

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2017

Present: Chairman Diorio, Selectmen Darcy, Gallagher, and Rideout; and T.A. Collins. Selectman McCosker was excused.

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

Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to approve the manifests of 4/10/17 and 4/17/17 and public minutes of 4/3/17 second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve the non-public minutes dated 4/3/17 re: RSA 91:A-3, II, (b) hiring, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Chief Faulkner introduced Jack LaPorte and noted that he successfully completed the P.T. Exam and will be attending the Academy in two weeks. Chair Diorio read the appointment and conducted the swearing in of Jack LaPorte as Police Officer.

T.A. Collins asked if the Board had reviewed the Financial Manuals for approval. Selectman Darcy would like another week for review and this was tabled for a week.

T.A. Collins presented Appointment Papers for the following positions:

- a. Jon Roy, Assistant Fire Chief
- b. Leon Dunbar, Fire Captain
- c. Mark Curtiss, Fire Captain
- d. Steven Gassett, Fire Lieutenant
- e. Devin Parker, Fire Lieutenant
- f. Gerren Pangelinan, Fire Lieutenant/Clerk

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve the slate of appointments for the Fire Department, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio indicated that he had received a letter and been contacted regarding the shooting range. He noted the need to get on the Agenda, however, would read the letter and take comments.

The letter was from Mike and Joanne Wojchick dated 4/16/17 and referred to the 3/20/17 minutes. The letter asked for reconsideration of reopening the shooting range citing past experience of rules not working and listing reasons for opposition which include disturbance of eagle nesting, NH Fish & Wildlife citations re: lead, proximity to NH Rails to Trails, a walking loop in the area, noise, increased traffic and effect on property values.

Bill Faucher indicated he was against it. He has a horse breeding farm and has lost a colt due to problems with the firing range in the past.

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Richard Barnes of 50 Old Stage Road is an abutter for 40 plus years and stated that he has tolerated it, however, he is now retired and home and is against it. The past few days there has been a lot of action. He heard 40 to 50 shots today.

Cathy Johnson of 171 Prospect Street feels that it is very, very noisy. She was thankful when it was closed for a bit. She had safety concerns about the rail trail and was concerned why VY was there already. There was question whether abutters had been notified. Her understanding is that VY did not follow a plan with Leyden. She feels this is dangerous and is against it.

Chief Faulkner indicated that the range has been in place for over 20 years. When the indoor range was in town, the department used that. During that time, this range was shut down and was not maintained. They have to go back to using this for required qualifications. The alternative is to use another range. Keene is the closest and there are a lot of costs. They were going to move forward when VY approached them. To address safety concerns, the berms will be 14' high in a U formation to be completely enclosed. He has had discussion with VY addressing safety, noise abatement, roads, filling in pot holes and sink holes, and putting in a better gate. There would be signs posted. A lot of thought has gone into this. Ninety percent of funds would come from VY and Chief Faulkner indicated we could not afford to do this without them. This is a short term thing and VY would be under contract. VY will also be reducing their staff in 2018 and there won't be as much shooting. Citizens using the range would sign a waiver (prepared by the town attorney) and be required to show proof of firearm safety.

Chair Diorio had questions on recent shooting at the range. Chief Faulkner indicated that VY will notify us in advance of their schedule. They have an 8-hour training day three times per year. Their next session is in June. We will have 10-12 officers from our department using the range. The PD needs to have pistol qualification, rifle qualification, shotgun qualification, low light training, and tactical range training. We have to qualify our officers somehow and the long-term cost outside of town is far more than having this range in town.

Mr. Faucher noted that the school kids use that area for viewing. Chief Faulkner felt that if the school communicates, their demands can be met. We also have a SRO at the school.

Chief Faulkner stated that work was done; we will have safety measures and a contract in place.

James O'Malley feels the School Board would like to have a conversation with the Chief and it was suggested possibly at the May meeting.

Selectman Gallagher suggested calling the PD if there are any concerns of firing, to see if the PD or VY are down at the range.

Selectman Darcy noted that if the Chief did not happen to be here this evening, questions would not have been addressed. He suggested we organize a public hearing in the next couple of weeks.

Chief Faulkner will reach out to Fish & Game so that they may be able to have someone here for the public hearing. Selectman Rideout agreed that we should have a public informational hearing and that Fish & Game would be a wonderful addition. It was noted that May 1st would be two weeks from now and the public hearing would probably be at 6:30 upstairs. The Board thanked everyone for coming in.

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Jane Skantze from Cheshire Coalition for Tobacco Free Communities introduced herself and Missy Calderwood, a resident, who was with her. They were here to help make areas tobacco free, stating there is no safe level of second hand smoke. It causes environmental harm and there is a cost to clean up. They hope to create an environment where there is not smoking around children. They are willing to provide up to 12 free signs. They presented a draft Town of Hinsdale Tobacco-Free Policy for possible adoption and samples of signs. Signs can be changed if desired and the ordinance could be on the signs.

Discussion followed as to possible places for signs and enforcement. There was discussion as to enforcement concerns or impact at the pavilion and Community Center which are rented for functions. Board members felt this could probably be adopted for athletic fields: Little League, soccer, Prentiss Taylor, T-Ball and most of Heritage Park. They felt River Park would be a hard place to enforce. T.A. Collins noted that we currently have a policy in place for buildings. Jane stated that this promotes health for our children. She is looking for community enforcement. T.A. Collins will look at the Ordinance and see where to change it. Then a public hearing can be scheduled. Selectman Rideout would like to have these ladies present at the public hearing.

T.A. Collins needed approval of Emergency Management Director job description. Discussion followed to add language to include: background in incident command and emergency procedures, or equivalent. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to accept the Emergency Management Director job description, as amended, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins presented Recreational Campground Permits for David Herod and Thicket Hill Campground. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve recreational campground permits for David Herod and for Thicket Hill Campground, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was a Disabled Exemption for Case #041717-a and an Elderly Exemption for Case #041717-b. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve both exemptions, #041717-a and #041717-b, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins had a Report for Excavated Material – Tim Halliday, Map/Lot – 0019-0019, Brattleboro Road, \$0.00. It was clarified that this was an annual report with no activity. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to accept the report, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Also presented was a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Tim Halliday, Map/Lot -0019-0019, Brattleboro Road. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to accept the Intent to Excavate, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Certification of Yield Tax for Richard & Donna Hood, Map/Lot – 39-1,2,3, Chesterfield Road in the amount of \$6,999.97 was brought forward. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the Certification of Yield Tax for Richard & Donna Hood, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Aimee Bruch of 37 Middle Oxbow Road, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

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T.A. Collins asked if there were any further questions re: the online auction contract. There was further discussion including whether we had any problems disposing of property with our usual practice. T.A. Collins stated that we are lucky to get one or two bids. She said with the auction, percentage is paid by the Buyer. There is only a fee if we don't submit a good picture. In that case, they would charge \$30.00. Selectman Diorio noted that it appeared to be NY State auctions. T.A. Collins said they have representatives in NH. It was noted that we do not have to continue with this contract if it doesn't go well. Selectman Rideout feels that if it opens up opportunities, he is in favor. Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to approve the online auction contract, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Darcy-No. Motion carries.

T.A. Collins stated that there are two people interested in the 45 Canal Street property. This is the vacant lot and foundation. Discussion followed. Options include listing or putting out to bid. Attorney Ratigan suggests going to Planning Board and Conservation Commission and then list with a realtor. We would have two public hearings to accept any offer.

T.A. Collins noted a review of the Sick Pool. Proposed changes have been highlighted for Selectmen's review.

Selectman Rideout noted that Ken Howe had concerns of lack of signs and school zone signs on a trail to the school.

Selectman Darcy noted the Planning Board Meeting tomorrow. He would like to look at the possibility of some type of offering to abutters for some of the town-owned properties. There was discussion of possible scenarios for some of these properties.

Chairman Diorio suggested action items be listed on the Agenda and the addition of public comment. Pros and cons were discussed. He would like to see approved Minutes posted on website sooner. After discussion, procedure to get on the Agenda was noted: Call Kim to get on the Agenda so that it gets posted and Department Heads might be available to address comments/concerns.

Also discussed was the use of the soccer field. T.A. Collins noted that Frank gave the school a maintenance schedule last fall and the Athletic Director was told of schedule. Chair Diorio understood that the A.D. sent an email re: scheduling the field but did not hear back. Schedules have now been made. T.A. Collins mentioned the Meeting for February was changed due to illness and inclement weather. Selectman Rideout noted that it seems like there is always a problem with the soccer field and it is always the wrong time. Sean Leary mentioned there was an issue last fall when a town employee said the fields couldn't be used and as a result, it was Jill's idea to meet. The first scheduled meeting was changed due to snow. The second scheduled meeting was a miscommunication but Ann Freitag and Sean met. They were told the fields can't be used. It was agreed that maintenance has to happen. The goal is to sit down and mesh the two schedules. There should be a conversation with Frank and the A.D. and the need to work together. It is hoped to compare the schedule Frank wants with the school schedule to see if a schedule can be worked out.

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Chair Diorio mentioned that the Fire Department is starting a new building fund committee. There is a Bridge Meeting at the P.D. on Monday.

James O'Malley noted that the School is on spring break. The NH Secretary of Education and Mike Abbott will attend the May Meeting. They are cautiously optimistic and hope to know about the state vote by that meeting.

James MacDonell handed out the tax status report and noted numbers went down as one large payment was recently received. James noted that Justin Pasay had suggested that the building inspector send letters and start inspections. It would be nice to see that happen by the end of the month. Selectman Rideout had a question about a property on Route 63 that the Town owns.

Sean Leary noted damage and gave photo handouts of sidewalks by the River. This damage appears to be caused by shallow locust root issues. Discussion followed as to possible remedies which may involve tree work. Sean questioned the status of any change of flow of traffic on Church and Hancock Streets. It was discussed that there needs to be a study and then a public meeting.

Selectman Darcy posed a question to the Board noting that the Beautification Committee seemed to be in a state of limbo. It was a town organization now to become a non-profit. At some point they need to dissolve as a town organization. It was noted that this should be done before yearend and the need to put money into a trust. It was also noted that the new Farmer's Market has not come before the Selectmen yet.

8:17 p.m. Selectman made a **motion to enter into non-public meeting** under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) hiring, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:18 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve the slate of new counselors as follows: Ray Traverse, Alexis LeClair, Shelby Isabelle, and Rachel McCosker, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:19 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to enter into non-public meeting** under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:24 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion to seal** the minutes, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

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8:25 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to enter into non-public meeting** under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:26 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion to seal** the minutes, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve non-public minutes RSA 91:A-3, II (a) personnel of 4/3/17, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:29 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary