for me. The best part was getting to know my neighbors and the passionate people of Hill who show up for the town meetings and events. We have an awesome little town here. I love this place and I've noticed many of the people who work for the town are happy to be doing so as well.

The people of Hill have made two great choices in electing **Shaun Bresnahan and Tom Seymour** as Selectmen. It has been a pleasure to work with them. Their knowledge of the town is refreshing and very helpful. **Shaun** is very aware of most everything going on in town and seems to know everyone. His knowledge of the actual operations of the town was so helpful to me and this does serve the town very well. **Tom Seymour** has so much knowledge and experience in how the town governs itself. My experience of him is his thoughtfulness and compassion towards his neighbors and the care of the how the town serves the people of Hill. Both of these men are frugal and do a great job making sure the town is run properly, despite how the State controls the town by RSA.

The other person in town that I have had the pleasure of working with is the Selectmen's Assistant; Lisa Seymour. It's refreshing to see how she has such care and concern for the people of Hill and how the town is run. I have observed her singlehandedly saving the town hundreds, if not thousands of dollars by finding places where the town can save money and where it can cut waste. She is worth her weight in Bitcoin... (Gold's not worth as much). Her raise coming this next year (in my opinion) is a performance raise and not a cost-of-living raise. I hope she feels thankfulness from the town.

I did want to let the people of Hill know about other things I noticed as Selectman. I noticed that when something is important (like the Gravel Pit) many of the people in Hill will show up and speak their mind and show their concerns. That's a very good thing. I got involved because I felt the taxes in this small town were too high. Not from the actual town operations, but the over budget and overspending of the Jennie D. Blake School. Ignorantly, I thought as a Selectman I could do something about that, but I learned the Jennie D. Blake School here in Hill is quite autonomous. I have learned that in many ways most of the town is governed by the State RSA and not by their elected officials.

Your only representation towards that government is your State Reps. How is that relationship going? I assure you the State does not share your concerns towards your children's education nor the costs thereof.

Your Jennie D. Blake School Board, it would seem, feels your school is, as I heard Brian Connelly say at the Budget Committee meeting, "understaffed and over budget" with respect to fixing the school HVAC system. Mr. Connelly said here was no money at this time to make those repairs. In my opinion, this is the direct result of his leadership, or lack thereof. As a Selectman, there really wasn't anything I could do about how the school is run or how it is budgeted and because of that, I felt it would not serve the town best to remain a Selectman. I like you want to see changes for the better. By the way there are good citizens running for office at this time and I'm sure they will do a great job managing our simple town operations. BUT I do see another gravel pit looming, figuratively speaking and it's getting deeper every year. What will we do about the massive school budget for the little town of Hill? It was and still is my commitment to the town of Hill to help Reduce and/or Eliminate property taxes.

I am committed to that process by helping launch an unofficial committee of active people here in Hill, who are desperate to see things change for the better. The Jennie D. Blake School's governance and its costs of educating our high school students must reflect the will of the people. The people who are responsible for its present course both hired and elected will need to justify their actions with facts and evidence in some kind of public forum. I'm not sure how that might look, but I'm committed to seeing everything brought into the light and scrutinized. That may be "in house" in Hill and/or from the looking at the State's influence by RSA. The present course of spending is unacceptable, and things will need to change. Never in the history of the world has a people ever been taxed into prosperity.

The State of New Hampshire by RSA, seems to be serving itself rather than the people of Hill. I'm committed to changing that as well. Personally, I believe our teachers could be paid more if the school was administered better. The truth is the school's administrator determines the teacher's pay. The people approve its budget but not its administration. Facts will show that based upon the State's own audit of the school's books; they have no idea how the school spends its money, the people's money. That's going to change. I believe the teachers in Hill could get paid better and the students in Hill can get a better education if the school was run better either from its Board or its Main Office. A better education, one that reflects the ideals and traditions of America. I believe this is what the people of Hill expect and do pay for.

As soon as possible, I will be launching a Hill Home Schooling Association and inviting parents who have their kids in Hill's schools to embark on an adventure of giving their kids a better education that not only exceeds the State's standards but saves them and their town hundreds if not thousands of dollars. We have some awesome plans to help families prosper and have their kids enjoy learning in a family setting. It's our intention to bring on some independent colleges


that will help Hill's home-schooling students have access to college by preparing the families and students during their high school years.

If anyone in town wants to know more about these plans and wants to be involved in making plans that work for the people of Hill and see real change in Hill to Save our Schools and Better Our Children's Education; it's not too late. I am very excited; I hope you are too!

And remember, Responsibility is the key to Freedom and Kindness goes a long way!

You may contact me at 800-369- 7033.

Thanks for this opportunity and may God Bless the Town of Hill and its Families.



Christopher Gronska