

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2024 meeting began at Wastewater Treatment Plant and resumed 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, and Finance Director Jodie Holmquist. Ernie, Smalley, Josh Green and Jessica Green attended the Wastewater Treatment Plan site visit only. Police Chief Melissa Evans, Margo Perry and friend attended Town Hall portion only.

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on River Road for a site visit. Ernie Smalley, Superintendent, gave a tour of the improvements at the plant including piping, venting and duct replacement, sampler replacement, timer replacement, installation of chemical storage tanks, removal of chlorine tank from shed, general maintenance, cleaning, reorganizing, and painting. He described projects currently being worked on and outlined the additional needs, future improvements and plans.

6:30 p.m. meeting reconvened at Town Hall. Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of May 13, 2024 and public and non-public minutes of May 6, 2024, second by Rideout. The vote is as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

A Town of Hinsdale Fund Balance Policy to adopt/reaffirm was presented. T.A. Lynch added that when doing the Bond Application, this was asked for. She wasn't able to find a signed copy. Selectman Hodgman made a motion to sign the Policy. Selectman Johnson questioned and was concerned with the wording regarding amount of undesignated balance. It was suggested that Selectmen decide on an annual basis what to set the undesignated balance at. Discussion followed. No action taken on this.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that CDFA appealed to the State for additional funding and it was approved (re: Community Center Grant). It will be in front of the Governor's Counsel for final approval on May 29th.

We have been approved for the Energy Audit Grant from USDA. This should begin in November.

She informed the Board that Water and Sewer ARPA monies shall be spent by September 30th. \$77,000 remains and plans were discussed for painting of water tanks, purchase of needed equipment and other small repairs.

T.A. Lynch has advertised and posted the Program and Welfare Director position.

T.A. Lynch mentioned that Jodie has information about Mission Square regarding retirement benefits. Jodie gave information on this as an existing benefit to employees that most don't know about. It is a 457 deferred compensation plan (similar to 401k). She will be announcing this to employees: full-time, part-time, and Fire. The first plan this defaults to is a target date fund (stocks/bonds). Employee won't need to monitor as it automatically does it for you as you age. She indicated that two Police Officers take part in this now. She is very pleased with what she found. There is no cost to the Town, and administered by an outside source giving a good benefit to employees.

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6:30 p.m. Margo Perry was present looking to speak to the Board to set up payments for tax arrearages. She indicated that the Tax Office said she had to see the Board. It was explained that the Board had no information and that she should go with a proposal to the Tax Collector first and the Tax Collector can then come to the Board.

Board Comments:

Selectman Hodgman had a School Board Meeting last week. They nominated an Elementary School Principal and this Wednesday will meet a candidate for Middle High School. He added that re: the MOU for the fields, they obtained a copy of one for general fields, not specific fields. He mentioned to the School Board that there should be future discussion re: softball field between the Facilities Committee and Parks & Rec, and possibly others.

Selectman Johnson had a Cemetery Committee Meeting with Jodie Holmquist, Phil Ailes, Paul Barnard and Cemetery Sexton Gary Montgomery. They met at Hooker Cemetery. There remains a problem with running out of space. Gary has done a lot of repairs. There was discussion of equipment for cemetery use only, such as an old truck. There was discussion of looking into funds under "perpetual care" and currently only interest can be spent. Jodie is still looking into that and indicated that she will need to look into previous warrant articles to see what can be done with the funds. Selectman Johnson wondered if there is grant money available. Jodie added that Phil signed up for the Cheshire County Grant Writing class. Jodie wondered if something could be put in the newsletter regarding a possible donation of an old truck for Cemetery use. The Board saw no problem with that.

Selectman Carrier had a Library Trustee Meeting on Wednesday. He asked if any Board Member is available for Memorial Day Parade (he won't be available this year).

Chair Diorio mentioned the construction work near Runnings on the right and the huge increase in value. Discussion followed. T.A. Lynch responded that Skip Sansoucy values these every year. Chair Diorio also commented on the many Postal vehicles continuing to park in the Community Center parking lot. Discussion followed. T.A. Lynch offered to reach out again.

Selectman Rideout mentioned a Planning Board Meeting next week where a minimum of two contractors will be coming in.

Chief Evans indicated that the Police Department received a \$3000 donation from Mary's Bar & Grill (A-1 Pizza) and they would like to put it toward office space so that officers have their own work space (cubicles). Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to accept the donation from Mary's Bar & Grill (A-1 Pizza), second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

It was announced that the Board would be going into non-public. Members of the public left the meeting.

7:04 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.

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7:21 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to seal** the non-public minutes, second by Carrier, *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.

7:22 p.m. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II, (b)-hiring, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

7:28 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

7:28 p.m. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary