

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 12, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman William Hodgman, and Selectman Mike Carrier. Selectman Richard Johnson was excused. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Chief Evans and Bob Truesdell.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of August 5, 2024 and August 12, 2024; and both the public and non-public minutes of July 29, 2024 and July 30, 2024, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; Diorio-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

Selectman Hodgman presented paperwork for Firemen's Picnic at the Pavilion for Saturday August 24, 2024, together with an Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit. Discussion followed to include that these first should go to the Program Director to make sure that date is available. The Board will not be meeting again prior to August 24th. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve use of pavilion and alcohol permit depending upon availability, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

A Water Abatement was presented in the amount of \$51.51 for 2nd quarter 2024 for Beverly Bernier, 532 Plain Road, right-of-way re: well. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to approve the Bernier abatement, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

A Town Hall Facility Rental Request was presented for HMHS Senior Class for Homecoming Dance on September 14, 2024. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the Town Hall Rental Request for the Homecoming Dance, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that Invest NH Demolition Grant will likely be extended until 6/30/25 pending the assessment review and bidding process. The Hazard Materials Assessment has just begun. Discussion followed.

The Community Center Grant will be taken over by Heather Jutras. Heather has uploaded all necessary documents to the portal and is working with Benedict Enterprises on the proposed renovation schedule. A new refrigerator has been ordered due to failure of the current one.

Tax Deed letters were sent out regarding four properties giving the owner(s) 120 days to pay in full (by 12/2/24) or face eviction.

The P&S Refundable Deposit of \$8000 paperwork for 59 Plain Road is being negotiated between realtor and town attorney. The attorney is still working on it.

There is a date for the Special Town Meeting of September 7, 2024 at Town Hall, upstairs in Auditorium at 9:00 a.m. The acceptance of this meeting will be in front of the Evidentiary Hearing on August 27th at 9:00

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 12, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

a.m. It will be posted in the Keene Sentinel for three consecutive weeks beginning August 9th. It will be published around town, website, Facebook, Brattleboro Commons, and Monadnock Shopper. A mailer will be sent to residents on August 19th. T.A. Lynch will contact Bob Audette at the Brattleboro Reformer and ask for an article.

She reminded the Board of the Community Power Public Hearing on August 26th at 6:30 at Town Hall. She also reminded them that Senator Ricciardi will be attending the meeting on September 23rd.

A Letter of Intent was sent on River Road. There will be another meeting on 8/22. We are still working with DOS to get us back on the list.

T.A. Lynch noted that the bond was to be wired on August 6th to our account.

When the Planning Grant is officially approved, we will be working with Dubois & King per Feasibility Study.

T.A. Lynch mentioned that the Planning and Building files were reviewed re: Mr. & Mrs. Boucher's comments to the Board at the prior meeting. No culverts were removed. Three were added during construction with one at Washburn way. Following discussion, T.A. Lynch will draft a letter to Bouchers next week.

She talked about a group meeting last week including Brattleboro and the CT River Conservancy on the existing bridges. There was discussion on lights and enforcement. She and Chief Evans will meet with Brattleboro's Chief to start the discussion of a mutual agreement pertaining to the island area. There are concerns and will talk of getting a plan in place for the area. Discussion followed.

T.A. Lynch has started a conversation with MRI for accounts payable, payroll and fund accounting. They will also discuss tax and utility billing. Gworks hasn't advanced since February and has proved too lengthy a process. We will wait to hear from MRI in a couple weeks. Data currently resides in two different pieces of software. Discussion followed.

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that SWRPC is adding the rail trestle bridge to the 10-year plan. This would be to connect from the rail trail at A-1 Pizza to the Vermont side of the Connecticut River. The engineer cost is \$10,000 with SWRPC to pay 85-90%. The Town would be responsible for \$1000 to \$1500 of this.

T.A. Lynch, Josh Green, and HEDC plan to meet with businesses in Town on August 22nd at 6 at the Community Center. This will be the first of many meetings to see if there is interest in hosting monthly meetings to increase business retention.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector Facebook page was taken down because it was not monitored by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector nor did she have administrative access to it. Any future news or information from their office will be sent to the Village Voice for distribution.

She will have a non-public re: personnel and hiring and there will be a non-meeting with the Town Attorney.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 12, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall

Jodie spoke of a recent meeting between her, Treasurer Alan Zavorotny, and T.A. Lynch with Keith from TD Bank. She spoke of Keith's proposal which will save a minimum of \$50,000 including free check stock and courier service. She feels this is a total win. This change of banks could take a few months but will provide significant savings to the Town.

Board Comments:

Selectman Hodgman had a School Board Meeting that he missed due to being away. There is a Parks & Rec Meeting this week but he has another meeting conflict. He will get a copy of the MOU draft prior to next meeting.

Selectman Carrier mentioned that the Conservation Commission meeting was canceled.

Selectman Rideout will have a Planning Board Meeting on the 20th.

Public Comment:

Chief Evans added that she was happy they are starting communications on the bridges.

Discussion followed. It was mentioned that the area has to be accessible to emergency vehicles.

It was mentioned that the Board would be going into non-public. Bob Truesdell was invited to stay for the first non-public. Chief Evans left.

6:34 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II (a) personnel, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Diorio-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

6:43 p.m. Meeting reconvened. Bob Truesdell left.

6:44 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to enter into non-public** session under RSA 91:A-3, II (b) hiring, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Carrier-aye; Hodgman-aye, and Diorio-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

6:47 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

6:47 p.m. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary