

*Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*

Monday, October 5, 2020 meeting held at Hinsdale Police Department Training Room, and via Zoom

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat, Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Collins and Kim Worden. Chief Rataj and Officer Devin Prince (for appointment and oath) and James MacDonell also attended. Members of NH DOT and Kathryn Lynch participated via Zoom at 6:30.

6:00 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order at the Police Department Training Room.

Chief Rataj introduced new Officer Devin Prince. Chair Diorio read the Appointment and took the oath of Officer Prince. The Board congratulated and welcomed him before he left the meeting.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to sign and approve** the manifests of October 5, 2020 and public and non-public minutes of September 28, 2020, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-I; Rideout-abstained; Carrier-I; Kondrat-I and Johnson-I; Motion passes.

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*New Business:*

A 2020 Tax Abatement in the amount of \$60.47 for David Ouimette, Jr. for an RV formerly located at 36 Gunner was presented. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to sign and approve** the Tax Abatement re: Ouimette, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Collins mentioned that she had a Wage/Salary document to be signed at the end of the meeting and it was clarified that this would be retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>. There is also a General Election Warrant to be signed but the location will not be known until after the School Board meets on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This needs to be posted by the 19<sup>th</sup>. She suggested that Selectmen should accept it and come in to sign once the location is known. T.A. Collins went on to say that utilities are up nearly 8 million in assessments and Kathryn Lynch will be working on the MS-1 to get to the DRA. T.A. Collins has the MS-535 by the Auditors, however it is not finished so she can't get it signed. There is 1,070,000 (less the usual amount retained) in unassigned fund balance to go toward the tax rate. Selectman Rideout asked if the increase in utilities is open to legislation. T.A. Collins responded no. She offered that she can figure out the rates once she receives the MS-1 from Kathryn.

T.A. Collins noted that budgets are to be entered this week and hopefully books will be ready next week some time. She is still waiting for a couple budgets. She will be adjusting all of them once health and dental rates are received and noted there will be an increase in the Town's contribution for retirement. Discussion followed.

Chair Diorio mentioned comparing notes briefly with T.A. Collins to ensure that each staff member discussed received the agreed-upon amount. T.A. Collins responded that she had completed a spreadsheet during those discussions and had captured all the information.

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*Board Comments:*

Selectman Carrier indicated there was to be a Conservation Committee Meeting and it looks like, after reaching out, that the meeting may not take place.

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Chair Diorio suggested that the Review prepared for T.A. Collins will take place in non-public at the next meeting.

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Chief Rataj updated the Board. He has had some sign complaints on Chesterfield Road and Meetinghouse Road and he plans to discuss these with Frank.

Chief Rataj stated that there are eight on staff now: Five working now, one at orientation, and two training.

Flag update: He informed the Board that the prior complainants re: the thin blue line flag, are now not responding to correspondence. Chief Rataj has contributions and figures the cost will be around \$4300 without contributions. George Newman has offered to donate concrete, Rick Lord offered to donate a 4' x 6' American Flag, and Smokey Smith will donate the former Racetrack flag pole. Chief Rataj's plan is to raise and lower the flag each day. There is also a campaign to sell t-shirts. Selectman Carrier asked what the t-shirts would look like. Chief Rataj responded with his ideas.

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Members of NH DOT participated via Zoom and Kathryn Lynch, Community Development Coordinator listened via Zoom. Members were: Trent Zanes, Project Development Lead Highway Engineer; Adam Smith, Bureau of Right-of-Way Assistant Administrator, and Dena Rae, Bureau of Right-of-Way Chief Agent. T.A. Collins handed out the Hinsdale-Brattleboro 12210C Boat Launch Improvements June 18, 2020 flyer from NH DOT. This included Project Overview, Existing Boat Launch Photos: Island Street Boat Launch and Prospect Street Boat Launch. It also included Proposed Improvements to Prospect Street Boat Launch: Access and Maintenance, and ROW Acquisition with photo and proposed schedule.

After introductions, Trent noted that they were present to talk about boat launch improvements on Prospect Street. He pointed out that the existing boat launch on the island will no longer be vehicle accessible once the proposed new bridge is in place. He described and showed the proposed improvements to the Prospect Street Boat Launch, mentioning its horseshoe shape, nine vehicle and trailer spots, crushed stone path, and connection to existing parking lot. He noted that Fish & Game strongly recommend placement of a portable toilet and that we may wish to consider trash receptacles.

Next discussed was Right-of-Way Acquisition in possibly changing the right-of-way line (still to be town land). Once the line is adjusted, there is right of entry authorization, by donation or by calculating an impact fee and compensation. Temporary construction would take place (about 48 months) permitting the state to come onto the property to build the boat launch. Adam suggested looking at RSA 231:6 (Highways to Public Waters). Adam noted that they would need support of the Town. Chair Diorio noted and it was confirmed that the right-of-way may be complicated but the Town owns the land. Following Dena's question, it was noted that Town Administrator Jill Collins and Community Development Coordinator Kathryn Lynch would be points of contact. In discussion, Dena noted that it would be cleaner if the Town changes the Right-of-Way line and hearing that we want to be compensated is perfectly okay. They roughly estimated an amount of around \$800 for compensation on a temporary construction easement.

T.A. Collins asked and it was clarified that the Town owns the land, and would maintain ownership and maintenance. Moving the right-of-way line allows access to public waters and is open to everyone. It was clarified that this will remain a Class V road. Following a question from Chief Rataj, it was clarified that the Town is responsible for enforcement. Maintenance was discussed. Right now, we maintain only the upper parking lot in winter. It was discussed that the horseshoe shape area could be plowed or groomed but there are no plans to do that.

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It was discussed that Jill will draft a follow up letter of position or support; the Board will review it by email; and each member will stop in to sign.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for T.A. Collins to draft a letter of support for the boat landing project to be sent for review by the Board prior to signature, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

7:01 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden  
Secretary