

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall, Auditorium

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Richard Johnson and Selectman William Hodgman. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, and Jodie Holmquist. Others present were: Police Chief Rataj, Bob Truesdell, Sarah Hudon, Budget Committee members, School Board members, and members of the public.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of February 5, 2024 and the public and non-public minutes of January 29, 2024 second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was an Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Bethany Worden for Birthday Party at the Community Center on February 17, 2024. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** for Chair to sign the alcohol permit for Worden on February 17th, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Second was an Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Gail Ames for Easter Family Event at the Community Center on March 31, 2024. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for Chair to sign the alcohol permit for Ames on March 31st, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

A water abatement for 2023 4th Quarter for Beverly Bernier, 532 Plain Road in the amount of \$49.53 was presented. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to abate Bernier \$49.53, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Finally, a Notice to Voluntary Merger of properties owned by Darby Patterson, Tax Map 9 Lot 19 Book 1576 Page 0563 and Tax Map 12 Lot 19 Book 3053 Page 1225 was presented. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for the Chair to sign the Patterson merger, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch presented Agreement for valuation, consulting, and expert witness service to the Town by George Sansoucy, P.E., LLC. She explained it as a contract with utility assessor "Skip" Sansoucy. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the contract, second by Carrier. It was clarified that this was for utility tax appeals. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch went over the warrant article changes resulting after speaking with DRA. Some are grammatical changes.

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6:15 p.m. Chair Diorio opened the **Public Hearing** on the Bond and read the notice:

**Public Hearing Notice
Proposed Issuance of Bonds
Town of Hinsdale**

Pursuant to RSA 33:8-a, I, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Hinsdale will hold a public bond hearing on February 5, 2024 at 6:15 p.m., at the at the Town Hall, 11 Main Street, Hinsdale, New Hampshire, to discuss the proposed issuance of a bond in the amount of \$301,068 for the purpose of repairing the Depot Street Bridge. The bond issue will be voted on at the 2024 Town meeting.

If canceled due to weather, the public hearing will be rescheduled to February 6, 2024 at 6:15 P.M.

Board of Selectmen Town of Hinsdale, NH

T.A. Lynch offered information that this is a 15-year bond and she brought the bulletin board information from the Informational Meeting and copies outlining repairs and what's needed.

Alex Duso asked what the contingency plan would be if this is not approved. T.A. Lynch responded that it would not be ideal, but they would come back next year with this. Dan Seymour asked if there would be weight restrictions if this were to fail. Bob Truesdell responded that there would not. It is already rated low.

There were no further questions.

Chair Diorio closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

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Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson commented that a question was raised at the last Budget Meeting on how the finance positions are paid and under what line item for this year and last. Jodie responded they are under Finance Salary line.

Selectman Carrier will have a Conservation Committee meeting on Wednesday.

Selectman Rideout has a Planning Board meeting near the end of the month.

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6:30 p.m. Select Board and Budget Committee were present for **Public Hearing**. Dennis Nadeau opened Public Hearing:

**Public Budget Hearing Notice
Town of Hinsdale
Budget Committee**

Pursuant to RSA 32:5, the Town of Hinsdale Budget Committee will hold a public budget hearing on February 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., at the at the Town Hall, 11 Main Street, Hinsdale, New Hampshire, to discuss the Town's 2024 budget.

If canceled due to weather, the budget hearing will be rescheduled to February 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Town of Hinsdale Budget Committee

He went through Article One of Operating Budget from handout dated 2/5/24 and read 2024-2025 Requests and Increase/Decrease for: Total Executive, Town Clerk, EL Election Officials, Trustees, Finance, Tax Collector, Other Financial, Revaluation of Property, Legal Expenses, Human Resources, Planning and Zoning, General Government Buildings, Cemeteries and Parks, Insurance, Police Department, Total Ambulance, Total Fire Department, Building Inspection Emergency Management, Highway and Streets, Solid Waste Collection, Sanitation, Health Officers, Health Agencies and Hospitals, Welfare, Library, Patriotic Purposes, Summer Program, Municipal Pool, Community Society, Community Center, Conservation Commission, Total Loans Due To Int, and Total General Fund. Total General Fund request is \$5,248,871.26, Increase of \$80,357.31, 1.55% increase.

Questions from the public were asked including:

Smokey Smith asked why election officials are asking for \$4000 more. Karen Johnson offered her explanation of figuring in more hours. Smokey questioned "Community Society" and it was explained this should read "Community Events" and that line includes things like Easter, Chili Cookoff, Trunk or Treat, and other events. Smokey asked about Solid Waste Collection and clarifications were offered as to making a full time Transfer Station, with no more blue bags. Recycling and trash will go to the Transfer Station and recycling is the same as trash for now. It was pointed out that Bob is working on recycling possibilities and grants in hopes that future recycling can be free or at a minimum cost.

Dennis explained that they would look at the following Warrant Articles starting with Article 4 (and through Article 17) and felt the language was understandable:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Hinsdale qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Hinsdale Community Center on Tuesday the 12th day of March, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning to act on the following subjects:

Article 1. To cast your ballot for all necessary Town Officers.

Article 2. To amend Article 5, Use Regulations, to change use #1 in the Commercial Industrial District from Any uses allowed in the Roadside Commercial and Business Districts except Residential District uses to Any uses allowed in the Roadside Commercial District.

Article 3. To amend Article 7, Special Regulations, Item 6, Open Space Requirements of Zoning Districts. Minimum Lot area (acres or square feet), in the Rural Agricultural District from 2 acres or 87,120 sq. ft. to 1 acre or 43,650 sq. ft.

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The following part of the Town Meeting shall be adjourned and will be held on Saturday, the 16th day of March, 2024 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning in the gymnasium of the Hinsdale High School.

- Article 4.** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Four hundred twenty-six thousand, sixty-eight dollars (\$426,068) for the purpose of repairing the Depot Street Bridge, with Three hundred and one thousand, sixty-eight dollars (\$301,068) of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended and One hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) (to come from the unassigned fund balance which represents the Roads and Bridges Concentration Account set up for this purpose; to authorize the Selectboard to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Selectboard to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid or donations, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectboard to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. And furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-eight hundred, fifty-two dollars (\$7,852) for the first payment on the bonds. (3/5 ballot vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,248,871 (Five million, two hundred forty-eight thousand, eight hundred seventy-one dollars) for the general operating expenses of the Town, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 9-1
- Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$706,805 (Seven hundred six thousand, eight hundred five dollars) for the operations of the Water Department and to be paid by water user fees, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$549,333 (Five hundred forty-nine thousand, three hundred thirty-three dollars) for the operations of the Sewer Treatment Plant and to be paid by sewer user fees, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300,000 (Three hundred thousand dollars) for demolition of buildings at 54 Canal Street, such sum to be raised by the acceptance of grant funds Invest NH in the amount of \$300,000 (Three hundred thousand dollars). (No estimate tax impact - Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$250,000 (Two hundred fifty thousand dollars) for the rehabilitation of the Millstream Community Center, such sum to be raised by the acceptance of grant funds from CDFA Community Center Investment Program in the amount of, \$212,500 (two hundred twelve thousand five hundred dollars) and Town matching funds in the amount of \$37,500 (Thirty-seven thousand, five hundred dollars) from the Community Center Building Improvement Expendable Trust Fund. This article is contingent on receiving the grant. If the grant is not received this article is null and void. (No estimated tax impact - Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 10.** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$100,000 (One hundred thousand dollars) through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the purpose of a feasibility study of the Town's Water and Sewer Infrastructure. The loan will be repaid as follows: \$100,000 (One hundred thousand dollars) will be forgiven by agreement with NHDES. This article is contingent on receiving 100% loan forgiveness. If 100% loan forgiveness is not received this article is null and void. (No estimated tax impact - Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 11.** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$76,000 (Seventy-six thousand dollars) for an overage on the sidewalk project from 2017. The offsetting amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0

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- Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 (Thirty thousand dollars) to be added to the Town Hall Improvement Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance and improvements to the Town Hall, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-2
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,812 (Eighteen thousand, eight hundred twelve dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a commercial lawn mower to be used by the Parks Department, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 (Fifteen thousand dollars) for the purpose of adding to the Fire Department Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of purchasing breathing apparatus equipment for the fire department, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars) for the purpose of adding to the Fire Department Protective Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of purchasing protective equipment for the fire department, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500 (Fifty-five hundred dollars) for the purpose of purchasing fence for Oak Lawn Cemetery to be used by the Cemetery Department or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote Required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 10-0
- Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 (Five thousand dollars) to support the Hinsdale Historical Society, or act in any manner thereon. (Majority vote required).
- Recommended by the Selectboard, 5-0
 - Recommended by the Budget Committee, 8-0-2
- Article 18.** Shall we modify the Elderly Exemption from property tax income levels for qualified tax payers from married income limit of \$28,000 to \$32,000 and modify the following: for a resident 65 years of age up to 74 from \$19,500 off assessed value to \$27,000 off assessed value; and for a resident 75 years of age up to 79 years from \$32,500 off assessed value to \$42,000 off assessed value; and for a resident 80 years of age and up from \$56,000 to \$60,000 off assessed value? To qualify a person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years preceding April 1 in the year in which the exemption is claimed and meet all the other requirements of RSA 72:39-a. (Majority vote required).
- Article 19.** Shall we modify the Disabled Exemption for qualified tax payers from married income limit of \$28,000 to married income limit \$32,000 and to modify the following: change from \$15,000 off assessed value to \$24,000 off assessed value? To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for 5 years and meet all the other requirements of RSA 72:37-b. (Majority vote required).
- Article 20.** Shall we modify the Blind Exemption for qualified tax payers from married income limit of \$28,000 to married income limit \$32,000 and to modify the following: change from \$15,000 off assessed value to \$24,000 off assessed value? To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for 5 years and meet all the other requirements of RSA 72:37-b, III, (c). (Majority vote required).
- Article 21.** Shall we modify the Deaf Exemption for qualified tax payers from married income limit of \$28,000 to married income limit \$32,000 and to modify the following: change from \$15,000 off assessed value to \$24,000 off assessed value? To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for 5 years and meet all the other requirements of RSA 72:38-b. (Majority vote required).
- Article 22.** Shall we modify the Veteran's Tax Credit from property tax optional credit from \$250 off tax due to \$400 off tax due? To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for 1 year on April 1st of the year requested Veteran's Tax Credit and meet all the other requirements of RSA 72:28. (Majority vote required).
- Article 23.** Shall we modify the Veterans Tax Credit from property tax optional service-connected total disability from \$1400 off tax due to \$1800 off tax do? To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for 1 year on April 1st of the year requested Veteran's Tax Credit and meet all the other requirements of RSA 72:35. (Majority vote required).

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Article 24. To see whether there is community support to consider opting into the Cheshire County Community Power Plan for electricity supply for residential, business and municipal use, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 53-E:6. The Hinsdale Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan may be viewed at Town Hall during normal business hours or on the Town's website.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to accept and adopt the reports of the Selectboard, Auditors, and other Town Officers.

Article 26. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Articles 4 through 17 were reviewed. There were questions on the demo grant (Article 8) re: 54 Canal Street which T.A. Lynch responded to. T.A. Lynch reminded the Board the need to sign the Warrant Articles and the Budget Committee needs to sign the MS-737.

7:01 p.m. Dennis closed the town portion of the Budget Hearing and continued with the School Budget.

7:03 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary