

*Select Board Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, August 26, 2024 meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall*

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman William Hodgman, Selectman Richard Johnson and Selectman Mike Carrier. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Chief Evans and Sean Leary. Other members of the public arrived for the Public Hearing on Community Power.

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

Selectman Carrier made a **motion to approve** the manifests of August 19, 2024 and August 26, 2024; and both the public and non-public minutes of August 12, 2024 and August 15, 2024, second by Rideout.

Discussion followed on corrections needed requested by Selectman Hodgman in non-public, excusing Selectman Carrier for that particular vote.

Selectman Hodgman **made a motion to amend the motion** to approve all except to exclude the August 15<sup>th</sup> non-public sealed minutes, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; Diorio-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes.

*New Business:*

Oaths of office were presented to the Board for Ballot Clerks chosen to be inspectors at the Election. Cindy Cole Republican and Cathy Winslow Democrat. Selectman Rideout **made a motion** to have the Board sign the Oaths, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

The Board had reviewed the MOU between Hinsdale School District and the Town of Hinsdale. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** for the Chair to sign the MOU, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Rideout-aye; Hodgman-aye; Carrier-aye; Diorio-aye; and Johnson-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Youth Sports Policy and Procedure Manual was reviewed by the Board. Selectman Hodgman asked if changes from last Thursday's meeting were included. It was determined that the most recent changes pertaining to guidance for coaches on incident reporting were not yet included. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve the Youth Sports Policy and Procedure Manual to include changes made last Thursday, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

The MOU for SRO was handed out by Chief Evans for review. She indicated that there will be a new SRO after October. Mike Carrier will be filling in for a couple days per week during the month(s) we are without one. Chief made a clarification and there will be salary line changes. Selectman Carrier pointed out that as we currently don't have a Deputy Chief, 4.0 wording for consults should be changed to "or designee". Jodie had concerns on 12.6 .2 and noted the invoice needs to be submitted to Finance on December 15 and June 15. There was further discussion. She also felt the Reimbursement part should be its own section. Revisions will be made.

Applications for Open Container/Alcohol Permits were recently found at the Community Center. The first for the Blouza Family Reunion at the Pavilion and the Lynde Thanksgiving to take place at the Community Center. Discussion followed. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to approve both Applications, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

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An Application to Hook up to Municipal Water System was submitted by Heather Reyor for 459 Plain Road. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the Reyor Application, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

*T.A. Reports/Requests:*

T.A. Lynch will be in Court tomorrow in the evidentiary hearing and will be in Concord on Wednesday.

Budgets were handed out today and department heads will make appointments and pass them in by the 30<sup>th</sup>. Workshops will follow. Chair Diorio commended her on the recurring Department Head Meetings.

She mentioned that Julie received a donation grant from Center for Tech Civic Life in the amount of \$4793 for voting booths. Selectman Hodgman **made a motion** to accept the donation grant for voting booths, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Lynch also mentioned that Vaughan Taylor asked if the Town would be in favor of leaving the lights at the bridges. Discussion followed. It was determined that the Board will consider that when the time comes.

T.A. Lynch talked about her recent discussion with Hinsdale Chief Evans, Brattleboro Police Chief Norma Hardy, and Brattleboro Assistant Chief Evans pertaining to the island and bridges. Discussion followed to include possible interest of a party in buying that property. They may be working together and continuing this conversation regarding this concern.

She asked the Board if they wish to move forward with an updated estimate for mitigation of River Road. The Board would like to move forward. The application can take some time, perhaps up to a year, and no work can be done until approval. She will be meeting with KV Partners for updated estimate.

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6:34 p.m. Chair Diorio opened the **Public Hearing on Community Power**

Terry Clark handed out information and introduced himself as County Commissioner representing Cheshire Community Power. He also introduced Brian from Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. They both explained the program and answered questions.

It was explained that this Spring, the Board voted to become a member of Cheshire Community Power and take advantage of lower power costs on the supply side of your Eversource bill, likely \$10 to \$15 cheaper. Cheshire Community Power is the energy **supplier** and you remain a distribution customer of Eversource. Bills will continue to go through Eversource and Eversource still fixes lines if power is out.

If you haven't made a choice for supplier, you will default to Cheshire Community Power. You can also opt in on the website if you are with another vendor. They suggested that if you are on a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor now it is probably best to call the phone number or go to the website, give them the Eversource Customer # and opt in to Cheshire Community Power. They cautioned that there could be a penalty if using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor; some have them and some don't. If you are now with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor or using solar, you likely did not receive a letter. This means you were not automatically included in Cheshire Community Power.

They indicated that right now, they are the best rate at 8.9 cents and for six months the rates will stay the same. It can change every six months. The rate will be posted on the website and you can opt out with no penalty.

They reiterated that if you're currently buying through Eversource, you don't have to do anything.

Jay Bean spoke in support indicating that this company is lowering cost for electricity and has been consistently below Eversource since they started. He added that the only way to get delivery charges down is to go to your state representatives. Net metering and solar were also discussed. It was suggested that if you are net metered you should not be automatically enrolled; however, if there is a concern, reach out and call.

Key Points: Most Eversource default electricity supply customers will be automatically enrolled on or after October 1, 2024 in the same service for a lower price. Cheshire Community Power will be the new default electricity **supplier**. Participation is voluntary. Customers may opt-out. Eversource will continue to deliver electricity. Customers with 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers will remain with them unless they opt-in with Cheshire Community Power. Cheshire Community Power is self-funded. No hidden fees.

Following a question, it was pointed out that you probably will not see this until November (after October read dates).

It was reminded that if anyone wishes to opt out, it can be done by website ([CommunityPowerNH.gov](http://CommunityPowerNH.gov)), email ([info@CommunityPowerNH.gov](mailto:info@CommunityPowerNH.gov)), or phone (1-866-603-POWR).

7:13 p.m. Public Hearing was closed.

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*T.A. Reports/Requests (continued):*

Next meeting will be September 9<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday and then returning to weekly meetings.

She informed the Board that a window was broken (vandalized) at Town Hall and Portland glass was called to replace at an estimated \$350. This prompted continuing to look into cameras. They found that Brattleboro will have a system run by cellphones covering Main Street area.

T.A. Lynch noted that the new front doors need to have key fobs installed and she is waiting on an estimate before they can finish doors.

She indicated that we have permission from the Treasurer and will be moving to TD Bank at a large estimated savings.

*Board Comments:*

Selectman Hodgman attended the Parks and Rec Meeting last week where there were final changes to the Youth Sports Policy and Procedures.

Selectman Carrier had a Library Trustees Meeting last week. They will offer e-books and audio books. There was discussion for receipt of monthly budget worksheets.

Selectman Rideout attended a Planning Board Meeting. There is a possible proposal for town houses on Main Street.

*Public Comment:*

Sean Leary mentioned that HEDC had their first business network event on Thursday with only a few businesses attending but overall a good event. They did some brainstorming and had good feedback of attendees. For existing businesses, they will discuss what is needed for business retention. This will be an ongoing process.

Chief Evans added that she is hesitant about saying no lights on the bridges, regardless of what happens. It was agreed that this can be further discussed.

7:20 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn**, second by Hodgman. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,  
Secretary