

*Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*

Monday, January 4, 2021 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall Auditorium

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat, Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Collins and Kim Worden. Police Chief Rataj and James MacDonell attended in person. There were no attendees via Zoom tonight.

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

Chair Diorio informed the Board that he had a prior discussion with Sean Leary a few weeks ago re: Town Meeting. They thought it would be a good idea to try to get a meeting together in the immediate future with both Board Chairmen, the two Moderators, two Clerks to gather information and present to the Board to figure out if they should postpone or find a way to social distance. Discussion followed. T.A. Collins noted that she sent information out to the Board re: the possibility of curbside with ballot drop off with advance Public Hearings. There might be another option. They have to have the election on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> and the business part is the only thing that could change - - they can't change the voting, but can change the business meeting. Vaccine availability was mentioned and appointment rosters are currently being done for fire and police.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 12/28/20 and 1/4/2021; and non-public minutes of 12/14/20, and public minutes of 12/16/20, and public and non-public minutes of 12/21/20, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

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Selectman Kondrat made a motion to unseal Non-Public Minutes (1) dated 12/14/20, second by Carrier. T.A. Collins would like to get permission from others due to this being a personnel matter. Discussion followed. T.A. Collins plans to have the Town Attorney talk re: right-to-know and social media during a non-meeting, possibly next week, and suggests putting this off until they can ask the Town Attorney before taking action. A vote was taken and the vote was as follows: Rideout-No; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Diorio abstained. Motion passed.

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*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Collins noted to the Board that she had sent them November Financials and will be ready to send December's once she receives the Treasurer's Report. She also sent the draft of the Financial Coordinator position and noted that Department Heads are going over all their job descriptions. Additionally, she has sent out the Social Media Policy to the Board. She has a call in to Mike Vignale re: the roof snow fence.

Selectman Johnson suggested that the Board sit down and look at the December Financials (once received), thinking it would be a good idea after four months in, almost half point.

T.A. Collins noted that over \$205,000 for Rooms and Meals was received and won't be reflected until January financials are out.

James MacDonell, Tax Collector, mentioned that today's deposit of 1.25M is the last of December's deposit. Once that clears, the Treasurer will be able to finalize the December revenue numbers.

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*Board Comments:*

Selectman Rideout had a question on the Finance position description where he didn't see anything for handling the Town's website. T.A. Collins pointed out that it is there as well as the dropped wording "perform other duties as required" was put back in.

Selectman Carrier has a Conservation Commission meeting on Wednesday to discuss re-licensing of Fisk Hydro Dam. T.A. Collins added that the Committee looks at this and makes comments as part of the licensing process.

Chair Diorio brought up the joint School Board and Budget Committee to take place this Wednesday at the SAU in adjoining rooms and also via Zoom. This will be the first joint meeting to look at those budgets.

*Citizen Comments:*

Chief Rataj discussed portable radio issues they are having due to lack of manufacturing or inability to obtain parts. Officers are sharing one or two and this will be a problem as we add officers. He has \$2000 in the radio budget and gave a ballpark guess of \$1000 to \$2000 per radio. His game plan is to buy one or two at yearend, each year, to eventually catch up.

Chief noted disturbing trends in COVID numbers with 10 last week, 14 as of yesterday, and 3 more today making a new potential high of 17. He added that 17 is relatively low for 4000 people. He finds it more concerning that initially it was rare for more than 1 in a household to test positive and now that's changing. Half of the cases have multiple positive cases in the same house and he has no data to explain that. Chair Diorio thanked him for a good job on informing everyone. Chief added that the numbers are climbing and mentioned unconfirmed rumors re: Walmart cases and controversy over which store the cases are in. He felt that communication at local store level is great, however not at the corporate level. He wishes corporate would be a little more transparent.

Chief Rataj said the new cruiser is on its way. It is now estimated that it will be received in about 8 weeks and they will try to get it outfitted in the following three or four weeks. T.A. Collins and Chief Rataj discussed and clarified the deposit and financial questions on this. It was suggested and Chief Rataj will look into the possibility of checking out local businesses to outfit and decal the cruiser. T.A. Collins added that we do have the brush truck now and it is at the PD.

James MacDonell mentioned that he had been in the office a couple of weeks ago, where he had the network to himself and it was painfully slow. He got a good deal on a Gigabit switch and would like to give it to the Town to update speed to desktop. This would speed up interaction, especially with BMSI. Discussion followed and Chair Diorio noted that this was very thoughtful. Chair Diorio asked whether the speed would be noticeable to all and it was noted the Selectmen's office may remain slow, however others should notice speed. T.A. Collins will call to get us connected. Selectman Carrier suggested acknowledgement of this gift on the website and after discussion with James, it was agreed notation in the minutes was sufficient. He added that we appreciate the gift.

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Chair Diorio announced that they would be going into a non-public re: personnel. Chief Rataj and James MacDonell left the meeting.

6:34 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to enter into non-public** under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) personnel, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Kondrat-aye; and Johnson-aye; Motion passes unanimously. T.A. Collins and Kim Worden were excused and left the meeting.

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7:18 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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

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7:19 p.m. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden  
Secretary