

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 12, 2021 meeting held at Police Department Training Room, Hinsdale

Present: Chair Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat and Selectman Richard Johnson (all attended in-person). T.A. Collins and Kim Worden attended in-person. Chief Rataj, Sean Leary, Chief Zavarotny, and later Bob Truesdell attended in-person. There were no participants 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. He noted that the first non-public would start at 6:15 instead of 6:00.

Selectman Carrier extended appreciation and commendation to all, the community as a whole, Police Department, and especially the Fire Department for stepping up during the recent fires. He acknowledged that they have been hit hard during the past week and a half and extended appreciation to both departments for doing an outstanding job.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 4/12/21; and public and non-public minutes of 4/5/21, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio read a resignation letter from Frank Podlenski dated April 5, 2021 and effective 4/31/21. Chair Diorio thought it was a great letter.

First presented was a Timber Tax Levy and Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed re: Raymond Hillock. Discussion followed on the amount being zero and the requirement to file this in any event. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Timber Tax Levy and Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

A Permit Application for Recreational Campground/Camping Park Permit for Stag Horn Mountain Side Camping Trail LLC was presented. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** the Permit Application for Stag Horn Mountain Side Camping Trail LLC, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Next was a Cemetery Deed to Jocelyn Smith for Lot 27 SW in Section H in Pine Grove Cemetery. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** the Cemetery Deed to Jocelyn Smith, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** a Driveway Permit for Evan Perkins, Map 33 Lot #20-3, adjoining Oxbow Road, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** a Driveway Permit for Tania Wright and Alex Wright, Map 25 Lot 30-2 Plain Road, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

The following Fire Department Appointments were presented:

- Deputy Fire Chief: Troy Benedict
- Fire Captain: Taran Benedict
- Fire Captain: Jon Bobak
- Fire Lieutenant/Safety Officer: Mark Curtiss
- Fire Lieutenant Devin Parker
- Fire Lieutenant Gary Seymour
- Fire Lieutenant Aaron Graham
- Fire Rescue Captain: Jason Antos
- Fire Rescue Lieutenant: Melinda Zavorotny

Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** the slate of Fire Department Appointments, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, Kim informed the Board that a Request was received from the Athletic Director to hold a banquet at the pavilion. Previously it was decided to allow up to 50 people. Discussion followed on the request which could be above the limit. Waivers were discussed with T.A. Collins. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Banquet Request, to be held at the Pavilion on June 4, 2021, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins reported that she will have a non-public re: reputation.

Citizen Comments:

Chief Zavorotny praised all involved with the recent fires and also commended the work done.

Chief Rataj gave an update on the OHRV, noting that there has been driving over the streets, complaints, and that a "few bad apples" have jeopardized the "special plates" idea.

He has an applicant and a tentative expectation for an Appointment on Monday. He also spoke of three vacant positions and of possibilities.

Chief Rataj has five radios coming from Keene PD, that they are lending to Hinsdale PD.

Chief also noted that there are a large number of dogs due for registration and we have two weeks to get 600 in! Violations and fines were included in discussion. He will look into state limits, fees, and costs, and come back to the Board with a Fine Schedule.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson attended a Cemetery meeting via Zoom last week. They will schedule another meeting and look at by-laws and rates.

Selectman Carrier noted that this Saturday is clean-up day organized by the Conservation Committee in collaboration with the Beautification Committee. Pick-up of supplies will take place between 8 and 10. Discussion of the bags being picked up afterwards took place with input by Bob Truesdell.

Chair Diorio noted a recent article in the Sentinel noting that Cheshire County is awaiting millions in federal funds, without the same strings attached as the CARES Act money. This is for a shortfall in funding government services, boosting the pay of essential workers, investing in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, and also assistance to households.

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

Robert Truesdell joined the meeting.

6:24 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)- personnel with Robert Truesdell, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Carrier–aye; Diorio–aye; Johnson–aye; Kondrat– aye; Rideout–aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:05 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

The Board announced that they have promoted Robert Truesdell as Highway Superintendent.

GOALS:

Chair Diorio noted that the Board will be discussing goals. Selectman Carrier helped with the format and added his goals and we will add to that. In order to make them achievable, he will add two.

Selectman Carrier stated that they need to discuss Emergency Management, falling under *Public Safety* in the outline. T.A. Collins added that there is a Hazardous Mitigation Meeting on Wednesday to include three department heads and she didn't know if Curtis is Zooming in. It will be held at Town Hall and welcomed Selectman Carrier to join the meeting.

Selectman Carrier felt it was very important to have the Fire Department and the Police Department involved, as there hasn't been any structure or organization. This needs to be changed and we need to work on this, especially since the VY shutdown. It was added that there should be an Organizational Chart.

Chief Zavorotny feels someone should take it over so that it is out of the Town Hall.

Chief Rataj noted there are advantages to having it at the PD, or Fire Department, or shared responsibility. Currently there is no interaction and both Chiefs are scrambling. There is duplicated effort. Chair Diorio agreed that the Town would benefit from resources of both departments and both are better connected. T.A. Collins has the Emergency Plan that she can email and they can stop in to check out availability of radios. Everyone's concern was safety, to bring it up to date, and use it.

Selectman Kondrat felt her goals would fall under *Community Engagement and Governance*. She would like to work on communication and improving outreach to the community. She would also like to work on Economic Development through grants, etc. She feels the Community Center is a great asset and would like to make better use of the building to include programs and perhaps a clothing closet. She would also like to see better utilization of tennis courts and basketball courts after improvement. Selectman Kondrat suggested tackling one category per month which would include submitting ideas for achievement and implementing the plan. Discussion followed.

Selectman Carrier would like to plan how we can provide assistance, as a Town, during COVID.

Selectman Johnson acknowledged that we have a blueprint here to work with including values and Fiscal Year 2021 goals and objectives.

Chair Diorio would like to see (falling under *Town Services*) technology IT and a better website. He would like to see an e-mail address set up for all full-time employees in order for everyone to receive communications (giving examples of flu shots, wellness information and activities, etc.) T.A. Collins indicated that there would be a cost for that. He felt it

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would only be for 6-10 more employees. He also has a personal goal to do a better job of following up on matters previously discussed (meeting initiatives or action plans). He also would add a goal of a new fire station at some point.

Selectman Johnson's goal would fall under *Fiscal Management*. He would like to work on controlling spending and staying within the budget.

Selectman Rideout's goal is openness and transparency. He thought Swanzey's site was good if we go in that direction. He talked about getting information out via social media but cutting off comments or comments going into a mailbox. T.A. Collins doesn't think they should go the route of Facebook and heeded warning of the Town Attorney. She noted that Swanzey has its own IT and staff of 9. Selectman Kondrat felt that if other towns are doing this, we can find a way. Hinsdale Village Voice set up was discussed and Sean offered to take a look at the settings and controls.

Selectman Carrier asked how this (Goals) would be presented. It was agreed that everyone would send him information so that he could update Goals. They will then address, review, and post. Copies may also be presented at Town Meeting.

Selectman Kondrat asked if a workshop should be set up on communication and transparency. Discussion followed.

Selectman Rideout asked if the Board should have a printout of the proposal for the existing bridges at Town Meeting. Discussion followed. They could provide the aerial view of what the State provided. Selectman Rideout wants the townspeople to know that even if they think it is great, it is not free.

The Board will email Selectman Carrier their goals.

Chair Diorio announced that they would be going into non-public.

7:44 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (c)-reputation, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat-aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:52 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

7:53 p.m. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary