

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 29, 2021 meeting held at Police Department Training Room, Hinsdale

Present: Chair 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 Sean Leary, also attended in-person. Kathryn Lynch attended via Zoom.

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 Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 3/29/21; and public and non-public minutes of both 3/17/2021 and 3/22/21, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

First presented was a *Land Use Change Tax* form for Shannon O'Connor re: L/O Plain Road Book #3151 Page 316, 5.22 acres. It was noted that this was property across the road from the house parcel. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Land Use Change Tax form, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Rideout noted that his understanding was that when this parcel sold, the money was to be used to demolish the house and trailer on the parcel across the road.

Next was a *Report of Excavated Material* re: Michael Renaud, H&R Properties LLC, Map 19, Lot 19. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to approve** the Report of Excavated Material, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

A *Cemetery Deed* to Joseph Conroy for Lot 7 SE, Section I at Pinegrove Cemetery was presented. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** the Cemetery Deed for Joseph Conroy, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, a request by *Evergreen Communities LLC for Extension of Abatement Contract for 3 Springbrook and 43 Robbins* was presented and discussed. Homes are not being delivered in time to meet the prior deadline. Selectman Kondrat made a motion to approve the extension, second by Rideout. Following further discussion on the extension date and amending the motion, Selectman Kondrat made a motion to withdraw the motion, second by Rideout. Selectman Kondrat then **made a motion to approve the extension** for Evergreen Communities LLC for Extension of Abatement Contract for 3 Springbrook and 43 Robbins until 10/31/21, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins received and read a request for permission to place a bench and small plaque in the cemetery off Old Brattleboro Road in memory and remembrance of Ashley Moore, as this was a special place to her. The letter was received from Monique Garafino and Alisha Beam. T.A. Collins pointed out that this cemetery is historical, she has talked with Gary, Cemetery Sexton. After further discussion on cemetery trustees meeting and involvement, Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve**, and that T.A. Collins will contact the Cemetery Committee and let them know via Zoom meeting that it's approved by the Select Board, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that the server will cost \$11,858 and she has found money in the budget. There is \$11,386.33 remaining under heating oil. This price goes off sale on the 31st. Chair Diorio recalled that the price was quoted as closer to \$5,000. T.A. Collins stated that that was for Dell, not this one. He also recalled that the Board wanted to talk to the IT person, as mentioned last week, and would like to talk to him about the benefits. She indicated

that there would be an additional \$3000 plus for set up (for a total of \$8000 or 9000 if they went with the Dell). Chair Diorio would like to hear from the expert on this. T.A. Collins would like to be able to take this payment from this year's budget. Selectman Kondrat agreed that there should be a conversation with the IT person. T.A. Collins noted that she has authority to go forward without coming before the Board but would like it out of this year's budget. Chair Diorio suggested talking to Bill Vermouth as soon as possible before doing anything. T.A. Collins attempted to reach Bill to either join the meeting via zoom or schedule a time to meet with the Board. (She left the room to try and reach him. She returned stating she was unable to do so).

T.A. Collins noted there was a Department Head Meeting scheduled for tomorrow. They will go over job descriptions and discuss the Capital Improvement Plan.

T.A. Collins also noted that there will be a zoom meeting on 4/14 with Lisa Murphy and Department Heads on Hazardous Mitigation.

T.A. Collins will have non-publics re: personnel and reputation.

T.A. Collins indicated that she will follow up with Bill Vermouth and let the Board know when something is scheduled. [He later zoomed into the meeting]

Board Comments:

Selectman Rideout asked if goals would be discussed later.

Selectman Johnson mentioned last week that he would like to ask Sean Leary, School Board Rep. if we are still on track since discussion at the joint budget meeting. Sean indicated that Holly would know more on how to answer the budget questions. He indicated that they rarely know final revenues by Town Meeting, they are looking to get what's on the MS-27 and there are several bills out there that could give us more. There is another round of Covid money out there that is promised. Sean indicated that this is talked about at School Board Meetings, that it's all there in black and white and that the school is extremely transparent. Selectman Johnson asked about announcing what the fiscal year looks like - - about giving a verbal report, at Town Meeting to give a financial picture. Selectman Kondrat added that more verbal explanation would be appreciated, since there are only a few items. Sean did not see a problem with that.

6:49 p.m. Bill Vermouth joined the meeting via Zoom. Chair Diorio asked Bill if he could describe the difference in the server that he provided a quote for and the Dell. Bill explained that Dell is a piece of hardware only—no backup. Dell is under capacity in RAM and use inexpensive drives. Backup is needed and configuration is needed. He recommends 32 gigs of RAM. After a question from Chair Diorio on how long we have had the current Dell, Bill believed we were ending our fifth year and the operating system is a 2012. Bill did not have a lot of input in the decision to use Dell in 2017. Chair Diorio asked what enhancements or improvements will be seen. There will be faster response, a reduction of risk as the current server is old. Formal support ended over two years ago. The current backup system is at the end of its life. There is better backup. Chair Diorio asked if all current programs would run smoothly. Bill responded that he didn't see a big learning curve. They have techniques for transfer, they've done this and always get them completed and fully running. Selectman Kondrat noted that their understanding is this is currently on sale and asked what the savings is. The savings is about \$1500. Selectman Johnson asked the age of the tape backup we are using. The tape backup was purchased on a previous server and is at its end. Selectman Kondrat asked when the current lease ends. T.A. Collins

responded that the lease has been paid. Selectman Johnson asked if there was any value in selling it. Bill felt there is no general market for that, that it doesn't carry a lot of value. Bill was thanked for joining in the meeting via zoom and left the meeting at this point.

The Board felt he answered their questions. T.A. Collins wanted permission to move the amount of money from one tax line to another.

Selectman Rideout **made a motion to allow T.A. Collins to purchase the new server**, at the sale price, before March 31, 2021, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

It was announced that the Board would be entering into non-public session with Kathryn Lynch. Members of the public left the room at this time.

7:02 p.m. Selectman Carrier made **a motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)- personnel with Kathryn Lynch, second by Kondrat. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat- aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:19 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

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

Members of the public returned.

Board Comments (continued)

Selectman Kondrat indicated that she may have a non-public re: personnel.

Selectman Carrier mentioned that the Library Trustees meeting went well.

Chair Diorio acknowledged that Julie is doing an outstanding job without an assistant. While acknowledging she has had helpers at times, we will do what we can to help her find a deputy and we value her service. T.A. Collins noted that the Deputy is now required to be a town resident. She has talked to Julie about the possibility of utilizing a municipal agent.

Chair Diorio asked that status of the finance employee's return. T.A. Collins indicated that the employee will be out another four weeks.

Chair Diorio mentioned that back in February, they talked about employees being provided with a Time Off/Benefits Status. T.A. Collins stated that this is done monthly and she is getting ready to do one now. It was mentioned that the Finance Director prepares the Town Clerk Status Report.

Chair Diorio had a letter from Boisvert Construction Company indicating their interest in purchasing two properties: one on Canal Street and one on Old Chesterfield Road. Chair Diorio felt that the property should go out to public via auction and to respond as to when the auction will take place. Selectman Rideout disagreed and discussed past

circumstances related to the Canal Street property. Chair Diorio noted there could be exceptions but would prefer that it is fair and transparent to all. Certain properties could be listed with a minimum bid required, and others without a minimum bid. Selectman Johnson suggested responding with a letter noting that the Town intends to put the properties up for auction. T.A. Collins noted that the other property is town forest (12 acres) and they would need to get the Conservation Committee involved.

Chair Diorio mentioned a letter that was sent by Paul Wolossow, who was recently appointed by Governor Sununu to represent towns in our area on the Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel. He would like to speak at one of the Selectmen Meetings to introduce himself and talk about what's been happening at the Vermont Yankee site. Kim indicated that he has been scheduled to join the April 19th meeting at 6:15 p.m. via zoom.

Chair Diorio mentioned the Bridge Meeting held last week. There was a good presentation including minimum plans on design. This will be condensed for the 4/1 Public Forum. The question remains: Who pays for electric, maintenance, etc. Chair Diorio hopes all tune in. Selectman Rideout asked if we should have a handout for Town Meeting. T.A. Collins added that for Federal Funding that came through, it was clear that VT and NH were to share the cost of the bridge. The Town of Hinsdale currently pays for electricity on those 2 bridges, and PSNH will be taking their wiring down. She didn't know if they will have a cost by Town Meeting time. Selectman Johnson assumes the costs will be lighting and plowing sidewalks.

Chair Diorio noted that the bid did go out on Tuesday the 23rd for the new bridge, and that's on target.

Selectman Carrier offered condolences to the family of Bill Maxwell, who recently passed away in Florida.

Public/Citizen Comments:

Chief Rataj updated the Board, noting he posted on Facebook the update in cruiser repairs. He has \$1800 left and it will be a miracle if two cruisers go past this Fall. The new cruiser should be in any day, they are just waiting for a part. He has been working with Keene Mutual Aid and they are still working on the set up. Following that, they will get to the decals and he will try to use local vendors if possible.

Chief Rataj noted that he has received noise complaints on Plain Road and spoke to a resident today who is unhappy with the (ordinance) timeframe.

Chief Rataj gave an update on overtime usage, noting that he has used his budget and will have to keep using OT, but overall expects to be okay. They are also taking a hit on uniforms and expects this will also be okay in the end. Once there is no hiring and equipment expense, this should iron out in the next budget.

The Board discussed and decided to have a workshop on Goals set for April 12th.

It was announced that the Board would be entering into a non-public session with Chief Rataj.

7:48 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)- personnel with Chief Rataj, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat- aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

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8:09 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

Selectman Carrier **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

8:10 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary