

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Mike Carrier, and Selectman Richard Johnson. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Sean Leary, Bob Truesdell, Kaylee Howe, Jessica Green, Julie Seymour, Jay Bean, Smokey Smith, Acting Chief Melissa Evans, Gary and Debbie Sibley. Selectmen Bernie Rideout and William Hodgman were excused.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifest of April 8, 2024 and the public and non-public minutes of April 1, 2024 second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was the *Deed Without Covenants* re: 8 Ferncroft Drive which did not get signed last week. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to sign the Deed Without Covenants, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Next it was announced that signatures were requested on the Minutes dated 3/25/24 to forward for Cheshire Community Power. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to sign the Minutes dated 3/25/24, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

The following permanent applications for Veterans Tax Credits were reviewed:

- 1) Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions for 04082024A (Veteran's Tax Credit)
- 2) Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions for 04082024B (Veteran's Tax Credit)
- 3) Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions for 04082024C (Veteran's Tax Credit)

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the three Veteran's Credits, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Julie Seymour, Tax Collector handed the Board her updated report and indicated that she and T.A. Lynch reviewed and agreed to keep Waivers from 2019, not adding any new ones. The Board signed the Waivers presented. Julie indicated they would then be sent to the title company, they'd research, and then be sent out at a minimum 30 days prior to the 10th of June.

Julie mentioned her checking the Town Report and asked if there was a need for subcommittees to sign oaths of office. She found they don't need to but the Board should have the final say. Subcommittees are a support group. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to discontinue requiring oaths from those subcommittees, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

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Smokey Smith was present with Julie Seymour, Town Clerk, for discussion on counting machines for voting. Smokey expressed his thoughts that the Town should consider getting a vote tabulating machine and handed out a proposal. There are two companies with approved machines, and the other company has more tests to do. He and Julie have attended meetings together and independently. Winchester and Walpole will be using this one and he believes Keene will be switching over in a couple of years. Jim Tetreault in Winchester is very enthusiastic and supportive of this company. There is an annual cost to it, subject to change. Current cost is \$7000 with a \$500 set up fee (prior to each election). He feels it would be good to use this in September for the Primary and recommends using the Geoffrey Holt Fund as a funding source. Smokey described the voting process and that the machine counts over/under and write-ins. The company indicates it can be onsite to repair in ½ hour.

Smokey and Julie also discussed concerns with voting booths, some being over 20 years old and collapsing. They need 4 stations (containing 4 booths per station). The sales quote is \$969 per station. Smokey feels they should apply for funding on this from the Holt Fund. The total for counting machine and booths being around \$11,000. Applications are open until the first of May. T.A. Lynch has already started writing a couple of applications. Discussion followed. She will add this one.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to proceed with applications (for these voting-related items) as presented, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Smokey also brought up that he is the Moderator and gave reasons on his thoughts that he should have an assistant or deputy moderator. He discussed someone who ran in the past; expressed an interest; they've had a conversation; and Smokey would like to appoint Matt Bickford for that position. All agreed it was a good idea.

*6:38 p.m. Chair Diorio opened the Public Hearing on **Hinsdale Solid Waste Ordinance**.*

Chair Diorio asked if there were questions from the public. There were no questions from the public. 6:38 p.m. Public portion was closed.

*Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the Hinsdale Solid Waste Ordinance, as amended, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.*

6:39 p.m. Public Hearing closed.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that a developer has recently purchased land formerly known as Ashley Avenue off Monteiro Drive. There is a huge town-owned land-locked parcel of 9.4 acres (Map 20-26), which was formerly going to be the solar project that the developer is interested in. She described potential usage. The assessor will look at it in order to put it out to bid, if recommended. The Board agreed to put it out to bid.

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T.A. Lynch indicated that the Sewer Use Ordinance came through with recommended state changes. The Board previously approved and the State would like it signed. Board members signed it to be returned to them.

T.A. Lynch spoke with Sean Kelly. He recommended Acting Chief Evans get membership in IACP and attend the conference in Boston in October. Membership is \$190.00 and there is a \$500 fee to attend plus lodging. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve membership and conference attendance for Acting Chief Evans, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Carrier-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson asked if there has been any update regarding River Road. T. A. Lynch responded there has not.

Selectman Carrier mentioned that the Conservation Committee Meeting was postponed to this Wednesday due to weather. He mentioned recent discussion of progress at the Transfer Station and suggested starting the Selectmen Meeting there in the next few weeks. Kim will check the Agenda and try to arrange that.

Citizen Comments:

Sean Leary voiced concern regarding oaths for subcommittees. He mentioned past difficulties, RSA 35-B, past relationship between the Town and Parks and Rec. He added that Sports is under the sole control of Parks and Rec. He felt at the very least, the officers should take the oath and added there is information that was missed and this should be reconsidered. He was thanked and will share his information with T.A. Lynch to look into it.

Jay Bean had questions for Smokey and Julie on the voting tabulations. The response included there being strict standards that must be met and oversight from the Attorney General's Office. He added that he thought it (the counting machine) was a good idea.

Debbie Sibley wondered how the voters were going to feel about that big of a change before big elections. Discussion followed to include that the user experience will probably be better. She suggested it would be a good idea to educate before voting. T.A. Lynch added that an informational meeting could be planned. Acting Chief Evans added that she voted in Winchester, it was a learning curve, but went really well.

Gary Sibley brought up that this new machine to be applied for under the Holt Grant was classified in earlier conversation as culture, and asked if that was a catchall. He also asked why funding is to come from there vs. town budget. Response included that the Town Budget is already finalized. T.A. Lynch added that the Holt Grant was established to be applied for as to the wants of the Town vs needs. There are four categories of Recreation, Culture, Health, and Education. Smokey gave him an application for informational purposes.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim P. Worden,

Secretary