

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2020 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 February 17, 2020 and February 24, 2020 and the public and non-public minutes of February 10, 2020 and February 17, 2020, second by Rideout. 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 Alyssa Secore for a wedding at the Community Center on May 23, 2020. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** for Chair to sign and approve the Application for Open Container for Alyssa Secore at the Community Center on May 23rd, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented were the following Appointment for Fire Department Officers:

- Troy Benedict, Assistant Fire Chief
- Taran Benedict, Fire Captain
- Mark Curtiss, Fire Captain
- Devin Parker, Fire Lieutenant
- Hunter Brooks, Fire Lieutenant
- Steven Gassett, Fire Lieutenant
- Alec Flemming, Fire Lieutenant/Clerk
- Patricia Lachenal, Rescue Captain

Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to approve the slate of Fire Department Appointments, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins presented abatement paperwork for Deborah George Development for 7 George's Field, 11 George's Field, and 18 George's Field for 2017 per Settlement Agreement in the total amount of \$40,877.00. Discussion followed. It was pointed out that this was a mediated settlement and stops future requests for abatement for a period of time. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to sign Abatement paperwork for Deborah George Development, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins then discussed an *Agreement for Police Services* ("MOU") with Chesterfield regarding coverage. Selectmen Diorio pointed out a typo and a question he had on page 5 was clarified. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the MOU with Chesterfield, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins had an Appointment for Katie Leonard to Hinsdale Community/Recreation Committee to be approved. Selectmen Darcy reminded that appointments should be done for the entire Board every year. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to appoint Katie Leonard to the Rec Committee, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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T.A. Collins had an Appointment for Health Officer. She suggested making herself Health Officer since in the past, it has been Chairman of the Board and the Health Officer has to live in town. Discussion followed and it was suggested having Selectman Diorio appointed, as he had been in the past. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to appoint Selectman Diorio as Health Officer, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins presented a letter to Eversource with corrections (which was initially reviewed a couple weeks ago) for signatures. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to have the Board sign the Eversource letter, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins presented a letter to Julie Seymour re: additional one week of vacation for signatures. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Board sign the letter to Julie Seymour, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Resumes and Essay Questions were given to the Board to take home, review, and make list of questions for the Police Chief Interview Process to take place on Saturday. Selectmen will be present. T.A. Collins will take notes and Alan from MRI will be present.

Board Comments:

Selectman Rideout noted that the recent Rec Meeting went well and was very informational. They have started working on Fees. T.A. Collins encouraged all to stop by the Community Center if they had a chance to see painting progress. Selectman Rideout will have a non-public.

Chair Darcy noted that they were given a packet re: the pool and concessions, etc. They will get the information out in the near future.

Selectman Diorio asked T.A. Collins about long term employees' extra week of vacation. He has been approached and asked when they would know. T.A. Collins stated that she sent a Memo out to all Department Heads and they were supposed to share information with employees. After discussion, it was suggested that she remind Department Heads.

Chair Darcy had non-publics.

Citizen Comments:

Lisa Borst asked if there was a meeting off site as was recorded in the minutes in December. It was determined that there was not. Discussion followed as to reasons that may not have taken place. Lisa asked if there would be any offsite meetings in the future and T.A. Collins conveyed her ideas for a meeting to include presenting formulas and discussing setting the tax rate for everyone's understanding. Lisa also asked for explanation as to why the Planning Board Minutes were not on the website. It was determined that none have been approved for this year. They are approved first and then get posted. T.A. Collins stated that Lisa could come in and ask to see Draft Minutes anytime she would like. Lisa indicated that she was trying to make sure citizens are aware of the issues. It was clarified that Warrants are online and she was referred to the link (Town Website, Announcements, click link).

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PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m. The **Public Hearing** began re: the following:

To accept testimony in accordance with RSA 287-1:6, regarding proposed Warrant Article #2 which reads, "Shall we allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the Town of Hinsdale?" This article will be placed on the official ballot and will be voted on the second Tuesday in March.

Handouts for both Warrant Article 2 and Warrant Article 3 were available.

State Rep. Michael Abbott was present with John Conforti, Chief Compliance Officer with NH Lottery Commission. Mr. Abbott noted that recently legislature authorized and the Governor signed a Bill into law and they have already started this online for residents in New Hampshire. Draft Kings are responsible for retail outlets and they're trying to identify locations for ten retail outlets, geographically placed, in New Hampshire. Draft Kings will wait for town elections to see which communities approve of this. He felt this would bring in a tremendous source of revenue for the State.

Lisa Borst asked if this would require a new building if the Town were to vote and approve. John Conforti responded that it could be a new building or it could be an existing building, depending upon what Draft Kings decide. Lisa also asked if proceeds are split, do towns with a building get more consideration. The answer was no. There is no special bonus and no penalty to those that deny. Revenues are split 50/50 between Draft Kings and NH Lottery Commission (education fund). Lisa also asked if Draft Kings would pay tax for any building, to which the answer was yes. Lisa asked would they expect to get an exemption. John didn't think so, they don't get involved re: Draft Kings. Lisa also asked what number of employees might be expected and hours. John responded that number of hours would be difficult to answer, it is not a one size fits all. It was noted that further questions should come before the Planning Board and it is important to understand that right now there is not a proposed location here.

Selectman Rideout asked if there was any advantage, geographically and of having a history of parimutuel betting here. John thought it would be a positive, but since it hadn't continued, could be a bit of a concern. He thinks it would be under consideration as a candidate in the southwestern part of the state. He noted that he has not been told by Draft Kings that it may be here. Keene rejected this, Swanzey has it on the ballot, and Manchester has approved it.

Selectman Diorio asked if "up to ten" is a Draft Kings number or a state number. John indicated that it is written into law "up to ten". He noted this is a potential 10-year relationship with the State.

Public Hearing concluded at 6:50 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

6:50 p.m. The **Public Hearing** began re: the following:

To accept testimony in accordance with RSA 40:14, regarding proposed Warrant Article #3 which reads, "Shall we adopt provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB-2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Hinsdale on the second Tuesday of March? (Inserted by petition)". Voting on the question shall be by ballot, but the question shall not be placed on the official ballot used to elect officers, but will be discussed at the annual meeting. Polls shall remain open and ballots accepted by the moderator for a period no less than one hour.

Lisa Borst asked if there is an absentee ballot for people who can't make it to Town Meeting. The short answer was no.

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Selectman Rideout asked if SB2 was to pass, and budget gets rejected, is there a default budget plus 10%. Discussion followed. There is a default budget. The proposed budget could be higher or lower. Most of it would be same as previous year but some elements change. The percentage is a question.

Lisa Borst asked if that included the School Budget. She was told that there is a separate Hearing on Wednesday at the School.

Chair Darcy noted to keep in mind that if one passes and one fails, it gets a little confusing. Switching is a procedural change. Typically, there is still a budget meeting before the vote. Unfortunately, attendance is very low and a small number decides, typically an even smaller group of people determines through SB2.

Selectman Rideout felt it works in larger communities but not in smaller communities.

Chair Darcy noted that Wilton went to SB2 and then went back and mentioned less growth per year than traditional town budgets.

Selectman Rideout noted we would have to cut over one million to drop the tax rate \$3.00.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing concluded.

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Program Director Job Description was discussed. Chair Darcy suggested including Parks and Rec on the discussion if there are too many changes. Selectman Diorio read through it and felt it was a good description. It should include the Pool re: scheduling and ordering. Selectman Kondrat felt the hours could come down – either Program Director or Seasonal Sports. Selectman Rideout would like the person hired to sit down with the Board and have direction. Further concerns were discussed, including avoiding overlap. There will be an addition to the Program Director job description relating to Municipal Pool administration.

Citizen Comments:

Sean Leary suggested keeping this job description open a bit, get a new person in, see what we can do and tweak as we go. Let it settle in and see what it can be. We can change, add, or subtract later.

7:20 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; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:40 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.

Selectman Rideout made a motion to hire Sarah Hudon as Program Director at base rate, grade 10, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:41 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

8:15 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.

8:15 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a motion to adjourn, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary