

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2020 remote meeting

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat, and Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Jill Collins and Kim Worden (all via Zoom). Police Chief Rataj, Sean Leary, and James MacDonell also participated via Zoom.

6:09 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order.

Chair Diorio opened by noting that he expected more citizens participating in the meeting and the intro to Zoom is being used as a temporary solution for a safety vehicle during this time. The public has been invited and we provided a link. The plan was to mute citizens until the comment section, however it appears that won't be needed for this meeting. He noted the *raise your hand* feature. He opens the meetings lately with COVID mention. He noted that the pandemic continues, some places have seen peaks and declines, and we still take this very seriously. He extended appreciation to the Police Department, First Responders, Fire Department, Highway Department, Water & Sewer Department, and Town Clerk. He noted that the governor yesterday was offering PPE if needed. Chair Diorio has started the procedure, going through the proper channels.

Discussion followed with T.A. Collins on how a non-public would be handled. She will remove all from the meeting that shouldn't be there.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 4/13/20 and 4/20/20 and public minutes of 4/6/20 second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion followed and all agreed to have the Chair sign manifests attaching a copy of the minutes in order to avoid having all members stopping in at Town Hall amid the distancing concerns.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to have the Chair go to Town Hall to sign manifests, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

An abatement was presented for 1st quarter sewer portion for Town of Hinsdale Highway in the amount of \$79.31 (outside meter for water; abatement for sewer portion). Discussion followed. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the abatement in the amount of \$79.31, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously. There being no one opposed, the Chair will stop in at Town Hall to sign the Abatement too.

The Water Department Emergency Plan was provided to all and T.A. Collins stated that this needs to be updated every so often. March 2015 was the last update. She will need approval for the Chair to sign this. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** for the Chair to sign and approve the Water Department Emergency Response Plan, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins indicated that she is finding that oil prices are at their lowest. Usually bidding takes place in June and payment in July. She indicated that there would be savings of over \$10,000 if she had permission from the Board to take money out of this year's budget. Discussion followed on various scenarios including if the current supplier wins, we have a credit that could be applied. Last year, 16,750 gallons were at \$2.19 per gallon. Now if we prepay 16,750 at \$1.55 the result would be approximately \$10,000 in savings. Sean Leary added that there was discussion at the last School Board Meeting and they would follow up with T.A. Collins. They suggested that there are rock bottom prices right now and it was a good idea to look at prepaying. Sean would defer specifics to Tom O'Connor and they discussed they would be in favor of joining the Town as they always do. Selectman Rideout asked who offered the lowest price now and if they would allow the Town to sign and wait for payment until July 1st. Jill indicated it was Barrows.

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Discussion followed. He would like to get the bids. Chair Diorio would like to let Tom know we are going to move forward. Sean will email him tonight and let him know it was discussed.

T.A. Collins has the Chief briefing the Board and a non-public for hiring. Chair Diorio acknowledged the Chief's excellent communications and postings.

Chief Rataj was present via Zoom to update the Board:

He discussed Equipment Inventory. He noted his thoughts on past expenditures. The storage area was cleaned and inventoried. In trying to recoup some money, they have some items of value: coats, reflective vests, tasers, etc. There are also a large number of items with little value. Those they will either repurpose, recycle, or use as training gear. There will be some surplus. It will cost \$2000 to \$2500 each to outfit new hires. The uniform line item will take a fairly significant hit but overall, the budget will be in good shape.

He updated the case management one-on-one instruction and indicated proficiency.

He hopes to start working on the Evidence Room within the next two weeks.

He has a list from the Interim Chief Lavoie of key items and policy and procedure updates. They will be working together on that.

Chief Rataj noted that there has been a second case of COVID-19. He doesn't believe either was contracted here and the cases are not related.

He updated the Board on drug activity information being sent re: a drug redaction grant. They will document activity for next year.

He updated the Board on the computer data base concern. He talked to the Sheriff and has an email in. The Sheriff and PD were set up to correct the issue. Every year that the problem continues, it will be more expensive. There will be a one-time fee to fix the issue of \$10,000-\$30,000 and following that, costs will go down.

He reached out to hire a janitor and there were background issues. He will have a non-public for hiring another officer. On Saturday, the 25th, they will be seeing candidates. Currently they have 6 full-time hired. Two will attend the Academy. They will need a School Resource Officer for the Fall of 2021 and do not have a canine officer. They are two people short.

Chief Rataj would also like to implement a 457b plan via payroll deduction and felt it was an added benefit to save for retirement.

As of April 31st, State Police coverage ends (unless needed). Chief Rataj noted there have been some recent savings in salaries, insurance, retirement, and gasoline. He expects increased costs in O.T., uniforms and body armor, tasers, and computers.

Selectman Carrier noted that Chief Rataj invited him to sit in on the interviews and felt he could present for Selectmen as well as for law enforcement. No Board Member had any issues or concerns with that.

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T.A. Collins noted that we actually had a 457b retirement plan in the past and people switched over. She will give Chief Rataj the information on that. Chief Rataj felt it would be beneficial to new officers and the Town if we got them enrolled.

Board Comments:

Selectman Carrier noted that he had already mentioned his attendance at the police interviews on Saturday.

Selectman Johnson was happy that they touched on the monthly numbers and is a firm believer in knowing the numbers for guidance.

Selectman Johnson made a **motion** to get the numbers (Town Financials), and go over them, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously. Chair Diorio added that he liked the percentage left figure on the Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrance and noted that it was a good way to check it quickly. He also felt it was good to have these figures every month.

Citizen Comments:

Sean Leary noted that the Planning Board is going to cancel the April Meeting and if we are continuing to go remote in May, he is confident that they can run that meeting remotely.

Sean added that the Parks and Rec Meeting went pretty well. It was a long meeting, there was good input, and recommendations for price setting. He wants to make sure that the Board looks at the information, corrects anything needed, and gets it to Jill.

Sean noted that there will be a School Board Meeting in a few weeks. Remote learning is going okay with a few hitches. 99% is online. They will be getting money from the State to help.

Sean, as a citizen, thanked Chief Rataj for his outreach on Facebook and noted that the community appreciates getting information from the Police Department.

6:49 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) hiring, with Chief Rataj, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; Kondrat-I; and Johnson-I; Motion passes unanimously. All participants, except the Board, T.A. Collins, Kim Worden, and Chief Rataj were removed from the Zoom meeting.

6:59 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

7:00 p.m. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary