

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 7, 2020 meeting held at SAU joined by Budget Committee in SPED Room

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat, Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Collins and Kim Worden.

Budget Committee was present in SPED Room and via Zoom. Budget Committee Members attending in-person were: Dennis Nadeau, Karen Johnson, Mike Bomba, Edwin Smith, Lisa Prince, Ken Howe. Rick Carrier also attended. Lindsay Blake-Budget Committee, Holly Kennedy-Budget Committee, Pete Zavorotny-Budget Committee, Jack White-Water Superintendent and James MacDonell, Sean Leary, Kathryn Lynch and other Rec Committee members all attended via Zoom. Sarah Hudon, Fire Chief Zavorotny, Mark Curtiss, and Troy Benedict in person.

6:00 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order.

Budget Committee was called to order and roll calls were taken.

Chair Diorio went over guidelines re: The Emergency Order in place.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 12/7/20 and public minutes of 11/30/20, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-I; Rideout-I; Carrier-I; Johnson-I; and Kondrat-I; Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

Permit Applications for Retail Sales of Permissible Fireworks for Fantasy Fireworks Inc., (571 Realty Trust LLC) (Business Location: 727 Brattleboro Road, Hinsdale) and for Retail Sales of Permissible Fireworks for American Promotional Events-TNT Fireworks (Business Location: 963 Brattleboro Road, Hinsdale) were presented. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve both Permit Applications** re: Fantasy Fireworks and TNT Fireworks, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

A 2020 2nd and 3rd Quarter Sewer Abatement for *In Good We Trust* in the amount of \$748.33 for outside watering was presented, noting that they have an outside meter. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Sewer Abatement for *In Good We Trust*, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

A Cemetery Deed to Chelsea Nadeau, Section I Lot 26, Pine Grove Cemetery was presented. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** the Cemetery Deed to Chelsea Nadeau, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Jack White, **Water** Superintendent, was present via Zoom for questions and discussion. Chair Diorio noted that the overall budget was down 44,000 from last year's budget. Discussion followed. Jack noted that Supplies/Lines Equipment should have stayed at 40,000. Four figures needed to be moved down one line to correct (leaving math the same). Jack added that he was hoping to add a 2.5% increase into the On-Call pay from \$708 per year, per person, to \$726 per year per person, which is a total increase of \$54.00 for the year.

Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve the Water Department Budget at \$516,310**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

There was a question from Pete Zavorotny on whether there will be an increase in Water and Sewer rates. T.A. Collins has not yet run spreadsheets. Jack updated on the well refurbishment status.

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Chief Terry Zavorotny, along with Troy Benedict and Mark Curtiss attended for Fire Department questions and discussion. Other members attended via Zoom.

Chair Diorio noted that the budget was up slightly due to salary and salary expense. It was pointed out that Vehicle Allowance was only 900 and it should be 2900. Discussion followed and it was also noted that they would like to add a couple more positions and administrative help. The radio repair/replacement line is mainly for replacing breaks, pagers and batteries. They are hoping to replace 15-year-old radios by a Warrant Article and hoping for grant assistance. It was estimated to be \$2000 to \$3000 a piece - - about \$30,000 for half replacement.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion to tentatively approve the Fire Department Budget at 252,166**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Committee discussion included concerns of low pay and finding out where other towns are paying their Fire Department. Lack of breakdown was questioned on salary and hourly rates. It was also asked whether we want to go two years without giving them a raise. Chair Diorio stated that he hears that both boards are in agreement on that subject and asked the Chief if there was room to make an adjustment. There was suggestion by Budget Chair Nadeau that there may be some money there that may or may not be spent. T.A. Collins noted that Selectmen are looking at that again and has info re: that for them to look at. Selectman Kondrat noted that having been on both Select Board and Budget Committee, there has never been so much push, and indicated that the Board is going to look into it; and others can recommend and make suggestions. She added that she feels the need to look into figures and statistics and give it some thought before just throwing out a figure tonight. Chair Diorio noted the two different numbers between the boards. Revisiting this and allowing more time to think about it by the Select Board was agreed upon.

Sarah Hudon was present to first discuss the **Summer Program**. She indicated that salary should be lowered to \$53,543. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to tentatively approve** the Summer Program at 67,394, second by Rideout. Sarah noted that last season was out of the ordinary. The camp building and picnic tables were redone, Camp-in-a-Box distributed, etc. It was hard to budget as they did not see camp as it was traditionally run. Discussion followed on the number of counselors I and II. Selectman Kondrat asked about the Special Events mentioning that she would like to see them more educational right now. She suggested keeping Spofford, Mad Science and Planetarium. Chair Diorio's suggestion would be to keep one destination trip like the Science Center. A vote was taken and all opposed to the prior motion. **Motion failed**. A new motion was presented: Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve the Summer Program Budget at \$66,074**, second by Carrier. This eliminated two of the proposed trips to Bounce Springfield and Berkshire East. A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Pool was discussed with Sarah. There was a slight increase. Sarah noted that all lifeguards need to get recertified and CPR trained this year. Selectman Kondrat would like to see tracking on what is spent for the snack bar and what we are bringing in to offset the numbers. Discussion followed. Sarah indicated that there is still information being gathered on the kiddie pool options, however it looks like the cost may be in the area of \$40,000. Due to scheduling and deadlines, she noted that the pool was painted by employees this Summer and the only cost was \$1500 for paint.

Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve the Municipal Pool Budget at 41,417**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

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Community Events: Sarah noted the lower amount due to decrease in hours for the Seasonal Sports Director and gave an explanation. She also noted that basketball has been tabled for the moment due to current circumstances. She was thanked for looking at lowering her figures. Sarah noted her goal was to support but also look at reducing. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Community Events Budget at 18,550**, seconded by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio noted the **Community Center** Budget is down in salaries and costs associated to salaries and a little in office supplies and equipment purchases. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to tentatively approve the Community Center Budget at \$62,196**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Revaluation of Property was looked at. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to tentatively approve Revaluation of Property Budget at \$49,400**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Legal Expense stayed the same. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to tentatively approve Legal Expenses Budget at \$53,000**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Cemeteries increased slightly. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Cemeteries at \$19,978**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Ambulance increase was over \$2000. Discussion followed to include this was due to the contract with Rescue and payment to Mutual Aid. There was discussion following comment from a Budget Committee member on the importance of a having a representative from town on the Rescue Board. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Ambulance Budget at \$146,438**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Insurance Budget was down. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Insurance Budget at \$38,500**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Building Inspection was looked at and the figure for This Year Actual under Worker's Comp was questioned. The figure was determined to be an error. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Building Inspection budget at \$49,591**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Street Lighting was down \$3000. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to tentatively approve Street Lighting Budget at \$25,000**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Transit Service was at \$15,500. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Transit Service at \$15,500**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion to tentatively approve Health Officer Budget at \$1158**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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Selectman Rideout **made a motion to tentatively approve Patriotic Purposes Budget at \$1750**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Welfare Budget was looked at. Selectman Kondrat asked if there would be any salary change. T.A. Collins responded that it would stay the same. Discussion followed. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Welfare at \$49,214**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Conservation remained the same as last year. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to tentatively approve Conservation Budget at \$700**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio thanked the Budget Committee. Next meeting for Budget Committee and Select Board was discussed to tentatively take place on Wednesday, December 16th at 6:00, place to be determined.

[8:17 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned]

Board Comments:

Selectman Rideout noted that Selectman Carrier stepped in for him at last week's Rec Committee Meeting. They went over the budget and there will be no indoor Basketball right now. They may have Spring skillsets.

Chair Diorio noted the second public forum held last week on the Existing Bridges where slides, ideas, and designs were presented showing possibilities for the area. Approximately 45 people attended via Zoom. He would like to see more input from Hinsdale residents as 75% of the voters were from Brattleboro. Discussion followed.

Chair Diorio mentioned that with COVID cases increasing, he wanted to make sure Employees, Board Members, Volunteers, and Citizens arrange with Kim at Town Hall to obtain PPE supplies if needed, in order to stay safe.

Chair Diorio asked T.A. Collins the status of advertising the Welfare Position. T.A. Collins had someone in mind but they declined. She will be advertising soon. Selectman Kondrat asked the number of hours for this position. T.A. Collins would like it to be 15 but discussed the possibility of 20.

Chair Diorio brought up Town Meeting and the fact that March will be here before we know it; there is no crystal ball and thoughts need to be discussed including the possibility of postponing. This will need to be coordinated with the School District Meeting. T.A. Collins added that legal guidelines will be coming out on that subject.

Citizen Comments:

Lisa Prince had a question re: Existing Bridges voting. She asked if anyone joining via Zoom could participate in the voting and it was confirmed that right now, they can. T.A. Collins added that the State wants the Town to take over that area. Discussion followed that a vote would have to come before the Town. T.A. Collins added that if the State builds a walkway, the Town has to maintain it.

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Lisa also commented that she had noticed in the Minutes, and was disappointed to see, that the Town Clerk came before the Board again. She thought that was a done deal.

James MacDonell asked the Board if they signed the deed for property on Hancock Street for the Closing on Thursday. T.A. Collins indicated she has not had time. Discussion followed to include that three signatures would be needed. Chair Diorio, Selectman Rideout and Selectman Carrier volunteered to stop in and sign.

T.A. Collins had a Temporary Construction Easement and other matters to discuss but can do these next week as cleaners were coming into the building in a matter of minutes.

8:29 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary