

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 29, 2019 at Police Department

Present: Chairman Mike Darcy, Selectman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, and Selectman Megan Kondrat; T.A. Jill Collins and Kim Worden. Selectman Mike Carrier was excused.

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

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the manifests of July 22, 2019 and July 29, 2019 and the public and non-public minutes of July 15, 2019, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I and Kondrat-I; Motion passes.

New Business:

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** for the Chair to sign and approve the Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Julie Seymour for a Bridal Shower at the Community Center on August 4, 2019, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Water and Sewer Commitments were presented: Second Quarter Water Commitment in the amount of \$113,986.80 and Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$90,434.96. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to accept and sign the 2nd Quarter 2019 Water and Sewer Commitments, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

A water abatement for Beverly Bernier in the amount of \$45.41 was presented for 2019 2nd quarter. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the abatement for Beverly Bernier, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins indicated that she would be going over town properties and finalizing the Personnel Policy.

T.A. Collins received a letter from the State of New Hampshire re: accepting a 1953 Willys truck for the Fire Department. Questions from the Board followed on where this will be kept and on costs of maintenance. Following discussion, Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to accept the Willys truck, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Jill also had a 2020 reappointment list of Forest Fire Wardens: Jason Antos (Deputy), Troy Benedict (Deputy), Devin Parker (Deputy), and Terry Zavorotny (Warden). Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to approve the slate of Forest Fire Wardens, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, Jill discussed selling town properties to include: Property on Canal Street that the town took over, now an empty basement hole; 12 acres on Old Chesterfield Road (owned since 1960); just over an acre (wooded) on Chesterfield Road between former Stanclift property and log home; Tax deeded property taken on Old Chesterfield Road of over 5 acres (the only one that qualifies under the new law); and former Jerusalem Lodge. T.A. Collins informed the Board that there has been a change in law on tax deeded properties. If you make more money than is due, you have to find the owner and pay the excess or that amount gets turned over to the State as unclaimed property. Many towns are turning to auctioneers and she mentioned James St. Jean Auctioneers are used by many of them. The former Bait Shack property was also discussed.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to move forward with sale of the discussed properties via auction and to put the former Bait Shack property up for sale, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

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State Senator Jay Kahn was present and introduced himself as being representative to Hinsdale and 14 other towns (in District 10). He noted that when his assistant scheduled meetings for him in all 15 towns, he didn't know that the Governor, the next day, was going to veto the budget. Senator Kahn noted being in touch with the School Superintendent and thought they did well re: the need for disparity aid. It would have brought 1.7 million more over the next two years to Hinsdale Schools and restored stabilization grants. He suggested contacting the Governor (271-2121) as next session is 9/19. Regretfully, not only is school aid affected but there would have been municipal aid of 40 million distributed over two years to cities and towns. We might have seen \$98,000 per year over two years with no strings (adding in special education costs and career technical education grants). A total of 200 million was vetoed. It was noted that the Governor is strong on wanting to see business tax cuts - - a tax that no one has paid yet. Property Tax relief and school aid was the legislature's hope.

Chair Darcy asked questions including whether Senator Kahn felt there was a veto override ability. He did not. Chair Darcy expressed appreciation that Senator Kahn is there to fight for us. Chair Darcy stressed that we cannot afford this and that he doesn't feel like there is any type of connection with the governor's office on this; it is beyond crucial and beyond vital as we come into the budget cycle with nothing but uncertainty. He also stressed that we are tapped out and giving up infrastructure and nothing is coming from the State anymore – that our citizens demand services and we need help. Senator Kahn reiterated that he thinks both Boards should write to the Governor's office.

Ann Diorio asked Senator Kahn if they can expect the September 1st adequacy payment and his response was yes.

Senator Kahn felt the road program was good and noted that they are taking care of 1 ½ miles on Route 63. He also noted that he went to a Brightfields meeting last week and learned about a site in Winchester in the old tannery building.

Chair Darcy also brought up getting net metering to pass. If so, companies would want to build here.

There was discussion on asking the Governor to yield on House Bill 2 and passing net metering (House Bill 365).

Holly Kennedy thanked Jay for coming in and doing a fabulous job in advocating with the Superintendent.

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PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m. **Public Hearing Notice** was read by Chair Darcy re: accepting testimony regarding a proposed amendment to the Traffic Ordinance, which will change the times of one-way travel on School Street.

Chair Darcy noted that a site visit had been done and there was discussion of plans for what they wanted to do with one-way travel on School Street. The draft document stated one-way between certain hours, however, there has not yet been a decision on the hours. General consensus was to make it one-way year-round Monday-Friday.

The following citizens had comments on this topic:

Cathy Johnson had concerns in seeing what traffic would be like on Prospect Street. It was pointed out that traffic currently is going this way, this would just be taking what is existing for most of the year to all year.

Jill stated that she needs support letters in applying for CMAQ grant application "Safe to School" for this year and TAP for next year. She will also try for the Northern Borders grant.

Ann Diorio asked if Jill could come to the August 21st School Board Meeting to explain (grants). Jill indicated that she would.

Holly Kennedy reiterated parking enforcement being the biggest issue.

Matt Kennedy felt that signs on the School side are faded and not readable. Sean Leary offered to follow up with Al and Frank on this.

Selectman Diorio agreed that the key matters are enforcement and signage-regular highway signs. He also mentioned removal of shrubbery. Sean offered to bring that up to the School Board as well as the Facilities Committee.

Ann Diorio cautioned on removal of bushes as they serve as a deterrent to small kids running into the road. Chair Darcy suggested perhaps cutting them from the road in but the issue is the way they curve.

Selectman Kondrat agreed with enforcement being an issue and is in favor of hours being until 6 p.m. to cover games.

There was discussion on preference of hours and reasons. Also discussed was good communication with the Police Department - having game schedules. Ann indicated that hours will be in the School Handbook and they will let the employees know.

Donna Foster brought up parking concerns. Discussion included encouraging use of parking lots and parallel parking in front of the playground fence.

Holly felt that parking by the stones violates the ordinance.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to have one-way traffic from 7-4 Monday through Friday all year. Discussion followed. There was no second and the motion failed.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to make School Street one-way with southbound traffic, year-round, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., with strict enforcement, second by Rideout. Discussion followed. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-No; Rideout-I and Kondrat-I; Motion passes.

7:01 p.m. Public Hearing concluded.

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Jill explained the Personnel Policy and differences as the attorney described them. She indicated that it is at the discretion of the Selectmen to keep or remove time periods. Maternity disability vs. maternity leave was discussed. Currently verbal reprimands are removed after 6 months and written reprimands after one year if there are no reoccurrences. Selectman Rideout voiced concerns of whether or not there are separate rules for the PD as he cited the recent discussion of their lack of exit interviews. Jill indicated that it depends, they have a different set of rules. Selectman Diorio is in favor of having a written warning if it stays in the files permanently. Jill indicated that everything is written as there is a place to check off oral if given a verbal reprimand. Further discussion resulted that Jill will make agreed corrections and get all members copies. Jill stated that she will invite personnel to come in to a Selectmen Meeting for their input. Selectmen Rideout would also like feedback from Department Heads. The Board will then adopt the policy.

Jill has non-publics on hiring and personnel.

Selectman Kondrat discussed reaching out to Attorney Eric Maher to discuss how an employee could come straight to the Select Board if not comfortable. Discussion followed and Jill indicated it exists in the Personnel Policy under the harassment section.

Selectman Kondrat received a letter from someone signing only as "Paul" with no return address or contact information asking whether there is an area down at the old police station offering free storage and if not, why is there a horse trailer there. Discussion followed. It will be looked into and it was stated that free storage is not offered.

Chair Darcy informed the Board that he would not be taking the TA job previously mentioned. He had a very good offer and will be staying here.

Jill informed the Board that Selectman Carrier attended the Parks and Rec meeting for Selectmen Rideout and sent a summary: Six new vendors at the Farmers Market this year, 136 total attending summer program, pool running smoothly, successful Night Before the Fourth with estimated 1500 attending, and discussed organizing Coffee with Selectmen and his recommendation on that. Discussion followed and that will take place on a Monday night.

T.A. Collins said that Melissa Evans will make the presentation on fraud at the *Coffee with Selectmen* when scheduled. Selectmen Carrier provided Mission & Values and that will be discussed when he is present.

Citizens Comments:

A citizen asked about the solar array as she hasn't seen any recent follow up. It was noted that this went from a big project when it was Ranger, to a pin on a map with Next Era. They've changed from Ranger to Chariot to Next Era. Next Era has reached out to landowners to extend lease options for 3 more years. They have not done the site evaluation process which is a 14-month process. They are trying to sell power that they will be generating. In summary, we are waiting and options are being extended out. She also questioned sports betting and Keno and whether education funds have resulted from that.

Sean Leary noted that a few months ago there was discussion on letting HCIDC use the former Historical Society building for meetings. He would like to share space there for a non-profit supporting Parks and Rec. programs. They need to have a physical address. Jill noted lack of bathroom facilities and not being ADA compliant. No one had any issues with their using the space.

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7:29 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) hiring, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:31 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

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

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to hire Alexis Anderson as counselor and to rehire Wayne Gallagher as Police Officer, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

7:32 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a motion to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel, second by Diorio. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:39 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

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

7:39 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary