

Present: Chair Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat (via Zoom) and Selectman Richard Johnson; and T.A. Jill Collins and Kim Worden. Chief Rataj, Bob Truesdell, Ann Diorio, and Jodie Holmquist were present also. Members of the School Board present for the joint meeting were: Wayne Woolridge, Sean Leary, Holly Kennedy, April Anderson, Julia Kilelee and James O'Malley.

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order. The meeting was also held via zoom and Selectman Kondrat was the sole participant.

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Chair Diorio thanked the School Board for joining the Select Board for this meeting. School Board Meeting was called to order. It was noted that the **Joint Human Resource Position** was previously discussed by both Boards and HR Committee makeup would be discussed. In discussion on representatives, it was noted that Ann Diorio and Jill Collins will be on the committee, together with a Select Board Member, School Board Member and it was also suggested that a Budget Committee Member be included. After further discussion, it was agreed that Richard Johnson will be the Select Board rep, Sean Leary will be the School Board rep, and Sean will email Dennis Nadeau (with a cc to Steve Diorio) requesting a rep from the Budget Committee.

There was preliminary Budget discussion. T.A. Collins pointed out that packets are out to her Department Heads and they will be meeting on Wednesday morning and budgets should be back in a couple of weeks. As far as CIP, she doesn't see much at the moment coming up except cruisers for the PD (purchase instead of leasing) and maybe from the Fire Department re: purchase of property.

Selectman Johnson spoke of how the Board has approached the concern of tax increases in the prior three years, going into it last year trying to hold the line and encouraging the opportunity to give back at the end of the year to reduce the tax burden. He wondered if the School Board had a like mindset. Holly Kennedy added that they haven't had discussion yet but try to be fiscally responsible and turn back a lot of money. Wayne Woolridge added that they try to look at both fiscal constraints and needs and pointed out that they saved \$466,000 last year which was returned toward reducing taxes. He also noted the 3-year contract they have to be cautious about and that the state has changed their funding mechanism (districts do not give back money to the State to be redistributed to other districts). They are very cognizant of the tax rate and looking at savings, however there are many unforeseen issues, including hiring. Jodie Holmquist felt that teachers are progressing getting their budgets in and think frugally before spending. Sean added that when funding is available, and teachers can apply for grants, they do. CIPs were updated last week as follows:

#### Proposed Five-Year Hinsdale School District Capital Improvement Plan 2021-2025

1. Replace Bleachers at Middle/High School – to be included in the 2022-2023 School District Budget. (Estimated cost \$50,000, work to be scheduled for summer of 2022).
2. Repair HES Gym Floor – to be included in the 2023-2024 School District Budget. (Estimated cost \$20,000, work to be scheduled for the summer of 2023).
3. Pave Parking Lot Behind HES – to be included in the 2023-2024 School District Budget. (Estimated cost \$95,000, work to be scheduled for the summer of 2023).
4. Replace Roof at HES-to be included in the 2024-2025 School District Budget. (Estimated cost \$120,000, work to be scheduled for summer of 2024).
5. Replace Windows, Doors, and Locks at Middle/High School-to be included in the 2025-2026 School District Budget. (Estimated cost \$150,000, work to be scheduled for the summer of 2025).

Jim O'Malley said this was an updated version of the proposed plan from last year, it had been pushed out a year. He also mentioned a possible opportunity to collaborate with the Town on item #3. Julia reiterated that it was their 5-year Plan but in order to reduce the tax burden, they thought it prudent to push it out a year. She mentioned ESSER fund money, previously mentioned, and the Facilities Committee and Shawn being very diligent. Wayne added that he was proud of fundraising that had taken place to keep taxpayers off the hook, giving examples like the new electronic sign, Hinsdale Education Foundation, PTA and PTSA efforts in working on raising funds for bleacher replacement (as there are bleacher safety concerns). Selectman Johnson commended all for their efforts, suggesting perhaps putting big ticket items on the warrant as was done in the past. Sean added that in some instances it may be better to have an expendable trust, if a warrant were to fail, and gave examples. Selectman Johnson thought it would be nice to have taxpayers have a voice on big ticket items, as a bond issue and spread it out over time. Selectman Kondrat felt taxpayers appreciate having more warrant articles. Sean added that part of having less warrants is that they haven't asked for money to go into those "piggy banks". Chair Diorio noted that he spoke with the Tax Collector and he is liening the lowest amount in thirty years - - 1.3%. Appreciation was acknowledged. The School Board was thanked and adjourned.

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Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 9/20/21; and public and non-public minutes of 9/13/21, second by Johnson. Selectman Kondrat has not seen the non-public minutes and abstained. The vote is as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat- abstained; Rideout-aye. Motion passes.

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*New Business:*

First presented was a Hinsdale Town Hall Facility Rental Request by the Class of 2022 for Homecoming Dance on October 9, 2021 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve** the Town Hall Rental Request for the Class of 2022 to hold a Homecoming Dance on 10/9/21, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat- aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Next was Veteran's Tax Credit, Tax Map 24 Lot 34, #09202021A. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** Veteran's Tax Credit #09202021A, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, there was an Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for the Fire Department, received today, to hold Ladies Night on 9/24/21 from 6-11. It was noted that the Police Chief neither approves or denies this application. Chief Rataj offered that he was not signing the form, as the timeline was short, he has not seen anything like this and not educated about the situation. After extending appreciation on his explanation, Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve** the Chair signing the Application for the Fire Department for Ladies Night on 9/24/21, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

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*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Collins mentioned that she had sent the Board emails. She needs a motion to void the prior Eversource abatement and approve an updated Abatement for \$259,769.41. The Rep reached out to her due to Eversource having a different calculation. The BTLA amount was picked up instead of the court decision amount (which was around \$25,100 lower). They will return the check to be void and we will reissue a check. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to void the first abatement and approve the second abatement, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins presented a Thank You card from the School District for donations to make the sign possible.

*Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*

**Monday, September 20, 2021** meeting held at Police Department Training Room, Hinsdale

She added that tomorrow, the Construction Conference will be held at 10 a.m. here at the PD Meeting Room. LED lighting replacement starts tomorrow. Hinsdale is slated to receive \$50,100 from American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) to be deposited for specific purposes. She updated that FEMA has received everything needed and the Governor has asked that this be expedited. She informed the Board that everyone has received their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that she went to a very good Managers Workshop in Portsmouth last week. She mentioned an Assessment that she completed which she will email to them tomorrow re: her review.

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*Board Comments:*

Selectman Carrier indicated that the Library Trustees meeting went well. They will look at the Librarian and Assistant Librarian positions to see if there should be updating to possibly include hours and pay ranges.

Selectman Johnson will have a Cemetery Trustees Meeting on Wednesday. They will review rules and prices and discuss the approaching budget season. He offered a reminder to offset the water project where possible.

Selectman Rideout will have a Rec Meeting on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and cannot attend. Chair Diorio offered to fill in for him.

Selectman Rideout stressed the need to start the process of getting information on the sewer project for 119 indicating that there will never be meaningful development without it. Discussion followed. Jill will look into finding out what that might cost. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to ask T.A. Collins to look into feasibility from the Town Engineer standpoint, second by Carrier. \* Chair Diorio indicated we had a meeting with reps from Brattleboro and suggested that maybe Jill can reach out. Discussion included that Board Chairperson from Brattleboro was going to be discussing feasibility with their Board. Jill will reach out and see what she can do \*A vote was taken on the motion. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat- aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Kondrat discussed presence at the Planning Board Meeting tomorrow, asking if anyone could fill in or if there would be Zoom access. Jill will see what she can do and show Kathryn what to do so that Megan can join the meeting via Zoom. She noted that she is working the getting the Community Room set up at Town Hall in order to hold meetings there soon.

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*Citizen Comments:*

Sean noted the Planning Board Meeting to take place tomorrow. Todd from Southwest Regional Planning Commission will talk on the update of the Master Plan. Parks and Rec will meet Wednesday and look at fee setting for next year prior to submitting to Selectmen for approval.

Bob Truesdell indicated that the fuel tanks are back together, work was done by another company. Ken Howe made up a new plate to house the unit and did a phenomenal job on short notice. The state will do a compliance test on Wednesday. He is still looking for someone to work at the Landfill facility as the other prospective employee did not work out.

*Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*

**Monday, September 20, 2021** meeting held at Police Department Training Room, Hinsdale

Chief Rataj discussed his most important items which included cruisers. The new cruiser was outfitted with all but a radar unit. That will be purchased with a police equipment line item in lieu of something else. He discussed issues with other cruisers and what the plan would be for utilizing them. One went in the shop for a transmission leak and may have the same issue as Windham County Sheriff had with their cruiser. The department has used parts from one cruiser to outfit another in some cases. He added that he has a number of certified and non-certified officers that are considering coming here. Josh Moore will be coming back. His concern now is putting them in safe cruisers. Selectman Johnson offered appreciation for the update.

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T.A. Collins gave an explanation of putting money into an "overlay" to be put aside and not considered "undesignated funds". Discussion followed. Selectman Johnson thought we would be looking into mitigating that and saving in other areas if we can.

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Chair Diorio mentioned that he would have a non-public re: personnel.

7:10 p.m. public left. Documents were signed.

7:15 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (a)- personnel, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat- aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Kim Worden was excused.

7:30 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion to seal** the non-public minutes, 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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7:31 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden  
Secretary