

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 22, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

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: Sean Leary, Chief Rataj, Taran Benedict, and Chief Zavorotny.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of January 16, 2024 and January 22, 2024 and the public minutes of January 8, 2024 second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Jodie had sent out a list of financials to the Board. She noted that she added a column on the right for a quick visual. Discussion followed. She created, ran reports, made entries and noted that we are pretty much where we need to be. She added that WW is currently thrown off by Debt Services. She also noted that payments to the School were previously put under expense and should have been liability. All liked the list and thanked her.

New Business:

First presented was a Town Hall Facility Rental Request by Class of 2024 for Semi-Formal on 2/10/2024. It was noted that this could take place as the musical will now take place in March. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve and for the Chair to sign the Class Rental request for the Semi-Formal, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

A Warrant Timber Tax Levy in the amount of \$475.86 re: Jay Nadeau, Map/Lot 33/17 was presented. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve and sign the Timber Tax Levy, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions for #012224A (Veterans), second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, a Permit Application for Retail Sales of Permissible Fireworks for American Promotional Events-TNT Fireworks, 963 Brattleboro Road was mentioned. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the TNT Permit and for the Chair to sign, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, Tax Abatements re: Laurissa Goslant, 43 Robbins Street, for 2017, 2018, and 2021 totaling \$139.84 (per Agreement with Thicket Hill to abate when new home installed) were presented. Discussion followed. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to sign the abatements for Goslant, 43 Robbins Street, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

The Board was forwarded the Fire Department Station Feasibility Study earlier. T.A. Lynch met with two companies, one who designed Brattleboro's station and the other Walpole, Westmoreland and a number of smaller towns. She sent RFQ to both and advertised. She received one and the other after the deadline. She

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felt Michael Petrovick Architects PLLC had a lot of great qualifications, they know what small town needs are. The cost would be around \$25,000 for the feasibility study and the Department has funds in their building fund. She recommends this architect. Discussion took place with input from Taran and Chief Zavorotny. Selectman Hodgman mentioned that 2009 was the last feasibility study and there has been no follow up since. If we do this now, we can get the dialog started. He suggested this would be an opportunity to add a FD booth at the Informational Meeting on the 31st. Taran added that they could furnish a list of properties with potential or possibilities. Further discussion included that there are a lot of grants out there for new builds, and added that EMOC is there now as well. T.A. Lynch expressed shock and concern at what she found they are dealing with during her recent visit to the station. She added that they will need to be ADA compliant. Selectman Hodgman added that the department has grown to about 35 members (with 20-25 very active) responding to 550 calls.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve and accept qualifications of Michael Petrovick Architects for the Feasibility Study, with funds expended from the existing Fire Department Building Fund, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Johnson mentioned that he will be on vacation next week. He was excused at 6:30 p.m. to attend the Budget Committee meeting as Selectman Rep.

T.A. Lynch looked at the budget for the DRA portal and found error in Debt Services that they can review next week.

She indicated that she had no idea of what was to take place after bond acceptance and discovered a lot of unknowns regarding prior bonds. She has been working with the bond bank to get funds for two approved bonds and needs permission to sign the bond documents. The first step is to work with a bond attorney with fees of between \$5,500 and \$8,500 and the need to have bond meetings. There are two bonds from last year and will be one this year if approved. Discussion followed.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** for the Chair to sign the contract with the bond attorney, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; and Hodgman-aye; Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** for TA Lynch to sign future documents regarding bonds approved at Town Meeting, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. Discussion followed on the need to order a tank for the brush truck. T.A. Lynch will talk to bond attorney tomorrow.

T.A. Lynch was contacted by the Greater Monadnock Collaborative, which evolved from the Chamber of Commerce, where \$300 was paid in the past to join. They have had conversations and helped with promotions. They are sending a letter of request asking for \$3000. Discussion followed. Consensus was not this year, possibly next year.

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T.A. Lynch presented a contract for Emergency Operations Plan Grant with Southwest Region Planning Commission assisting, to be signed by Chair Diorio. Hinsdale Emergency Operations Plan will be worked on with Henry Underwood and was last updated in 2004. It is recommended to update every five years.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for the Chair to sign the contract for Emergency Operations Plan Grant, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch discussed a scheduling matter re: Budget Committee and Public Hearing. Discussion followed. Town Hall scheduling needs to be requested and it was clarified that the Town Administrator always schedules all Public Hearings and prepares public notices. Also, meetings need to be properly noticed. The Public Hearing will take place on the 5th of February.

The Landfill Groundwater Management Permit was finished. Results show there is concern regarding PFAs and expectation that the state will request the Town to expand the groundwater management zone (GMZ).

The Waste Water Asset Management Contract first needs to be reviewed by NH DES before bringing to the Board.

T.A. Lynch reached out to Sandri and provided further information. They did a bid in 2021, but not since then. Contract can be for one to or three years. 2021, 2022 and 2023 reports were provided. \$50,711.45 estimated total is right on target. Sandri was the sole bid. Discussion followed. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to go with Sandri, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch spoke of an email with a 91-A Right to Know request and is working with the Town Attorney. Discussion followed.

Ann has been working on the Town Report. T.A. Lynch and Jodie will be working on the DRA portal which needs to be completed by the 5th.

T.A. Lynch talked about the Informational Meeting to take place on January 31st from 6:30 to 7:30 for the Transfer Station, Community Power, Water/Sewer Rate increase calendar, and now FD Feasibility Study.

She will be out of the office February 20-27.

Citizen/Public Comment:

Chief Rataj indicated that he has been in Concord recently testifying in front of committees due to unique proposals to law changes. He also informed the Board we are in good shape with 9 of 10 positions filled, with one in the Academy now and one about to enter the Academy. Selectman Hodgman initiated conversation on the importance of fleet maintenance and fleet replacement. Discussion followed on keeping and retaining key people and condition of the fleet and ideas.

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Board Comments:

Selectman Rideout handed out information from Senator Shaheen's office on possibilities of grant or loan funding for sewer expansion through NH Environmental Services (NH DES) USDA or EDA. He indicated that they will get back to him on what's available this year. Selectman Rideout also revisited his interest in having a revolving fund for the PD re: detail. Long discussion followed including taking pay and benefits and costs into account and that currently all goes to revenue to offset the tax rate. It was discussed that he is talking about setting up an expendable trust through a warrant article with leftover from the budget, leaving a net amount. It was suggested to track the numbers and possibly put together a warrant article the following year to see if the town approves. It was also discussed that any expendable trust should include defined specified criteria. It was agreed that they would like more time to look into it.

Selectman Carrier had a Library Trustees Meeting.

Selectman Hodgman will have a Parks & Rec Meeting this week.

It was announced that the Board would be going into a non-public. Members of the public left the meeting.

7:23 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)-personnel, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

7:45 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

7:45 p.m. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary