

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 1, 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 Sarah Hudon attended in-person. Sean Leary started by attending via Zoom and then arrived in person.

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order. The meeting was also held via zoom pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Orders.

Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 3/1/21; and public and non-public minutes of 2/22/2021, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio noted that he had a couple of things on the previous minutes he wanted to follow-up on:

1. Town owned properties: James had furnished a list and Jill has a list. He would like to keep on that discussion and action.
2. Contact with Citizens Bank re: enhanced services (card usage): T.A. Collins responded that she has a call in to Christine and she is also during research on her own re: looking at other companies who offer similar services.

First presented was a Permit Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions re: 03012021A: Tax Map 20 Lot 4-7-E, Disabled Exemption. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Disabled Exemption #03012021A, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

The following abatements were presented and discussed:

1. Abatement: Joanne Waite, 2 McGregor Dr, removed RV prior to October 2020 without notice to office, \$38.31 4th quarter bill. (This lot is currently vacant)
2. Abatement: William Sypek, 6 McGregor Dr, removed RV prior to October 2020 without notice to office, \$221.97, 3rd and 4th quarter bill. (This lot has a new RV on site, Jason Frietag)
3. Abatement: Brenda Warner, 28 McGregor Dr, removed RV prior to October 2020 without notice to office, \$153.00, 3rd and 4th quarter bill. (This lot has a new RV on site Barbara Miller)
4. Abatement: Dawn & Michael Levesque, 32 Gunner Way, removed RV prior to October 2020 without notice to office, \$12.05, 3rd and 4th quarter bill. (This lot has a new RV on site, Kerri Lynch)
5. Abatement: Joyce Lucken, 35 Gunner Way, removed RV prior to October 2020 without notice to office, \$117.06, 3rd and 4th quarter bill. (This lot has a new RV on site, Jean Skaff)

Discussion included that The Building Inspector and Community Development Director go out and inspect each year and spend a lot of time gathering information. There was question as to whether the campground can put something in their rules. T.A. Collins would have to look into this but it is up to the campground to notify us. This has been discussed before and possible ways to alleviate this problem were discussed.

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Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the slate of abatements, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Rideout suggested trying to look at this again and consider sending a letter to the Campground.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins informed the Board that Thicket Hill wants two properties abated as we have done in the past re: properties they've taken. We have given them half the abatement now and when they put a new home on the property, the remaining half abatement is given. Discussion followed. The new property will bring an increased tax base. The two properties are Smith, 23 Cedar and Lepisto, 15 Robbins. T.A. Collins will work with Heather Blanco on this. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to have T.A. Collins proceed with Thicket Hill on these two abatements, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins had forwarded to the Board a Memo dated March 1, 2021 re: Travel. She asked the Board if they had a chance to review this. It had changes related to the Governor's Orders -- new guidelines for employees re: quarantining, testing, and vaccines. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** the changes, as outlined in the 3/1/2021 Memo, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins noted that she has a draft of a letter to Brattleboro. She is getting information together on the School Street grant as the application time has opened. On 3/3/21 there is a webinar and on 3/19 the applications are due. She gave an update on the Department of Labor doing an audit and their request of records. She is working on scanning and emailing what is needed for DOL. T.A. Collins would like to go forward with updating the Emergency Operation Plan. She mentioned assistance through a grant out of Homeland Security to cover FEMA Funding with our assistance. The sidewalk TAP Project had a high bid from a Swanzey company and a lower bid from a Hillsborough company. Discussion followed. Additional funding will be needed from DOT. It is now in the hands of DOT to finalize the approval and schedule it.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson mentioned that last week uncollected and delinquent taxes were mentioned and we don't want to forget to look at the list for discussion.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that a staff meeting was held last week. Department Heads are looking at job descriptions and making changes. She suggested having Department Heads in to discuss job descriptions. She added that one Department Head suggested getting reviews out earlier to avoid having to retro increases. April was suggested in order to come in for mid-May timeline.

Chair Diorio mentioned that the Town Report looks good. Sean Leary was acknowledged for the great cover on the Report.

Sarah Hudon, Program Director, was present and gave an update:

She gave Parks and Rec a general overview at their meeting last week. They are trying to get ready for Summer. She is working on a form for Memorial Day and will touch base with John Hartnet on that. Flags, as mentioned by Dennis, are

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also on her radar. They have been doing some Spring cleaning and going through items and doing touch up projects at the Community Center. They have a tentative schedule for roof replacement at the Community Center in June. Craig

Finnell has updated a (previously prepared) proposal. This is all pending approval. They are working on getting the kitchen certified for commercial use. They have been talking about having workshops and small group gatherings. They are discussing possible usage for programs involving Middle School in partnership with Maryann O'Malley and are looking into grant applications for that. They are reconnecting with the Beautification Committee on projects and events. The focus now is on Summer Camp and Pool openings. She gave a status on staffing challenges and will be advertising. They have been meeting regularly and doing inventory and will be meeting to see about the use of the school. She will work with Sean re: camp scholarships. For the pool, someone will need to be chemically-certified beginning this year. They are trying to get lifeguards all recertified, however indoor pools are not allowing the demonstration part. There may be a need to open the pool earlier in June in order for them to finish certifications. Sarah noted that people have been asking about booking the Community Center and she is taking tentative appointments, holding dates, while uncertain of approval. Selectman Kondrat was happy that Sarah is thinking about reopening and reminded the Board that they talked about discussing this on the 15th. At that time, they will come together with ideas and guidelines.

T.A. Collins mentioned the new sign being put up by next year's graduating class. She suggested that the Town can use the sign for many functions and events. She added that because Sarah didn't spend a lot in her budget, that they give \$2,000 towards the sign. Discussion followed. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to give \$2000 towards the electronic sign**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Kondrat presented a pamphlet that Troy, NH makes available and noted that she will be discussing this further. She is amazed at the offerings of events in the *Troy Rec* section. They are doing many events, safely. She will show this to Kathryn and bring it back in when goals are discussed.

Citizen Comments:

Chief Rataj was present and mentioned that he has talked with Jill and has ideas he would like to carry out. In April, he has ideas for a touch-a-truck type event where they could have a meet and greet, coffee and snacks available, answer questions, and show why there is cruiser need. In May, knowing there is Town Meeting and Memorial Day parade, his goal is to get the flagpole up for Flag Day. Ideas are to close part of the street, have a flag raising ceremony and perhaps parade. In July he proposes Brunch with the Chief and to also have officers there and available for questions. Discussion was that this could tie in with Farmer's Market. Chair Diorio appreciated the enthusiasm. Selectman Kondrat suggested perhaps including Selectmen to tag along the Coffee with a Cop idea at various times. It was also suggested to possibly have a different guest speaker each month.

Chair Diorio announced the Board would be going into non-public session.

6:48 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)- personnel, second by Carrier. Kim Worden was excused. The vote was as follows: Carrier –aye; Diorio – aye; Johnson – aye; Kondrat – aye; Rideout – aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:06 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.

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7:07 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91:A-3, II, (c)- reputation, second by Kondrat. The vote was as follows: Carrier –aye; Diorio – aye; Johnson – aye; Kondrat – aye; Rideout – aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:25 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

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

7:30 p.m. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)- personnel, second by Kondrat. The vote was as follows: Carrier –aye; Diorio – aye; Johnson – aye; Kondrat – aye; Rideout – aye. Motion passes unanimously.

8:18 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

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

8:20 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary