

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall Auditorium

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Richard Johnson, Selectman Mike Carrier and Selectman William Hodgman. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, and Jodie Holmquist. Others present were: Dan Seymour, Karen Johnson, Sean Leary, Alex Duso, Bill Nebelski, Kenny Howe, Bob Truesdell, Julie Seymour, April Anderson, Jack White, Chief Terry Zavorotny, Chief Rataj, Melissa Evans, Ray Gosetti, Josh Moore, and Tom Green.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of January 8, 2024 and the public minutes of January 2, 2024 second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio read a letter requesting an abatement from Mr. Weaver at 86 High Street. Discussion included that rules and regulations were followed and the Department Head would leave it to the Board if there were to be changes. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to deny the request for abatement re: 86 High Street, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-no; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes.

Julie Seymour, Tax Collector, was present to request an abatement for 42 Eden Trail, describing an error of their office on 2022 taxes, due to the account being switched to the wrong owner in the system and the bank (being copied) double paid. She will need to refund the bank \$3580.04. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to abate Propster, 42 Eden Trail, for \$3580.04, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Tom Green was present to discuss defined benefit *Length of Service Award Program* (LOSAP) for the Fire Department. They put together a length of service awards program for retirement of volunteers, at age 65, based upon time put in. This is to assist with recruitment and retention, being a national concern. A point system is created by the department for its members. They put together a proposal of \$10 for every year of service: At age 65 with 30 years of service, there would be \$300/month (guaranteed for 10 years) of lifetime payout. He gave ideas for points, such as showing up on calls, fundraising, holding a position, etc. He added that this is an investment in your personnel. Fees are based on age and years of service. Two proposals have been given to T.A. Lynch. Chair Diorio thanked him for the proposals and presentation and indicated that the Board will take this under advisement.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Lynch received one bid on petroleum (gas/diesel/off road diesel) which was due today. She could not find any information from last year. Sandri was the sole bid, in at \$50,000. \$70,000 was paid out last year. Discussion followed to include that this is based on a 22-cent markup, the thought that it fluctuates (yet is lower than pump price), and no timeframe showing on the bid. T.A. Lynch will get back to them and ask for more specifics. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to table** this for more information, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch mentioned that Town Offices will be closed on Monday.

She received information from Bob today re: fees at the Transfer Station.

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She mentioned the upcoming storm Tuesday into Wednesday and the possibility of closing Town Hall.

Bob Truesdell mentioned that the auction closed on the fire truck. The fire truck went for \$1200.00. He was locked out of the account and needs to approve once he is back in. Bob has been sent three different quotes for Transfer Station. Goodnough and MDS were much higher than approved last week. He just got numbers from Casella and they look to be the lowest. He can work on getting defined contract and has put together part time and full-time employee duties and schedule. He will be looking to put in lights near containers due to the plan for one late opening day. He's looking into generating revenue ideas.

[6:37 p.m. Budget Committee was called to order.]

Police Department:

Budget Committee members wanted to continue to discuss the Police Budget.

Ken asked about a difference in amount approved last year and what the budget sheet shows. Discussion followed to include uncertainty on the difference. Chair Diorio reminded all that we are here to discuss next year's budget of \$1,747,350.96. Dan Seymour asked Chief Rataj questions on spending for equipment, radios, and cruiser equipment and felt some items should have been on a warrant article. Chief responded that he couldn't anticipate certain items and couldn't wait a year and a half or more. T.A. Lynch noted that a grant should have been written (during prior administration) and wasn't. Chief also pointed out safety concerns and country-wide wave of shootings regarding the purchase of body armor. T.A. Lynch noted that money was budgeted, needs arose, Selectmen approved expenditures. Sean added that Chief attended many Select Board Meetings, he felt he brought concerns to Board's attention, is trying to do what voters tell him, and trying to budget. Chief was asked if he felt there was a way to cut his budget a bit more. Chief felt the only way is to earn revenue or go to some type of regionalization. Chief was asked about Walmart concerns and those were also discussed.

Budget Committee member Dan Seymour made a motion to lower the bottom line of the Police Department Budget by \$75,000 to 1,687,580.96, second by Karen Johnson. Two were in favor, six opposed. Motion fails.

Budget Committee member Bill Nebelski **made a motion** to tentatively approve Police Department Budget at \$1,747,350.96, second by Alex Duso. Two voted no; all others yes. Motion passes.

Budget Committee decided to meet next Thursday, 1/18/24 at 6:30 to review school budget. They will meet with school board either Monday 1/22 or Wed. 1/24.

There will be no Select Board meeting next week.

[7:27 Budget Committee adjourned.]

7:27 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.
Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary