

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 14, 2019 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.

Budget Committee joined the meeting for revenues workshop between the boards. T.A. Collins gave handouts to members of both boards. Revenue proposals were discussed and concerns voiced. Proposals included the possibilities of increasing the Town Clerk fee to register a vehicle, adding a surcharge per vehicle, increasing the Pay-per-Bag charges, increasing the Community Center rental fee, and increasing the cost to attend Summer Camp. Budget Committee expressed that they are ready to see an increase. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen can approve increases and fees. Chair Darcy noted that they are listening to the thoughts and the reason we are here is due to increase in tax rates. He is hearing that Summer Camp is a place most agree that the rate should change but would like to sit down with Parks and Rec and the Program Director to figure out a balance. He also noted that if Pay-per-Bag goes up it could result in revenue of close to \$100,000 per year which would be almost half of the contract. He noted that he feels the biggest burden would be in Town Clerk fees, as residents here need a vehicle. There will be no decision tonight on this. He noted that Sean Leary was not here, but sent a letter that he will give to Kim (so that anyone interested may view it).

Selectman Rideout didn't disagree with the idea of having camp staff on call. He did have concerns of possible issues or not having returnees. Selectman Diorio agreed with possible increases at Community Center and Pay-Per-Bags.

Warrant Articles were discussed with handout provided by T.A. Collins.

It was decided to have a joint meeting on 1/21/19 with the Budget Committee beginning at 6:00 p.m. (Budget Committee then adjourned).

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the manifests of January 14, 2019 and the public and non-public minutes of January 7, 2019, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Gallagher made a motion for the Chair to sign the Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Hinsdale Fire Department Christmas Party on 2/1/19 at the Community Center, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman McCosker noted a Library Committee meeting on Wednesday.

Selectman Diorio asked if the soccer nets should be taken up off the ground. Matt Palmer indicated that Frank wouldn't let them put the nets in the garage for storage. Matt acknowledged that they were probably frozen in now. Jill will take care of the matter.

Chair Darcy indicated that there was a Resignation Letter from Nicole Ebbighausen on the Parks and Rec Committee. He also has a Volunteer Interest from Sam Kilelee who would like to be a member. He received an email from Ann Diorio stating that Doug Stephens has not attended a meeting in six months and Sean Leary would like to be a full member (from an alternate).

Chair Darcy also had a letter from the Hinsdale School Board re: lack of state funding. Discussion followed. Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to co-sign the letter with the School Board, second by Rideout. They will let the School Board know and then sign. Motion passes unanimously.

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Chief Faulkner was present for discussion. Chair Darcy noted that the Board found out about the dog via the news. Chief Faulkner stated that this was not meant to be a surprise and he did bring it up to Jill in the past. It was noted that the Board needs to sign off on acceptance of monies and there were questions of long-term costs. Chief Faulkner indicated the zero dollars is the answer to long-term costs. Food, medical care, equipment, money and training are all donated in the first year and ongoing as well for the life of the dog (while on patrol). After that, it is the handler's responsibility. Chief Faulkner indicated that he has had an overwhelming response from the community. He also has found a work-around regarding his budget related to money put in for the server. Peter Zavorotny asked about the purpose for having the dog. Chief Faulkner indicated that this dog will not be for tactical but for searching purposes. He gave examples of missing children, drugs, bullet casings/evidence. Chair Darcy asked if we will be locked into this for the force forever. Chief Faulkner said there is no contract but this is a need of the department. Edwin O. "Smokey" Smith had questions on the costs of the handler during training and whether we would have to pay for replacement or go without coverage if the dog is called out of town. Discussion followed. Chief Faulkner said that time away would not be that long and certain scenarios wouldn't be authorized. Selectman Diorio had questions regarding liability. According to Chief Faulkner, the cost is low since this is not a tactical dog. Selectman Rideout asked if we pay if it's called out for mutual aid. The answer was no. The dog will live with Officer Samataro. Julie Seymour asked where Officer Samataro lives. Currently he lives in Vermont. The officer's personal vehicle will be used to transport back and forth home. It was also discussed that there will be separation between prisoner and dog if transported in the same cruiser. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to accept the \$1500 donation from Walmart, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

There was discussion about cruiser replacement needs. Chief Faulkner indicated that we should be looking at replacement in the next two years or they could all go at once. Discussion followed on the Expedition serving no purpose, Cruiser 3 has to go in the near future, the Fords are not holding up and have many issues with a high cost to maintain. Cruiser 2 has less miles but is older. Cruiser 4 has low mileage due to a new motor. There is possibility of sufficing for a few years but the Expedition and Cruiser 3 will need to go soon. The Board will meet next week and would like a replacement plan provided on the four vehicles put together prior to that meeting. Chief Faulkner indicated that he was not going forward with the D.A.R.E. vehicle (as was mentioned on the Agenda).

James MacDonell and Julie Seymour were present re: the possibility of combining offices into Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Town Clerk and Tax Collector figures were handed out and discussed. James would be looking for Health, Life, Dental and Retirement. Overall budget is up \$19000.00 without including renovations costs, according to T.A. Collins. James noted that he wouldn't be looking for married coverage...just for him. It was discussed that there would need to be a Warrant Article for the Tax Collector/Town Clerk position and to redo compensation policies. Training, phone and FICA were discussed. After review of estimates of James and Jill, it was determined to be around \$10,000 less than 149,368 for the 2019-2020 reconfigured amount: at approximately \$139,368. Selectman Diorio asked about efficiencies to equate a savings or service. James indicated that the office would never close. Chair Darcy pointed out that all money would go to one door/one window. Julie spoke of the Town Clerk's office being very busy. Some feel she shouldn't be there as many hours as she is. That office is run by the window and there are many other things she has to get down, never having downtime. James felt there are ways he can help with merging of the duties. Julie did have concerns in the event that James was not there at times she was. Further discussion outlined the need for a Warrant Article, discussion at Town Meeting, this wouldn't take effect until next year which is a year and a half from the Town Meeting it may be voted on. This would have no impact on the budget being worked on now, this would be the 2020/2021 budget. Julie also had concerns that she may be stepping down to a part-time position. It was mentioned that she would not. She is an elected official and there are no guarantees on what townspeople may agree to. It was clarified that one would be a Deputy and one would be an Elected Official in this position. The Board would like to see a draft Article and

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then determine if they would like to move forward. Karen Johnson was worried for Julie if she was a Deputy and asked if she could lose benefits and job. The answer was yes. It was asked if Julie could appoint James as her Deputy. The answer was yes. James indicated he would not be willing to do that.

Citizen Comments:

Rick Carrier asked whether James was stating that he would not go with a couple plan if the situation changes. He also asked (regarding the Police Chief and canine) if the Board would be willing to ask for a report after 6 months as to how often the dog is used and make that public.

Matt Palmer (as a citizen) discussed his opinion as to fees regarding the Community Center.

Rick Carrier also noted that (re: proposed increase of Town Clerk Fees) if you drive a car and can't afford it, you shouldn't be driving a car.

Seth Stafford questioned the length of the Summer Program this year being longer. The answer was no. His family attended in the past and loved it and felt the price was very low. He mentioned the Westmoreland Town Hall was rented for \$100 and felt the Community Center price was right on par. Karen mentioned thinking in the future about use/consistent costs for non-profits.

7:52 p.m. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel with Chief Faulkner, second by Diorio. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; McCosker-I; Gallagher-I; and Rideout-I; Motion passes unanimously.

8:00 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

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

8:00 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (e) negotiation, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; McCosker-I; Gallagher-I; and Rideout-I; Motion passes unanimously.

8:30 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

8:31 p.m. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary