

*Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, February 26, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall*

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman William Hodgman and Selectman Richard Johnson. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch (via phone), Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Julie Seymour, Dan Seymour, Sean Leary, Ruthann Rideout, Eva Bushee, Rod and Pat Thayer, Bob Truesdell, Frances Boucher, Brenda King, Pam Savory, Kendra Gardner, and others.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifest of February 20, 2024 and February 26, 2024 and the public and non-public minutes of February 12, 2024 second by Rideout. Selectman Johnson would like to see which department spent funds. Jodie can look into adding info to the comments for a little more clarity. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

An updated Agreement was presented for technical assistance from SWRPC for the Emergency Operations Plan Update. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** for the Chair to sign the Agreement, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

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Bob Truesdell spoke about a plan formulated for the Transfer Station. They need \$26,000 for a container for MSW (household trash), a lean-to to go over the container, a sorting station, two shipping containers for storage, and lights for evenings when Transfer Station will be open later.

The Board earlier was shown a flow plan design and all were agreeable. Cost will be \$2.50 per 20 lbs. MSW is regular household trash and C&D is construction and demo trash. Bob explained the process: first to drive in and get weight, leave trash, circle around to get back on the scale, and pay the attendant. All recycling will be free. Scrap metal and tin cans go to the metal dumpster (which will generate revenue less shipping expenses). There will be a container for electronics. There will be a container for tires. Corrugated cardboard and aluminum cans will be separated out under a lean-to roof and will be baled and then stored to containers until there is enough for shipment. For plastics, loose paper, and glass, there will be no revenue made. The attendant will be paid for tires, electronics, mattresses, appliances, etc. Pallets, brush, and compost are always taken for free. In the future, they will look into other avenues of recycling to help reduce our cost of recycling.

Following questions, it was stated that they have always taken batteries and will continue (even lithium). They take thermostats and mercury switches (for free, though it is an expense for the town). Florescent light bulbs and hazardous waste must be taken to Keene.

They will stop taking blue bags and stop selling them at some point. Bob indicated that we will honor the bags for 6 months after change-over.

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Bob reiterated that Casella will no longer be doing curbside as it stands. The want to do mechanical arm with bin style (if lids open, there can be excess weight, can't tell which bags are in them, tax rate will rise, and lack of access/serviceability on some smaller roads). We will save around \$200,000 by opening a full-time station with a bit of set up cost, resulting in a cost reduction.

There is a \$2.50 minimum on the scale. The scale reads in 20-lb. increments. A small household bag is typically 20 lbs. for a cost of \$2.50. Following a question on cat litter, he indicated it is regular MSW and goes across the scale. T.A. Lynch mentioned that we first need to find where we are getting the money for the set-up cost. Bob mentioned that the MSW containers need 4 to 6 weeks lead time after they are ordered. Other containers are available now and the lights are ready to go too. The contractor will be here in mid-March for the scale.

One question was what if the town votes this down. It was pointed out that this is in the budget. There is no Plan B. Bob has talked to all vendors and trash companies in the area and none can accommodate in the timeframe we have. Discussion followed. Bob spoke of Transfer Stations and their features in Swanzey, Chesterfield, and Hancock.

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Pamela Savory and Kendra Gardner were present to speak about *Wreaths Across America*. This is an organization placing wreaths in cemeteries as a way to represent veterans and they would like to do that in Pine Grove Cemetery in honor of Jim Savory. The Winchester coordinator was also present and spoke, mentioning roadblocks in the past with trying to get this going here. Wreaths are \$17 each and once someone signs up as coordinator, they get sponsors and work with the cemetery sexton. There are strict guidelines, wreaths are placed at a certain time each year, they mark each grave, all veterans are accounted for on wreath day and they have a sponsorship group. They would also remove the wreaths at the appropriate times. They added that it doesn't cost the Town and the Town would not have responsibility. Discussion followed. She will sign up and look into various sponsorships for wreaths. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to allow for Wreaths Across America to take place at Pine Grove Cemetery, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

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6:30 p.m. Public Hearing was opened. Chair Diorio 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 26, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., 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 27, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.*

*Board of Selectmen Town of Hinsdale, NH*

There was mention that this took place before. It was to have taken place between February 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. It originally took place on a date prior to the DRA scheduled timeframe of Town meeting dates, therefore is taking place again within that timeframe.

Being no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:31 p.m.

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*Citizen Comments:*

Mrs. Boucher asked about the Annual Report availability. T.A. Lynch responded that it is not due to be out until Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. They are still at the printers.

Dan Seymour pointed out a couple of questions he had asked previously and indicated that he didn't want an answer tonight. First, was how are we paying everyone this year; and second, he asked about TC State fees amount budgeted vs. amount spent. He handed the Board highlighted "Draft" expense pages dated 10/25/23 and 11/07/23 indicating he didn't want to argue and previous answers do not make sense to him. He asked how the finance office salaries are being paid. Following attempted responses to answer his questions, he reiterated that he didn't want answers tonight.

*Board Comments:*

Selectman Hodgman mentioned that Parks and Rec will have a meeting tomorrow night.

Selectman Johnson asked about the FEMA status on River Road. Discussion included that we are still in the middle of that; we have been paid around \$40,000; it has been sent to the State for survey and other things; the project is now estimated to be \$200,000 or \$300,000 to fix and we now have to go to the State and ask for more money. There have been numerous rounds of contacts and the last contact person didn't like the way the map was drawn. They issue "like and kind" replacement. We can apply to rectify the stabilization funds with reason and why it can't be "like and kind". A majority of the funds received have been spent on just the engineer. Selectman Johnson suggested we write to both US Senators and representatives.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to send a letter to US Senators and US Representatives in reference to River Road FEMA status for action in resolving the problem, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Rideout attended a Planning Board meeting last week which was informational.

There Board mentioned going into a non-public. Members of the public left the meeting.

6:47 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II, (a)-personnel, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

6:51 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

6:59 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,  
Secretary