

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 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 September 2, 2019 and September 9, 2019 and the public and non-public minutes of August 26, 2019, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

First presented was an abatement for 2018 for Michael Perkins for \$64.07 plus interest re: 40 Gunner Drive. Selectmen reviewed this and asked questions. The Tax Collector offered his recollection of discussion with Kathryn on the matter. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to abate** Perkins based on discussion with Tax Collector, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins informed the Board that DTC Lawyers are reaching out to its communities about developing a Comprehensive Public Rights-of-Way Ordinance. There would be a joint cost-sharing among communities (currently 9 participating) and indicated she needed the go ahead to let them know this is okay. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to move forward on this, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins requested approval to accept bid offers for the 2004 Ford F250 (Water Department) for the amount of \$5,200 and for the Aluminum Truck Bed Side Tool Box in the amount of \$310. She indicated that the Auction was conducted by Auctions International. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to accept the two bids, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins also discussed the property auctioneers coming in to the last meeting and that they would like to go forward with auctioning three properties. She stated that the matter went through planning and the conservation committee and two public hearings will be held. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to move forward with the auctioneers on these sales, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Rideout noted an email he sent and questioned a parcel on Route 119 and whether that can be sold.

T.A. Collins handed out information on a Flood Map Update re: the Bridge.

She indicated that Budgets are beginning to be collected and her goal is to have budget books together by the September 30th meeting.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that Picnic in the Park, put on by the Hinsdale Planning Board, will take place on September 15th. This is re: The Parks and Recreation portion of the Masterplan.

Public Hearings for the sale of town property will take place on September 30th and October 7th.

T.A. Collins noted that a wetland permit application has been submitted to stabilize the eroding bank on the property of Donald McCool at 167 River Road.

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T.A. Collins also noted that no deficiencies were observed during the DES inspection at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Selectman Diorio stated that he would have a quick non-public under personnel.

Selectman Carrier mentioned that the Conservation Committee had discussed the sale of two properties at their recent meeting. He also mentioned that on April 2nd, videotaping was discussed and he would like to volunteer to look into that more and make a presentation to the Board if all were agreeable. He pointed out that on July 29th there was to be a Coffee with Select Board and wondered where we are with that. Jill stated that it will take place on September 23rd.

At 6:15, Chair Darcy noted that Beautification was next up on the Agenda. Karen Freitas spoke that the Committee was going on their fourth year and have been working on a lot of events. This past Night Before the 4th Event, was very successful with over 320 cars parked, the biggest crowd in a long time and vendors even ran out of product. In order to continue, there are some concerns with electricity. Joel Howard spoke indicating that the outlets have been there, exposed to elements, for a long time. Covers were broken or missing, breakers were tripping and there were circuit overloads. They were wondering if there was any way for the Town to look into updating those outlets. Selectman Rideout asked if there was any idea of cost and power needed for updating. Discussion followed. Jill suggested that she talk to Rod and Frank to have them look at it and also to get an estimate from an electrician.

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to have the event site looked at and obtain an estimate, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Karen also mentioned issues in the downtown park with outlets and with Christmas lights. Theresa Diorio agreed with issues with outlets. It was determined that both parks will be looked at. Karen also mentioned an anonymous donor for live garland and needing permission to accept. Jill indicated that it was okay to accept the gift. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to accept the donation of garland, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins indicated that she had non-public personnel. She also discussed the material previously handed out on the Flood Map Update stating that this mostly affects the Vermont side of the river and there are certain processes they have to go through and the Flood Plan change is due to the bridge. Copies are in the Selectmen's Office, a public notice went out, and abutters have been notified.

Citizens Comments:

Sean Leary and T.A. Collins discussed status of information coming in re: brownfields for Canal St.

Theresa Diorio informed everyone that the Farmer's Market was going well and that there are several new members. They are currently planning the Fall Festival and Farm Day and will be meeting tomorrow.

Kathryn Lynch reminded all of Picnic in the Park on 9/15 from 1-3 and Outdoor Hinsdale next weekend. She invited all to participate and attend. Discussion followed.

Members of Parks & Rec Committee and Matt Palmer, Program Director were present. Handouts entitled *Program Sustainability Proposal September 9, 2019* and *Outdoor Hinsdale* were given out. Sean Leary went through the **Program Sustainability Proposal** handout. He reminded all that in February, they talked and accepted the Statement of Purpose.

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Sustainability is intended to keep programs with minimal cost to taxpayers. Three sections were outlined: **Reasoning** outlines why they think this proposal is a viable plan. Due to similarities they want to include Girls on the Run (GOTR) and Outdoor Hinsdale under Recreation and Sports Programming (under the umbrella) in order to be able to use any kind of overage of funds to help cover any potential shortfall as they are still talking about activity, personal wellness, and physical activity. This proposal fits into the Statement of Purpose and would cover some that may be underserved in the demographic. Sean pointed out that GOTR and Outdoor Hinsdale are not looking to be solely sponsored. They'd continue to raise funds as they always have. This would be if the need arises, if surplus funds are available, and with approval of Board of Selectmen, Parks and Rec, and Program Director. **Resolution** is looking at potentially accessing funds moving forward. The Application Form would include added language and removal of the questionnaire section and the reasons. This would avoid donations being sought by many subcommittees as they want to have more coordination with how going about seeking donations. They also want to make sure programs are kept affordable.

Selectman Rideout felt it should be specified on the Application whether someone wants to make a donation and that the form is adequate.

Discussion followed re: donations to Parks and Rec as a whole or to specific groups, how it would be handled and how money would be tracked going into revolving account. There was discussion on clarifying fees vs. donations and application wording.

Selectman Diorio felt that the way it is written, he doesn't really see a downside with the inclusion of those or the money collected and it seems like it is for the betterment of Hinsdale.

Selectman Kondrat had questions re: Girls on the Run. Gail Roberts clarified questions including the cost of \$200 per girl, per year, to include shirt, water bottle, and entry into 5K in May in Brattleboro. She noted the fee is high but they raise money and get HASP grants getting the fee down to \$35-\$45 each. It is nationally sponsored; fees are set and they can't change them but they can be augmented.

Selectman Kondrat also felt the programs were great, and discussed her suggestions and concerns indicating that if they are using money raised by fees, she would like it to be a little more focused on the kids.

Selectman Carrier thanked all for doing an outstanding job in bringing this together.

Chair Darcy asked what is to stop them from spending all the money and why wouldn't we just lower the user fees. Lengthy discussion followed indicating that both were possibilities. Chair Darcy also questioned what was to stop the Sports Program to stop looking for sponsorships. Scenarios were discussed. He also asked why hasn't it been suggested to pay the Sport Program Director salary, in part (from surplus). It was indicated that someone had brought this up previously. Discussion followed.

Chair Darcy noted reasons his questions were asked.

Kathryn Lynch pointed out conservative measures taken and reiterated that money would be voted on at Rec Meeting, approved by Program Director, and approved by Selectmen. She noted that Outdoor Hinsdale and GOTR are always looking to raise funds and this would mean maybe a couple hundred dollars a year.

Program Director voiced his displeasure with discussions being untrue or out of context. He feels most needs to be discussed in non-public under personnel or reputation. He thinks it's a good start but terminology is dangerous and in the two years he has been here, he's tripled the money in the account. He discussed the purchasing cycle and feels to

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determine if it is surplus is in the eye of the beholder. He thinks that this can be done, that there is work to be done and further discussions, and that fundraising should come from other places.

Chair Darcy noted there are two elements: Adding these other two programs (GOTR and Outdoor Hinsdale) to the umbrella of the sports programming; and getting the Application worded to work best for everyone involved.

There was further discussion of concerns and on clarity of the Application Form.

Chair Darcy suggested everyone take the information, think about it, and come back for a joint workshop with Parks and Rec and the Program Director on October 7th. Keep the two elements in mind to put in to the Sports Program Category and wording to allow for surplus money. He thanked everyone for coming in.

T.A. Collins presented three Memos for signature:

Transfer from Town of Hinsdale CDBG Checking and Savings Account to Safe Streets Account in the amount of 1941.84;

Transfer from Town of Hinsdale CDBG checking and Savings Account to the General Fund in the amount of 757.38; and

Request for check from Hinsdale Camp Scholarship Fund to cover scholarships awarded for the Hinsdale Summer Camp in the amount \$1,900.00

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to sign the three memos, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

7:52 p.m. Selectman Carrier 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; Carrier-I and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

8:14 p.m. Regular Meeting reconvened.

Selectman Rideout 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 brief discussion on estimated revenue and undesignated fund balance.

8:16 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary