

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 31, 2020 meeting held at Millstream Community Center

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier (arriving at 6:17 p.m.), Selectman Megan Kondrat, and Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Jill Collins and Kim Worden. Chief Rataj, Krystal Gaffney, and Mike Darcy were also present.

6:00 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order at the Community Center. He noted that the Trail Presentation would be rescheduled. He noted that September 8th is Elections and they would be figuring out a schedule and elections would be very different this year. He also noted that Selectman Carrier would be arriving later. Mike Darcy left at this point, as he was in attendance for the scheduled presentation.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 8/24/20 and 8/31/20 and public and non-public minutes of 8/17/20, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was an Abatement of 2019 3rd and 4th quarter sprinkler system charge for 571 Realty Trust LLC and a 2020 1st and 2nd quarter sprinkler system charge for 571 Realty Trust LLC. Discussion followed. It was noted that their sprinkler system water comes from a pond, rather than from the town water system. Following discussion, questions, and clarifications, Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to approve the abatements, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Kondrat-I; and Johnson-I; Motion passes unanimously.

Next, a letter from George Wright was handed to the Board for review. It was noted that the property was purchased in September 2019 and water was turned on 3/26/20 at the request of Mr. Wright, with a new meter installed then too. At that time, there was an unbilled usage amount as well as a credit amount re: the previous owner. Mr. Wright was requesting that the first quarter 2020 meter charges (\$34.08 and 82.33) be prorated since he didn't request water be turned on until close to the end of the quarter. After further discussion, Selectman Kondrat made a motion to meet halfway on the meter charges, for a reduction of \$58.00. There was no second. Motion failed. This was tabled and there was no decision.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins indicated that she did not run financial reports as she has been busy with audits.

Election scheduling was discussed for next Tuesday: Selectman Rideout will work 3 to close; Selectman Kondrat 9 to 3 and to count; Selectman Carrier 3 to close; Selectman Johnson to count; and Chair Diorio will be available most of the entire day. There was discussion of decisions to be made in advance of voting regarding masks, possibly making an alternate area available, and entrances and exits. T.A. Collins offered the availability of the Community Room at Town Hall for lunch and the possibility of issuing a key to be passed along. Supervisors of the Checklist will be here tomorrow night to work on decisions.

Town of Hinsdale Meetings of the Board of Selectmen Procedures and Guidelines were distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting. There was discussion on the topic of responding to questions, for example from a reporter. It was mentioned that it was most likely in the Personnel Policy and should be included in the *Procedures and Guidelines*. It was suggested that inquiries should be directed to the Chairman for a response. It was clarified that members could speak on a personal basis, but not acting as a board member. Wording will be added to *Procedures and Guidelines*.

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Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to reaffirm with that change, regarding newspaper/media contact, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Johnson requested that T.A. Collins please run the financials for July and send them. She indicated that she will do that.

Next mentioned were two different Performance Evaluation forms given to the Board. T.A. Collins noted that there was an older one and one that was adopted last year. The Board should choose which one they would like to use. Chair Diorio would like to compare with the form(s) he has at home.

T.A. Collins handed out to Board Members *Hinsdale Parks and Recreation Program Director's Recommendation for Fall Sports (soccer 2020)* indicating these were guidelines of changes adopted. There will be more skill setting and they might have scrimmages against each other. They are trying to keep safe and it was recommended to give this to Selectmen for approval. Selectman Rideout asked Chief Rataj if there were any youth confirmed (Covid) cases in Town. Chief Rataj responded that there were not.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to go ahead with the soccer program as recommended for the 2020 guidelines, second by Carrier. It was discussed that Sarah had done a good job presenting this and Sam Kilelee had input too. Chair Diorio asked T.A. Collins if she would be working with Sarah and Brett on this soccer program. T.A. Collins responded that she will be working with Sarah and Brett on this. Motion passes unanimously.

Board Comments:

Selectman Rideout noted that the recent Rec Committee meeting was very good and informative.

Selectman Kondrat indicated that she was on board with Krystal Gaffney and the ATV Club. She thinks it is good for the Town, there was a great turnout for the recent meeting, and she expects to help get it up and going, personally.

Selectman Carrier attended the Library Trustees Meeting and it went well.

Chair Diorio attended the recent Budget Committee Meeting, they reviewed numbers and have another meeting tentatively scheduled for this Wednesday (to be confirmed). The architect, Chief, and Assistant Chief are scheduled to be at the Fire Department Building Committee Meeting this Thursday.

T.A. Collins suggested that since we are opening for meetings, we should have a protocol of keeping distances of 6 feet apart, wearing masks coming in, wearing masks exiting, when walking by someone and moving around. She asked if anyone had any thoughts on that for discussion. Chair Diorio noted that since we are on this topic, he has received some calls and suggested a soft opening with at least this building (Community Center) and allowing families to come in. He suggested considering that, as the building just sits empty now. Selectman Kondrat suggested for the next Agenda going over the possibilities for this building. She feels it is safe to allow small groups. T.A. Collins is concerned with the Meals Program taking place here and she is afraid it would deter that and she agreed we should start talking about it. Selectman Kondrat suggested we could consider keeping the kitchen closed. T.A. Collins reminded the Board that the 14th was originally discussed to work on her review; we could schedule some things for that evening but she is away and would like to be in on that (soft opening) discussion.

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Citizen Comments:

Krystal Gaffney was present and identified herself as President of a new ATV club that is being started. She indicated that once the Community Center is reopened, she would like to approach the group to have their monthly meetings here at the Community Center as they don't have their own meeting space. Chair Diorio noted that that wouldn't be figured out for a few weeks. Krystal noted that over 60 people attended Friday's outdoor meeting and 90% were residents in favor of starting a club. She expects, with officers and board members, about 15 people would attend meetings. Selectman Rideout noted the need for some policing as he thinks some landowners are upset and asked how that would be happening. She agreed. She felt members expect to be out there to be advocates and they intend to have signs posted. Selectman Rideout asked who is going to enforce and cited a recent incident at Historical Society property. Krystal noted that the rail trail there is only for snowmobile use. The group intends to have bright orange vests to wear and be visible for trail work. They are on the lookout and educating people. Concerns were discussed. Selectman Rideout asked why some are flocking here and she indicated they stay at the campground. Fish and Game have been involved in a limited capacity. Chief Rataj noted that the campground is doing only seasonal now and paying an officer on weekends. They have had a management change and are trying. Krystal added that once word gets out, a member can be called and they will plan to address issues. She noted there is a lot of paperwork to become a legal club. Chair Diorio asked how they would prove they were a member of the club. She responded that they would have a sticker or emblem decal for identification purposes. Selectman Kondrat added that having a club would be beneficial to help educate, act as role models, have a point of contact, and have marked trails. Chair Diorio acknowledged and appreciated the information and suggested that if Krystal has more information, she should get on the Agenda. Krystal thanked the Board.

It was clarified that further discussion on opening the Community Center would take place on September 21st (the same evening as the joint meeting with the School Board).

Chief Rataj gave an update on training and staffing. He also has a non-public. He is sending two officers to Field Officer Training in Massachusetts as NH is not providing any right now. He noted that very little vacation time has been utilized to date. He also noted that there is one new COVID case. He has tried to be in contact, however has had no response. He is working on reviews. Selectman Rideout questioned where we are with vehicles. Chief Rataj responded that this hire will give him nine officers and one pending retirement. He will turn off the recruiting project allowing for money to replace vehicle. One cruiser is in rough shape and needs \$1500 for a water pump. He has two operating vehicles, plus the unmarked leaving 3 without any repairs. The new one is projected for October but he expects it will be November or December. Selectman Johnson asked if there were any thoughts of changing the look (of the new cruiser). Chief Rataj indicated yes, he would be changing the image. Selectman Rideout felt with having 9 officers they should be able to get another car and there should be funds available. Chair Diorio wanted to make sure with staff vacations that Chief Rataj was able to take his and Chief Rataj noted his expected downtime.

Public portion of the meeting ended.

7:13 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) hiring, with Chief Rataj, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; Kondrat-I; and Johnson-I; Motion passes unanimously.

7:18 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

Selectman Kondrat asked Chief Rataj if there was any checking in and making sure of quarantining of Covid-19 cases. Chief indicated there was not. There is very limited information given; they can't maintain a list; they can't write anything down; they *may* be given a name and street only; and have to find ways to attempt to reach out and check in.

Chair Diorio reminded the Board to sign all approved documents.

7:22 p.m. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary