

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 17, 2018 at Town Hall

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.

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the manifests of December 17, 2018 and the public and non-public minutes of December 10, 2018, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that we are going to a one-check system to eliminate the need for having three checkbooks.

First presented was a Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions for #12172018 (Elderly Exemption). Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to sign the Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemption for #12172018, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was a Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Dorianne Almann, Map 25, Lot 2, Plain Road. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Board sign the Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Almann, Map 25, Lot 2, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins will have a non-public for later. She also mentioned her intention to go over minutes and look at things that need to be addressed. There will be a meeting on January 2nd that will be non-public. The Board will also go over reviews that she has. Her understanding is they will not be giving any merit increases this year. This was confirmed.

Matt Palmer was present indicating that he needed the Board's acceptance of sponsorship. He has received \$300 from Riverside Food Brews and Wine (in George's Field); \$800 from Lion's Club; and \$800 from Shippee Auto. In response to a question, Matt replied that this was for Rec. and Basketball. It was suggested that letters go out from Matt in recognition of these. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to recognize and accept these sponsorships totaling \$1900.00, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins handed out draft Leadership Development Program Information re: the CIT Program. She indicated that Matt has been working very hard on the draft. The highlighted areas are for discussion at a Workshop for some time in the future. She indicated that, at this point, this is not subject to right-to-know.

Selectman Diorio attended a joint Budget Meeting and School Board Meeting last week and updated the Board on that. He suggested talking about town-owned properties and what we can do about selling them to generate revenue. Discussion followed. Chair Darcy noted that some are either land-locked or could be offered to an abutter; however, there are a few that are good examples of what should be looked at. Selectman Diorio would like it to be a Board goal to offer one after the first of the year and he made further suggestions. Chair Darcy suggested meeting in early January to decide which to move forward with. It was decided to put this on the Agenda for discussion on January 7th.

Dodie Bevis was on the Agenda and in attendance to ask several questions:

She asked why the front door (right side door at the front of the building) was locked. The response was that it was broken.

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She stated that at the last meeting she attended, at the PD (Selectmen's Workshop), she couldn't hear. She wondered if there was a better (sound) system available so that people could hear.

She was very upset over the property tax increase and living on social security income that only increased 2.2%. She noted insurance and medication expenses are up too and of the hardship on people. Discussion followed. T.A. Collins pointed out that any Town Meeting Warrant Articles voted on then go into the budget following that. T.A. Collins also noted that the Board implements what the voters want.

Dodie asked how soon to get a Petition in. Response was the first Tuesday in February and it would need signatures of 25 registered voters.

She questioned rubbish removal. Discussion followed on that noting that \$80,000 of pay-per-bag revenue offsets some of the cost of transfer station and curbside pickup (which is about \$200,000).

She questioned Selectmen on whether they get benefits and whether they get a stipend. The response was no to benefits and \$2400 stipend per year.

She asked when town employees are going back to working five days per week. The answer was that there continues to be savings with a four-day work week. Oil and electricity are less. It was explained that oil goes out to bid each year. She questioned the road crew and overtime payments. It was explained how different situations are handled to lessen overtime if possible and if avoidable.

Dodie also asked why town notices are not published in the paper. Discussion followed. Costs for weekly ads would run into thousands of dollars in the budget line. It was also noted that even the "free" papers still charge for ads.

Chair Darcy noted that the Board understands her frustration and that the Board is also frustrated and challenged by these issues. She was thanked for coming in.

Adam Lavoie, Fire Chief in Warren, MA was present with his family thanking the Board for their time. He introduced himself, his mother, Pam and his father, Tom. He also introduced his wife, son, and his brother. He was present to personally thank Chief Todd Faulkner and Detective Melissa Evans for their huge part in saving his mother's life as she went into cardiac arrest outside of Town Hall en route to a doctor's appointment on September 26, 2018. He noted that only 4% make it if they receive immediate cardiac care and if not for Chief Faulkner, Detective Evans, Fire Dept. members, and others, she wouldn't be here. She spent a month in the hospital and then in cardiac rehab. This was his first time seeing this situation from the other side and he reiterated that she was here because of these great people. Members of the Police Department and Fire Department were also in attendance. He thanked everyone involved on behalf of the family. He then read the letter he wrote and previously sent to Chief Faulkner and the Selectmen. The family and members of the Police and Fire Department adjourned to the Police Department for further conversation and photo opportunities.

Chair Darcy updated the Board on the Cheshire County Delegation meeting he and James MacDonell attended last week. Discussion followed on that Budget and the Maplewood Project. He also gave the Board a handout for review noting that he had a couple of non-publics.

Chair Darcy gave the Board an update on the recent Legislative Breakfast attended with the School Board. Discussion included HB 1612, State Aid for Special Ed (noting this has been chronically underfunded) and Stabilization Grant Money

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(noting multiple bills to try to stop reduction). Chair Darcy represented the situation for the Town and felt it was a good opening toward communication. He noted that January 31st is a Community Forum at the High School Library and the Senate Deadline is coming up at the end of the week. Sean Leary noted that the Community Forum will have breakout groups on Budget, Stabilization, Funding and Teachers Contract.

Matt Palmer wanted to add that re: the draft document that Jill handed out earlier, he would like everyone to read that with an open mind. Chair Darcy noted that it will be worked and they will have at least one, if not more, workshops on the subject.

James MacDonell noted that \$620,000 came in today for tomorrow's deposit.

6:55 p.m. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; McCosker-I; Gallagher-I; and Rideout-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:26 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.

7:27 p.m. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary