

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 1, 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. Bob Truesdell, Bob Johnson, James MacDonell and Chief Rataj also attended.

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 11/1/2021; and public and non-public minutes of 10/25/21 second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was an Application for Driveway Permit for Robert E. Willette of 7 Oak Hill Road. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to approve and for the Chair to sign the Willette Driveway Permit, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was a Water Abatement re: 2021 3rd Quarter for Beverly Bernier in the amount of \$53.72. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Bernier 3rd Quarter 2021 Abatement, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Collins informed the Board that there will be discussion with Robert Johnson and Jack White on water and sewer rate changes. She will have a non-public, the Chief will be coming in, and she has been working on budgets. She added that the sidewalk project will wrap up mid-month and they will be back in the Spring to finish up. There was discussion on projected numbers for the tax rate. Selectman Johnson requested that she send financials.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson requested that T.A. Collins furnish information on all money set aside. T.A. Collins indicated that she will get a report from Ann on the expendable trusts and capital reserves.

Selectman Carrier noted that he will attend a Conservation Committee Meeting on Wednesday.

Selectman Rideout said that the Rec Meeting was very productive and they have ideas that they will be bringing forward.

Selectman Johnson added that there was initial discussion meeting between the Town and School re: the Joint Human Resources position. It went very well and was a good initial meeting. They came up with a range and initial split of 20/80 but that can be adjusted. As information is gathered, it will be shared via email. Following a question from Selectman Rideout, it was explained that this position will be served one day at Town Hall and four days at the SAU.

Chair Diorio attended a Budget Meeting last week to get dates and go over tentative schedules. He noted a mattress being dumped near the Historical Society and discussed that with Bob Truesdell. Chair Diorio requested solar PILOT Agreement information. T.A. Collins will email that to the Board.

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Citizen Comments:

James MacDonell brought in a contract for Jane Sanders Searches (the mortgage searcher) for signatures of the Board. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to sign** the contract for Jane Sanders Searches, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Chief Rataj discussed problems and concerns with various cruisers: Last week PD4 cruiser went to L&O for what was thought was an axle. Simultaneously, they had an issue with PD2. There will be about \$1700 in repairs. Old PD3 is still at L&O but mechanically should be in good shape. He spoke with the Dodge dealer and no more cruisers will be made until 2022. There are seven other departments in line for one. The Dodge Dealer agreed to sell us a black one for \$36,000 (vs. 42,000) with a different package. He noted that our radios are from the 90's and not compatible and not reusable. His equipment line item is up but will cut in other areas. He believes his net budget should still be under.

Selectman Kondrat had a letter to the Board and Residents that she would like to be included in the minutes and indicated that regretfully she would be resigning, effective at the close of tonight's meeting on 11/1/2021. She then read the letter. Chair Diorio acknowledged that she served the Board very well, and the Town very well, and that she would be missed. Selectman Johnson wished her all the best. Selectmen Carrier and Rideout also acknowledged her representations, contributions, and service to both the Board and the Town. (See Attached Letter)

T.A. Collins informed the Board that Trunk or Treat was fabulous and she thinks there were 250 to 300 attending.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that they will be discussing water and sewer rates with Water Superintendent Jack White (over the phone) and Sewer Superintendent Robert Johnson. She handed out 2021 Water and Sewer Rate Change Proposals. She added that each year they look at the budgeted income and the need for rate increases. Bob mentioned that water was the only thing raised last time. He added that there was only one year in the past 13 that sewer actually made a profit. Projects need to be done in the future; putting money aside has not been done; and the couple of increases haven't kept up. Bob would like to at least break even and we need to increase 7½ % just to break even. He understands the rates are high but EPA requires certain things be done. An increase should be looked at each year on an annual basis. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to increase sewer rates** to an 8% increase, effective 10/1/21 (fourth quarter 2021), second by Carrier. Further discussion followed: Selectman Kondrat noted that she would be in favor of the 8% increase for sewer if we don't increase the water rate. Selectman Johnson agreed. Jack recognized Bob's efforts and agreed with future infrastructure concerns and the fact that everything is going up. Selectman Johnson stated that it was the Board's intent to tackle infrastructure on the forefront through grants, bonds, or other available avenues. Bob noted that Jack only has \$5000 in his reserves and these are estimates. He acknowledged that it is a lot of money and is concerned for the users. A vote was taken. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Kondrat questioned how to get advance notice out regarding the increase. Discussion included the use of website and newsletter to reflect notice of the upcoming rate increase.

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Jack mentioned that he hoping for a 1.5% increase on the water rate in order to have some money in the bank for future needs. He mentioned the unexpected river crossing concern on July 3rd, that the other river crossing main needs to be done, and Depot Street to Route 63 as examples of infrastructure concerns.

Jill mentioned that he will have some debt service payoffs in the near future: meters were paid; in 2023 N. Hinsdale well to be paid; in 2022 radio upgrade will be paid; and in 2023 water tank will be paid. She added that now is the time to plan. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** for a 1 ½% increase to water rates, effective 10/1/21 (fourth quarter 2021), second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; and Kondrat-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

Bob had concerns of lack of enough information and breakdown on the bills. He thinks the consumer should have more information. Discussion followed. Jill indicated that we will be going to BMSI 10 soon. She will check with BMSI on capabilities.

Chair Diorio noted that there will be a non-public with Bob Johnson and then a non-public with Chief Rataj. Members of the public left.

6:59 p.m. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (a)- personnel with Bob Johnson, second by Kondrat. The vote was as follows: Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; Kondrat-aye; Rideout-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:25 p.m. regular meeting reconvened. Bob Johnson left the meeting.

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.

7:26 p.m. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (a)- personnel with Chief Rataj, second by Kondrat. 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. Chief Rataj left the meeting.

7:53 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. T.A. Collins and Kim Worden were excused.

8:27 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

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

8:29 p.m. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary