

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2019 at Town Hall

Present: Chairman Mike Darcy, Selectman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier and Selectman Megan Kondrat; T.A. Jill 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 April 15, 2019 with document transfer of \$43,780.02 from the general fund to TIF District (Tax Increment Finance) and the minutes of April 8, 2019, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Darcy indicated that the Board would be going to the Community Center to look at two parking spaces (in order to maintain status or remove spaces). The Board and interested persons left to view the parking concerns. The Board returned to Town Hall.

Discussion followed on the challenges of pulling out of the Community Center, the number of and which spaces may need to be removed and related concerns, acknowledgement of it being a concern, the possibility of one space being used for drop off only, and the possibility of a signal or having something alerting to a blind drive. This will be revisited.

Julie Seymour was present to discuss her Compensation Policy. She indicated that when the budget was being done, she was asked questions, including how busy she is, that she didn't have answers to. She has done timelines for two months until Susan started. She was hoping to discuss how the Board feels about the Compensation package - is it fair to the Town Clerk and is it fair to the Town? Chair Darcy asked for thoughts from the Board. Selectman Darcy thought the list of duties was impressive. Selectmen Kondrat agreed that the office is busy and there is a lot of multi-tasking and asked what Julie felt could be improved. Julie indicated that she felt completely overwhelmed and gave her reasons including examples of recently being out for a couple days and because she didn't make 35 hours, she is in jeopardy of losing benefits. T.A. Collins indicated average hours since July 1st being less than 35 and Julie indicated that she did not get prior clarification on that. T.A. Collins felt there was confusion between hourly and salary. Chair Darcy stressed the need to follow up on hours. Selectman Diorio asked if she was concerned about losing benefits and she answered yes. She feels she works very hard, and even in 35 hours can't get it done and train someone. Chair Darcy noted that the simple problem is that we are a small community and that size doesn't change the workload. We can't do the things it would be nice to do and we have to look at balancing the budget as well...it is not a simple fix. Julie would like to see if she could close the window for half a day on Wednesdays but indicated that she was told the window must be open 32 hours a week.

It was requested that she put together the busy times and number of hours, showing the least impacted time re: the window and come back to the Board. There may be a possibility of trying to find a way to accommodate that where hours to the public can be reduced in a reasonable way without breaking the bank or going to the taxpayers asking to spend more money.

Chair Darcy indicated that the Board was moving to the Selectmen's Office for a conference call with George "Skip" Sansoucy, the utility appraiser, and the public was welcome initially until the non-public portion.

T.A. Collins provide a spreadsheet and info including the following points on HB700:

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1. Distribution is the only asset to be affected;
2. Eversource is the only utility with distribution in Hinsdale;
3. The 70/30 formula being used is based on the 2018 MS-1 Assessment;
4. The impact will be phased over five years;
5. During this time – improvements made on the distribution will be assessed at 100% with the 70/30 formula;
6. Some of the assessments may recoup the drop in assessment. Distribution lines increased approximately \$2M in the last five years; and the transmission assessment will increase also with the work that is being done.

Skip noted that House Bill 700 was created out of four years of legislative action giving utilities property tax relief. He gave background on that and noted that there was going to be some type of compromise. There was a study commission. A compromise report and platform was sent to the subcommittee in the form of a bill. He feels the Bill is about as good as towns and cities can hope for as a compromise. He explained it's a formula that assigns 70% of value based on the original cost and 30% of the value based on net book value (original cost less depreciation). A five-year phase-in is proposed. If the bill passes, it will take effect in 2020, phased in at 20% a year over five years to see approximately a million-dollar reduction per year for five years (if no new growth plans). He feels that this is probably the best deal we are going to get, in his view, at this time. Questions and answers followed.

7:20 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to enter into non-public with George "Skip" Sansoucy under RSA 91-A:3, II (I) legal, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I. Motion passes unanimously.

7:29 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

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

There was further HB700 discussion. Chair Darcy asked if the Board wanted to send someone to the Senate Hearing on HB700 and if so, in favor or against. All agreed that they would not be sending anyone to speak, just let the Senate have the vote. They agreed there would be updates following that for the direction this would be taken.

Selectman Rideout suggested that Rep. Mike Abbott speak. Rep. Abbott indicated that he would be speaking in opposition to HB700 at the Wednesday Hearing at 10:00. He gave his reasons including that he feels the figures are imaginary and will cost the town a lot of money.

New Business:

1. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the request to close School Street and Prospect Street intersections on April 20, 2019 from 10-12 for the Easter Event, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to sign the Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemption #04152019 (Elderly), second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to approve the Notice of Intent to Excavate for Tim Halliday on Brattleboro Road, (Map/Lot 19/19), second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.
4. Next presented was a Water Shutoff Letter to Delinquent Account Holders to be signed by Selectmen. Selectman Diorio read the letter. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to sign the Water Shutoff Letter, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.
5. A Recreational Campground/Camping Park Permit was presented re: Hinsdale Campground. There was discussion on whether or not they were in compliance. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Board

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sign the Recreational Campground/Camping Park Permit for Hinsdale Campground, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins handed out the proposed Summer Schedule Days Off re: Monday meetings: those dates not meeting include May 27, 2019, June 10 and 24, 2019, July 8 and 22, 2019, August 5 and 19, 2019, and September 9, 2019.

A draft of Goals previously discussed was handed out for future planning. Chair Darcy wants times added (once figured out) that the Board and School Board can meet to plan and organize together.

T.A. Collins also handed the Board a copy of RSA 91-A for a reference in going into non-publics.

Jill indicated that on Wednesday she will attend a HealthTrust Benefit Workshop and then the Budget Workshop at 6. The Social Media workshop with the attorney will be on the 30th.

Board Comments:

Selectman Rideout reminded all of the need to look at the Town's Health Insurance rates before July 1st. T.A. Collins noted that they are forming a committee.

Selectman Diorio asked about fireworks stores using storage and permit requirements. It was noted that the Planning Board handles those matters.

Selectman Carrier asked to be excused from next week's meeting as he will be out of town.

Chair Darcy noted the need to have a request letter to the Fire Chief so that the Boy Scouts can have a firepit. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to allow T.A. Collins to draft a letter of request to the Fire Chief to request use of a fire pit at the Boy Scout Hall property, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Darcy has a non-public re: negotiations.

Citizens Comments:

James MacDonell extended kudos to Kim re: the delinquent water list being shorter.

Lisa Borst thanks the Animal Control Officer for placing signs in North Hinsdale. Lisa also brought a map for posting of No Thru Trucks signs. She felt she didn't make things clear previously. She mentioned Complete Streets and RSAs and is resubmitting her request to post No Thru Trucks signs. Discussion followed and it was clarified to Lisa that Complete Streets is a goal and RSA is a state thing. Lisa's map indicates where signs were and should be put back. Jill will check on which signs can be replaced and talk to Frank. Lisa Borst also mentioned her concerns of a gentleman who likes to ride a scooter with no flag, no reflectors, and no lights. Discussion followed as to rights, and limitations as to what can be done.

Sean Leary reiterated the shared goal of working together. He also that Brownfields will be meeting again on April 29th.

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Sandra Golden asked if there was any progress on fixing the website.

Chair Darcy noted that it is a continuing project and he believes good work has been done on the Parks & Rec page. Chair Darcy also noted that he had requests coming from another Board (Planning) that their page get updated as to Minutes and Public Hearing Notices getting put on their page.

8:19 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (e) negotiation, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:46 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

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

8:46 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary