

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 26, 2018 at Police Department

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

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

6:00 p.m. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation, second by Diorio. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; McCosker-I; Gallagher-I; and Rideout-I; Motion passes unanimously.

6:11 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

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

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the manifests of November 26, 2018 and the public and non-public minutes of November 19, 2018, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

After discussion with James MacDonell, Tax Collector, Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the Abatement for Adams mobile home re: Cottage Street, in the amount of \$176.00, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Darcy read the Appointment for Lisa Prince to the Budget Committee. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the appointment of Lisa Prince to the Budget Committee, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously. Lisa was sworn in.

Budget Committee joined the Selectmen.

Peter Zavorotny called the Budget Committee meeting to order and went over a few things of concern including responsibilities, obligations and protocol by members.

Chair Darcy noted to members of the public that this was a workshop, not a public hearing. He welcomed them to watch and noted that during the process there would be no public comment and requested all to be respectful. He cautioned and reminded all that if they send a message to an entire board and one person replies, it is an illegal meeting. Discussion followed and RSAs were noted for reference. Chair Darcy indicated that there is a plan to set up a subcommittee on health insurance where there would be two selectmen and a couple employees as members. Health insurance is set through 2019 and it is best not to look at it further until the subcommittee is put together and they can figure out the best way to evaluate it. T.A. Collins gave a handout of updated budgets.

Executive Budget was first discussed and it was noted that training and seminars figure was lowered. More discussion followed. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to drop the selectmen salaries to \$13,822, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Executive Budget in the amount of \$179,163, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

General Government was discussed. Edwin "Smokey" Smith voiced concerns about the lack of sign at the Police Department and it being a safety issue, particularly at night. It was noted that if the Police Department Budget is revisited, it should be addressed under building maintenance. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to tentatively approve General Government Buildings budget at \$68,222, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

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Ambulance was briefly discussed. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Ambulance Budget in the amount of \$141,891, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Building Inspector budget was looked at. Selectman Darcy questioned the 4% salary increase. T.A. noted that this was an error, that salary should be \$37,422. Dues and subscriptions was discussed. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to drop the dues and subscriptions line to \$700, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously. Supplies were discussed. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to drop supplies line to \$875, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Building Inspection Budget at \$45,644, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously. Postage was then discussed. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to reduce postage to \$200 (to bring the budget to \$45,444), second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Building Inspection Budget at \$45,444, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Emergency Management was discussed and the radio circuit spike was due to generators. Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Emergency Management Budget at \$12,398, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

There was discussion of a number of **Street Lights** that don't work and related concerns. It was noted that anyone can go online and report those. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve Street Lighting Budget at \$28,000, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

There was discussion on **Transit Service**. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve Transit Service Budget at \$15,500, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion from both committees followed on **Rubbish Removal**. It was noted that we are in the middle of a contract. Various scenarios and possible results were discussed on the subject. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Solid Waste Collection Budget in the amount of \$255,000, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Health Officer Budget: Selectman Diorio made a motion to tentatively approve the Health Officer Budget in the amount of \$1143, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

It was clarified that **Health Agencies** are organizations asking for funding from the Town. Chair Darcy asked if there were any new organizations and T.A. Collins replied that there are not. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Health Agencies Budget in the amount of \$52,003, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Welfare was next discussed. It was noted by the Town Administrator that the Town has a food bank. Darlene works very hard with Project Feed the Thousands and helps/assists with oil, rent, electricity and shelter problems. Recent donations were noted. An expendable trust was established with the idea to build up, reduce budget impact, and replace. There is \$10,000 in that trust. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Welfare Budget in the amount of \$68,557, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously. Lindsey Blake noted that Darlene does a great job, goes out of her way to get help everywhere and stretches every dollar.

Library salary increase was discussed. There were concerns of the need for coverage in order to stay open during supertime hours and of recent safety issues. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Library Budget in the amount of \$52,887, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously. There was then discussion re: books and periodicals. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to reduce books and periodicals by \$1000, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

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Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Library Budget at 51,887, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Patriotic Budget: Selectman McCosker made a motion to tentatively approve the Patriotic Purposes Budget in the amount of \$1750, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously. Discussion between the Budget Committee followed re: flags.

For **Conservation Commission**, it was noted that \$500 is an RSA requirement. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Conservation Commission Budget in the amount of \$500, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously. Discussion followed re: land use change tax, ideas and the need to find revenue.

Economic Development was discussed. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve Economic Development at \$2520, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously. (Budget committee discussed and removed 2000 from CDGB Supplies line resulting in a budget of \$520.) Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to revisit. There was no second. Motion failed. Edwin O. "Smokey" Smith mentioned that he will approach the Lions Club for possible help with this.

Debt Services: Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Debt Services Budget at \$127,665, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously. Water tank questions were discussed.

Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to table **Capital Outlay** until tomorrow's workshop, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Committee adjourned.

Chair Darcy read a letter from Kathryn Lynch re: Planning Overtime Budget, asking for reconsideration. There was a mistake on the line for overtime. It was counted twice. The Board will let the Budget Committee know that it has been addressed.

A Permit for Retail Sales of Permissible Fireworks – Phantom Fireworks LLC was presented. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** for the Chair to sign the Permit for Phantom Fireworks, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

Jill Collins presented a Grant Application for USDA re: grant funds for a brush truck. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to have the Chair sign the Grant Application for USDA re: a brush truck, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board of the receipt of \$46,924 to implement the complete streets project.

T.A. Collins acknowledged that Richard Johnson had sent a letter to her to disburse to committees.

She will be on vacation starting Wednesday night.

Selectman Rideout noted an upcoming Rec. Meeting.

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Selectman Gallagher has a Conservation Commission meeting next week.

Selectman McCosker noted a Library Meeting next week.

Selectman Diorio will attend a Bridge Committee meeting in Brattleboro tomorrow.

Chair Darcy read a letter from ZBA and Planning Board re: Hope Engine Co. #1. indicating that it is time for the Select Board to make a decision. It was discussed that they will take this under advisement, noting that they haven't been given any information as to costs.

Citizens Comments:

Karen Schmitz indicated that she wasn't previously aware that we had Planning and Zoning Boards and noted her concerns. She was informed that Ordinances are online and she could speak with Community Development and/or the Building Inspector if she still had concerns after looking at the ordinances. She also stated concern that they have owned other properties (in other places) worth much more, yet taxes are the same.

Paul Jacque spoke of tax hardship and was directed to speak with the Tax Collector at his office. It was acknowledged that Hinsdale was hit hard, we have a small tax base, and hopefully he saw tonight that effort is being made.

Jonathan Schmitz noted that they are relatively new members of the community, coming from a larger community and enjoys watching how we work. The committee is presented with problems with funding. He has enjoyed being here but is disappointed with the tax raise. He questioned if there were functions and duties that could be combined with other towns. He was here to understand more and hopefully encourage change.

During further discussion, Chair Darcy noted that we're working on this. Property taxes is where funding comes from and we are trying to arrange a meeting with state representatives in hopes of forming coalitions that can effectively go after funding.

All were thanked for coming in.

8:37 p.m. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary