

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 22, 2018 at PD Meeting Room

Present: Chairman Diorio, Selectmen Darcy, McCosker, Gallagher and Rideout; and T.A. Collins and Kim Worden.

[Budget Committee was present at 6:30 for discussion with Selectmen on Budgets.]

James MacDonell handed out his tax status update dated 1/22/18.

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

Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the Manifests of January 22, 2018, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to sign the PSNH dba Eversource Energy *Petition and Pole License*, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to have the Chair sign and approve the Open Container/Alcohol Permit for a Birthday Party at the Community Center on 3/10/18, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to have the Chair sign and approve the Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Eugene Dunham for a Reunion at the Pavilion on 7/21/2018, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that Kathryn gave her a note to inform the Selectmen that the DRA is doing a 5-year records review and went through old exemptions. They want all old exemptions (over 100) signed by all selectmen (within the next three weeks). She will look into whether a letter signed by all can be attached in lieu of signing each.

Jill indicated that she had information to review during non-public. She gave an update on finance matters and noted that Rick has helped getting her caught up and she is happy and pleased with his work.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Selectman Rideout informed the Board that he called Next Era (solar) project people last week. They expect to start later in the year with construction in 2020. They missed the sale of their power to the State of Massachusetts and haven't done the permitting process yet.

Selectman McCosker mentioned the library meeting was canceled last week and they will meet this week.

Chair Diorio attended the Bridge Hearing and felt it was good, well-attended, and very organized. He also read a letter from Ken and Natalie Roberts commending Karen Johnson for a job well done for events held there. He would like the letter placed in her personnel file.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Peter Edson mentioned that he was there because there has been no water at the Scout Hall for about a month and asked if this has been addressed and what is the status. He acknowledged that power was tripped, the pipes froze earlier, and someone had come in and fixed that. Jill asked if they had notified anyone at Town Hall. That was not confirmed. She will let the Water Department know and make sure there are no more leaks.

Next on the Agenda, Heather Reyor introduced herself as the new manager of Thicket Hill. She acknowledged that she inherited more than she thought with the position. She wanted to talk about back taxes on five properties that they have. Five mobile homes on site have values extremely high for what they are. They would love to demolish and replace them. They are unable to collect lot fees as they sit and the town is unable to collect taxes. Discussion followed. Just over \$5000 with interest is currently due on all five for taxes. All are unoccupied and on dirt (no concrete pad), not at all fit for rehab and have become an eyesore per Heather. Chair Diorio asked if they were looking for an agreement. Scenarios were discussed. Jill indicated that in the past, 50% taxes were paid and 50% abated in certain instances. Selectman Darcy wondered how much lack of payment was from the previous owner. Heather was unaware of most history except for information that was relayed from neighbors. These homes ended up in the hands of Thicket Hill one way or another. Chair Diorio let Heather know there would not be a decision tonight. The Board wants to see history on these. Heather indicated that she does live in Thicket Hill and feels that Thicket Hill has been in idle mode due to lack of motivated management previously.

Chair Diorio acknowledged that Donna Suskawicz was present and asked if she had anything to discuss noting that the Budget Committee was scheduled for discussion. She began by giving an update on the meeting last Wednesday, stating she did research and homework and was simply here to set the record straight (reading from a prepared statement which was not handed out). She noted that she's been given a litany of obstacles to overcome and last Wednesday came in after writing a Warrant Article that wasn't accepted. She stated that she consulted with legal authority who indicated that the information requested was not relevant to the Warrant Article, that she had provided all information that was needed, and the board should accept or not, period. While expressing extreme frustration she also believes the Town of Hinsdale is *not historically inclined*. She felt she had *chased her tail long enough and jumped through hoops long enough*. She implied that she has been given incorrect information and that research should be done if answers aren't known. Chair Diorio asked if she was taking this off the table and she responded that she wasn't finding any support on this and was frustrated. When asked about funds raised for the project she indicated that around \$200 was from residents and \$7500 from people elsewhere. She stressed that people outside of town want to help. Chair Diorio suggested that she take excerpts from her letter and provide them to the Board to review. Donna indicated that they've been cautioned *not* to give information to the Town. She feels that roadblocks have been put up to discourage her. Chair Diorio noted that he appreciated her input and the Board will need more guidance. It was suggested that she get on a (future) Agenda for a meeting.

Peter Zavorotny noted that the Budget Committee and Selectmen were here to talk about the end result of the budgets. Jill has an estimate of the Tax Rate based on the proposed budget. He said we are looking at a \$3-\$4 increase in the tax rate and \$34.00 is a big number. There was discussion about Article 7 and Article 8. There was question as to what happens with Article 7 if Article 8 is not approved. It would be passed over. Further discussion resulted in rewording Article 7.

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Regarding earlier discussion, Bill Nebelski pointed out that a few people in town had, in fact, put in a lot of time and effort related to historical society matters. Smokey added that the Historical Society was not interested in the fire house due to the date and that they have all they can handle right now.

Budget Committee adjourned.

James MacDonell noted that a few people are off the list. He also pointed out that every time we do a re-val we are going to have a problem. He commented that the way the computer handles lowering assessments is not handled well (on 7 of 2100 properties). He would like to abate them. T.A. Collins told James it was brought to her attention last week and when the DRA person was in the office it was discussed. Jill would like to take a look at the specific (7) bills.

Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to table the tax abatements until next week, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Sean Leary on behalf of the School Board informed the Board that the Bond was sold. They are getting some grant money for security upgrades (film on windows, cameras, and barriers). They are looking at what kind of barriers and the suggestion of getting the Beautification Committee involved and having Kathryn as contact person if the Board agrees.

Sean mentioned that he takes offense to earlier discussion re: Hope Engine re: the accusations of lack of support on the project and his reasons. Discussion followed.

Chair Diorio requested a quick non-public.

7:20 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to go into non-public meeting under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

7:30 Regular meeting reconvened.

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

T.A. Collins informed the Board that we did not get the School Street grant. There is still the TAP project.

Selectman Rideout had further questions on Thicket Hill. Discussion followed and reasons to see bills and breakdowns. Selectman Darcy noted that every time we abate, we shrink undesignated funds. Jill will get property cards for the next meeting.

7:37 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to adjourn**, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary