

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 2, 2017

Present: Acting Chairman Darcy (Chair Diorio had concerns with his voice this evening), Selectmen Diorio, Gallagher, McCosker and Rideout; T.A. Collins and Kim Worden. Also present were Sean Leary, James MacDonell, and Matt Palmer.

6:00 p.m. Acting Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order. Adam Belville was sworn-in as police officer by Chair Darcy.

The meeting continued at the Fire Station. Steve Gassett gave a tour of the station noting that they are upgrading and trying to formulate a plan for a new station. T.A. Collins noted that the current station is not ADA compliant. Chief Zavorotny said they were just turned down for holding a class there due to that issue. In the main truck bay, there was very limited space. It was noted that Engine 1 is the tallest and longest truck able to fit in this station. Hinsdale Ladder 1 cannot be replaced due to the height restrictions in the building. The brush fire truck currently has to be parked behind another hindering quick accessibility. Appropriate storage is needed for air packs and equipment. In the lower bay, a jeep is wedged into a tight space around other vehicles. The brush truck and utility truck in the lower bay can only be accessed by one side due to extreme space limitations (access to one only by passenger side door and access to the other only by driver side door). Cracks in the building and a sinking lower driveway were pointed out and discussed. Questions and discussion followed regarding how much property would be needed. It was mentioned that it would be preferable to find at least 2 acres. The station currently sits on 2/3 of an acre. Questions followed as to what a realistic approach would be. A 3-5 year approach was discussed, including presenting a set of plans, and presenting the possibility of grants with a draft of a preliminary design. It was further noted that there could be an open house for the public in the future and possibly a slide show presentation.

6:24 p.m. the group adjourned to return to the Town Hall.

Meeting reconvened at Town Hall. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the public minutes of September 25, 2017 and the Manifests of October 2, 2017, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

James MacDonell discussed the delinquent tax updated printout he gave to the Board. He noted that a couple of properties came off the list as well as a deeded property. He also noted that the lien for last year was executed and at the Registry.

Selectman McCosker apologized for missing the last library trustee meeting.

T.A. Collins requested the revisit of the '79 fire hose truck matter. There is another bid of \$4,400. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to accept the bid of \$4,400.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins discussed the Training Agreement for full-time police officer, Adam Bellville. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to have the Chair sign the Training Agreement, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

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T.A. Collins presented a letter from the North Hinsdale Community Church regarding the Christmas Bazaar. Acting Chair Darcy read the letter. It was clarified that the Bazaar would be held at the Millstream Community Center.

Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to accept the non-public minutes of 9/25/17, second by Diorio. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, Rideout-I. McCosker abstained due to not being present at that meeting. The motion carries.

T.A. Collins updated the Board on working on Water, Highway and Parks and Rec. Budgets with department heads. She informed the Board that Garrett Behan, a student with the ELO program, will be helping her and will work some with Matt on various projects. He will be in from 11:30-1:30 each Monday. She is also working on training with payroll and will be working on training in accounts payable.

Acting Chair Darcy noted that the Main Street parking spot (to be eliminated) discussed earlier has not been done. He also noted that the lower bracket on John Smith's banner is loose or broken. Jill has notified Tim Nichols.

Acting Chair Darcy apologized for the way that the last Monday night's meeting went. He was concerned regarding treatment of staff members during that meeting and asked the Board how this might be addressed in the future. He feels a certain responsibility to stop that kind of treatment. Discussion followed. Selectman Diorio's comments included the need to be careful to not suppress someone with a viewpoint and their need to tell the story. There could be misinterpretation. In the end, although it may have been uncomfortable and long lasting, he felt most were happy. He agreed that it could have been better controlled. He thinks the Chair has to run the meeting or there could be conflicts. James MacDonell indicated that (in these situations) he would ask to be called on next to counter or to respond. Selectman Rideout's opinion is that there was frustration that this (matter) was not moving fast enough. Jill felt that any member could address the Chair.

Acting Chair Darcy noted that there has been a running conversation re: the Reading Nook. He would like to see it moved to the library if it continues. He would like to ask the Board what the Board would like to recommend. Ann Diorio gave some background on the Reading Nook indicating that it started in conjunction with a grant from the Monadnock United Way for the program to be held in a space other than a library or a school setting (at the request of the donor). She noted that we can't arbitrarily move it or we'll lose it. They are working on a different type program – a Backpack Program (backpacks filled with books for preschoolers). She would like to move the space into the glass-enclosed room (that was a teen center in the past). She feels there is plenty of room for meeting and a few chairs until they get permission from the donor to move. She thinks there is enough space for Matt and would ask Selectmen to allow a couple more months. There are having an open house from 9-10 on Saturday and early intervention in reading is important. They are working on it but it depends on this donor.

Matt has met with Carrie from the program re: that space. His takeaway is that the program has a lot of problems and he understands getting volunteers is difficult. One is trained and others have shown interest but not trained. There are two sites, this one and Keene and Keene has closed. There are funding questions. There is no storage in that building. In his opinion, it would be better served to have the program at the preschool or library. He did not feel the Community Center could be rented out

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when the Reading Nook is being used. There was discussion on potential conflicts with scheduling at the Community Center.

Jill agreed there is a need to assess the game room to see what can be done and agrees there is a problem with storage. A shed may be considered in the future. Jill also noted that there are two bathrooms and one is currently being used for storage.

Selectman Rideout doesn't want to see the children in town lose the program but thinks it should be at the library.

Ann indicated that the Reading Nook is only open from 9-10 on the first Saturday of the month and goes until December. Ann offered to resolve any potential conflict and will not send out the flyers and will not have the program this Saturday.

It was agreed to discuss this again in two weeks.

7:26 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to adjourn, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary