

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 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 Sean Leary attended in person. There was one attendee, Dena Rae from State of New Hampshire, via Zoom tonight only for the Public Hearing portion.

6:11 p.m. Chairman Diorio called the meeting to order. The time was delayed due to technical difficulties with Zoom.

Public Hearing

6:11 p.m. The Public Hearing began re: the following:

Chair Diorio read the Notice of Public Hearing on Petition for Highway Layout on Town Owned Property Off Of Prospect Street To Provide Public Road Access to Public Waters Via Connecticut River Boat Ramp, As Authorized by RSA 231:6. He read the notice, including: The Petition requests that a Class V public road be laid out by the Selectmen across land owned by the Town off of Prospect Street, also known as Town Tax Map 0015, Lot 0001, for the purpose of providing public roadway access to a Connecticut River boat ramp and related parking. A copy of proposed highway layout plan can be viewed at the Town's website.

T.A. Collins handed out the Notice and Petition with plan copy. She noted that they are in the process of getting funding through federal dollars on this and the requirement is to turn the "U" in the drawing of plan to a Class V Road for public access. There will be a ramp over rails for trails to river and the land is owned by the Town of Hinsdale.

Dena Rae, NH DOT Bureau of Right-of-Way Chief Agent, was available via Zoom for discussion. Sean Leary spoke in favor of it, adding he thought it was a great idea and follows the rules on the Master Plan.

6:16 p.m. Public portion closed.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the layout, second by Kondrat. Chair Diorio added that there has been a need and this will make the area between the two bridges obsolete, he was in favor of that. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

Public Hearing concluded at 6:17 p.m.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 1/19/21 and 1/25/2021; and public minutes of 1/18/21, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

First presented were 4th Quarter 2020 Water and Sewer Commitments: Water Commitment in the amount of \$112,286.77 and Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$91,173.37. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to accept** the 4th quarter 2020 Water Commitment in the amount of \$112,286.77 and the 4th quarter 2020 Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$91,173.37, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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Next presented was a Cemetery Deed to William or Jill Collins, Lot 26 SW Section I in Pine Grove Cemetery. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve the Cemetery Deed** for Collins, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins handed out draft Warrant Articles and a handout of different scenarios for police cruisers, indicating that she talked to a leasing company. She also had a ballpark on the tax impact. She described the different scenarios and mentioned that she had found a leasing company that specializes in municipal leases. Scenarios given were:

Scenario #1 – Purchase one and lease another, Funds to be raised \$61,375 - \$43,795 (fund balance) = \$17,590, Tax Rate Impact: \$.05 per \$1,000

Scenario #2 – Purchase both vehicles, Funds to be raised \$87,590, Tax Rate Impact: .25 per \$1,000

Scenario #3 – Lease both vehicles, Funds to be raised \$34,960 with Tax Rate Impact .10 per \$1,000

Scenario #4 – Lease both vehicles fully loaded, Funds to be raised \$23,675.00 and Tax Rate Impact \$.07 per 1,000

(After discussion, Funds to be raised was clarified to be about \$23,950.00 with payments over the next 4 years with interest of about 3.78) Chief Rataj supports this scenario.

T.A. Collins spoke of money available for School Street Project through a TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) Grant. She has a Letter of Intent that needs to be signed. This relates to Article 9 on the draft Warrant Articles. She indicated there was the opportunity to get 80% of funding. Discussion followed and she added there would be medians to slow traffic, crosswalks with beacons, no parking on School Street which would be better for pedestrians and bikers. If we don't get the funding, this will be null and void. Following questions from Selectman Johnson, T.A. Collins noted the late application process this year was due to COVID and if funded, we would start implementing this next July. Selectman Johnson noted that \$50,000 went into a capital reserve fund but we still need to come up with \$150,000 and personally, he is not in favor as he doesn't think the time is right. T.A. Collins didn't feel this could go for another two years and the way they did this, they won't know until summer if they receive the funding or not. Alternatives were discussed, including bonding this. There would be a public hearing, then go before Town Meeting for discussion, a vote (2/3 majority vote to pass). It was discussed that a bond would be more desirable. T.A. Collins figured the amortization on a 10-year bond.

Draft Warrant Articles were reviewed:

Article 6 re: raising and appropriating \$4,631,776.00 for the general operating expenses of the Town. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to accept Article 6**, as printed, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Article 7 re: raising and appropriating \$540,810.00 for operations of the Water Department: Selectman Carrier **made a motion to accept Article 7** as printed, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Article 8 re: raising and appropriating \$412,675.00 for the operation of the Sewer Treatment Plant. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to accept Article 8**, as printed, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Article 9 re: raising and appropriating the sum of 992,800 for the purpose of reconstructing School Street (if TAP grant received). Changes discussed earlier re bonding an amount of \$148,560.00 in this article. Selectman Kondrat **made a**

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motion to accept Article 9 with discussed changes re: bonding \$148,560.00, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Article 10 re: raising and appropriating the sum of \$100,000.00 to be added to the Fire Station Building Fund previously established for the purpose of building of a new fire station, or act in any manner thereon was discussed. Selectman Johnson conveyed his thoughts on the way we fund projects in town. He doesn't feel it is fair to take money out of taxpayers' pockets to sit in a piggybank. He feels it should be decided what they want, the amount, and how it will be spent. Chair Diorio noted lost possibilities lately. Selectman Johnson added that a package should be put together, sell it to the people, and bond it, when you have a plan. T.A. Collins responded to a question on the amount in the Fire Station Building Fund as being \$251,000.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion to delete Article 10**, second by Kondrat. He noted he was not opposed to the project; he sees no reason to hit the taxpayers now. The vote is as follows: Diorio-no; Rideout-no; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion carries.

Former Article 11 (now renumbered to Article 10): to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,000 for the purpose of purchasing and updating radios to be used by the Fire Department. Following discussion, Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve new Article 10**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Former Article 12 (now renumbered to Article 11) re: 2 Dodge Durango Utility Police Vehicles. Following discussion on the scenarios earlier, Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to accept new Article 11, to read as Scenario 4 reads re: cruisers**, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Former Article 13 re: to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Fire Apparatus Fund for the purpose of purchasing fire vehicles to be used by the Fire Department. Discussion followed. Selectman Johnson reiterated that he doesn't think this is the way to fund big purchases, when it is figured out, we bond it or apply for grants. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to delete** the former Article 13 re: adding \$25,000 to the Fire Apparatus Fund, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-No; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes.

Former Article 15, now renumbered to Article 12 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to open an expendable trust for the purpose of accumulating match funds for a rail trail project in which grant funds will be applied for. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve new Article 12**, (rail trail project), second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Former Article 16, now renumbered to Article 13 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Town Hall Improvement Fund. Discussion followed. Selectman Johnson suggested it be amended to raise and appropriate but delete the wording "This sum is to come from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2021". There was discussion of the possibility and importance of adding in language for a snow guard. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for new Article 13, deleting language "This sum is to come from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2021"**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Former Article 17, now renumbered to Article 14 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Community Center Building Improvement Fund. The same language was to be removed. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for new Article 14, deleting language "This sum is to come from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2021"**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

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Former Article 18, now renumbered to Article 15 re: raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to support the Hinsdale Historical Society. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to accept new Article 15 re: Hinsdale Historical Society**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Former Article 19, now renumbered to 16 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,625.00 for the purposed of upgrading the driveway in Pine Grove Cemetery. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to accept new Article 16 re: upgrading the driveway in Pine Grove Cemetery**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Former Article 20, now renumbered to Article 17, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,400 for the purpose of purchasing a commercial lawn mower, to be used by the Cemetery Department. Following discussion on quotes and comparisons, Selectman Johnson **made a motion to change Article 20 to new Article 17 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 for the purpose of purchasing a commercial lawn mower**, second by Carrier. This amount was increased and discussed that when further details are obtained, a decision can be made as to where we will purchase this. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-abstained; Motion passes.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve Article 17 as amended**, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-abstained; Motion passes.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion for the Chair to sign the School Street letter**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson asked what we were doing about Town Meeting. Discussion followed on discussion with the Moderator and his position on the matter and re: Emergency Order #83. It could be allowed to move up until June 30th, keeping the March 9th date, as long as there are 14 days notice/warning. T.A. Collins discussed the need to post a date and time. The thought was that realistically it could be April or May.

Chair Diorio noted a Budget Meeting on Wednesday.

Citizen Comments:

Sean Leary added that the previously postponed School Board Meeting would also be on Wednesday. Someone tested positive for COVID today and they will return to remote learning. He noted that the School Board on Wednesday will be having the same conversation about Town Meeting.

There was brief discussion and projections of tax rate possibilities.

7:45 p.m. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary