

*Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*

Monday, November 29, 2021 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall Community Room

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, and Selectman Richard Johnson; Town Administrator Collins and Kim Worden. Bob Truesdell, Wayne Dingman, Rick Carrier, Fire Chief Terry Zavorotny, Taran Benedict, Jack White, and Chief Rataj also attended. The Budget Committee joined the meeting at 6:30.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 11/29/2021; and public and non-public minutes of 11/22/21 second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

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*New Business:*

First presented was a letter from David and Joanie Austin requesting a water abatement due to a leak at 58 Emerson Drive. Discussion followed to include the unfortunate circumstances and previous similar matters others have had. Selectman Rideout made a motion to not approve the request. There was no second. Selectman Johnson noted that a similar instance happened to him. Selectman Johnson made a motion to approve the request, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Selectman Johnson-aye; Selectman Carrier-aye; Selectman Rideout-no; and Chair Diorio-no. Tie vote. There was further discussion. Jack White explained the workings of the water meter. He added that the water went through the meter and did get used. Someone has to pay the usage. High water usage was known to the customer the quarter before and forgotten about, according to the letter. Bob Truesdell added that he had a similar instance with a toilet leak at the Fieldhouse and he had to pay that bill. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to deny the abatement** request for Austin, second by Carrier. The vote is as follows: Carrier-aye; Rideout-aye; Diorio-aye; Johnson-abstained. Motion passes.

Next, a Water Abatement for JKB Enterprises LLC, 26 Meetinghouse Road was presented for 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Property is vacant, there was no usage, and there should have been a meter charge only. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** the Abatement for JKB Enterprises LLC, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

A Notice of Intent to Excavate by Michael Renaud, Map 19, Lot 19, Brattleboro Road was presented. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** the Notice of Intent to Excavate, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, a Petition and Pole License for 16 poles on Plain Road was presented. Selectman Johnson had questions for T.A. Collins as to when the clock starts on taxation and whether these are for additional poles. T.A. Collins will check with Julie, Kathryn, and Skip Sansoucy for clarifications. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to sign and approve the Petition and Pole License**, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Collins mentioned that she had a non-public for hiring and personnel. She added that the Waste Water Treatment Plant position has been advertised in the Union Leader, Rutland Herald, Greenfield Recorder, Sentinel and on our website. She also notified NHMA website and Granite State Rural Water. Following a question about the Hartford Courant, she indicated that there was no ad placed there as it would cost nearly \$5,000. She responded that she hasn't looked into the Springfield Union or Boston Globe. The Worcester Telegraph and Gazette was also suggested. Currently close to \$2500 has been spent. Discussion followed.

T.A. Collins needed tentative approval for the Chair to sign a release deed on Tessier if we get the check. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for tentative approval of the Release Deed for the (former) Tessier property upon receipt of the check, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

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T.A. Collins described changes on the packet she gave the Board for a Public Hearing for next week. The Hearing will be on five Ordinances. Page 35 will have wording changes. The Public Hearing will be held at the PD. Chief will run zoom for T.A. Collins and Mike Vignale to join the meeting. Following a question from Chair Diorio, she added that she may join the next meeting via zoom also.

### *Board Comments:*

Selectman Johnson asked about what FEMA's plan is for River Road. T.A. Collins mentioned that they had their first meeting with FEMA last week and another is scheduled for December. Selectman Johnson asked if the document could be shared with the public. Bob Truesdell agreed that it could. T.A. Collins added that it would be like a team meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> and she will get an email out with the times.

Selectman Johnson commended all for trying to hold the line on the municipal budget, being down 15% is a big number. He added that unfortunately the overall tax rate was only down 4%. He also mentioned that the Town of Hinsdale has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest tax rate in the State of New Hampshire (of the 185 towns that have set the tax rates in the last couple of weeks). The school stayed flat; the school's is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the State. He mentioned that as we enter into this budget season, he would encourage the school to exercise trying to hold the line as well.

Selectman Johnson announced that Bernie Streeter passed away recently. Bernie was from Keene, his family owned a corner market, he described his successes and contributions including that he served on the Executive Council for decades and was former mayor for the City of Nashua.

Selectman Carrier mentioned that he has a Conservation Meeting on Wednesday.

Chair Diorio would like to see comparison of this year's budget we are in vs. the last year's. Discussion followed. T.A. Collins read figures. Selectman Johnson would like to see the website updated with the new rate.

### *Citizen Comments:*

Bill Nebelski questioned hearing that the county had plans to purchase a private ambulance service. Discussion followed. It was felt there could be ancillary costs that we won't see benefit of, but we may see tax dollars.

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[Budget Committee was called to order.]

Fire Chief Terry Zavorotny was present to discuss **Fire Department** Budget. Discussion followed after the mention of the Budget being up around \$8000. Terry noted that this was mostly due to inflation, and the biggest increase being due to building maintenance in the training yard on Route 63. There was discussion of a possible line item error that should be in office supplies. Actual electricity was pointed out and it was noted that they have changed mostly to LEDs. Salary being the same as last year was questioned. It was clarified that they do get COLA and salary should be higher. It was also noted that Rescue calls are up and radios are almost 20 years old. Jill will check on a possible error questioned by Ken.

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Jack White, Water Superintendent was present for **Water Department** Budget. It was noted that this is up \$13,000 from last year. \$8000 for OT Salary was discussed. Jack explained that every weekend they are on call and guaranteed

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minimum of two hours. This is an unknown. Jill added that the first unknown that they had was a water main break. She explained the increase in health insurance for that department. Jack added that he had a couple of fixes: postage should be \$1500.00 and Uniforms was reduced by \$500.00 (down to \$1500.) He also explained that \$200 for the Town Car could be removed. \$2200 will be taken and the bottom line is \$551,666. Bill Hodgman questioned \$2500 for diesel expense where \$208 is spent so far. Jack calculated that he has used \$1200. Following a question from April on water sampling increases, Jack explained that it is due to PFAs and the high cost per sample. Discussion followed with T.A. Collins after Ken Howe asked if there should be a line for emergencies, to alleviate the line from going over. Jill explained that it's an offsetting revenue. The water main break will get a reimbursement from the State to offset the expense (not a charge to taxpayers). Bill Hodgman noted that the last few years there was no expense for Engineering Services and \$25,000 is on that line. It was explained that it is budgeted due to the expense of an engineer, if needed.

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Bob Truesdell, Highway Superintendent was present to discuss his budgets. First budget was **Parks**. This is up \$700. Bob noticed that the Dumpster line needs to be increased. They have just upped their fees. Dumpster will be increased over \$500 more to \$1350. Following a question from Chair Diorio on Workers Comp increase, Jill explained that Primex factors in on that rate. Vehicle expense was discussed; maintenance historically goes over but they are cutting back on fertilization due to past issues; there is the need for paint for the Fieldhouse but he believes in time that line can be brought down. New number for Parks is \$38,621.

**Highway** was discussed. Chair Diorio announced it was down \$27,617.00. Health insurance, retirement, and WC was down around \$30,000 due to reductions and new hires. Tree work was up a bit. It was explained that they have recently split the cost of the shop phone and internet with Water Dept. Each employee gets cell allowance due to use of cell on on-call basis. Karen asked if training expense was needed. Bob explained some training remains on the back burner due to COVID. All certifications were discussed. They have attended NH T-Square program in the past. They would like to have a live CPR course provided. An increase in the Dozer/Tractor/Backhoe line was due to adding a tractor to the fleet. They will change Town Car Maintenance line to mileage following discussion. Following a question from Ken on an increase for the Loader, Bob explained that it costs \$500 just to get the Cat repair person on site. They cut every corner they can to save and do as much fabricating as they can to save. He added that he would like to move the waste oil furnace from the landfill (at 1200 gallons a year to heat a vacant building) to the highway facility. They would use the furnace two days a week and the expenditure would be to buy a chimney stack for the highway facility. It would be a cost savings to heat the garage. Bill Nebelski thanked Bob and Wayne for putting the flags up.

**Transfer Station**. This budget is up about \$8000. There is a reduction in Salary, and a huge increase in Pay-Per-Bags going from 9500 to 22,500. Bob explained issues at the Texas refinery and all 3 vendors having the same problem – shortage. Discussion followed.

**Patriotic Purposes**: Discussion included that Budget is up to \$2100 on flags.

It was agreed that smaller budgets will be discussed on **Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 between both Boards.

[Budget Committee adjourned].

Rick commented to the Board re: his observation/suggestion that the Road Agent could be part of looking into the status of poles on Pole License matters. Comments were that it was a good idea.

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7:51 p.m. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (a)- personnel, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Carrier–aye; Diorio–aye; Johnson–aye; and Rideout–aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:52 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to carryover 2 vacation days into 2022 for Rick Carrier and to carryover 3 vacation days into 2022 for Julie Seymour, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

7:53 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to enter into non-public session** under RSA 91: A-3, II, (b)- hiring, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Carrier–aye; Diorio–aye; Johnson–aye; and Rideout–aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:54 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

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

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7:55 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden  
Secretary