

*Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*

Monday, December 9, 2019 at Town Hall

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

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

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Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the manifests of 12/2/19 and 12/9/19 and the public and non-public minutes of 11/25/19, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

*New Business:*

First presented was an Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Tammy Stebbins for Holiday Party at the Community Center on 12/13/19 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Chair sign and approve the Application for Open Container for Tammy Stebbins at the Community Center on 12/13/19, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented an Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Karen Atkins/Mary Freitas for Christmas Party at the Community Center on 12/22/19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Chair sign and approve the Application for Open Container for Karen Atkins/Mary Freitas at the Community Center on 12/22/19, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

There was a water and sewer abatement re: David Joslyn, 9 Stearns Court, in the total amount of \$46.40. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to table until Water Superintendent is here to explain abatement, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

A report of Excavation for Halliday was presented. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to accept the Report of Excavation, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Raffle Permit #13 was present for North Hinsdale Community Church for Chinese Auction and Quilt at Millstream Community Center. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to sign and approve Raffle Permit #13, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

A Permit Application for Retail Sales of Permissible Fireworks for Fantasy Fireworks was presented. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to have the Chair sign and approve the Permit Application for Fantasy Fireworks, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, a Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions for 45-78 #12092019-A was presented. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the exemption, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

In T.A. Collins' absence, Kim presented the *Code of Ordinances* for signatures. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to sign and approve the Code of Ordinances. Questions were presented. Being no second, **motion fails**.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion to table** until the Board can find out what changed, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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Next presented was the Sales Agreement with Unruh Fire, Brush Fire Truck for signature by Chairman. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to sign the Sales Agreement with Unruh Fire, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

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Steve Gasset, Chair of the Fire Department Building Committee spoke indicating that they are looking at pursuing buying the Mormon Church property on Plain Road as administrative portion of the building and eventually building (adding) apparatus bays. He expects the cost to be just shy of two million. They have been advised to hire an engineer to draw plans. Discussion and questions followed as to costs. The property is on the market for \$325,000. They guess the cost to be about \$100,000 to renovate. To build the bays and do sitework, they expect costs to be between one million and 1.5 million. They will need to work with NH DOT to trigger a stop light.

Selectman Rideout asked if they had looked into grant money. Response was that they have not until they know what they are going to pursue. FEMA is not an option. USDA money is available. It was asked if other properties were looked at. They've talked about other properties (Canal St. and Rt. 119) but those are not a good option. Reasons were discussed.

Selectman Diorio noted that the current station is quite inadequate. The proposed property is excellent, space-wise. It is assessed well-above asking. Steve Gasset added that it is level property. It was noted that The Town Master Plan, which is over ten years old, discussed costs of up to four million. Discussion followed including that the town has voted over the past few years to put money into the building fund. Currently there is around \$150,000 in that account.

Selectman Kondrat asked if they are looking at what is available for grants and the cost of an engineer. The response included architecture costs are percentage based. This would come out of building funds.

Chair Darcy asked what they are asking for. They would like to secure property. Chair Darcy asked how much would need to be bonded. Steve Gasset indicated \$225,000 - they would use \$100,000 of building money. \$225,000 would be bonded for Town Meeting re: purchasing the property. Timeframes for planning meeting, public hearings and the process was discussed for the February 4<sup>th</sup> requirement for a bond article. It was pointed out that this property is currently taxed at \$675,000. This would be taking close to \$22,000 off the tax rolls. Chair Darcy agreed that this is one of the better locations, however suggested the possibility of looking into another property in North Hinsdale. He also inquired as to whether anyone has approached the owners re: the interest in the property and possibly holding off for an organized plan to make sure it succeeds. Selectman Diorio did have a conversation re: interest in the property. Negotiating an option was discussed in order to put together a plan to present to voters. It was clarified that an option is just an option; an attempt to secure is the bond article at Town Meeting. Steve Gasset noted that if the Building Committee has the Board's potential approval, they will propose and see if they can obtain a 14-month P&S Agreement, will get an architect, and the vote will go before the townspeople for March 2021.

In response to Selectman Kondrat's questions, it was noted that the Planning Board dies nothing until the public hearing. Abutters are notified. There is a process and that was discussed. Selectman Kondrat suggested having an informal meeting with Conservation and Planning Board before asking for money. Ideas were discussed and it was mentioned to keep the Board informed in order to work together and put together a full plan for 2021. It was suggested to be in touch with Kathryn in the Community Development office if they would like to informally meet with the Planning Board.

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Bob Johnson, WWTP Superintendent was present for budget discussion. A \$27,000 overall increase was noted. A length of sewer pipe with cracks and breaks, in terrible condition, was found. Bob indicated that the condition of the pipe (put in in the thirties) was a concern and replacement needs to be done. \$18,000 is the cost to do the section needed. Selectman Diorio had questions on salary. Bob indicated he doesn't track any of that and doesn't know where the

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figures came from, Town Hall oversees that. Misclassifications on the printout were clarified. Chair Darcy asked about upcoming projects and asked if there were any concerns of a moratorium on new hookups. They will need to renew their permit by the end of June and there are no moratoriums. Bob was asked to take part in the meeting next year for water and sewer increase discussions.

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Wastewater Budget in the amount of \$407,982, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

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Jack White, Water Superintendent was present for budget discussion.

The water and sewer abatement mentioned earlier for Joslyn was discussed and confirmed that this is a compromise. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the water and sewer abatement for Joslyn at 9 Stearns Court in the amount of \$46.40, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

It was noted that the budget is down \$22,000 due to differences in salaries. He noted that we're getting the well on Glen Street done now, we usually do two. Tires for the backhoe, figures for the backhoe and 2016 truck were discussed. Chair Darcy asked if the training line is being utilized and he will have one employee attending ten classes next year.

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Water Budget in the amount of \$582,558, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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Chief Faulkner was present with Lt. Evans for discussion on the Police Budget. Budget overall increase was \$3,698.00 indicating that this includes and gives an opportunity to bring in new officers at a higher rate of pay. Chief Faulkner presented a Memo on the Budget and stated that Holiday pay wasn't in there last year. He went through his Memo. Under Uniforms, he indicated that the new chief can put in for grants for vests. Cruiser repairs increased. He noted that Dodges seem to be a better option and suggested replacing radar units when new cruisers are purchased. He discussed building repairs and replacing lighting will LEDs. Chair Darcy asked him to put a list together for the Budget Committee.

Selectman Rideout had questions on the ninth and tenth officer positions. The positions were filled briefly. He proposed freezing those two positions and Chief Faulkner respectfully disagreed. Both discussed their reasons. Chief Faulkner was concerned of saving dollars at the expense of safety. Lt. Evans shared concerns. Selectman Kondrat's concern included budgeting for ten officers when we can't seem to fill eight positions. Discussion followed with citizens input. James MacDonell felt we could leave the budget as is if it means being able to recruit by leaving it alone, filling the tenth position in theory, and deal with that in the next budget. Karen Johnson partly agreed with Selectman Rideout but had concerns of patrol hours, janitor hours at the PD where only 10 hours were allowed at the Community Center will all the functions. She asked if there is a report to see the number of calls. She felt there should be less part-time, and to look hard at the budget.

Chair Darcy noted the different thoughts and ideas and indicated that the Board would want more information. If there is a drop to nine positions with an increase in wages, what they would be and would like breakdowns of impact on the budget.

Selectman Kondrat and Selectman Rideout would like more cuts. Selectman Kondrat appreciates what Chief Faulkner has done to keep the budget level but feels there is value in having an outside neutral perspective look at the budget. Discussion included that an outside person (new perspective) will not be here until 1/6 and may not have time to gauge that.

Selectman Diorio felt there are tough decisions on both sides of the table.

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The Board would like to see what a reduction of an additional \$20,000 would mean. Chief Faulkner will come in for that meeting.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion to table** this pending further reduction, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

*Board Comments:*

Selectman Diorio mentioned the School Board Meeting this Wednesday. He attended the lighting ceremony and Fire Department party and suggested they should get a "thank you".

Selectman Kondrat had a non-public re: personnel.

James MacDonell asked about the joint meeting here on Monday. Budget Committee joins the meeting at 7.

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Karen Johnson would like to know if the Select Board gets a report re: the Summer Program: what are the number of scholarships, what are the number of kids attending per week. Selectman Rideout responded that they (the Rec Committee) have that information, received at a recent meeting. Karen asked about revenue for pool and Summer Camp. She asked if time sheets can be looked at. It was suggested that if it is allowed, she might need to submit a Right to Know request.

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8:38 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel with Police Chief and Police Lieutenant, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

8:52 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

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8:54 p.m. Selectman Diorio 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; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

9:12 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

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9:12 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a motion to adjourn, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden  
Secretary