

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 10, 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. Jill Collins and Kim Worden attended in-person. Chief Rataj, Sean Leary, Bob Truesdell, Sarah Hudon, and Mike Abbott attended in-person. There were no participants via Zoom except for Attorney John Ratigan who joined the meeting around 6:45 for a non-meeting (legal) after first adjournment.

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 5/10/21; and public and non-public minutes of 5/3/21, second by Kondrat. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

A letter from Selectmen re: possible discontinuance of water service due to delinquencies was presented for signatures. Discussion included that this letter would be going out to customers with past due amounts who did not respond to the first letter. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the letter to delinquent water customers, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins informed the Board that she had an MS-232 form (Report of Appropriations voted on at Town Meeting) for the DRA for signatures. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to sign** the MS-232, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that the letters re: the two evictions went out and updated them on the status, indicating that it could be another 30 to 60 days after the number of days to vacate and the court process.

Chair Diorio wondered who would be in charge on a day-to-day basis while T.A. Collins is out, with applications coming in, etc. T.A. Collins indicated that Rick will handle finance and H.R. matters and sometimes Kathryn and Kim would take charge in other areas. She indicated that Rick will handle scanning the deposits. Chair Diorio suggested she revisit that tomorrow so that Rick is aware.

An update on town-owned properties was discussed. T.A. Collins indicated that this matter was still in the auctioneers' hands and will probably take place towards the end of June. Chair Diorio mentioned the 4 acres on Monument Road and asked why we would keep it and suggested the Board consider taking it off (properties to be retained). Discussion followed. T.A. Collins mentioned it could go into current use and there would be no income. Selectman Kondrat felt it would be worth reaching out to abutters to see if they had any interest. Bob Truesdell agreed with T.A. Collins comment that it tended to be swamp area but that was partly due to the previously mentioned beaver problem. Chair Diorio asked if there was any harm in adding it to other parties to be auctioned. T.A. Collins said she could add that property. Selectman Kondrat asked if we could send abutters notice and T.A. Collins responded that the abutters will be notified by the Auctioneers. T.A. Collins added that there is no benefit to hold and no benefit to sell.

Board Comments:

Selectman Carrier mentioned that he would like a commitment of who would be able to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. Selectman Kondrat confirmed she would participate. Selectman Rideout will be away. Others will check schedules. Selectman Carrier also attended a Hazard Mitigation Meeting last week.

Selectman Johnson has a Cemetery Meeting this week.

Selectman Rideout indicated he will have a non-public at the end of the evening.

Chair Diorio noted a Fire Department Building Committee Meeting to take place tomorrow and every other week.

It was discussed that Goals are a work in progress and it was suggested to pick a category, work on it, and put together a plan for achievement for that category. Selectman Carrier mentioned that there was a Hazard Mitigation Meeting and the next step is to reach out to Curtis and connect with him. The next meetings are for the Emergency Application Plan. Selectman Kondrat suggested picking a goal to work on for a month or so.

Representative, and resident, Mike Abbott, was present. He mentioned a recent article in the *Brattleboro Reformer* re: details on the new bridge and felt some was accurate and some not. He indicated that bids were due 4/29/21 and noted the bid process was pushed out four times. According to the article, low bid was 62 million, others were 77 million and 89 million. Most will be built with federal money. The article said Vermont is responsible for 15% of the cost where actually it is 17% and State of NH 83%. Rep. Abbot mentioned that he spoke with Don Lyford on May 2 and described that conversation. In summary, NH indicated that they would find the money to go with the low bidder and need to see if Vermont and feds will agree to go with it.

Mike also discussed his proposal for naming the new bridge. He would have to put legislation in. He thinks it would be very appealing to NH and Brattleboro area residents. He handed out some information on John Stark and read from the information he had. He gave history and roles of John Stark including that he was a prominent American general during the American Revolution, he served in the French and Indian War, Battle of Bennington, etc. He indicated that John Stark was a hero in both states at a turning point in American history. He noted that there are statues and places named for him in several areas. Once this is closer to completion, he would like the Board to name the bridge the "General John Stark Memorial Bridge" and provide a letter. Chair Diorio asked if any other bridges were named that and Mike replied no. He can file legislation when the appropriate time comes.

Responsibility of existing bridges was discussed including Chief Rataj's concerns after talking to bridge inspectors. Also discussed was the initial estimated cost of the new bridge vs. today's estimate and the number of times it was put off. Mike was thanked for coming in.

Sarah Hudon, Program Director was in attendance for discussion on increasing attendance at the Community Center and Pavilion. She indicated that the Governor is watching the guidelines closely and has done away with *Safer at Home* and implemented *Universal Best Practices*. She read portions of the Universal Best Practices and indicated that there is not really anything anymore re: capacity numbers. She noted that personally, she could envision 50 people or about ½ capacity (at Community Center) and can still safely distance. Different scenarios were discussed. She also had thoughts of keeping the walls down and maybe charging full space prices. Discussion followed and all agreed to increase capacity

to 50. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to increase capacity at the Community Center to 50**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, the pavilion was discussed. Capacity is now at 50. An increase was discussed and the thought was that this can be reviewed/revisited again later.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion to increase pavilion capacity to 100**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Mask usage for inside the building was discussed. Jill will add a line in the Ordinance that states: while eating, masks can be removed.

A non-meeting with Attorney Ratigan was to take place.

6:54 p.m. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

7:13 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting back to order.

It was announced that the Board would be going into non-public session.

7:13 p.m. Selectman Carrier 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.

7:29 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.

The Board again discussed Goals. They decided to pick one now and put it on the Agenda for next week. They already touched on public safety. The topic would be transparency under Community Engagement and Governance.

8:19 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary