

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 4, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman William Hodgman, and Selectman Richard Johnson. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Sean Leary, Bob Truesdell, Kaylee Howe, Josh Green, Jessica Green, Dan Seymour, and Julie Seymour. Selectman Mike Carrier was excused.

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order. He added that Selectman Carrier was excused; and all observed a moment of silence for the Major family following a tragic accident.

Selectman Hodgman made a **motion to approve** the manifest of March 4, 2024 and the public and non-public minutes of February 26, 2024 second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented were abatements for 3 Warren Drive for Harve and April Prater as agreed on 6/2/22. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to sign the abatements for Prater on 3 Warren Drive, second by Johnson. Discussion followed with T.A. Lynch for clarification. Motion passes unanimously.

Next presented was an Application for Driveway Permit for Jonah Ketola, Ketola Contracting LLC, Middle Oxbow Road Tax Map 33 Lot 21-8. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** for Chair to sign the Driveway Permit for Ketola, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

An Architect Agreement with Michael Petrovick Architects for Hinsdale Fire Station Feasibility Study was provided. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** for Chair to sign the Architect Agreement, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Lynch mentioned that Town Reports are here and the areas they were distributed.

She mentioned that we have an ELO student, Kaylee, who is present tonight and is working in the finance office on tasks including deposits, reconciliations and creating informational flyers.

The snow rake has been installed and gutter work needed was completed at no extra charge. Front doors will be installed soon.

Town Tax Deeded parcels were served with Eviction Notices by the Sheriff's Office on February 21, with eviction date being April 1st.

T.A. Lynch thanked Josh Green for updating the Town website and creating a Facebook post with Transfer Station information. She also thanked Jodie Holmquist for setting up a cash register for the Transfer Station and working with GWorks to link to "Front Desk" program so that credit card payments can be made.

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T.A. Lynch also informed the Board that David from Casella called her today to let her know they will be sending a mailer out very soon to all residents. This mailer will explain to residents that they can apply for a *fee-based subscription service* with Casella. They will most likely have an introductory price which will increase with time. Any interested resident will need to purchase a cart from Casella and place it by the curb on designated trash day. The service price will vary depending on whether the resident wants trash and recycling picked up. This might be another solution for people who don't feel they can get to the Transfer Station.

T.A. Lynch acknowledged Ann for getting Certificates of Recognition and plaques ready for Town Meeting.

Elections will be on March 12th and Julie has asked which Board Members can help and what timeframes. The Board can let T.A. Lynch know by email.

Funds needed for the Transfer Station set up will come from Transfer Station line items. The Transfer Station Budget will go over by an estimated \$27,000. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to allow Bob to go over on Transfer Station budget by approximately \$27,000 and use some of the highway budget for certain items, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Only one land bid came in for the Plain Road parcel. This was from an abutter at \$16,100.00. Following a question, T.A. Lynch responded that the property was assessed at \$11,000.00. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to accept the bid for \$16,100.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

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6:15 p.m. Chair Diorio opened the Public Hearing:

Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Water and Sewer Ordinances:

**Town of Hinsdale
Board of Selectmen
Notice of Public Hearing
March 4, 2024 – Town Hall**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Hinsdale Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 4th starting at 6:15 p.m. in the Hinsdale Town Hall to accept testimony for the proposed amendments to the ***Hinsdale Water Department Ordinance and to the Sewer Use Ordinance.***

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

T.A. Lynch indicated that the changes increase Water by 4.5% and Sewer by 2%. There was discussion with department heads to also increase both by 2% for the following three years. There were clerical changes asked for by the NH Dept. of Environmental Services and the town attorney.

Chair Diorio asked if there were questions from the public. Sean Leary asked what the clerical changes were. T.A. Lynch responded instead of “agreement” use “permit”; Water was “upon sale” for final read and now “prior to sale”; Water takers “town supplied... “ language, terms re: lead/no-lead fitting; “or authorized agent” used in various places. DES wanted a specific code used and for consistently stating “NH DES” rather than “DES”.

Selectmen Hodgman mentioned that the connection fee seems extremely high.

6:20 p.m. public portion closed.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to accept the Water and Sewer Ordinances as amended, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

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T.A. Lynch continued with her topics. She gave a bond update where it was decided with the Bond Attorney to wait for the summer rates and put all three bonds together for 15 years. Two articles from last year and the proposed bond for this town meeting. Some money has been spent with bond attorney's approval and okay and the bond will reimburse those funds.

There is a cyber security summit on November 7th and T.A. Lynch feels it would be useful for all Town Hall staff to attend, as well as other department heads. She would like permission to close Town Hall on that date. Jodie attended a Primex quarterly security meeting last week and spoke on that. The Board indicated they didn't have a problem as long as it was posted in advance.

T.A. Lynch does not have an answer yet from the Town Attorney as to amendments on the floor, budget, and Right To Know Request.

She is working on a letter for signatures to the State Senate and House of Representatives pertaining to River Road.

She spoke with Todd from SWRPC and he gave a lot of ideas for possible grants for Town Hall. He said the first step would be an energy audit with CDFA which is 75% refundable to the Town. This audit would give the Town a breakdown of cost and ideas for improvement with windows, doors, lighting, heating, and cooling of the Town Hall. The next step would be with Northern Borders. They have a fall round that could be applied for and the cost match might be from the Geoffrey Holt Grant.

Todd explained that LCHIP offers a *planning preservation grant* to provide more information and detail and would give a cost estimate to improve the Town Hall to be historically preserved to then be able to apply for LCHIP funding. This gives a chance to decide to be on the Historical Register.

Todd also explained that SWRPC is working on a grant to Northern Borders called the "Timber for Transit" Grant. A portion of this grant, if received, would be to cap the trestle bridge and to aid in pedestrian bike access for the old bridges.

She will be sitting in on a webinar tomorrow on Congressionally Directed Spending from US Senator Shaheen's Office. This is limited to 1% of congressionally direct spending, short-term will only get one year, not multiple years. Earmarks are for direct funding for Water Infrastructure and watershed preservation. A 20% cost share is required to apply. The project must be eligible under the State Revolving Loan Fund, Clear Water SRF, which we are doing now hopefully if we get the grant in April.

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Board Comments:

Selectman Hodgman attended the recent Parks and Rec meeting. There were concerns of some expenses for some town buildings, specifically of use of bathroom supplies by different groups using facilities. Bob mentioned that Cal Ripken replaces what they use and they clean. Otherwise, it's Bob. Re: Field Facilities, there were talks of expanding bathroom access by adding doors from outside on the pool building. Discussion followed that this should come back to the Board for the best way to go forward. Bob mentioned idea of just adding doors on pool building. If the pool is open, access would be through interior doors. If the pool is closed, access could be through exterior doors for other events. Discussion followed on Fields. Selectmen Hodgman asked if there is a written agreement with the schools as Cal Ripken reached out and wanted to know. Discussion included that it would make sense to have one and there should be an agreement with the Town, School, and Cal Ripken in the near future.

Selectman Johnson would like open positions on Cemetery Trustees get on the town website.

Chair Diorio had a question for Bob regarding the dump sticker and whether is it used just for identification. Cost was discussed. Proof of Residency was also discussed. The idea of a punch ticket with allowance of a free item was mentioned. A couple resident suggestions were mentioned.

Selectman Rideout mentioned an HEDC meeting on Thursday where there was no quorum, There was discussion however on the Holt Fund and whether it could be used to improve the basketball and tennis courts.

Citizen Comments:

Dan Seymour brought up that the softball field is a Town field and the school gets preferential treatment. There is no pitcher's mound (it was taken out years ago). He thanked the Board for putting Roger's dedication in the Annual Report. He asked if the Board had an opportunity to review his questions from last week. Discussion with Board Members and Finance followed on having to record Motor Vehicle Fees money in on one line and out on another. Past practices of money out were incorrectly posted as an expense. That method did not comply with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures). This has since been corrected, in as a liability and out as a liability (and it was stressed to him that there remains a need to record it). Dan asked about finance office salaries. Explanations followed to include that, for current year money was reallocated, as in former human resource position. The position is budgeted in the next budget.

Bob Truesdell mentioned that the new Transfer Station Scale installation is scheduled for the 18th of this month. Compactor box and storage containers are ordered. Comcast should be there around the first of April re: internet.

Josh Green worked over the weekend on answering Facebook questions related to the Transfer Station.

There was mention of going into a non-public. Members of the public left the meeting.

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6:48 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II, (e)-negotiation, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

6:54 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

6:54 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary