

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, Kathryn Lynch, Ashley Pinger, Julie Seymour, Karen Johnson, and Mike Darcy attended in-person.

Due to technical difficulties setting up Zoom, the meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.

6:12 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order. The meeting was also held via zoom.

Kathryn Lynch, Community Development Coordinator had an abatement re: Northern New England Tel. She explained that this was recommended for approval by Sansoucy due to pending litigation. Moving forward, we will have our i's dotted and t's crossed in order to be able to tax rights of way legally. This will bring assessment down to \$478,700 and they are working with the attorney to process new language. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to agree with Skip Sansoucy's recommendation and to sign the Abatement document, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Julie Seymour, Town Clerk, was present indicating that she was hoping to have a conversation re: face masks and she would like to lift the mandate. Julie, Karen, and Ashley currently have to wear one at the Town Clerk's office. There was discussion with Julie and Karen on their feelings on the matter. Selectman Carrier would be okay with removing the mandate and making it optional. T.A. Collins suggested changing the Ordinance and saying masks are *encouraged* giving reasons for public health safety. Chair Diorio asked about getting rid of the Ordinance. Selectman Rideout would like to see a sign that stated if they are vaccinated no mask required. Discussion followed on inability to act on that. Selectman Johnson indicated he would feel comfortable removing the Ordinance. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to do away with the Temporary Ordinance (Ordinance Relative to Face Coverings)**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 6/14/21 and 6/21/21; and public and non-public minutes of 6/7/21, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Kondrat noted a clerical error in the 6/7/21 minutes regarding the Auctioneer name and requested a change. Discussion followed. Selectman Carrier then **made a motion to approve the 6/7/21 minutes with discussed change** to the Auctioneer name, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

An Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Allen Johnson for Johnson Family Reunion at pavilion on July 24, 2021 was presented. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Open Container Permit for Johnson, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

A Sewer Abatement for Gringeri at 54 Highland Avenue for 2nd quarter 2021 in the amount of \$65.12 was presented. This was for outside watering with the sewer portion abated. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** the Gringeri Abatement, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, a Tax Abatement for Jeremy and Ashley Burdick, 37 Gunner Way for 2021 in the amount of \$8.24 was presented. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** the Abatement for Burdick, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, a Cemetery Deed to Ruth Orkins/Rena Ray re: Section I, Lot 40 at Oak Lawn Cemetery; and a Cemetery Deed to Earl & Nancy Clem re: Section I, Lot #27, at Pine Grove Cemetery was presented. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve both Cemetery Deeds** (to Orkins/Ray and to Clem), second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Julie Seymour, Town Clerk had a Civil Forfeiture Report (Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs). Discussion followed to include that these will be served by Animal Control Officer Pinger. Recipients will be assessed a \$25 fine for each dog. Selectman Kondrat **made a motion to approve** the Civil Forfeiture (Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs), second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Mike Darcy, President of Hinsdale Economic Development (HEDC) was present. He made mention of happenings since the November elections and the recently passed Infrastructure Bill. 14.7 million will be going to Cheshire County with portions to further the aid of town infrastructure projects, with federal monies too. He spoke of only one recent new business on Rt. 119. He added that four national brand businesses got to a certain point and walked away due to lack of infrastructure. The primary concern has been sewer for them and noted that Brattleboro is using only 39% of their capacity and the Water Superintendent there is interested in taking part. He stated this involves a couple of miles and now is the time; we need to spend money to get an Engineering Study done and get a cost in order to apply for available money. Mike suggested that if we want to help the Town diversify, we need the infrastructure, that we won't get the development we are looking for without the infrastructure. The second need will be higher volume of water. He suggested the need for an Engineering Study noting possible options of using the railroad bridge, bike path, rail trail. A rough estimate cost would be 2 million. He estimates an Engineer Study of \$20,000 to \$50,000. T.A. Collins added that Brattleboro was contacted; there were changes to their Board, will be changes with Manager and she has had no response. She was asked to follow up with Brattleboro. She added that \$396,000 (American Rescue Plan Act) will be in two rounds. The first application is due by August 18th. Mike asked the Board to put a priority on this matter. T.A. Collins added that water and sewer department heads are not present tonight and they have ideas for infrastructure needs too.

Chair Diorio asked if the bridge would be an obstacle. Mike had not heard of any concerns. In 2022 or 2023 they are to start building. He reiterated that first need is sewer and second is volume in water. Selectman Kondrat agreed that even though there are already big projects coming up, she felt there was a need to get the study done. Kathryn Lynch added that it is a great idea but also noted that Walmart has a wastewater treatment facility that is underused and could be an option.

When asked if anyone zoomed in, T.A. Collins responded that one did and was gone.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins presented a document from DRA for signatures re: PA-28 form (Inventory of Taxable Property Form for 2022) indicating that we will not be using the form in 2022. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to sign and approve the letter** indicating we will not be using PA-28 form in 2022, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, T.A. Collins mentioned that she had the Deed conveying property back to Walter Dascomb. It was previously voted to sign this tonight.

T.A. Collins received the Streetlights contract. The cost will be \$41,415.00. She indicated we will receive \$19,500 from Eversource in a reimbursement. \$21,915 is the cost to the Town. We will front the money and get reimbursed. Chair Diorio asked if we had a timeframe for when this will take place. T.A. Collins thought it would be between now and sometime in the fall.

T.A. Collins explained that she was asked for and handed out a proposed increase schedule for seasonal employees to show cost effectiveness. New hires would be at the old rate and returning employees would get the proposed increase. A 1% increase for Pool at an estimated 35 hours would result in a \$36.40 cost. A 1.3% increase would be 61.60 more. Summer Camp Program increase at 1% would result in \$39.90 and 1.3% at \$54.60. Five weeks of paychecks at 1% would

make a difference of \$182 and at 1.3% \$250. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the 1.3% increase for returning summer employees, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Carrier—aye; Johnson—abstained; Kondrat—aye; Rideout—aye. Motion passes. Selectman Johnson abstained but noted that he was opposed to the increase for part-time seasonal employees and felt it should be looked at by position during budget time.

T.A. Collins stated that McGoldrick site work will be starting up. She will have a zoom meeting tomorrow with EPA about what steps will be done and how to get information out to the public. There will be a walk through on Wednesday and they will need the building to be open. On the 28th they will do mediation.

Board Comments:

Selectman Carrier mentioned that Library Trustees have had two applicants for the Assistant's position and will be reaching out soon for interviews. There was a Hazard Mitigation Meeting on the 16th and was some miscommunication on that and not everyone was notified to attend. Bob Truesdell gave an update on that, it was mostly a continuance of earlier meetings and side counsel was discussed to come in and charge for mapping out drainage, piping flow, culverts. Kathryn added that a grant for \$6000 could be applied for, leaving \$600 for us to pay.

Selectman Kondrat was curious as to how Welfare is going. T.A. Collins indicated fine, all is going pretty good, noting a recent matter that she is looking into further. She added that they haven't had many applications but there is currently other assistance out there.

Selectman Johnson had no comment.

Selectman Rideout noted an upcoming Rec Meeting on Thursday.

Chair Diorio mentioned that next Monday will be a non-meeting followed by a non-public at 6:30 with department heads for employee reviews. T.A. Collins added that three department heads will be in. Chair Diorio asked that the Board have something to follow along. Discussion followed to include forms.

Chair Diorio noted that the auctioneer has put up signs and after input, changed the ad slightly noting three properties were uninhabitable. T.A. Collins added that all abutters were notified.

Citizen Comments:

Chief Rataj updated the Board on his budget and noted that he will probably have some surplus related to staffing. He has an applicant that he hopes to send to the Academy in September and possibly a second one. One employee on leave will attend Academy in January. This time next year he expects staffing level to be at nine. Chief Rataj discussed 4th of July planning and concerns. There was discussion and he outlined his plans to get some additional help. Selectman Johnson asked about the cruisers. Chief Rataj said financing is ready to come through and hopefully one more week.

Sean Leary noted that the Planning Board is meeting in person every month. Parks and Rec will meet on Thursday. School is out and they are ready for the Summer Schedule. Graduation went well; they had a very nice ceremony and comfortable weather. Application has been sent in for Monadnock Vital Economics Program (discussed previously).

Chair Diorio asked when the pool would be opening. T.A. Collins indicated that there would be a soft opening on Friday. They will be setting times for campers during camp hours and other swim times will be by appointment.

Goals re: Communications were discussed further.

Selectman Carrier mentioned that the person interested in helping with computer mapping is still interested and may be in in a couple of weeks.

RE: Facebook: T.A. Collins felt there would be a need to hire an IT person and would want to make sure we are allowed to shut off comments as we have to take comments. She added that we are already updating the website, which is more factual. Selectman Kondrat feels they are not going to the website, and that is the problem; we need to reach out to them. Selectman Kondrat suggested that Towns around us are putting information out there. She added that we could update meeting agendas and notifications of other meetings. It would show on newsfeed, events could be there, it would be very transparent and she has seen significant positive attitude with the current chief (as his posts are informative). Chief Rataj commented on recent limitations on who can join.

Jill and Sean discussed the option of having an email list and sending information out that way. How to build a list and encourage people to use this was discussed. Selectman Carrier asked how much time Chief Rataj dedicated to Facebook. He responded about 30 minutes on Sunday, 30 minutes on Wednesday, hit or miss, and if he had office time, a bunch more.

A newsletter was discussed. Selectman Kondrat had the sample from Troy. It is paid for by businesses that advertise. T.A. Collins pointed out it was non-profit and not funded or sponsored by the Town of Troy. Soliciting for ads was discussed. T.A. Collins would like to run this by the town attorney. Costs of printing and postage and time expended was discussed with Kathryn Lynch, Community Development Coordinator. Selectman Johnson suggested emailing newsletters (to save on cost) and suggested that people ask to be added to the newsletter email. Hinsdale Town Crier and Hinsdale Area News were discussed. Selectman Kondrat felt information should come from the Board. Chair Diorio agreed with Selectman Johnson's suggestion about emailing the newsletter. Newsletters could be also be placed at various locations to be picked up by residents. Kathryn pointed out to the Board that many times she would have responded to a post, but cannot according to our personnel policy, and mentioned a specific incident. She added that employees are not allowed to comment/respond. T.A. Collins expressed concern of a Town like Swanzey having 9 full time employees, where she has 3 ½. It was noted that these goals are a work in progress.

7:41 p.m. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (b)- hiring, second by Kondrat. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat- aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:47 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that there is an interview for the Highway position on Wednesday. This was followed by discussion on building cleaning.

7:52 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary