

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 22, 2021 meeting held in Auditorium, Town Hall, Hinsdale

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat, Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Collins and Kim Worden (all attended in-person). Chief Rataj and Frank Podlenski attended in-person. Sean Leary attended via Zoom.

Meeting start was delayed due to technical difficulties accessing Zoom.

6:10 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order. The meeting was also held via zoom pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Orders.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 2/16/2021 and 2/22/21; and public and non-public minutes of 2/8/2021, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

First presented was a Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map 38 Lot 8 Plain Road for Ray Hillock. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve the Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber** re: Hillock, second by Kondrat. Discussion followed after Frank Podlenski questioned when the start and end date would be as he was ready to post roads. It was noted that the anticipated start date was 2/8/21. Frank mentioned that he will have to shut them down as far as logging trucks, once he posts roads, if applicable. The vote was taken and motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was the Appointment of Michael Carrier as part-time Policier Officer. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve the Appointment** of Michael Carrier as part-time Police Officer. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

N/A

Frank Podlenski, Highway Superintendent was in for discussion on Transfer Station procedures. Chair Diorio mentioned that there was question on procedures and an effort to make sure that people get a receipt for business and to ensure there is proper accounting. Frank noted that this was discussed before and many customers don't want receipts. Chair Diorio thought it would be a good idea that the policy is to offer a receipt, the reason being accountability. Discussion followed. Frank asked if a financial person would be going through all receipts. Various scenarios were discussed. Frank added that, if a concern, he would prefer to not accept cash. He added that a lot of residents ask for debit and/or credit card capability for all town departments dealing with payments. Selectman Rideout asked about items we take in, the charges, and whether or not the cost to dispose exceeds the revenue. He wants to see if we're coming close to breaking even. Frank discussed that some items taken in, like TV's, are paid by the pound to dispose of. Rates listed in the Ordinance are by item. There are also problems to take into account, like items dumped on the side of the road. Selectman Johnson was in favor of having a credit card machine there and believes there would be more activity. T.A. Collins added that they would need to have internet access or a separate cell phone at the Transfer Station. Selectman Kondrat felt that would alleviate the pressure of having to have cash. T.A. Collins indicated that the card fee would not be paid by the Town, that would be paid by the customer. Frank noted that there would be extra work and cost to change over any existing practices; He doesn't feel there is any trust concerns; and what we are charging is pretty close to covering things. Frank noted that money is not collected for blue bag disposal at the Landfill, however Landfill is still charged for that disposal. There may be a way to weigh some items, like TVs, instead of having a flat rate in order to avoid any potential losses. The current scale at the landfill was discussed and noted that it weighs in 20 lb. increments and is designed to weigh tons. There is a possibility of getting a scale that weighs 200 to 300 lb. items. Frank indicated that he tries to watch the fees and if he feels there is a need for change, he comes in to see the Board. Chair Diorio

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 22, 2021 meeting held in Auditorium, Town Hall, Hinsdale

added that it would be nice if we could offer use of credit and/or debit cards. T.A. Collins indicated that we are working on it. It was suggested that T.A. Collins and Frank get together over the next few weeks to gather more information showing what revenue came in and what we were charged for disposal. Frank was thanked for coming in.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson confirmed with T.A. Collins that she was working on trying to institute using debit/credit cards in different departments. She affirmed that was the case and they need to work with Citizens Bank and have to clarify how reports are done and the ability to balance out with different people. She added that it's a little complicated when it comes to municipalities.

Selectman Johnson asked where we are at with the approved \$25,000 for the Street Light Project. T.A. Collins responded that it will be done in the Spring and they are waiting for the Sidewalk Project in order to coordinate.

Selectman Johnson asked about uncollected taxes and noted that he would like to see an update on that.

Selectman Kondrat asked about the recent bids on the Sidewalk Project. T.A. Collins said there were two bids and they were being reviewed by the Department of Transportation.

Selectman Kondrat asked if Department Head Meetings have been rescheduled. T.A. Collins responded that they are trying and are a bit short-handed right now.

Selectman Kondrat asked if we have decided when the Pavilion will be reopened for bookings. After discussion on the Pavilion and Community Center openings, T.A. Collins indicated she would like to watch the numbers first (due to COVID) and wait until mid-March. It was agreed to discuss this at the March 15th meeting.

There was discussion and agreement to schedule department heads starting next Monday, March 1st beginning with the one originally scheduled for the first of February (changed due to storm).

Selectman Carrier had a Library Trustee Meeting last week. He reported that there was an issue with the alarm that they are trying to correct.

Chair Diorio asked about *also accepting* credit cards by phone and noted we're a little behind times.

Chair Diorio mentioned an Existing Bridge Committee Meeting held today and summarized the topic on economic development including trail access for the area with presentation by Dr. Shannon Rogers of UNH.

Chair Diorio noted he has been contacted several times on interest in town-owned properties. He feels now is a good time to get a list and try to auction properties again, with a goal to set up for April and May. Discussion followed. Chair Diorio feels we should insist on (whatever auction company we use) better advertising. He also felt it would be a good idea to look into asking for a minimum bid or what is owed on property taxes.

Chair Diorio will have a non-public re: personnel.

Citizen Comments:

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 22, 2021 meeting held in Auditorium, Town Hall, Hinsdale

Chief Rataj was present and indicated they have had some administrative issues, what those were due to, and that they have done some housekeeping and cleaning up in those areas. They've hired a new employee. He has no update on the cruiser at this time and they have not spent any additional money on cruiser repair. He gave an update on officers: Increase from 6 trained full-time certified to 7. He expects to be out and be proactive. He will have one graduate from the Academy in May. They have received two applicants for the last two positions. He discussed benefits of staggering training which also helps with costs. He gave an update on his line items and expectations.

Sean Leary noted that there will be a Parks and Rec Meeting on Thursday. He and Megan worked on communicating and putting information out on Elections and Town Meeting. The Board expressed appreciation.

7:06 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)- personnel, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Carrier –aye; Diorio – aye; Johnson – aye; Kondrat – aye; Rideout – aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:40 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

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

T.A. Collins suggested scheduling the non-public re: negotiation which was on tonight's Agenda to take place Wednesday via Zoom. Discussion followed. All agreed that she could reschedule that for Wednesday.

7:44 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary