

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 18, 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 Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Ann Marie Diorio, Bob Truesdell, Kaylee Howe, Jessica Green, and Jay Bean.

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

Chair Steve Diorio congratulated Bernie Rideout on his win at last week's elections. Chairman Diorio swore in Bernie Rideout.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifest of March 18, 2024, and the public and non-public minutes of March 11, 2024, second by Selectmen Rideout. Discussion followed, and after discussion, the motion was amended to read, Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifest of March 18, 2024, and the public minutes of March 11, 2024, second by Selectmen Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

An application for a driveway permit for Kevin Pike, 183 River Road was reviewed. After review, Selectman Johnson made a motion to approve the permit as presented and seconded by Selectmen Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

An application for a Raffle Permit #16 for the Hinsdale VFW Post 4234 for Scratch Ticket Tree to be drawn May 18, 2024, was reviewed. After review, Selectman Hodgman made a motion to approve the permit as presented and seconded by Selectmen Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

A Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 19, Lot 19 Brattleboro Road for Michael Renaud was reviewed. After review, Selectman Hodgman made a motion to approve the Notice of Intent as presented and seconded by Selectman Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

Chairman Diorio asked Officer Cristian Lett to step forward. Chairman Diorio welcomed Officer Lett to Hinsdale. Officer Lett was sworn in as a Hinsdale Police Officer by Chair Diorio.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

The selectmen were presented with a letter to federal and state officials regarding the River Road Project. After review, Selectman Johnson made a motion to approve the letter to the representatives as presented and seconded by Selectman Hodgman. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

Steven Kwiatkowski presented the board with information concerning recent legislation in NH and how it could affect Hinsdale. His presentation on Community Power explained the legislation RSA 362-A:9, XIV

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permits net-metered renewable energy facilities (customer-generators) to share the proceeds from net excess electricity generation with other electric utility customers. Two companies can provide this to the Town, one has a program that would give 10% of the town's electric bill back to the town this would be a 10-year agreement. The other would be a 20% with a 20-year agreement.

The Board asked questions and they were answered. Chair Diorio asked if the public had any questions. Jay Bean asked questions and Mr. Kwiatkowski answered. Selectmen Johnson asked if he could email his handouts to TA Lynch. Mr. Kwiatkowski agreed. Chair Diorio thanked him for his time.

Charles DeCurtis, The Nature Conservancy, gave a status update on the Fiske Mill Hydro Dam. Everything is moving forward, the surrender information will be completed by the end of this week, and the deed has been filed. The former owners are still doing cleanup work and after they are finished the fence will be able to be moved to allow more parking. Discussion was held regarding the downtown water wells. Other questions were asked and answered.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

K. Lynch discussed the new doors that are being built for the front and side door of the town hall.

K. Lynch reviewed the ACERT grant, Lt. Evans is completing the paperwork for this. This grant will provide an officer who is trained to work with families in crisis. Selectman Johnson wanted it stated for the record that once the grant had ended this position would no longer be funded. After review, Selectman Hodgman made a motion to approve the accept this grant as presented and seconded by Selectman Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

K. Lynch updated the Board on the Jeffrey Holt grant. The website will be updated and a link will be provided for organizations to apply. This will be open on April 1, and grants will be approved around May 1, 2024.

K. Lynch reviewed with the Board that Steve Gasset had been in regarding the heating system, his advice was to have portable temperature gauges. K Lynch will provide updates on this.

K. Lynch updated the Board on the work that Benedict Enterprises is doing with the roof drain. The old drain will be removed, the floor will be replaced, this will be an additional \$800.00. Questions were asked and answered.

K. Lynch updated the Board on the Police Department door locks; the door locks were repaired for a cost of \$850.00. They are working on a new phone system for the building. Selectmen Hodgman mentioned that Chief Zavorotny was still having problems with the EMOC and Fire Department lines. K. Lynch will look into this.

Review of Monthly Financials

J. Holmquist explained to the Board that she did not have the monthly financials ready due to the complexity of moving to the new software. She did review with the Board an estimate of what she had for the 2024 tax rate. It is estimated that the town rate would go down \$.32, the school would be up \$2.57 county would be

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flat and State Education would be down \$.03 for an overall increase of \$2.22. J. Holmquist noted that these were just estimates based on what was funded at Saturday's Town Meeting. Discussion followed.

Board Comments:

Chair Diorio asked if any Board member had any comments:

Selectmen Rideout- none

Selectmen Carrier- the Library Trustees meeting will be canceled for this Wednesday as they have nothing to review.

Selectmen Johnson- stated that the Cemetery Committee has two new members, Jodie Holmquist and Phil Ailes, Selectmen Johnson will get a hold of Gary Montgomery, Cemetery Sexton, and Paul Barnard member to set up a meeting time.

Selectmen Hodgman -none

Citizen Comments:

Jessica Green gave the Board information on a program called NH Saves that may help pay for the thermostats mentioned earlier.

No other public had comments.

The Board motioned to go into a non-public. Members of the public left the meeting.

7:02 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to enter into a non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II, (c)-reputation, second by Selectmen Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

7:06 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

7:06 p.m. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to enter into a non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II, (b)-personnel, second by Selectmen Hodgman. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

7:27 pm Meeting reconvened.

7:27 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn**, seconded by Selectmen Hodgman. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. The motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Marie Diorio,
Acting Secretary