

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 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, Bob Truesdell, Kaylee Howe, Julie Seymour, Todd Page, Mike Abbott, Troy and Taran Benedict (both during ATV discussion).

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifest of April 15, 2024 and April 8, 2024 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:

First presented was a Tax Waiver on 9 Keene Drive not previously presented for signatures. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve the Tax Waiver, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

The Board signed the *Solid Waste Facility Ordinance* as amended and approved on April 8, 2024.

A Subordination Agreement for Oak Hill Acres Cooperative was presented. T.A. Lynch explained that Oak Hill had a grant through CDBG and are now refinancing. Discussion followed. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to sign the Subordination Agreement, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

The following Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permits were presented:

- 1) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Cara Cole at Community Center on April 20, 2024 for Baby Shower;
- 2) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Jennifer Given at Community Center on May 18, 2024 for Celebration of Life
- 3) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Angie Mathieu at Pavilion on June 8, 2024 for Graduation Party
- 4) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Aaron Cote at Community Center on June 22, 2024 for Baby Shower;
- 5) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Kaitlyn Baird at Community Center on July 13, 2024 for 50th Birthday Party
- 6) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Andy Simeon at Pavilion on July 13, 2024 for Family Reunion
- 7) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Lois Dunham at Pavilion on August 3, 2024 for Reunion

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve the slate of alcohol permits, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

A Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions for 04152024A (Veteran's Tax Credit) was presented. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit 04152024A, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

Next, a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Wayne C. Corse, Map 30 Lot 70, Meetinghouse Road for 2023-2024 and also a Warrant for the Collection of Excavated Material Taxes was presented. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to sign the Notice of Intent and Warrant to Collect Taxes, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

An Application for Driveway Permit to pave existing driveway and walkway for Stephen and Cheryl Dyer, 21 Revere Drive was submitted. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve the Permit for Dyer, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Rep. Mike Abbott handed out documents put together by the County Finance Director showing changes in county tax portions from 2001 to 2023. He explained that Hinsdale's share is determined based on Hinsdale's equalized property valuations. He added that the biggest increases were in 2008 when the House of Corrections was put in and in 2018 when additions were put on the Nursing Home in Westmoreland. Recent lower amounts and why we haven't seen significant increases over recent years were due to AARP money the county received. Rep. Abbott also mentioned that staffing issues are a concern for both the Nursing Home and House of Corrections.

Rep. Abbott also talked about receiving the letter on River Road and contact information received for FEMA and state. Last Thursday in General Session for House of Representatives there was a vote on House Bill 1466 which passed. Now it goes to the Senate and then the Governor. It allows the Town to petition for funds, in similar disaster relief situations, as a grant (money from NH Disaster Relief Fund) and the intent is that it is reimbursable. Unfortunately, it's not retroactive and must be filed for within 45 days. He will pursue this (River Road) matter and be in touch with TA Lynch if he gets any results from his inquiries.

Todd Page, representing Mt. Pisgah ATV Club, returned following the March 11th meeting (asking for road access for ATV's from the bottom of Streeter Hill to T-Bird on a year-to-year basis), with additional information. He gave all a copy of a google maps printout of the area. He indicated that he also had a packet of what the club wants to do, contact info, and where they want to come out across from Oxbow Road to T-Bird for ATV's and side-by-sides. He added that he had a letter from Mr. Harcke, permission from T-Bird, a "Seal of Good Standing" from the State where they have been a club since 2018, and plans from DOT. He indicated that DOT "passed it" but there was no paperwork received yet. He showed the Board a sample of signage they intend to take care of. He added, if there's any trouble, to call him and they'll shut it down. T.A. Lynch added that the Town can't legally give them access across a state route. Acting Chief Evans indicated she will remain neutral on this, that she is not for or against. She asked him if, per statute 215-A, they have notified abutters. There is to be abutter notification and a public hearing. Abutters have not been notified. She read a portion of NHRSA 215-A:15. Discussion followed to include rules of the road, handling complaints, posted speed limits, legal age, safety equipment, who pays for Public Hearing and Notice to Abutters, etc. Todd added that the season is only from April 1st to November 1st. In conclusion, Todd is to get DOT approval to TA Lynch upon receipt. This will need to be run by the Town Attorney. A public hearing will be scheduled and Notice to Abutters sent out at the expense of the club.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

Acting Chief Evans was present to discuss budgetary items. She began by indicating that they are still working on trails with Fish & Game and NH Rangers with the goal of cleaning up the areas where camp sites have been abandoned. Rangers are working to contract with someone. These matters will be ongoing over the Summer.

She plans to attend an Executive Leadership course in June and Sgt. Gosetti has signed up for a Command Leadership class in September.

Acting Chief Evans spoke about 6 computers that need replacing, which was known in 2020. Two computers were to have been replaced each year which hasn't been done. As it stands now, by January of 2025 they will not be able to update the system. Discussion followed. Quote for computers is \$10,006.00. The phone system needs replacing. She spoke of not having voice mail for nearly three years. She supplied a quote for replacement at 9538.99. She added that the PD could not run without a copier/scanner/fax machine. They have a refurbished one that was to last two years and they have had it longer. This item was to have been budgeted for or in a Warrant Article and was not. She supplied a quote for a replacement at \$5205.99. She is to get an audit of the Evidence Room. It is believed that this has not been done by an outside service before. The quote from a company in Ohio for police evidence audits, will also offer help to get organized and put a policy in place and be on-site is \$3575.00. Sean Kelly offered that MRI can do sample size audit at \$3000.00. After questions, she feels the full audit makes more sense and has unique advantage of servicing evidence rooms all over the country.

It was agreed that she will come back next week, after discussion with TA Lynch, with proposals of motions on these items with the exception of the audit. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to authorize Acting Chief Evans to move forward with her choice for an Audit of the Evidence Room, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Acting Chief Evans spoke on her idea of a Recruiting Video. TA Lynch wrote a grant application for that and they are waiting to see if it is approved. She handed out a copy of Police Department Mission Statement ideas for review, vote, and approval next week.

Acting Chief Evans also brought forward a Facebook Posting regarding Chesterfield Police Department hiring uncertified officers starting at \$28.67 per hour with \$5000 sign-on bonus and other benefits. Discussion followed to include retention and growth. She would like to present numbers for next week.

Board Comments:

Selectman Hodgman mentioned a Fire Department Building Committee Meeting on April 30th at 3 p.m. with Mike Petrovick. He also had recent discussion and talked about starting a dialogue on use of the field with Cal Ripken, Town, School, and Parks and Rec as there are a lot of challenges right now. There was mention that with the Holt Funds available to apply for, representatives could get together to discuss future field use for long term.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

Selectman Johnson mentioned an upcoming Cemetery Committee Meeting. He asked about the Town Clock. T.A. Lynch has spoken to Phil D'Avanza and Valley Restoration. The lift is \$6800 for one day to look at it. Phil has to fix the hands and Valley Restoration will look at painting the clock faces. They will hopefully get an estimate to her before month-end.

Selectman Carrier had a Conservation Meeting. There was discussion on Fiske Dam. He forwarded information sent on March 14.

Selectman Diorio is to have a meeting with Bob Harcke, HEDC, and a representative from Monadnock Economic Development Corp. and will get the date and time to us soon in the event Josh might attend.

Selectman Rideout will have a Planning Board Meeting tomorrow night.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

Senator Denise Ricciardi sent information on many things including Meals and Rooms Tax Distribution for Hinsdale expected to be increased to \$370,514 from \$346,783. There was also good news on funding for education, highway and bridges.

She had a deed for the bid parcel to Fellows, ready for signatures. Discussion followed. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to sign the Deed Without Covenants to Fellows, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

She talked of the next steps on Community Power: They send information to Public Utilities Commission asking them to instruct Eversource to release electrical use data. Then a public info session is set and information is put in a letter mailed to all electric customers in Hinsdale explaining what is happening. Since the question was put to voters at Town Meeting, a public session might not be needed. A citizen needs to be appointed to represent the Town on the Cheshire Community Power Governing Committee. They do not meet on a regular schedule. T.A. Lynch will get that information out.

T.A. Lynch submitted three applications for the Holt Grant: Parks and Recreation (Community Events, Flowers, Sporting needs, - as an annual ask), and Police Department, She is still working on a quote for the clock tower.

She would like to put out to bid two parcels of land that are town owned and may not be buildable but might have interest to an abutter. Those were described as 101 Fox Run Road (assessed at \$24,000) and 21-3-2 Old Chesterfield Road (assessed at \$45,100). Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to go forward with putting the two parcels on Fox Run Road and Old Chesterfield Road out to bid, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch asked, in approving the EOP, can she authorize expenditures needed to procure resources, such as water for the town in the event of contaminated wells. Discussion followed. It was agreed that the Chair can give authority to the Town Administrator to expend funds needed to procure resources in an emergency.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

T.A. Lynch reviewed the information from Parks and Rec. She suggested that the officers of the Parks and Rec Committee provide Oaths of Office every three years. They are not elected into office and there is money approved by the Board. The Select Board agreed with this.

T.A. Lynch reached out again re: River Road. Shaheen's office sent questions that T.A. Lynch sent to the town engineer. Senator Ricciardi called the office and is bringing information to Commissioner Cass. This seems to be moving forward.

Sansoucy met with Walmart and countered their offer with \$18,275,000 for the next three years with no pay-out for abatement requests for years of 2022 and 2023. Each would have been approximately \$59,000. Walmart accepted our counter today and are drawing up the paperwork. It was found that they never applied for the Energy Efficiency Grant for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was stipulated that they must apply for that exemption in the next reval. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the counter offer accepted by Walmart, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch has been meeting with the Facility Manager and Camp Director bi-weekly. Ann has been helping out at the Community Center and working with Colleen at Welfare and on a procedural manual.

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

7:32 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.

7:36 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

7:36 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary