

## *Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*

Monday, October 25, 2021 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall Community Room

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat, Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Collins and Kim Worden. Sean Leary, and Chief Rataj also attended.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 10/25/2021; and public minutes of 10/18/21 with the addition of the names Alec Fleming, Troy Benedict, and Taran Benedict of HFD to his mention of the cleanup near the bridges, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

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### *New Business:*

First presented was the 2021 MS-1 Hinsdale Summary Inventory of Valuation for signatures. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the 2021 MS-1, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented were the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 Water Commitment in the amount of \$116,536.76 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$92,196.88. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve** the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 Water and Sewer Commitments, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

There was an Evergreen Communities Abatement in the amount of \$1133.06 + interest on 3 Springbrook Street for 2018 and 2021. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to approve** the Evergreen Communities Abatement, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

A Petition and Pole License Petition re: Monument Road was presented for signatures. Following T.A. Collins' explanation of petitions being necessary for new poles to be placed, Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Petition and Pole License, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, a 2021 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate was briefly discussed. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the 2021 Equalization Municipal Assessment Date Certificate, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

### *T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Collins mentioned that she is waiting on the MS-535 from the Auditor. She sent out a draft projection and explained that she needs to change the state revenue rate. She noted that Budgets are coming in and she has three large departments that she is waiting on for budgets. She added that she needs to talk to the Board about what to do for COLA amounts. In review of the draft projection, Selectman Johnson added his thoughts to include that there should be enough money to educate the kids and that there shouldn't be an increase there. He likes the idea of purchasing cruisers and paying for equipment over the use of its life, not ahead of time. Discussion followed.

T.A. Collins talked about COLA rates being 4.6 for the Northeast, 4.1 for New England, and 5.2 for Social Security which was discussed to be 5.9. She noted that health insurance went down. Discussion on COLA and merits followed. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to give an increase** of up to 4%: 2½% for COLA and up to 1½% merit, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins mentioned that Budget Committee and Cemetery Committee will both meet at Town Hall on Wednesday night.

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T.A. Collins participated in a Webinar on Thursday re: EPA grant monies to apply for cleanup. Discussion followed on further areas to be cleaned up, and that the webinar included how much money is available, steps, and criteria.

### *Board Comments:*

Selectman Johnson is looking forward to Budget season and feels we owe it to the taxpayers: they are paying high taxes; we are the third highest in the State of New Hampshire; and he is all for anything to hold the line and catch up. He will have a Cemetery Meeting on Wednesday.

Selectman Carrier mentioned that the Library Trustees Meeting went well. They are nearly finished with Job Descriptions.

Selectman Rideout will have a Rec Meeting on Thursday.

Chair Diorio will have a Budget Meeting this week.

### *Citizen Comments:*

Chief Rataj mentioned that Winchester has a new Police Chief who is attempting to make changes and currently is bringing others in for coverage to help out. He is encouraged a bit that they are moving in the right direction. He talked about considering to offer an incentive to officers getting healthcare coverage elsewhere. This would save the town money and be an incentive. He will look at the numbers and come back with his suggestion. He added that he has not done reviews yet. He discussed the various positions and vacancies in the department, mentioning that one officer will attend the Academy in January and another officer to attend in May.

Sean Leary will have a meeting on Thursday for the *Joint Human Resources* Position. He stressed that he is no longer a School Board Representative to the Selectmen Meetings. He is here on a personal level and is not speaking in any part for the Board. He added that the other School Board Reps should be in attendance for the Select Board Meetings.

Deborah George introduced herself and informed the Board that she was owner of George's Field. She was here to give them a letter (handed to each Board Member) re: the flashing beacon signal light at the entrance of George's Field (near Runnings) and the temporary halt of the removal of it. She gave background that when Walmart moved, the signal light was put on flashing. She described history of traffic counts, removal of the signal controller, and the plan now to remove the light and/or beacon permanently. She is concerned that without the flashing light, there is a hazard and she has safety concerns. T.A. Collins added she was told by the Town Attorney that this matter is in the hands of the Attorney General's Office and they should not comment. Deborah indicated that that was on another matter. Deborah suggested the need to talk to DOT and to ask if they are planning on removing it permanently. Deborah indicated that DOT has taken it out of their bridge plans and gave it to another town. She suggested they contact Adam at the Governor's Office. She offered to answer any questions the Board may have. She reiterated that once they took the controller out, it became a flashing beacon; that DOT didn't tell us this; and of her concerns of giving our light to another town where it is a function of safety. Deborah was thanked for her interest in Hinsdale and for coming in.

Chair Diorio announced that they would be going into non-public. Members of the public left.

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6:55 p.m. Selectman Johnson 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.

7:01 p.m. regular meeting reconvened. Chief Rataj left the meeting.

7:07 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (a)- personnel, second by Kondrat. The vote was as follows: Carrier–aye; Diorio–aye; Johnson–aye; Kondrat– aye; Rideout–aye. Motion passes unanimously. T.A. Collins and Kim Worden were excused.

8:24 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

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

8:25 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden  
Secretary