

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, Jul 13, 2020 remote meeting held at Millstream Community Center

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, Sarah Hudon, Sean Leary, James MacDonell, and Mike Mulligan (all in person). Rick Carrier and Frank Podlenski participated via Zoom.

6:00 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order at the Community Center and via Zoom for those who wish to participate that way.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 7/6/20 and 7/13/20 and public and non-public minutes of 6/29/20, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was a Manufactured Housing Park Renewal Application and Certificate for Paddock Park, owned by Alan L. Carpenter. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to have the Board sign and approve the renewal application and certificate, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was a 2020 2nd Quarter Abatement for sewer for Edwin Clough, 43 Old Stage Road in the amount of \$101.18. Discussion followed to include that there was a leak in the pool and it was refilled. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the sewer abatement for Clough, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

A 2nd quarter 2020 sewer abatement for the Highway Department was presented in the amount of \$28.84. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to approve** the abatement for the Highway Department, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

A PA-16 *Application for Reimbursement to Towns and Cities in Which Federal and State Forest Land is Located 2020* was presented and briefly discussed. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the PA-16, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

A form re: PA-28 *Inventory of Taxable Property for 2021* was presented, indicating that we will not be using the PA-28 Form in 2021. T.A. Collins indicated that we did away with the residential tax years ago. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the form re: PA-28, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins noted that there will be a Summer update from Sarah Hudon later. T.A. Collins gave Selectmen information packets. She noted that the Treasurer Report for May 2020 was accidentally handed out as June 2019 with financial information for May. There will be a BTLA discussion with legal later. Also included in the packet is a Draft Comprehensive Public Rights-of-Way Regulation. This governs public rights and what licenses we want in place.

Selectmen Meeting Dates have changed and were discussed. There will be meetings on the following dates: 7/20/20, 8/3/20, 8/17/20, 8/31/20, and 9/14/20 with weekly meetings to follow. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to accept those dates, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

The curbside pickup contract with Triple T Trucking was previously approved and needs to be signed. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to have the Chair sign the Triple T contract, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins read correspondence from Leola Ramsey regarding motorcycles at the North Hinsdale Church and firework displays in the evening. A proposed response from the Selectmen was prepared and she read it. Corrections are

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needed. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** for the Chair to sign the response letter, after corrections are made, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Later discussion will be on the BTLA decision.

T.A. Collins asked the Board to read the draft Comprehensive Public Rights-of-Way Regulations for discussion at next meeting.

T.A. Collins will have a non-public re: hiring. She also is working on closing out June and indicated she would have the figures Selectman Johnson had requested for the meeting on 7/20/20. She reminded everyone that next Tuesday is the Election Meeting. She updated all that the First Responder Stipends in the amount of \$27,314.29 have been paid and to be reimbursed. She did receive the first GOFERR payment, just over \$5900 for March and April.

Selectman Johnson clarified that it is now July and the books are closed. He asked if there would be any submissions for next year. T. A. Collins indicated no, unless the auditors need to make adjustments.

Mike Mulligan was present and asked Chief Rataj his name. Chief Rataj identified himself. Chair Diorio asked Mike to please state his concerns. He started with stating that we don't have the Police Department we deserve; it is underfunded and short on officers. He also stated there was very little about the Police Department that was public. He felt that the police department is under the control of politicians and you (the Board) do the oversights. He feels that in Hinsdale there is not much going on. Chair Diorio encouraged him to attend meetings, that the Chief has spoken at length at every meeting, that the force is increasing, and the community policing is now different from the past. Mr. Mulligan feels meetings and information could be on the internet. Chair Diorio noted that there are continual posts on Hinsdale Area News. Mr. Mulligan felt information should be on Town documents and there should be accountability with the Police Department, as part of democracy. Selectman Kondrat attempted to clarify that some information is in non-public due to non-disclosure of names. Mr. Mulligan felt that didn't hold anyone accountable and felt information is hidden. Selectman Kondrat noted that the new Chief has been very active in coming to every meeting and putting information on the page, giving rundowns of information including potential candidates for hire and budget information. Mr. Mulligan agreed he has heard rumors of positive stuff. Selectman Carrier clarified that it's not rumors, it is fact and suggested looking forward. Mr. Mulligan continued to speak of what he heard of past events. Chair Diorio pointed out that they don't deal with rumors. Mr. Mulligan asked for an update of crime trends and asked how many officers are on the force now. It was noted that we are budgeted for 10. Selectman Rideout indicated that we will have 10 or if not, excess funds would go back to the general fund to pay down on taxes if not spent. T.A. Collins noted that we also hired Chesterfield and State Police (for coverage) and had overtime. Selectman Rideout pointed out that non-publics are driven by RSA's, they are state mandated. T.A. Collins added that they are not open if involving personnel. Mr. Mulligan went on to say that he expected to talk to the Lt. and ride around with her. She was busy and he didn't hear back and would like an explanation. He felt the PD was disrespectful and overwhelmed. Mr. Mulligan felt that the Chief talks about updating rules of the PD. He wants to know how the public is going to be involved in the process. Chair Diorio thanked Mr. Mulligan. And noted that his time was up. Selectman Kondrat attempted to convey a thought and was interrupted by Mr. Mulligan. Selectman Rideout questioned whether we have a ride-a-long program. Chief Rataj responded that we can't do that right now, due to COVID-19. We do have a program with waivers. They were one officer short due to quarantine and can't risk a ride-a-long. Mr. Mulligan suggested that they don't have ten officers, he is going to burn out, and you're all driving them to a point of heavy turnover.

James MacDonell, Tax Collector, was present. He noted that the Governor lifted the ban on evictions and deeding and asked if the Board want to deed properties. Selectman Rideout asked how big the list was. James indicated 68 or 69.

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He will present an updated list next week. Chair Diorio suggested that it would be a good idea to look at the list. Selectman Rideout acknowledged that things are tough for a lot of people and more information would be helpful.

Mr. Mulligan interrupted stating he felt he received unfair treatment.

James MacDonell noted that there may need to be discussion in non-public next week for individuals.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson wondered if there has been any progress on the September meeting with the School Board.

Selectman Kondrat asked the Chief how many officers we have. Chief Rataj indicated that of 5 certified ones, one is uncertified but certified from VT; 3 more hired to attend the next academy; 2 in-process. This results in 10 to be fully hired in January. She asked how many when he started. He indicated 3, and including him would be 4. It was noted that we have made a lot of progress. We have cut back heavily on State Police. This is an 8-month process (4-month Academy and 4 FTO). Selectman Kondrat pointed out that we have made an extreme amount of progress but are not fully staffed. Progress is very promising with the new Chief. He's made a tremendous amount of work, himself with updating the public on what's going on, in just a short amount of time.

Selectman Rideout passed out an email to the Board from resident, Ken Howe. Concerns included a squatter across from his property: a camper there, continual garbage and household stuff being dumped. T.A. Collins did research re ownership. 160 pounds of rubbish and a lot of needles were found and removed by Town Highway employees. He would like to start a conversation and get signage up and taking care of the area. T.A. Collins indicated that some is owned by the State and some by the Town. Town and State owns the Parking Lot. Discussion followed and it was agreed to move forward with this conversation.

Chair Diorio would like to start discussing employee reviews. He would like pay sheet seen at prior meeting copied for each in their mailbox. T.A. Collins will email that to all (Classification Plan; Classes: low/med/high; and sheet they signed). He would like a follow up re: Selectmen Pay for Election Day. He would like to get that done and taken care of. T.A. Collins noted that the person will be at the Election Meeting and that's who they need to get answers from.

Citizen Comments:

Sean Leary plans to discuss the proposed joint meeting with the School Board on the next meeting on the 22nd. They will discuss the date and the subcommittee. He noted that the Planning Board had nothing on the Agenda and was canceled. The Parks and Rec Meeting will be canceled. Sarah is handling things. He did web updates for the Community Page and the Business Page on the town site and noted good consistency. He talked about two Community Links and possible confusion there. He would like to suggest pulling information into a more coherent page and move history info into the Community Page that he did and expand Community Events in more detail on Parks and Rec. He did what they allowed him to do and he would like to expand and display more information and clean up the other Community page. This would avoid having to click through many links. T.A. Collins noted that she is in charge and responsible for the site and would hate to have to make adjustments and not know what to do. She informed the Board that they were supposed to have Rick come in and he hasn't had a meeting with them. Discussion followed. Selectman Kondrat felt it is easier and more user-friendly. Sean understood T.A. Collins' concerns and thinks she will see where you can update one or two pages vs. six. He would like her to be comfortable and doesn't mind waiting. Selectman Kondrat reiterated that the goal is to make it easier and more user-friendly. T.A. Collins noted that he isn't an employee. Selectman

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Kondrat reminded all that he has experience in web design and we have to deal with it. Chair Diorio expressed appreciation to what Sean has done thus far and suggested getting together at Town Hall whenever possible by appointment. T.A. Collins agreed she can use Zoom and share screen to accomplish this.

Sean noticed that no Planning Board Minutes are posted for 2020. T.A. Collins stated that Kathryn should be doing that, she is the secretary, she's been shown and offered to show her again.

Sarah Hudon gave a camp update. She has hired full staff for camp: 9 are returning, 3 Pool staff, and 3 summer assistants. They had planned to open on July 6th but delayed for two weeks due to low sign-ups. 1st through 8th grade will go for four weeks now. They currently have 6 kids for full camp time and 8 for 3 of the 4 weeks. She gave an update on work done thus far including painting, updating handbook, last week's Camp in a Box (40 boxes), this week's Ocean theme (up to 57 boxes), updating the Pool House, draining the pool, pressure washing and painting to be done and snack bar cleaned and painted. Chair Diorio thanked you. She conveyed that they are good kids and good counselors and the amount of work done has been great. Selectman Johnson asked if Falvey has been there to look at the side area. Sarah responded that we are on their cancellation list and we probably won't see them until Fall.

Chief Rataj noted that he attended Town Meeting in March and at the first Select Board Meeting he laid out a plan. He noted that he is trying to spread out to radio for the community. He is in the beginning stages of planning. The new janitor has been working on weeds and brush. There have been homeless people and camping problems. The problem near Runnings at George's Field is gone. Fish and Game have gone out re: the issue at the point behind the Historical Society. They are working on drug concerns at the picnic area and rail trails and it's on their radar. As for the Police Department website, nothing has been done with it yet as all shared through PD Logs are massive in scope. His conclusion is to come up with another plan. Chief Rataj was thanked for coming in.

Mike Mulligan asked Chief Rataj if he was going to focus on the drug problem come Springtime. Chief indicated that he intended to and expects positive results by summer.

Public portion of the meeting ended.

7:12 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) hiring, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; Kondrat-I; and Johnson-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:25 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

There was discussion re: ability to record meetings, retention policies, and transparency vs. convenience, prior to start of non-public meeting.

The Board indicated that they hired Tom Woodbury to serve as Deputy Town Clerk.

Selectman Rideout noted that they are estimating a 581,000,000 shortfall in revenue in the State of New Hampshire and that trickles down to towns and cities.

7:28 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary