

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, **November 18, 2024** meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall-Auditorium

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Richard Johnson and Selectman Mike Carrier. Selectman William Hodgman was excused. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Gary Sibley, Ernie Smalley, Chief Evans, Bob and Casey Truesdell, Jack White, Heather Jutras, Theresa Diorio, Kleay Steever, Karen Johnson, Taran Benedict, Alex Duso, Dennis Nadeau, Kenny Howe, Gary Seymour, Chief Zavorotny, Julie Seymour, Dan Seymour, Bill Nebelski, Mike Bomba (by phone), April Anderson, and Sean Leary.

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

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the manifests of November 12 and November 18, 2024 and public minutes of November 4, 2024, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes. (Selectman Johnson arrived at this point).

New Business:

Next presented were:

- 1) Town Hall Facility Rental Request for Celebration of Life for November 23, 2024 requested by Kerri Pagach
- 2) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Kerri Pagach for Celebration of Life at Town Hall on November 23, 2024
- 3) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for K. Lynch for Holiday Party at Community Center on December 13, 2024
- 4) Application for Open Container/Alcohol Permit for Gail Ames for Annual Family Christmas Party at Community Center on December 14, 2024

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the slate of 4 (Town Hall Facility Rental and 3 Open Container applications), second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

The MS-535 was presented for signatures. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve and sign the MS-535, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Reports/Requests:

T.A. Lynch mentioned that there are a few promising interviews for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Operator position.

She received a letter from Michael Fairchild pertaining to the bridge and she asked, since a few are considering doing things in that area, should we consider putting this on the ballot. The Board did not express an interest in that.

T.A. Lynch informed the Board that National Grid gave a construction notification of their asset condition refurbishing project.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, **November 18, 2024** meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall-Auditorium

She contacted the Historical Society for financials and they are expected to respond soon.

MRI will be conducting a 3rd party review investigation pertaining to Mr. Weaver's complaints.

An Energy Audit was performed at Town Hall and at the Community Center and she awaits results.

A Bid document for demolition and hazardous mitigation of 54 Canal Street is being publicized. Prospective bidders will be invited to tour the parcel on a specified date.

T.A. Lynch mentioned that Bob Truesdell wanted to bring to the Board's attention some adjustments being made at the Transfer Station regarding fees for tires due to increase in removal charges. He discussed that and changes will be made to the website. Trash bag prices were mentioned as well. Chair Diorio suggested moving Transfer Station Hours closer to the top of the web page.

Work on the Bridge on Depot Street will begin in Spring or early Summer.

Citizen Comments:

Gary Sibley explained that he lives in town and has been here for about 15 months. He attends various meetings to see what he can learn. He explained that he is here to convey his concerns as to lack of communication going out to the general public. He gave examples, acknowledged that public involvement is needed; however, spoke of subcommittees needing to do better at posting their meetings and getting minutes posted in a timely manner. He added that correct times of meetings should be on the website. He mentioned interacting with Gary Montgomery, Cemetery Sexton, and conveyed that he is doing a great job. He was thanked by the Chair for bringing this to the Board's attention.

Board Comments:

Selectman Carrier mentioned that Selectman Rideout will be out of town tomorrow so he will attend the Planning Board meeting in his place. Wednesday is a Library Trustees Meeting that he will be unable to attend due to the Board joining the Budget Committee Meeting.

Selectman Johnson will attend the Cemetery Meeting tomorrow night.

T.A. Lynch was asked to mention that Selectman Hodgman is out of town for the Parks and Rec. Meeting on Thursday and whether anyone was available. Chair Diorio offered to attend.

There was discussion of Mike Bomba calling in during the budget committee joining the meeting. Chair Diorio mentioned that the Select Board has reviewed the Budget and it is up 1.75%. He indicated the Board is ready to approve tonight, and of the process to be taken. 6:30 p.m. The Budget Committee was called to order.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, **November 18, 2024** meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall-Auditorium

Town Clerk

Discussion followed on salaries following a comment by Julie. It was pointed out that the wage worksheet on the following page breaks down all full and part-time salaries and is consistent in all budgets. To make this sound more plural, wording will be changed to Salaries.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Town Clerk Budget at \$124,895.84, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Budget Committee had a motion which passed to table and not approve budgets until their (future) meeting.

Elections

Selectmen have reviewed this. Alex questioned printing and supplies decrease. Karen responded. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve** Elections budget at \$5734.47, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Tax Collector

There was minimal discussion on increase being salaries. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Tax Collector budget at \$51,424.04, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Police Department

Chair Diorio mentioned that the Board has looked at it a number of times, it is basically flat, up \$500 from last year. Discussion followed. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** Police Department Budget at \$1,747,851.87, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-abstained. Motion passes. Budget followed with questions. Discussion took place with Chief Evans. The total of part time employees was discussed; the unfilled Lt. position plan; and clarifications were made as to maintenance figures questioned. There is plan for one vehicle replacement (via warrant article).

Fire Department

Fire Department is at an .02% decrease. There will be \$25,000 for gear in a Warrant Article. Discussion took place with Chief Zavorotny. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** the Fire Department Budget at \$319,363.78, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Highway, Parks, and Transfer Station:

T.A. Lynch explained that they are working to get at much revenue as possible for the Transfer Station and of the projected revenue. Highway and Parks are combined this year. Chair Diorio mentioned that Highway is up about \$60,000, mostly salaries. Bob added that there is a one-time purchase of \$9000 for tires for the loader (2015 loader with original tires). Selectman Johnson **made a motion to approve** Highway and Parks Budget, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Transfer Station

Discussion includes anticipated offsetting revenues, whether \$700 for training line was enough and acknowledging a line shift on the budget which needed to be corrected. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to**

Select Board Meeting Minutes

*Monday, **November 18, 2024** meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall-Auditorium*

table Transfer Station Budget for correct figures, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Library

Increase in salaries was questioned and discussed with Karen. She added that the assistant is doing more and they upped her hours and the maintenance line is back in the budget. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Library Budget at \$59,969.40, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Welfare

Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** Welfare Budget at \$72,961.43, second by Carrier. Following discussion, the vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Patriotic

Dennis commented that he thinks we are all set for this year as he has about half of what is needed. He is not sure about next year due to pricing. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Patriotic Budget at \$2500.00, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Community Recreation:

T.A. Lynch mentioned that they have tried to put as much revenue as possible, back in to offset this and of the importance of these programs to a small town.

Pool

T.A. Lynch explained that there was a big jump due to Covid-related decline being over and getting back to full staff (pre-Covid numbers). They also brought pay up to where it should be. Dennis mentioned it being the largest increase of any departments. Alex questioned this (number of lifeguards) being a new rule or were we not meeting requirements previously. We were not meeting standards. T.A. Lynch mentioned that they are working hard to get the Jr. counselor program up and running and starting to rebuild that again. Concerns were discussed with Theresa responding. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Municipal Pool Budget at \$83,977.40, second by Rideout. . The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Community Rec Programs

Discussion followed to include added responsibilities. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** the Community Rec Programs budget in the amount of \$5875.49, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

*Monday, **November 18, 2024** meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall-Auditorium*

Hinsdale Community Center

Kenny asked when the grant is expected. T.A. Lynch responded that reimbursement is expected before the end of the year. Heather explained that the plan is to start in January. They have three months. The hope is to reopen by the end of February. Selectman Johnson made a **motion to approve** the Community Center Budget at \$152,700.01, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Summer Program

Discussion followed to include salary increases. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Summer Program Budget at \$79,795.47, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Water

Jack spoke of Get the Lead Out required letters to be sent out and work to be done until 2037. Discussion followed to include postage line needing to be increased due to this. T.A. Lynch spoke of getting these letters out, the new mandated work to be done, and the needed permission to go into a related loan with up to 70% being forgiven. Selectman Carrier **made a motion to approve** Water Budget (with addition of \$1000 postage increase) at \$712,135.53, second by Rideout. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Wastewater/Sewer

Chair Diorio mentioned there being a small increase. Selectman Rideout **made a motion to approve** Wastewater/Sewer Budget at \$564,452.21, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Rideout-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Budget Committee followed with discussion on needing to approve prior meeting minutes; and that they were sent more than once after the meeting. They then approved them and adjourned.

8:15 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion** to adjourn, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary