

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 1, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Police Department – Training Room

Present: Acting Chairman Richard Johnson, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman William Hodgman, and Selectman Mike Carrier. Chair Steve Diorio was excused. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Sean Leary, Jessica Green, Josh Green, Mr. and Mrs. Upton, Taran Benedict, Chief Zavorotny, Julie Seymour, and Chief Evans.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of June 24, 2024, July 1, 2024 and the public minutes of June 17, 2024 second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Johnson-aye; Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Chief Evans informed the Board that \$1500 was received from Phantom Fireworks. She would like to use this to fund officers' cubicles (personal spaces). Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to accept the donation from Phantom Fireworks, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Johnson-aye; Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Chief Evans presented grant paperwork for Speed Enforcement of \$1600 with \$400 match; DUI Enforcement of \$1600 with \$400 match; E-Crash for firewall with \$448 being our match of \$1794.00 grant. Speed Equipment (2 radars) with \$1457 match of up to \$4372.50 grant. Discussion followed. She can find match in budget. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** for acting Chair to sign Grant Paperwork to accept the OHS grant(s) awarded, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Johnson-aye; Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

First presented was an abatement for Moore & Girard, 40 Pine Street for 2023 in the amount of \$1351.63 (did not remove from taxes). This was approved for abatement earlier and after discussion, clarified that the prior amount given to the Community Development Office was incorrect. That earlier abatement was voided and this is the correct amount. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve the abatement for Moore & Girard in the amount of \$1351.63, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Abatements for Harve and April Prater for property at 3 Warren Drive were presented for years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. All were due to a prior agreement with the Board. Josh Green added that renovations were presented as done a year ago by documentation they provided. He inspected the property. There were things he did not like. He detailed his concerns, took pictures, and documented the concerns with a request to rectify within 30 days. They were fixed within a week. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the abatements for Prater re: 3 Warren Drive, second by Rideout. Further discussion was on documentation for review prior to meeting and clarification of that request. Motion passes unanimously.

An Application for Driveway Permit was submitted for Richard Dufraine at 116 Fox Run Road. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to have acting Chair sign and approve the Dufraine Driveway Permit, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

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There was a Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions submitted for #07012024A (Elderly). Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve #010720224A (Elderly) Application, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Lynch expressed thanks to all emergency personnel from Hinsdale Police and Fire Departments, Brattleboro Police Department, Greenfield Police Department, NH State Police, Cheshire County Sheriff's Department, and Rescue Inc. for their response to tragedies on June 17th and 18th. Special commendation was extended to Detective Upton for holding a crucial vantage point for a long period of time while providing essential information during the course of events. The Fire Department was also acknowledged for scheduling and holding debriefing with staff from BMH.

The auction parcel on Fox Run was down to \$4500 from \$7000 after discussion with the second highest bidder. He did not agree on paying \$7000 and offered less. There was brief discussion. **Selectman Rideout made a motion to deny** the bid on Fox Run property, second by Hodgman. The vote was as follows: Johnson-aye; Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that a donor, preferring to remain anonymous, paid \$1050.00 for Day Camp Scholarships. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to accept the donation of \$1050.00 for Day Camp Scholarships, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch received a grant from the Holt Fund in the amount of \$18,895 for clock repair, phase 1. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to accept the grant funds from the Holt Fund for clock repair, phase 1, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch provided the auctioned properties Deeds to be signed for 713 Plain Road, 128 Plain Road, Property off Pond Road; 22 River Road; Property on Old Chesterfield Road; and Property at 40 Robbins. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to sign deeds, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch submitted rate of pay information for herself. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to sign the Town Administrator Salary Schedule, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

There will need to be an asbestos review prior to demolition. Brownfields has funds and money to remove it. Invest NH Demo grant asked for a timeline extension to June 30, 2025, and also asked for additional funding for the demolition to assist in this matter. They are waiting for a response and need to discuss with counsel.

Bids were received for the Community Center. T.A. Lynch received three bids: RJB \$386,850; L&O Realty \$223,779; and Benedict Enterprises \$183,000. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to accept the bid from Benedict Enterprises, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that one door (set) has been installed at Town Hall. The other is being built and will be installed in about three weeks. The inside work will also be finished at that time. She also mentioned

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that the clock arms are due to be finished at the end of July and they are looking at early August to be put back up. They may do something re: rain and filling in pigeon holes if budget permits.

T.A. Lynch handed out Asset Management information and felt it made a lot of sense moving forward. The River crossing is at the top of the list as far as needing attention. An increase in Water User Fees of 13% to 2035 is recommended to be spread over those years. It was also suggested to have an extra person cross-trained for water and sewer. Discussion followed. Selectman Hodgman suggested having another week to look over the information.

She will have a non-public personnel with Chief Evans and a non-public hiring. She will also be out of the office from 7/8-7/12.

Julie Seymour, Tax Collector, was in with a Payment Arrangement and Deed Waiver on the RV which was deeded due to past due taxes. The Agreement is for 12 months for 100% and staying current.

Discussion followed on other properties and a Tax Collectors Deed.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to sign** the Property Tax Agreement and Tax Deed Waiver on 46 Robbins, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** for the Board to sign the Property Tax Agreement and Tax Deed Waiver on 18 MacGregor Drive, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to sign Tax Collector's Deed re 21 Freedom Acres, to original owner of record, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Josh Green, Community Development Coordinator, was present with Abatements from 2023 which are due today and only recently received from the Assessor. He has been on the assessor to get this in and it has been a constant struggle. He mentioned that there is an issue with assessors getting older and retiring and no replacements.

The first abatement is for Eugene Cerone at 60 High Street for 2023 in the amount of \$1226.22. This was sold on 1/6/24 for 265,000, assessed at \$308,700, and recommended for \$273,000. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to abate Cerone at \$1226.22, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Next is property at 636 Plain Road assessed at 176,000. Upon inspection it was recommended for change of assessment at \$142,600 with an abatement of \$937.20. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to abate Todd Nadeau, 636 Plain Road \$937.20, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

The third matter is an assessment at 10 Snow Avenue and a request due to hardship which would be up to the Board. Assessor recommended value is correct with comments. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to deny the abatement, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

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Property at 200 Meetinghouse Road was presented. Discussion followed. Assessor stated value of property is correct. Discussion followed. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to deny the abatement, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Board Comments:

Selectman Hodgman had a Parks and Rec meeting last week where they finalized Day Camp matters. Rec Soccer will start soon. There were concerns re: new person for Summer Sports Director. Selectman Hodgman had a conversation with Mike Coombs and Mike offered to assist if Heather needs help, as he did a lot of work to lay out fields. They are looking to have sign-ups in July. There was also discussion on a group to discuss fields with an MOU on the future of fields. Selectman Hodgman added that the Athletic Director is very much in favor of having that conversation.

Selectman Carrier attended a Library Trustee Meeting. Gina Hammond has moved and there is a vacancy. He also mentioned receiving a call re: fireworks and that a business owner has agreed to do fireworks. Discussion followed with Taran Benedict of Benedict Enterprises re: their volunteering to purchase and set off under their insurance. Past events were discussed. Taran feels all bases should be covered but is still checking into it adding they have a million-dollar liability under their general commercial liability insurance. They would shoot Class C (consumer grade), not Class B. Josh noted that Phantom's policy spelled out the actual event and believes if Benedict Enterprises can add that event, it is preferable and can give some peace of mind. T.A. Lynch pointed out that the Committee went around us and posted that the fireworks were back on. T.A. Lynch will call Primex tomorrow; if they don't have an issue, she will assume we're all set. T.A. Lynch and Josh are looking to protect the Town and it's the Board's call.

Selectman Johnson will have a Cemetery Committee meeting next week.

Public Comment:

Taran Benedict mentioned a long week dealing with new Fire Station matters, with a lot of obstacles. They looked at the former church property on Plain Road and the intersection matter is on their radar noting that it would be the Town's responsibility if they need to do anything regarding that intersection. He added that Bill was going to look into grants and Mike Petrovich has been great and agrees that this is the best spot for a new station. Mike has presented drawings of the existing building and full demo. It would be \$1000 per square foot to rebuild the existing station. To buy and renovate Plain Road would be \$250 per square foot with new addition for truck bay \$450 per square foot. There is around \$266,000 available now less the \$25,000 appropriated for engineer. There was discussion on the current asking price of \$425,000, possibilities for a P&S Agreement, and ideally having a Special Town Meeting. Sean Leary agreed that there is a process and a timeline with Planning Board, Conservation, and Hearings within certain time periods. For a Special Town Meeting there would need to be an appeal to Superior Court with a list. T.A. Lynch added that the Town will be retaining about \$165,000 from the recent auctions. Selectman Johnson cautioned that they should be able to give the Townspeople a plan with as much information and what-ifs. The response was that Mike and his firm is working on everything with full disclosure on all possibilities and will address the cost on 119 too. Taran also mentioned Walpole's project and the amount received in grant funding. Selectman Hodgman added that making a decision on location is critical and is step 1.

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Sean Leary plans to attend the Brownfields Committee Meeting next week.

The Board noted they would be going into non-public. Members of the public left.

7:27 p.m. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II (a) personnel, second by Hodgman. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously. (Chief Evans left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.)

7:38 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to seal** the non-public minutes, second by Rideout, *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: Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:39 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II (e) negotiation, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

7:45 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

7:46 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II (b) hiring, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

8:05 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

8:05 p.m. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary