

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 16, 2013

Present: Chairman Darcy; Selectmen Ebbighausen; Gallagher; Morel; Rideout; and TA Collins.

6:00 p.m. Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order.

Selectman Morel made a motion to approve the manifests of September 2nd, 9th, and the 16th, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Rideout made a motion to approve the public minutes of August 26, 2013, second by Gallagher. Vote: Darcy – I; Ebbighausen – I; Gallagher – I; Rideout – I; Morel – abstained. Motion passes.

Mike Vignale of KV Partners joined the meeting to discuss the final design of Monument Road and the pedestrian ways. There were three concepts provided:

1) Place a swale along both sides of road with a 6' shoulder and a 2' shoulder. The 6' shoulder will be located along the south side of the road. Concern was pedestrians like to walk facing traffic therefore; KV Partners would recommend a 4' shoulder on each side. The pedestrian way will have a line to distinguish the path from the road. This will be the easiest to maintain in the winter months and the cost is approximately \$2,400,000 for the entire project with this type of sidewalk.

2) Sidewalk along south side of road with open drainage and with a raised vertical curb. This will keep pedestrian separate for motor vehicles. Winter maintenance, the sidewalk tractor will need to be used. The cost is approximately \$2,900,000 for the entire project with this type of sidewalk.

3) Sidewalk same as #2 except no curb and separating the sidewalk with grass from the road. Winter maintenance will be the same as #2. The cost is approximately \$3,000,000 for the entire project with this type of sidewalk.

Selectman Ebbighausen asked if there could be a combination of the sidewalks in various areas. Mike Vignale said yes, separation sidewalks could be placed in different areas.

Further discussion took place regarding drainage and phasing the project. Highway Supt. Podlenski indicated the highway department would perform the work from Plain Road to Meetinghouse Road, but the remainder of the project – Meetinghouse to Old Brattleboro Road will be farmed out. Off sight drainage will be needed on this project.

The Selectman will discuss the method of sidewalks they would like to go with and get back to KV Partners their meeting of September 23, 2013. TA Collins will forward copies of the design as soon as she receives them from Mike Vignale.

Selectman Morel spoke briefly about the Hinsdale/Brattleboro Bridge support petition and past the petition around to the public present.

The Selectmen reviewed the current Yard Sale Ordinance and proposed changes to definitions past out earlier in the year by Chairman Darcy. Darcy discussed by defining “yardsale”, some confusion may be eliminated. Selectmen Ebbighausen feels the next to last paragraph could be stricken at the removal of signs fine should be \$25.00. Further discussion pursued regarding the placement of name and address on

the back of the signs; amount of yard sales permitted for the year; making the public aware of the town's ordinances; and to raise the fee from \$100.00 for any violation of the ordinance.

Changes agreed upon:

- Paragraph #3: change "limited to four (4)" to "limited to six (6);
- Paragraph #4: strike entire paragraph;
- Paragraph #5: change fine from \$10.00 to \$100.00.

TA Collins will make the changes and post a public hearing for further discussion and approval.

TA Collins gave an update on the Police Station Project. David Mann has completed the final plan and description for 12 Main Street. The agreements have been sent to Mr. Shapiro and Ms. Bell for approval. Once received, the closing will be scheduled. In the meantime – Collins is gathering rates for financing the project: USDA rate is 4.5% and the NH Municipal Bond Bank is 2.5%. Collins is waiting to hear from People's United; Citizens; and TD Bank. The Bond Bank application process begins November 8th and funds will be issued in January. USDA does not have any grant funds at this time do to cuts. It was suggested the Collins checks into the Savings Bank of Walpole and Brattleboro Savings and Loan.

TA Collins reviewed the projected pay increase table with the board. The pay increase table had suggested increases of 1.8% - the cost of living as of the end of July; 2% increase which is based on the support staff increase; and 2.4% increase which is based on the teacher's increase. Ebbighausen discussed town meeting and that it has been suggested the town employees should get a similar increase. Morel discussed getting rid of the grade/step increase and using a merit system. Collins stated that the grade/step wage table is used by most government entities. If an employee is not performing as they should, the employee is placed on a probationary period in which they will not receive the step increase until their performance improves. They will receive the cost of living. Selectmen Ebbighausen suggested a half-way point between the 2% and 2.5% of 2.2%. Darcy wanted it noted that he still would like to see department budgets come in as close as possible to 0% increase.

Selectman Gallagher made a motion to approve a pay increase of 2.2% for the fiscal year period of 2014 – 2015, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously. Morel noted she would like to see a merit of grade increase implemented.

The Selectmen discussed longevity pay. Employees working 5 – 9 years would receive a \$250.00 the first week of December. The payment would be based on the anniversary year before November 30th. 10-14 years would receive \$500.00/ 15-19 years would receive \$750; and 20 years plus would receive \$1,000. The selectmen would like to look into this further along with the On-Call Pay.

Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to adopt the resolution to enter into a three year agreement with Primex for Property & Liability Contribution Assurance Program, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously. The annual cap during the agreement will be 7% increase each year over the period of 2014-2017.

TA Collins informed the board that she had a meeting with Bob Harcke last week. He would like the town to consider building Continental Drive so he could build a spec building. The building assessment would be approx. \$150,000. The cost of the road is \$304,000. There will be a TIF meeting on October 24th to discuss with the committee. As of 2012, there is \$143,049.41 not including interest in the TIF account.

PSNH is requesting approval of the board to remove an outside light from the Hinsdale Fire Station. The request came from the Chief Matuszewski. There will be a charge for this service. Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to table until next week so the Selectmen can look at the lighting after the meeting, second by Morel. Motion passes unanimously.

Abatement for Tania Wright – 57 High Street in the amount of \$359.80, during the closing on the property, she requested a new meter charged be added to her bill since it will need to be replaced. At this time it has not been replaced and it is showing as an outstanding balance. This will abate the charge for the meter, but she has been informed there will be a charge if she installs a new meter. Selectman Morel made a motion to approve, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously.

Abatement for Henry Dunham, Senior & Edith Dunham for interest charged on the 2012 2nd qtr. tax bill in the amount of \$71.52 for 29 Oak Hill Road. Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to approve, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Facility Rental Request of the Town Hall for the High School Homecoming Dance to be held on September 28, 2013. Selectman Rideout made a motion to approve, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously.

Ebbighausen made a motion to approve an open container permit for the 1989 Class Reunion to be held on Saturday, July 19, 2014 at the pavilion, second by Morel. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to approve an open container permit for Birthday Party to be held by Sharon Putnam on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at the community center, second by Morel. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to approve an open container permit for an Anniversary Party to be held by Patty Thayer at the Community Center on Saturday, October 5, 2013, second by Morel. Vote: Darcy – I; Ebbighausen – I; Gallagher – I; Morel – I; Rideout – abstained. Motion passes.

The board requested a calendar for the community center be posted on the website.

The letter to Paula Trabucco has been sent.

Jeff Wright, 11 Glen Street, is requesting a payment plan for 12 months on his water and sewer bill. He currently owes \$1,199.26, which most of it is due to faulty equipment which caused a major bill for the first quarter. Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to allow a 12 month payment plan for Jeff Wright, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Planning Board – Notice of Public hearing on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. Application for minor site plan development review by Frank Vakaro – proposed pizza restaurant; Town permit to excavate submitted by Wayne Corse of Corse Excavating LLC; Application for minor site plan development review submitted by Trevor Lang and Patrick O'Connor – 70 Main Street – convert building into a two bay automotive repair facility.

The Selectmen discussed the Hinsdale/Brattleboro Bridge. Ebbighausen stated he attended the Charleston GACIT hearing and discussed emails which he had sent to Councilor Van Ostern emphasizing the bridge project is not a new project to the ten year plan but is a reinstated project. Joan will be meeting with the seniors at the meals project to discuss the project and get support for the petition. She is working with Kathryn on putting together a binder that will be presented at the GACIT hearing Wednesday, September 25th here at the town hall.

Morel stated she may not be able to attend the Selectmen Institute this Saturday, but will try. She did participate in a webinar regarding setting the Tax Rate.

Darcy stated that Brattleboro Savings & Loan will be moving into T-Bird.

Ebbighausen spoke about the school board meeting on September 18th. The school board is grabbing about the Fire Marshall letter regarding direct access for the 1st grades on the second level to the outside in case of fire.

Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to table the Job Description workshop until next week, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

8:40 p.m. Selectman Gallagher made a to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91:A-3, II, c. Reputation, second by Ebbighausen. Vote: Darcy – I; Ebbighausen – I; Gallagher – I; Morel – I; Rideout – I. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Rideout made a motion to seal the minutes, second by Ebbighausen. Vote: Darcy – I; Ebbighausen – I; Gallagher – I; Morel – I; Rideout – I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:50 p.m. Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to adjourn, second by Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Collins, Town Administrator