

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2020 remote meeting held at Hinsdale Middle/High School Library

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 in person). Police Chief Rataj, Officer Collins, and Frank Podlenski (all in person). Sean Leary and Rick Carrier participated via Zoom.

6:05 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order outside with Board Members, Chief Rataj, Officer Collins and family/friends of Officer Collins present for the appointment of Hinsdale Police Officer Collins. Chair Diorio read the Appointment and conducted the oath. All except Officer Collins and friends/family returned inside.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 5/25/20 and 6/1/20 and public and non-public minutes of 5/18/20 and public minutes of 5/20/20, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Frank Podlenski, Highway Superintendent was present to discuss paving. He asked permission to overspend on his paving line item intending on saving where he can on other line items. He explained that he would like to pave the remainder of Oxbow Road and the rest of Plain Road (from Monument to Oxbow) and is approximately \$14,000 short. Selectman Rideout asked if this affects the bottom line. Frank noted that the grader needs a transmission and is trying to see what he has left. He mentioned that the current quote is \$69 a ton but he is hoping that will drop down the way oil prices are. He explained that for twelve years, nothing has been improved on Oxbow Road. He is trying to get away from chip seals and gave his reasons. He offered that if he thought the budget wouldn't allow, he would run short on finishing Oxbow. He has \$158,000 quote and feels he will ultimately need roughly \$12,000. He discussed with Selectman Johnson various line items. Frank indicated that this would be it for paving this year and that downtown will be the focus for next year.

Selectman Johnson made a **motion** to allow Frank Podlenski, Highway Superintendent, to overspend the line item to pave Plain and Oxbow Roads with the understanding that he will save all he can on the line items discussed, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio explained that the Board would be going into a quick non-public with Chief Rataj.

6:22 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel, with Chief Rataj, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; Kondrat-I; and Johnson-I; Motion passes unanimously. The Board, T.A. Collins, Kim Worden, and Chief Rataj went into another room for the non-public portion of the meeting.

6:32 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened back in the library.

Selectman Carrier 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.

T.A. Collins noted that she had emailed the Board an action letter from the auditors that needed to be signed in order to get the final audit back.

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Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to sign** the Action on Representation Letter (Roberts & Greene PLLC), second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board she had submitted for GOFERR (Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery) in the amount of \$6,639.00, covering March 1 – April 30th, and should be getting that amount back.

T.A. Collins handed out a *Comparative Expenditure Report* (July 2018-April 2019/July 2019-April 2020) indicating that the report shows the amount remaining last year compared to the amount remaining this year. She gave explanations for overages including for Police Department, a full-time job, the budget being done the year before March, going to a one-check system for Town Clerk's office, reasons for computer expenses being over (Zoom expenses, updates, Windows 7 to Windows 10) noting some reimbursement is expected. Also, there are ACH transfer fees now but we don't use the armored car system as much. For Assessing, utilities are up, there are abatements, and court cases pending. T.A. Collins suggests that at the end of the month, the Board ask any questions, and she can tell them why anything is over. She can also ask for information from the Department Head. Chair Diorio likes the idea that it is pointed out what is over and what is under. Selectman Johnson would like to see the Comparative Expenditure Report for example: Month of April 2019 vs Month of April 2020.

Selectman Johnson asked if MV Fees line item could be an income expense on the Balance Sheet. Jill will ask the auditors. He asked about Reevaluation and she noted that cyclical are being done now. He asked if legal is \$3000 per month. That was confirmed. After questioning \$5300 under Planning Board miscellaneous, T.A. Collins indicated that she would have to check into that tomorrow. Selectman Johnson also wondered about the budget of \$10,000 for improvements under Government Buildings and Grounds. It was explained that that would depend on what needs to be done at Town Hall. Trim paint quote was approximately \$65,000 and still waiting on a roof leak quote response. Selectman Johnson noted that Parks & Rec was budgeted at \$9000 and \$5000 was spent. He feels that when there are leftover funds, somehow they get spent. T.A. Collins answered that those funds go to the undesignated fund balance to lower the tax rate. Frank explained that one of his line items (appeared) inflated when we had Snow & Sons fertilize the athletic fields and there may have been a missed treatment prior. Frank also noted re-decking a bridge. T.A. Collins explained that some department heads hold off on spending until after tax bills go out. A question on Insurance Recoveries was explained. There was a question on the Bridge Fund and whether that was a capital line item. T.A. Collins responded that it was grant money in a separate account. Frank mentioned that the Depot Street Bridge has a problem and he would like to know what funds are available. T.A. Collins suggested they get together and talk about that. Selectman Johnson questioned why the Fire Department salary line was up. T.A. Collins thought that it was due to EMT's that they have now. After noting that the overall budget is up, it was suggested it could be due to EMTs. Selectman Johnson also asked if Waste Collection was a contracted monthly number. The answer was yes. He asked about the Transfer Station Post Closure. T.A. Collins stated that that was a DES required number which included testing groundwater. Next, it was noted that \$5400 was left under Pool and asked if there was enough in there. T.A. Collins noted that Parks and Rec will be joining our next meeting and there is some question as to whether we can even open the pool this year due to requirements and possible issues right now. It might be the year to drain it and paint it. Selectman Johnson indicated that he would like to get monthly figures and feels that knowing the numbers monthly is huge and that department heads submitting (information) is an excellent idea. Selectman Kondrat thinks it will make the budget season easier.

T.A. Collins also had a letter from the Historical Society. The main roof on the Ebenezer Hinsdale House was completed in April of 2020 by Finnell Roofing. \$5000 was received from L-Chip funds.

T.A. Collins will look up in the Budget Books re: The Planning Board (Miscellaneous) question and see if it is for Complete Streets.

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Selectman Rideout noted a possible concern during the fall budget cycle if there will be cuts due to unknown financial aid numbers. Discussion followed.

Board Comments:

Selectman Carrier mentioned discussion on soft reopening. T.A. Collins mentioned attending a webinar this week on reopening.

Selectman Rideout noted that a request from Cal Ripken was sent to the Board and asked if everyone was agreeable. They can't play ball; however, they want to run skills clinics. T.A. Collins noted that she sent them the Guidelines. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to allow** Cal Ripken to have clinics and trainings, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. T.A. Collins added that this will take place at the Cal Ripken field and outskirts.

Selectman Rideout reiterated that Mike Darcy and HEDC have been back and forth with the landowner of the former racetrack property re: permission to pick up trash there. They want to know if the town will pick up trash bags once cleanup takes place and whether the town will supply bags. T.A. Collins will check on where the bags are and be in touch with Selectman Rideout tomorrow. Frank brought up a concern of lack of any waste cans at Walmart near the cart stands.

Chair Diorio expressed thanks to Tim Nichols, his crew, and volunteers for hanging banners honoring high school seniors. He noted that June 9th there is to be a parade through town at 7 honoring the graduating seniors. T.A. Collins noted that the Police Department should be contacted.

Citizen Comments:

Sean Leary noted that he did not have input on the Planning questions. He does not do the Planning Budget. Parks and Rec will meet in two weeks and Guidelines weren't finalized yet at last meeting. They will have a recommendation then. Graduation will be June 9th with a rain date of June 11th. School ended last Friday. Teachers will be there through the 19th, their regular contract and help work on a reopen plan.

7:17 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary