

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2019 at Town Hall

Present: Chairman Mike Darcy, Selectman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat; T.A. 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 12/16/19 and the public and non-public minutes of 12/9/19, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was a Town Hall Facility Request by Matt Palmer for Cheer Practices to take place evenings at Town Hall, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** for Chair to sign and approve the Town Hall Facility Request for Cheer practices, second by Rideout. Chair Darcy noted that meetings take place on Tuesdays, (Planning, Zoning, Beautification) and this is Budget season where there could also be Budget meetings. Matt Palmer, Program Director was included in discussion. He indicated they could move practices on Tuesdays if a conflict and they would like to start as soon as they could through March. Questions were asked re: other areas to have practices including gym and Community Center. His response was there are two teams and they need high ceilings. T.A. Collins noted debris coming into downstairs offices and equipment when groups use the upstairs area at Town Hall. A vote was taken and motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was an Abatement in the amount of \$40.89 for Wendy Martin re: an RV at 3 McGregor Drive. The RV is registered. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the Abatement for Wendy Martin, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was an Application for Veterans Credit for 12162019-A #45-57. After questions and clarification by T.A. Collins, that the Service Connected Total and Permanent Disability portion is approved, Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the Veterans Credit, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

A Permit Application was presented for Retail Sales for Permissible Fireworks re: American Promotional Events/TNT Fireworks. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** for the Chair to sign/approve the Permit Application for TNT, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Frank Podlenski was present for discussion on his budgets:

Parks Budget was discussed. There were not many changes. Salary is down a bit due to lack of extra help. Hopefully he can get extra help for next year. Selectman Diorio had questions on electricity usage. Buses use most and Frank believes we get reimbursed for that and T.A. Collins confirmed that. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Parks Budget at \$41,319.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Highway Budget was discussed. Health increases were discussed. Keeping the resurfacing figure was discussed. This is to finish the rest of Oxbow and hopefully Middle Oxbow and spots that come up. Frank indicated that he has tried to keep this as level as he could. He hears Mitchell Asphalt has been bought out and there is concern that prices may go up. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Highway Budget in the amount of \$672,970, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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Transfer Station Budget was presented. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Transfer Station Budget in the amount of \$68,459, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. Frank was asked if there were any CIP items coming. He noted an initial cost of \$30,000-\$35,000 to crush a pile at the Landfill to make crushed gravel to last 8-10 years.

The Board will be tabling Parks and Rec Budget in order to have everyone together. Frank asked if he should attend and it was agreed that would be a good idea. Jill will be in touch with him.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins indicated she received a request from Larry Enright to abate 88,000 gallons of water, at 9 Plain Road. Jill spoke with Jack and the water was used and went through the meter. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to deny** the request by Larry Enright for abatement for 88,000 gallons, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins noted that last week the Ordinance was tabled. It was just for rate changes (previously approved). She just needed signatures. The Ordinance was then signed.

T.A. Collins noted that we are in the process of deeding the McGoldrick property to be recorded on the 20th. The Chair can sign when that happens, and she would like a motion for him to sign when we record. Chair Darcy indicated this is in order to utilize funding from Southwest and man hours to clean up property. Ultimately this will end up being auctioned. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to have the Chair sign as soon as the deed is recorded, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

State Police Lt. Mike Kokoski was present with a draft MOU for OT Patrols, discussed in early November. He had one unanswered insurance question which he wasn't sure applied to us and can get an answer this week. He asked if it was something the Board wanted to proceed with. The (correct) email attachment wasn't received by the Board to review in advance. Chair Darcy thinks it is a need vs. a want. Selectman Rideout pointed out a typo. This will be corrected. Chair Darcy suggested that if corrections are done, further information obtained, we can vote on this next Monday, the 23rd. Lt. Kokoski indicated that the MOU is written for two officer coverage. He pointed out the range of about \$50 to \$90 per hour (\$49.70 Jr. Trooper to \$89.23 Staff Sgt.).

Chief Faulkner was present following last week's meeting to see what a further reduction of \$20,000 would look like. Chief Faulkner looked at information supplied over the years and felt he made significant cuts prior to 2017 saving the town thousands of dollars during the transition to the new police station. He indicated that he had done a lot with the budget to make it work because we didn't have the money. He can't find another \$20,000. He has been doing this for 23 years. He pointed out that the janitor fixed things, made things, as well as cleaning. Cutting personnel isn't the answer, cutting personnel is cutting safety. Chief Faulkner felt you can reallocate the SRO position, as the money comes back. He reiterated there is not another \$20,000 to cut. He told the Board if you want to make the cut, you're going to have to have someone else make the cut. Chair Darcy understands what each side is saying noting that the referrals to officer safety and citizen safety is important. Also noting that reducing officers is not an attempt to cut money or safety; he thinks it's the way it is being looked at. Chief Faulkner had concerns of freezing positions but then having an opportunity to fill them. He noted this is the busiest town in the county and if we reduce, we can't provide 24/7 dual coverage. He suggested that surrounding towns are questioning why their cruisers are in Hinsdale all the time. He

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doesn't think freezing positions or cutting positions is the answer and has concerns with figuring a way to bring in officers. Selectman Kondrat wondered how, if we can't find one or two, where are we going to find six. Chief Faulkner felt it is money, we don't pay enough. He offered to make comparisons in non-public. There are comments he will make that he doesn't want to make in public. He indicated if you cut two positions and go to eight, you have no money to give raises. This is a historical progression and the issue has never been fixed. Selectman Kondrat doesn't see us finding six officers in the next six months, that the numbers aren't adding up for residents. Chief Faulkner feels we are not competitive. Chair Darcy reminded all why Chief Faulkner was asked to come in (to show what further reductions would look like) and Chief Faulkner feels he is unable to do that.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to table** the Police Budget again, in order to come back and revisit, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously. Chief Faulkner was thanked for coming in.

Board Comments:

7:04 p.m. Select Board was joined by the **Budget Committee**.

Assessing was discussed. Increase was in outside services. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Assessing at \$49,400.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Legal Budget is up \$500. Selectman Carrier made a motion to tentatively approve the Legal Budget at \$53,000.00, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Planning Budget is at \$117,289. Increase is salaries and health insurance. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Planning Budget at \$117,289.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. Budget Committee Member, Karen Johnson had questions related to salary. This position is not salary, it is hourly. T.A. Collins stated that Town Administrator and Police Chief are the only salary positions.

Government Buildings total is \$67,822. It is down a bit. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Government Buildings at \$67,822.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. Questions and discussion included custodian salaries and cleaning comparisons between buildings and also concerns with the front door at Town Hall.

Cemeteries and Parks Budget is \$19,672. This increase of around \$200 is due to salaries and COLA. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Cemeteries and Parks Budget at \$19,672.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously. The mower line was questioned and it was pointed out that these aren't commercial mowers.

Insurance Budget is at \$40,500, down by \$43.00. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** Insurance Budget at \$40,500.00, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Rescue Budget is \$144,060. T.A. Collins noted that she increases this at 3%. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Rescue Budget at \$144,060.00, second by Carrier. Questions followed and it was indicated that we have to estimate the increase. Motion passes unanimously.

Building Inspector Budget is at \$47,455.00. T.A. Collins noted that replacing code books is a necessary expense and more commercial inspections are needed for ISO fire ratings. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** Building Inspector Budget at \$47,455.00, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously. Budget Committee member

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Dennis Nadeau had questions/comments on the fire extinguisher inspections. Committee Member Lisa Prince asked about revenue generated on permits and whether fees have increased.

Emergency Management Budget is at \$10,233. This is down about \$2,000. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Emergency Management Budget at \$10,233.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. Budget Committee member, Karen Johnson, asked if we have emergency management people. Curtis Levasseur is the director.

Transit Service Budget is at \$15,500. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** Transit Service Budget at \$15,500.00, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Rubbish Removal Budget is at \$257,500, up about \$2,500. Hazardous waste fees increased. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to tentatively approve** Rubbish Removal Budget at \$257,500.00, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Health Officer Budget is \$1125.00. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** Health Officer Budget in the amount of \$1125.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. It was noted this is a stipend.

Welfare Budget is \$59,214. Selectman Rideout questioned the increase. This is salary related. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Welfare Budget at \$59,214.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Library Budget is \$52,895. Increases are salary related. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Library Budget in the amount of \$52,895.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Patriotic Budget is \$1,750. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** Patriotic Budget at \$1750.00, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Conservation Budget went up from \$500 to \$700. T. A. Collins indicated that this is up due to state fees going up in order to belong to the state association and for sending two people to state conference. Selectman Diorio **made a motion to tentatively approve** Conservation Budget at \$700.00, second by Carrier. Chair Darcy commented that he would like to see documentation on this. Discussion followed. The vote is as follows: Kondrat-No, Darcy-No, Diorio-I, Rideout-I, and Carrier-I. Motion carries.

Executive Budget is at \$196,205. Increases are payroll related, advertising increases, and in equipment rental. Discussion followed. Health insurance percentages were discussed. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** Executive Budget at \$196,205.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Committee questions followed, including:

Committee Member Edwin Smith noted Highway wages being one lump sum. He asked if wages be broken down and provided.

Committee Member Karen Johnson asked for the same regarding Fire Department.

Water salaries are down due to changes in positions.

Sewer increase discussed due to problems with lines. Relining to be done.

(Budget Committee adjourned). Umbrella of increases due to 1.9% COLA and merits.

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Selectman Diorio had a School Board Meeting last week. They spoke about student and staff safety. He noted that he would not be in favor of eliminating the SRO position. He has a Budget Meeting on Wednesday.

Selectman Carrier handed the Board some statewide information re: police departments. He noted that he will not be attending the meeting on the 30th.

Selectman Rideout felt the discussion re: the police budget was abrupt and sarcastic.

Chair Darcy noted the upcoming Selectmen Meeting on December 23rd and probably the 30th. He has a Planning Board Meeting tomorrow.

Citizens Comments:

Bill Nebelski brought up the yellow flashing lights near the school that don't work correctly. He would like permission to get the keys and try to fix them or talk to the appropriate people in Concord. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to allow Bill Nebelski to spearhead the light project, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Sean Leary's comments piggybacked Bill's comments on the flashing lights. He is happy that Bill is taking the lead.

Lisa Prince asked about extra police coverage talked about tonight and what part of the budget that would come from. Salary was the answer.

8:11 p.m. Selectman Carrier made a motion to adjourn, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary