

*Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, March 25, 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, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Acting Chief Melissa Evans, Sean Kelly, Jay Bean, Sean Leary, Bob Truesdell, Julie Seymour, Ken and Becky Shields, James Fisher, and others.

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order. He added that Kathryn Lynch has been at the helm for a year and conveyed that she has done a fantastic job and we are fortunate to have her.

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifest of March 25, 2024 and March 11, 2024 non-public minutes and March 18, 2024 public and non-public minutes, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

*New Business:*

Board organization and representation on committees was discussed.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for Selectman Diorio to remain as Chair, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to remain status quo for representation on committees, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Rideout **made a motion** for Selectman Johnson to remain as Vice Chair, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

A motion was discussed for joining Cheshire Community Power on amendment 9 of the Energy Aggregation Plan. This was clarified as approved at Town Meeting. Selectman Hodgman **made the motion**: Resolved, that we hereby commit the Town of Hinsdale to join Cheshire Community Power to provide default supply service on an opt-out basis to retail electricity customers within the Town's boundaries, pursuant to RSA 53-E:6(l), understanding that the Town may appoint a representative and alternate to the Cheshire Community Power Governance Council to support joint oversight of the program, and continuing hereafter, or until such time as the Town elects to form its own Community Power Aggregation program, as provided for in and subject to the terms of the County's Electric Aggregation Plan, inclusive of the requirements and considerations for municipalities afforded therein under Attachment 10: Cheshire Community Power Governance Council, as amended from time to time hereafter. There was a second by Selectman Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

An Application for Parade Permit by Ken Howe was presented for Farm Tractor Parade scheduled for 5/18/24. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve the Farm Tractor Parade Permit, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

A Permit Application for Recreational Campground/Camping Park Permit for Stag Horn Mountain Side Camping Trail LLC and a Permit for Stag Horn Mountain Side Camping Trail LLC were presented. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve both the park permit application and the permit for Stag Horn Mountain Side Camping Trail LLC, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

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A Permit Application for Recreational Campground/Camping Park Permit for Thicket Hill Campground and a Permit for Thicket Hill Campground were presented. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to approve both the park permit application and the permit for Thicket Hill Campground second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Appointments for Police Officers Maximilian O. Zurmuhlen, Michelle L. Cooper, and Daniel Camuso were presented. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the three police officer appointments, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

The following Fire Department Appointments were presented: Troy Benedict, Deputy Fire Chief; Taran Benedict, Fire Captain; Gary Seymour, Fire Captain; Paul Eldridge, Fire Lt.; Aaron Graham, Fire Lt.; Andrew Leonard, Fire Lt.; Devin Parker, Fire Lt.; Melinda Zavorotny, Fire Rescue Lt.; and Jeffrey Frizzell, Fire Rescue Captain. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve the slate of Fire Department Appointments, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Appointments for Town: Donna Sabin as Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Melinda Zavorotny as Deputy Town Treasurer were presented. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to approve those two appointments, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Raffle Permit #17 was just received for Hinsdale VFW, Super Bowl Squares (kitchen fundraiser). Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve Permit #17 for VFW, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

2024 MS-232 was presented. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to approve 2024 MS-232, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

A representation letter to auditors was previously reviewed. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to sign the Representation Letter, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

A Deed Without Covenants re: Lyons, 15 Cedar Street was presented. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to sign the Deed Without Covenants for 15 Cedar Street, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Lynch handed out the job descriptions for Transfer Station Attendant, Part-time Transfer Station Attendant, Custodian/Maintenance Worker, and Office Support. There was suggestion that language in Custodian/Maintenance Worker description qualifications be moved under essential functions. T.A. Lynch noted that all were reviewed except Office Support.

Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve Office Support to be a project-by-project authorization by the Board of Selectmen, as needed when projects come up, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to accept job descriptions as presented by T.A. Lynch and authorize advertisement of the positions, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously. Discussion followed on

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advertising in the Keene Sentinel, Town Website, Bulletin Boards at T-Bird and Main Street Marketplace, the Commons, and an online platform.

T.A. Lynch is working with the bond attorney for 3.09% over 15 years, with application due in April, and money to Town in July.

She has heard from Kuster and Shaheen's offices regarding the letter sent about River Road FEMA status. She is gathering information for them and they are both to be working on this.

T.A. Lynch notified the Board that they need to pick a vendor re: waste pickup. She quoted different vendors and their charges per ton. She recommended going with Casella as they are the cheapest. Discussion followed. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to enter into a contract with Casella, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch informed that Board that Jodie has been working hard to find the most economical financial vehicle for the Transfer Station. It appears that an I-pad and cash register may work best. Charges per credit or debit transaction were discussed. Twenty-two SKU's will be needed. They have looked at Shopify, Square, and Citizens Bank. There would be a Z-10 Report at the end of each day. Selectman Hodgman suggested figuring it all out and coming back to the Board when everything is in place including a fee structure.

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T.A. Lynch read from a Memo from Acting Chief Evans: This included work with Charlesworks to correct the HPD website, removing former chief from the home portion of the page, and continue working with them to ensure the rest of the site is accurate. She spoke with NH Police Standard and Training for forms needed to start an audit of current employee files. She also ordered a locking 3-drawer cabinet for them. She has taken time to delegate some less urgent tasks to Sgt. Gosetti and ordered a cabinet to secure potentially dangerous items in the Sally Port. The lobby door locks are now fixed and the lobby can now be open during business hours. Key fobs have been audited for the PD. The Facebook page has been fixed and updated with an auto response that the page is not monitored and to call for police services. Her Memo only touched on the important things accomplished this week and will continue to work on all recommendations, this being an ongoing process. She expressed appreciation for everyone's support.

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*Board Comments:*

Selectman Hodgman will have a Parks & Rec Meeting.

Selectman Rideout mentioned a meeting in Guilford, Vermont tonight and the chance of someone possibly moving a car wash here.

Chair Diorio mentioned a conversation with Sean Leary about HCP. They have heard that many employees have been laid off now with a small number staying until complete shutdown. A few other companies have reached out to some of those workers.

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*Citizen Comments:*

Julie Seymour handed out files for the Board Members containing reports for all properties that can be deeded this year. Next week they can talk about deed waiver list and the following week sign waivers.

Sean Leary will wait on information for the website and Police website. He indicated that he met on Wednesday with a prospect for a new business in town.

Becky Shields and husband were attending to observe the meeting, as they moved here in July. She spoke of a bill she would like to get passed in the legislature and asked how to get support from representatives mentioning unreturned calls. Following discussion, Selectman Johnson clarified the role of the Board. T.A. Lynch offered assistance in putting her in touch with a local representative. She indicated that she is very impressed with the Police Department, mentioning a recent need for their services.

Terry Zavorotny mentioned bringing the utility truck to Kansas, with four members driving out and flying back, leaving in April.

Acting Chief Evans mentioned the Police Department being out on the trails soon with Fish & Game and Rangers to enforce Fish & Game rules and state statutes. She added that hopefully members of the Fire Department can help too.

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

6:56 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.

7:50 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

Selectman Rideout **made a motion to seal** the non-public minutes, second by Johnson, *due to the fact that divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself*. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:50 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,  
Secretary