

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2021 meeting held at Police Department Meeting Room

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, and Selectman Richard Johnson; and Kim Worden. Also in attendance were Chief Rataj, Ashley Pinger, Kathryn Lynch, Bob Truesdell, Mike Abbott, Kelly MacDonell, James MacDonell, Gary Montgomery, Bob Johnson, and Jack White. T.A. Jill Collins and Engineer Mike Vignale attended via Zoom.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of 12/6/2021; and public and non-public minutes of 11/29/21 second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Johnson-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was a Permit for Retail Sales of Permissible Fireworks for Fantasy Fireworks, 727 Brattleboro Road. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve** the Permit for Retail Sales for Fantasy Fireworks, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, an application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Hinsdale Fireman's Association was presented. This was received after the Agenda went out. This is for the Annual Christmas Party on 12/11/21. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Application for Open Container for the Fireman's Association, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Board Comments:

Selectman Carrier attended the Conservation Meeting last week.

Selectman Johnson will be attending the School Board Meeting on Wednesday.

Chair Diorio has a Budget Committee Meeting he will attend tomorrow night in the Community Room at Town Hall.

Citizen Comments: None

T.A. Reports/Requests:

Jill mentioned that she had sent the Board an email that there was money back from HealthTrust and in December there will be no deductions for medical and dental from employees' pay. She reminded them of the Employee Christmas Party/Retirement Party on Wednesday December 15th at noon.

Chair Diorio asked about employee vacation days to be used prior to year-end and of their awareness of what they may have available. T.A. Collins hasn't done November's sheets for employees but indicated they could call her if they would like to know. She stated the last report was done in October. She talked about future updating to BSMI 10 and that Julie will be accepting credit cards soon. Chair Diorio asked T.A. Collins to provide November updates soon so employees can use their time for Holidays if they'd like.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2021 meeting held at Police Department Meeting Room

T.A. Collins and Engineer Mike Vignale were present via Zoom. Mike was asked to join the meeting to discuss possible wastewater in North Hinsdale. He indicated that he had a lot of questions and they would need to fill him in.

Selectman Rideout spoke of interest in extending sewer through the Rt. 119 corridor and that there cannot be meaningful development unless we have sewer. Mike Vignale needed to know the scope - - from where to where. Money for the study was questioned. Bob Johnson responded to a question that the plant is over capacity in the Springtime. He responded to another question that a little additional infrastructure could be added to the existing plant. There was also mention of \$327,000 needed for upgrades to accommodate what we currently have, without any expansion. Expansion to the system was discussed. Chair Diorio mentioned that during prior discussion the (former) Brattleboro Public Works Director was willing to accept more wastewater and indicated that they have plenty of capacity; The Brattleboro Select Board had no chance to comment. Mike Vignale needs to know the area: the build-out potential, what planning and zoning allows; and to generate flow numbers – there is a need to identify the area they are looking to serve. Then different scenarios can be looked at.

T.A. Collins suggested that Kathryn put together tax maps for the Board to look at. Mike indicated that feasibility study depends on the area, routes, connections, whether it's a few parcels or a big area. T.A. Collins also mentioned looking at looping the water main to Oak Hill Road. Mike Vignale questioned whether there was enough water supply. He asked if sewer expansion potential had been studied in this area. He can consult with his partner after getting background info and a sense of the area. Next Monday maps will be brought in re: zoning, use and to calculate flows. A question of whether residents will be forced to tap in to a new system was discussed. Discussion followed. Bob Johnson brought RSA 147:8 to the Board's attention. Any building within 100' of sewer lines can be required by the Town to connect. He offered a copy of the RSA. There are a lot of unknowns. Mike Vignale would use the assumption that they were going to connect. It was agreed there was a need to get more information and continue the discussion.

[Mike Vignale left the meeting.]

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2021 meeting held at Police Department Meeting Room

Public Hearing

6:33 Chair Diorio suggested that in order to have a better understanding on the public hearing notice he would like to see different language, giving examples, in order to have clarity for citizens to decide whether they would like to attend.

Chair Diorio opened the public hearing by reading the Notice of Public Hearing.

Notice is hereby given that the Selectmen of the Town of Hinsdale will conduct a public hearing on Monday, December 6, 2021 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Police Department, 10 Main Street, Hinsdale, New Hampshire to accept testimony regarding the following matters:

- *To accept testimony regarding a proposed amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance; Change: Definitions added or changed: Added Fowl to Animal; Coop; Further defined At Large; Added Fowl to Stock/Livestock; Added Secure Enclosure.*
- *To accept testimony regarding a proposed amendment to the Cemetery Regulations to include rate increases; Updated Rates and added or changed wording in Paragraph 13; Article II and Article III.*
- *To accept testimony regarding proposed rate increases in the Solid Waste Ordinances; Rate change for tire disposal.*
- *To accept testimony regarding proposed rate increases in the Water & Sewer Ordinances. Water has rate changes and Sewer has rate changes. Sewer Ordinance has wording changes to page 35 which is now page 34 & 35.*

A copy of the proposed changes to the Ordinances and proposed Policy may be reviewed at the Hinsdale Selectmen's Office during regular business hours.

Interested citizens are invited to attend and comment on the above. Please call the Selectmen's Office at (603) 336-5710 or Relay NH at 1-800-735-2964 (TDD), at least five days in advance if you have a disability and/or need assistance to either attend or participate in the hearing. Written comments may be submitted to the Board of Selectmen, 11 Main Street, Hinsdale, NH 03451.

*Town of Hinsdale
Board of Selectmen*

Chair Diorio had concerns that we approved water and sewer increases prior to the Public Hearing and suggested the increase discussion be tabled, have a public hearing and then vote. T.A. Collins stated that they approved what they could go forward with to the public hearing- - it can be changed at the public hearing and then voted on. Chair Diorio would like the agenda to disclose (as example) "up to 8% sewer increase " so the public knows. Following a question from Selectman Johnson on the wording of prior motion, Selectman Johnson **made a motion to rescind** the vote on the sewer increase, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

The **Animal Control** Ordinance was discussed. Definitions were added or changed. Kathryn Lynch, Ashley Pinger, and Rod Lawrence worked on the changes in order to clarify and so that Ashley could have the ability to act when a complaint comes in. There was discussion on added definitions: added **fowl** to animal; added **fowl** to Stock/Livestock; added **Coop**; and added **Secure Enclosure**. **At Large** was further defined as off the premises or property of the owner. It was clarified that Animal Control Ordinance is by Selectmen's vote and any changes to Zoning Ordinance goes to Town Meeting.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2021 meeting held at Police Department Meeting Room

6:47 p.m. Public portion of meeting was closed.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion to insert the new language** in the Animal Control Ordinance, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Back in Public Hearing, the **Cemetery Ordinance** was discussed. Mike Abbott indicated that it did not change a great deal. Rates were increased in amounts required for full burials and cremations. These were last changed in 2012 and will go into effect as of 1/1/2022. There was discussion on perpetual care not changing in ten years and very low interest earned. There was discussion on why we have gotten away from the perpetual fund. There was mention that this is in line with what surrounding towns are charging. T.A. Collins reminded all that the Selectmen voted to turn funds over to Trustees for now and this year it will be on the Warrant for the RSA to be adopted.

6:53 p.m. Public portion of the meeting was closed.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve the Cemetery Ordinance**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Back in Public Hearing, the **Solid Waste Ordinance** was discussed. Bob Truesdell spoke of rates going up due to a number of factors. Proposed are car tires going from \$3 to \$5, Truck Tires 16"-19" and above going from \$8 to \$18; and miscellaneous heavy equipment tires disposal fee plus \$5. It was clarified that they can still have rims. No steel...as in snowmobile tracks. Discussion followed on Selectmen Rideout's question on dumping issues.

6:56 Public portion of meeting was closed.

Selectman Rideout **made a motion to accept the changes for the Solid Waste Ordinance**, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio mentioned that we are going to pass over the next one.

Public Hearing Concluded at 6:56 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2021 meeting held at Police Department Meeting Room

Kathryn asked if she could comment on what was talked about with Mike Vignale. She acknowledged that, as a Planner, she should want more infrastructure and was for that. Her concern was that we need over \$300,000 to fix what we have; the sidewalk project has brought forth problem after problem; she asked if putting out money to do a study would go to the townspeople. T.A. Collins response was not necessarily (with explanation that it would come out of capital reserve for water and sewer, not out of the General Fund). T.A. Collins added that to do the project, it would have to go to the Townspeople. Kathryn's other concerns were that residents would have to tie in to any new system and not being a wealthy town. Discussion on concerns followed.

Bob Johnson added that there should also be a change in the Sewer Use Ordinance, that language is not correct and the Inspector of DES would like deficiencies he found corrected. Bob's hope is to include and substitute correct language.

T.A. Collins reminded the Board they rescinded the sewer and not water vote. It was agreed to have the Public Hearing on Water and Sewer Ordinances on December 20th. She will prepare and publish the Hearing Notice. Kim will post by the 10th.

There was further discussion on the Public Hearing Notice to state proposed increase "up to 8%" for sewer and "up to 1½ %" for water and "update of Sewer Ordinances to meet State requirements". There was further discussion that these increases will take place effective January 1, 2022. Jill will get the ad in by the end of the week.

7:09 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary