

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2020 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 February 3, 2020 and the public and non-public minutes of January 27, 2020, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve Veteran's Exemption 02032020A, Map 29, Lot 31, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Chair sign and approve the Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Nychole Maynard at the Community Center for a wedding on August 22, 2020, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was a 2020 Initial Boundary Validation Program (US Census Bureau) for Chair's signature. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Chair sign the 2020 Initial Boundary Validation, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

A 4th Quarter 2019 Abatement was presented (outside meter for water) for the sewer portion at the Highway Department in the amount of \$50.47. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the abatement for the Highway Department in the amount of \$50.47, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, the Board revisited Budgets:

For **Welfare**, it was noted that \$10,000 was removed from Direct Assistance line. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Welfare Budget at \$49,214.00, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Summer Program was discussed and recalculated. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Summer Program Budget at \$67,624.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

It was noted that a Water Works Budget lease item is to be paid in June and has been removed. The new amount is \$559,213. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Water Works Budget at \$559,213.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins requested a schedule from the Board for the Primary Election. Discussion followed and times were selected.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that property closings, with the exception of Ken Howe's, will take place next Monday. Selectmen will sign the deed for Ken tonight and the others next week.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2020 at Town Hall

T.A. Collins asked the Board for an acceptable date to conduct interviews. All agreed to meet here, starting at 8:00 on Saturday, February 22nd.

T.A. Collins also had changes re: Comcast. Another comment was that helicopters will be flying over utility lines with infrared cameras from February 4th – February 7th.

James MacDonell, Tax Collector and Julie Seymour, Town Clerk were present for further discussion.

James indicated that he came up with an amount of \$28,307 in addition to what is currently budgeted for up to 35 hours the first year with ½ year on medical (for full time position proposal). T.A. Collins gave her figures and noted that with NH Retirement System, Health, and Dental (x2) it would be around \$65,505 with current compensation (current amount and raising the remainder via a warrant article). Chair Darcy noted that the first-year increase would be around \$28,307 and each additional year approximately \$42,249 more than the current compensation policy for the warrant. T.A. Collins noted that the last calendar year average (according to timesheets) was 22.84 hours per week. James gave an example of going to fix printers three times today and with this change, he would be able to avoid that. T.A. Collins did not see the justification for a full time Tax Collector. Board discussion followed. The question was asked: Is there a motion to accept the proposed warrant article? Hearing none, the Board's feeling is to keep it the way it is. James was thanked for coming in and doing the math.

T.A. Collins indicated that Julie's proposal is to have one additional week for vacation. They would average out the hours. Julie indicated that she wanted the right to visit Selectmen if there were any unforeseen circumstance. Chair Darcy stated that they have always tried to work with and be supportive. Julie was unsure how the rolling average is going to work. It was pointed out that vacation time is based on the prior year. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to accept the agreement of one additional vacation week and the drafting and signing of the letter, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Committee joined Select Board

Draft Warrant Articles were reviewed and discussed:

Draft Article 6 regarding the Fire Station Building Fund: Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** \$100,000 for the Fire Station Building Fund, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously. Discussion followed.

Draft Article 7 regarding the Fire Apparatus Fund to appropriate \$50,000 was brought up. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to tentatively approve** \$50,000 for the Fire Apparatus Fund, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Draft Article 8 regarding raising the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of crushing 5000 to 6000 yards of gravel was discussed. T.A. Collins explained that this is so that gravel wouldn't have to be purchased and the resulting savings. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** this article at \$35,000, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Draft Article 9 regarding entering into a four-year lease for \$72,000.00 for the purpose of leasing 2 Dodge Durango Utility Police Vehicles was discussed. T.A. Collins is waiting for a final estimate from the Police Department on this and indicated figures might change prior to the Public Hearing. There have been delays due to staff transitions. The theory

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2020 at Town Hall

behind asking for two vehicles vs. one was discussed. Selectman Kondrat would rather see one this year and one next year. Selectman Carrier agreed. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to remove** Article 9 (regarding leasing 2 Police Vehicles), second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-No; Rideout-No; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion carries.

Draft Article 10 regarding replacing street lights with LED lighting was discussed. T.A. Collins explained that we would be replacing, not adding to the ones that we own. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** replacing street lights at \$25,000.00, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Draft Article 11 for \$15,000 to add to the Fire Department Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Fund was presented. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Fire Department Breathing Apparatus Fund at \$15,000.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Draft Article 12 re: entering into a four-year lease for \$36,000.00 for the purpose of leasing a Dodge Durango Utility Police Vehicle was reviewed. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to tentatively approve** \$36,000 for the purpose of leasing the Police Vehicle, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Draft Article 13 re: raising \$10,000.00 to be added to the Town Hall Improvement Fund was reviewed. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to tentatively approve** appropriating \$10,000 for the Town Hall Improvement Fund, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Draft Article 14 re: \$10,000 for the Community Center Building Improvement Fund was discussed. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to tentatively approve** \$10,000.00 to be added to Community Center Building Improvement Fund, second by Kondrat. Selectman Rideout asked how much was in there. T.A. Collins responded that there is \$47000 in there now, with approximately \$35,000 needed for a new roof. TLC on floors, ceiling tiles, carpeting, counter tops and furnace replacement will be needed. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft Article 15 for Main Street Complete Street Project was reviewed. Selectman Diorio made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Main Street Complete Street Project at \$10,000, second by Carrier. T.A. Collins explained that grant money was received but not done this year. They want to carry it over to next year to do the whole Main Street in Spring of 2021. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft Article 16 re: Hinsdale Historical Society was discussed. It was questioned and noted that \$5000 was previously asked for but last year they didn't ask. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to tentatively approve** the sum of \$10,000 to support the Hinsdale Historical Society, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Following a change in the Budget Committees' Budget and in recognition of the certification of the Tax Collector, Selectman Diorio made a **motion to revisit** Financial, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Diorio made a **motion to increase** the Tax Collector's salary line at 3%, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Financial Administration budget at \$173,589.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

The impact of the increase if all passes was discussed. Karen Johnson asked if the auditor's report was done. T.A. Collins has the draft.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2020 at Town Hall

Budget Committee adjourned.

Board Comments:

Selectman Diorio attended the recent Fire Department Building Committee meeting. He updated the Budget Committee earlier on property that the Committee is interested in at 59 Plain Road and conversation with the realtor. The price was recently dropped.

Selectman Kondrat had concerns with possible loitering in front of the Town Hall. Discussion on concerns and issues followed.

Chair Darcy updated the Board on attendance at the recent Selectmen Meeting in Chesterfield re: the agreement with their police officers for coverage. The line requiring two officers will be removed, however, they voiced their concerns. They were very supportive and will get documents to us for signatures.

Chair Darcy also noted a letter from Swanzey PD forwarded by the Health Officer re: seven drowned heifers in the river. Two carcasses remain in the river and they want us to be aware of the situation.

Chair Darcy also has a non-public re: personnel.

T.A. Collins discussed FD retirements and adding those to the Town Report dedication and getting plaques. All were in agreement.

Citizens Comments:

James MacDonell thanked the Board for their time and considering his request.

7:27 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; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:50 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

7:51 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a motion to adjourn, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary