

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 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 March 9, 2020 the public and non-public minutes of March 2, 2020, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Darcy suggested appointing an interim vice chair for the next two weeks. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to appoint Selectman Diorio to act as interim Chair for the next two weeks, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I; Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

Board Comments:

Selectman Diorio commented on the recent Chili Cookoff and congratulated Selectman Carrier for placing second in the competition.

Selectman Diorio will have a School Board Meeting on Wednesday night.

Selectman Diorio read a proposed letter to be put with the paychecks of select long-term employees and asked the Board's permission to have Rick Carrier include the letter in the next paycheck envelopes. All were agreeable.

Concerns were discussed re: coronavirus in NH and voting tomorrow. Selectman Diorio called the Town Clerk to see if anything preventative can be done at voting tomorrow. Discussion included providing sanitizer and periodically wiping down tables/booths.

Selectman Carrier discussed getting another representative on the Connecticut River Joint Commission subcommittee. Not all members were present at the recent Conservation Committee meeting and he will readdress this at the next meeting.

Chair Darcy discussed voting tomorrow and noted that due to (recent change in) state legislature, there will not be voting on SB2 at the ballot tomorrow.

Selectman Rideout asked Chair Darcy if he would speak on SB2 on Saturday, if needed. Discussion followed, including pros, cons, and misconceptions. Selectman Diorio agreed that due to facts, figures, and data, Chair Darcy should speak on this if needed.

It was noted that Town Meeting will take place on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. with the Town starting, followed by the School. Ballots will open at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Steve Gassett was present indicating he was approaching the Board representing the Fire Department Building Committee and the committee would like to explore the option of renovating the current Fire Station. They'd plan to hire a civil engineer and structural engineer to see if the footprint of the current station can be enlarged. Chair Darcy agreed the need to have that and an important element would be to have an idea of what kind of equipment over the next x-number of years that they would need. They need to determine weight and scale for an engineer in order to determine structure and base. Steve Gassett added that it would also need to be ADA compliant. Chair Darcy noted

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there are a lot of elements, but suggested starting with an engineer. An architect would come later. Chair Darcy asked if this was in anticipation of the Warrant Article. Steve noted they've had a fair amount of pushback and wanted to explore every option. Selectman Kondrat pointed out that the Warrant Article is to raise money to be *added* to the building fund, not for any specific location. Discussion followed on expanding the footprint of the current station, noting there is not much land there, and there are soil concerns in the lower part. Steve Gasset was thanked for coming in.

Citizen Comments:

Lisa Prince asked why the Budget Committee Minutes were not on the website. T.A. Collins indicated that as of today, they are (and explained that they go on the site, once approved).

Sean Leary said he was about to mention what Lisa just mentioned. He also had an update on HEDC (Hinsdale Economic Development Corp.): The marketing video draft is done. The narrator will do a voice-over and the script will be tweaked for sharpness. He felt the video really looks good and they are working on the real estate portion of it. At some point soon, perhaps April, they want to have a presentation for the Board.

Informational discussion took place going through the articles and assigning Board Members to speak, if applicable. Members of the public present were: Lisa Prince, Wayne Dingman, Sean Leary, and James MacDonell.

Article 7 re: \$100,000 to be added to the Fire Department Building Fund was discussed. Selectman Diorio will speak on this. Wayne Dingman had a question and concerns re: if this passes and money is there to purchase a particular property, what stops them from purchasing that particular property and removing it from the tax roll. Chair Darcy noted that the Committee cannot purchase without following specific procedures. T.A. Collins discussed process, including if Selectmen move forward with a purchase, it goes to the Planning Board, the Conservation Committee for consent, and holding two public hearings. Selectman Rideout made the point that abutters get a chance to voice their opinion at a public hearing. T.A. Collins added that it seems some have lost sight of what this fund is for and we need to start putting money aside. There are still procedures and opportunities to address concerns at Planning Board Meeting, and Public Hearings.

Article 8 was discussed re: raising \$50,000 to be added to the Fire Apparatus Fund. It was assumed that the Fire Chief will speak on this article.

Article 9 was discussed re: raising \$35,000 for the purpose of crushing 5,000 to 6,000 yards of gravel. It was discussed that this will be considerably cheaper than the cost of purchasing elsewhere. It is assumed that Frank will speak on this.

T.A. Collins and/or Rick will speak on Article 10 re: replacing street lights.

It is assumed the Fire Chief will speak on Article 11 re: adding to the Fire Department Breathing Apparatus Fund.

Article 12 re: authorization Selectmen to enter into a lease for a Dodge Durango for the Police Department was discussed. T.A. Collins indicated that Lt. Melissa Evans and Interim Chief Andy Lavoie would be available to speak on that.

T.A. Collins will speak on Article 13 to raise \$10,000 for the Town Hall Improvement Fund. She will also speak on Article 14 to raise \$10,000 for the Community Center Building Improvement Fund. Both are to come from year-end unassigned fund balance.

Article 15 was discussed re: Main Street Complete Street Project. T.A. Collins indicated that she or Kathryn could speak on this.

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Selectman Kondrat offered to speak on Article 16 for support of the Hinsdale Historical Society, if no members were available.

T.A. Collins noted a typo on Article 3 where it says "(Majority vote required)". It should say 3/5 majority. She posted it on the website.

Wayne Dingman asked if SB2 passes and next year when going through the process the budget fails, what happens? Response was that it goes to a default budget (which may not be less than the proposed budget) which is determined by DRA calculations. Discussion followed.

There was further discussion with Julie on obtaining and providing sanitizers for voting tomorrow.

Sean suggested having numbers ready for explanation if there were money questions. T.A. Collins replied that she had that all ready to explain.

Lisa Prince asked if we are looking at an increase if everything passes. Response was that school is unknown, numbers are highly fluid and if revenues don't get reduced, town portion may go up approximately five cents. It was noted that we're only getting half of rooms and meals and uncertainties of what will happen in the following year.

7:00 p.m. Informational discussion was closed.

Lisa Prince asked if betting would be at already existing facilities in the area. It was pointed out that they are looking at ten spots in the state and we could be one of the ten considered.

7:00 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a motion to adjourn. There was no second. Motion failed. A question was asked about going into non-public discussion.

7:01 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.

7:07 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.

Selectman Diorio pointed out that this was Chair Darcy's last meeting and acknowledged and thanked Selectman Darcy for many years of service to the Town, past, present, and future. Chair Darcy responded that he enjoyed the last nine years and will still remain a presence while collaboratively working together, specifically through HEDC.

7:08 p.m. Selectman Diorio made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary