

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 20, 2017

Present: Chairman Diorio, Selectmen Darcy, Gallagher and Rideout; and T.A. Collins and Kim Worden. Selectman McCosker was excused for personal reasons.

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

Matt Palmer was present. The Program Director Update was handed to the Board by Jill. Matt indicated that programming at the Community Center was picking up. He expanded on the written update and noted a change in leadership at Phantom and that he will be meeting with the new person tomorrow. He was present this evening to get approval regarding an online store through BSN to sell Hinsdale Rec apparel (w/Hinsdale sports logo). Chair Diorio had questions about this being online and it was indicated that this is hosted and run by BSN. Discussion followed. It was determined that this is a fee for goods, not something that needed donation approval. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to let the Program Director go forward with the online store through BSN, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was a *Town Hall Facility Rental Request* for Kathy Urffer of CT River Conservancy for a public meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to have the Chair sign and approve the Town Hall Facility Rental Request for Kathy Urffer, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Also presented was a *Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credit Exemptions* for #11202017A. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to sign the Permanent Application for #11202017A, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins had abatements for Deborah George indicating that they did negotiate. She had abatements for 11 Georges Field in the amount of \$5967.65 for 2015 and 6207.37 for 2016; 7 Georges Field in the amount of 3438.19 for 2015 and 3576.30 for 2016; and 18 Georges Field in the amount of 20,712.00 for 2015 and 21,544.00 for 2016. Questions and discussion followed re: values, abatement application and revaluations. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to approve abatements on 11, 7, and 18 Georges Field, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Darcy noted that he would like a non-public re: reputation on this, that it didn't have to be now.

T.A. Collins had a Petition & Pole License for Eversource for location on Tower Hill. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to have the Board sign the Petition and Pole License for Eversource for location on Tower Hill, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Jill noted that she had non-publics under hiring and reputation.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Selectman Gallagher attended a Cemetery Commission Meeting. They will be coming forth with a proposal for the cemetery near Tower Hill.

Selectman Darcy mentioned the Planning Board Meeting tomorrow.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS:

James MacDonell commented that the clock tower is dark. Jill will check on that.

Joe Conroy spoke of a couch near his residence that has been there for seven or eight months by the side of the road, presumably for someone to take. He also mentioned a property on Plain Road that had a tag sale and left items by the road for many months. The items are now scattered around. He wondered if there was any thought given to doing an ordinance. Discussion followed. T.A. Collins noted that she had mentioned to him going through building code enforcement. Joe was hesitant, noting the need to fill out a form.

Bill Nebelski updated all that most of the street lights were now working.

6:25 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to go 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.

6:32 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

Budget Committee was present for discussion with Selectmen on Budgets:

There was discussion with Bob Johnson re: the **Wastewater Treatment Budget**. It was noted that WW Lines and Equipment was up around \$9000 and this was due to more work in the collection system and the EPA mandate re: inspection and cleaning. Jill noted that health insurance was down 6.5%. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Budget for Wastewater Treatment in the amount of 378,971, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, **Water Department Budget** was discussed. Discussion included is a \$7000 increase due to 5-year maintenance. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Water Department Budget in the amount of \$552,498, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Executive Budget with an increase of approximately \$1000 was discussed. Following questions, it was noted that the part-time hourly rates were not correct last season. It is also time to go into a new lease for the phone system. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Executive Budget in the amount of \$173,669, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously.

Police Department Budget was discussed. Chief Faulkner was present for discussion. He provided a 4-page Memo on the budget breakdown with explanation of increases. He indicated that he was not able to cut much. He had increases with two new officers. Increase in salaries is due to incentive (sign-on bonuses) broken down over 24 months for 3 certified officers. He has one open position and anticipates

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hiring one more. Chair Diorio noted that overtime is higher. Edwin Smith questioned the increase in overtime since we now have more officers. Todd explained that there were raises resulting in O.T. going up and gave examples of when overtime is needed. He also noted that training needs are projected to go up and five bullet-proof vests expire next year at a cost of approximately \$1000 per vest. Peter Zavorotny questioned retirement rates. They are now at 29% and did not drop. Another problem Todd discovered is a conflict in two NH laws regarding retention of police records and digital evidence. RSA 33-A (which gets reviewed every two years) says that any police case has to be maintained for a certain number of years (per statute) plus five years. He has had this reviewed by the county attorney and the town attorney and they both agree that we need to adhere to this. This needs to be done immediately. This adds another 20,000 to the budget (currently this is in the Memo only, not in the Budget). Smokey Smith asked about getting state representatives involved and possibly the Sentinel's attention. Todd mentioned that John Ratigan has offered to put something in writing. Smokey Smith questioned the amount for building repairs since this is a brand-new building. Todd said code violations have been identified and they have reached out to the contractor. It was also clarified that the \$3800 vehicle allowance is for Chief Faulkner, as he uses his own vehicle. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to table the Police Department Budget pending updated information, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Darcy asked Chief Faulkner if the attorney would be willing to write an opinion. Todd will be in touch with him requesting that. There was discussion on whether or not a capital reserve fund should be established for personal equipment.

Finance Budget was questioned by Selectman Darcy regarding the Tax Collector salary line. T.A. Collins said that he gets a 1.5% increase (grade with 1.5% of what he is making this year). She noted that merit increases are not given to elected officials (according to what is adopted at Town Meeting). Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Financial Administration Budget in the amount of \$152,968.00, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

For the **Assessing Budget**, T.A. Collins noted that this would be put out to bid again in order to keep contracts low. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Assessing Budget for \$43,000, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Legal Expenses were discussed. Jill indicated that the budget was up a little. John Ratigan's contract went up \$300 per month. James MacDonell questioned the amount on the Registry of Deeds line. Smokey Smith asked if it made sense to bid this out as well. This is the last year of the current contract. Discussion included the much higher costs for legal in the past. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to tentatively approve Legal Expenses in the amount of \$42,500, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

There were questions on **Government Buildings Budget**. Water and sewer and fuel costs increased this by \$800. There were clarifications to items charged to the wrong lines. Jill indicated these have been changed. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to tentatively approve the General Government Buildings Budget in the amount of \$69,436, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Committee adjourned.

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7:57 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to go 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.

7:59 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

7:59 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to go 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.

8:01 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

8:01 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary