

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 18, 2017

Present: Chairman Diorio, Selectmen Darcy, McCosker and Rideout; and T.A. Collins and Kim Worden. Selectman Gallagher joined the Board back at the Police Department for 6:30. Others present were Sean Leary, James MacDonell, Peter Zavorotny, and Frank Podlenski.

6:00 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order at the Basketball and Tennis Courts. Discussion followed pointing out hazards, inadequacies, necessary improvements and possibilities for the areas including additional uses for the courts. It was determined that there would be a need to remove the current surfaces, prep. and replace them. There was also discussion on improving the walkway area. It was noted that in order for the Program Director to set up and offer programs, it was necessary to provide the infrastructure.

6:20 p.m. Chair Diorio adjourned this portion of the meeting in order to travel back to the Police Department meeting room. (Selectman Gallagher joined the meeting).

6:30 p.m., Chair Diorio called the meeting back to order.

Mike Abbott, State Representative was present to discuss three matters: He mentioned the recent bridge hearings with DOT in Hinsdale last Wednesday and in Brattleboro on Thursday. He noted that despite some misinformation, he thinks they went very well and continue to go well. There will be future public hearings re: the outlooks and lighting. Everything else is in place to complete the bridge and believes contracts will be awarded in 2019 for completion in 2022. Chair Diorio suggested a different venue for the next public hearing, perhaps the SAU or the Community Center.

Mr. Abbott suggested and encouraged the Keno bill be placed on the Town Warrant. He indicated that it is a plus for education funding and indicated that currently the state pays half of \$3800 per pupil costs in grades 1-12. Kindergarten only currently receives half of that. This would pay an additional \$1100 per pupil. He noted that Keno can only be available in a place that serves liquor, and currently there are three places in town (Smitty's, VFW and OTB). Their share would be 8% and the state would put in the equipment. He thinks businesses could benefit.

Next Mr. Abbott discussed that he was a prime sponsor of House Bill 565 re: collection of delinquent property tax payments of manufactured housing owners. There is a problem of unpaid property tax on trailers in parks. He gave the board handouts to review and noted that this is not a simple fix. He doesn't think doing nothing is the answer. He gave examples possible ways to address the problem including how Minnesota handles this type of problem and Allenstown New Hampshire's process and agreement. He noted that this is an enabling legislation: if a town or city doesn't want this, they don't have to have it. They are trying to come up with a solution for this problem. On Wednesday, they are having a deliberative session on this matter. Legislation won't be taken up again until January. He will keep the Board informed as to what comes out of the meeting(s). The Board thanked him for coming in.

Chair Diorio suggests the Church Street visit occur on another date. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to table the Church Street visit until next Monday, September 25, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously.

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Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve and sign the Manifests of September 18, 2017 and approve the public and non-public Minutes of September 11, 2017, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins gave handouts to the Board and mentioned they needed to revisit the donations and projected cost estimate and report prepared by Chief Faulkner to address problems to slow down traffic on Main Street. Selectman Gallagher gave examples of crossing cautions seen in Brattleboro and James MacDonell noted examples of the same in Keene.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to accept donations of up to \$6925. There was no second and no vote. Motion fails. Discussion followed noting there was only one estimate, numbers were pulled from a grant application, and there should be a cost for white paint. Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to approve and accept donations of up to \$7000.00 raised by Monadnock Buy Local Crowd Funding Event, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to authorize the Beautification Committee to collect up to \$5700 for the purpose of plantings, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-No, Diorio-I, McCosker-I, and Rideout-I. Motion carries.

Jill mentioned that the auditors are here this week. She will be in Concord Wednesday morning for CMAC and reminded all that she would need the MS5 questionnaires back ASAP. The picnic went well and was well-attended for the first year and may be scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day next year.

Selectman Darcy asked if the Department Heads have received Budget Books. T.A. Collins said they would be getting them next week.

Selectman McCosker mentioned there will be a library meeting this week.

Selectman Darcy noted a Planning Board meeting tomorrow evening. He also reminded everyone about not using *reply all* in emails.

T.A. Collins noted that starting next week the Selectmen Meeting will be back at the Town Hall. The front door needs fixing. She also noted that lights are now on timers at the Town Hall for improved visibility and safety. The semi-formal is this weekend.

Chair Diorio mentioned that the Fire Department would like Selectmen and Budget Committee to come for a grand tour to be scheduled.

Discussion on the Program Director's position was next. The Board is happy to have Matt Palmer and questioned where he has been working. Discussion presented that he has been going between the Town Hall and Community Center as there is a lack of office space at the Community Center. Also discussed was the possibility of putting the reading nook in the library and/or opening up other space for him. Chair Diorio suggested that the goal is to get Matt's office at the Community Center so everyone knows where to contact him. Selectman Rideout suggested the need to bring this up often until done.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS:

James O'Malley, School Board Rep., mentioned that they will be in touch with the Town Clerk and should vote on the dog tag program at the October School Board Meeting. In response to another question, he indicated that the Board had no position on Keno, they were not advocating one way or another.

Donna Suskawicz said that she wanted to clarify that when they move the Hope Engine Building, that they don't need a permit from the Town. T.A. Collins informed her that she did need one. T.A. Collins informed Donna that the permit filled out for the Building Inspector was incomplete. Donna said they were getting a State Transport Permit. Donna stated her goal was for the move to happen by the first week of October and she was in contact with the USDA grant people and was told application had to come from the town. It was pointed out that the Town Administrator is working on a recreational grant application and only so much money is to be awarded. Donna noted that this is for restoration and she is looking for \$30,000 and 100,000 from an L-Chip grant. Selectman Gallagher noted that we need to maintain what we already have. The grant is for 35% of total cost. Donna then questioned the procedure for a warrant for town meeting. It was stated that the Town needs to know the total cost and a warrant should be written and accepted by late December. Another way is to insert by petition. She would need to obtain 25 signatures of registered voters. When she questioned the easiest way, it was noted that the easiest for her would be by petition but the best way is to come before the Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Sean Leary commented on the fire department committee. They are doing an assessment (person, action, role) of who does what functions, and who can be recruited. Steve Gassett is the Chair.

7:34 p.m. Selectman Gallagher made a **motion into non-public meeting** under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel, second by McCosker. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, McCosker-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

[Jill Collins and Kim Worden were excused].

8:20 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

8:20 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to adjourn, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary