

Selectmen's PUBLIC HEARING Minutes

Monday, August 14, 2017

PUBLIC HEARING:

To Accept Testimony regarding a proposed amendment to the Shooting Range Ordinance

To Accept Testimony regarding a proposed amendment to the Ban of Smoking in all Municipal Buildings and Athletic Fields

To Accept Testimony regarding proposed rate increases in the Water & Sewer Ordinances

6:43 p.m. Chair Diorio opened the public hearing. It was noted that regarding the Shooting Range, Vermont Yankee is gone and our police department will use the range several times per year for training. There has been prior discussion of the range being open to the public at some point once safety concerns are addressed. It was noted that the police department may use the range with other departments but only when the Hinsdale Police Department uses it. It would be posted on social media and will be communicated with the school.

Selectman Rideout thinks it is reflected in the minutes that he was opposed to let townspeople, other than the police department, use the range and he still is. Police Officers need to train and be safe. At this point, he doesn't want it open to the public.

Selectman Gallagher would like to see it open to the public eventually but doesn't see it this year, due to safety concerns.

Selectman McCosker has had a number of people notify him that they would like a place to sight-in, but due to safety issues, he thinks it needs to remain as it is.

Jill had correspondence dated August 7th from Bill and Janet Faucher stating their concerns, which Chairman Diorio read.

Joanne Wojchick had a question on #4 of the proposed ordinance re: range hours. She thought it was unclear and needed to be rewritten.

Comments were made re: recent shooting going on at the range. It was stressed to report any questionable shooting to the police department. T.A. Collins noted that the police department does need to provide new officers with testing and qualifications at times. Selectman Gallagher noted that handguns are safe to use at the range. It needs more work for rifles.

Theresa Davis felt that as written, the proposed policy should be revised and needs to be looked at in terms of linguistics. She felt that if we were doing an ordinance just for the P.D., some things should be stricken.

Ed Girroir would like to see that people using the trail are informed. He thinks the trail should be posted when the range is in use. Mike Wojchick expressed concerns of lack of fencing near the trails.

Don McCool noted that he was out there today and feels the meeting is premature because there's so much to be done. He also noted 4-wheelers using the trail.

Mike Wojchick asked if anyone's considered that it's not the place to have a shooting range.

Chair Diorio noted that this has been discussed at great length and the Board's intent is to find a place where the Police Department can train several times per year. It is not a public shooting range right now. T.A. Collins reminded everyone that the local indoor shooting range they were using has closed. Chair Diorio believes there will be two contacts (a

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primary and an alternate) at both the school and at the Police Department for communication. Ann Diorio confirmed that communication was working between the department and the school.

Marilyn Strom's concerns included how a resident might find out if anything is going on at the range.

Chief Faulkner was reached by phone for questions and clarifications. Chair Diorio mentioned #4 and #4a of the proposed ordinance. Chief Faulkner clarified having about four trainings per year but it could go beyond. There would be no holidays or Sundays. He expects no more than four night trainings, with a goal of one time per year. The annual minimum qualification is two times per year. There would be notifications on Facebook post and website. His goal would be a minimum of two weeks in advance. It could be shorter notice, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Chair Diorio asked if he had any thoughts of notification or signs for out of town folks using the trail. He could possibly come up with a barrier on each end with *Range Use – Use Trail at Own Risk* type of notice. This is state land and he doesn't believe there is any authority to close.

Cathy Johnson expressed confusion with the proposed ordinance language. Chief Faulkner noted that a goal is one thing, but there is a need to word (the ordinance) to allow flexibility.

Theresa Davis questioned whether #7 and #9 was needed in the ordinance. Chief Faulkner indicated it wasn't needed but was more transparent. He would be fine with it coming out. Theresa also suggested that the ordinance be called *Town of Hinsdale Police Department Training Facility Ordinance*.

Ed Girroir felt signs should be at least 300 feet away up the trail.

Ban of Smoking in all Municipal Buildings and Athletic Fields

Chair Diorio summarized that the purpose of the ordinance is to protect the health and well-being of all members of the public and employees of the Town and noted that proposed changes have been discussed as a board.

Selectman Rideout noted that smoking at Town Hall was currently restricted within 15 feet. Liz Boggio expressed concern with having to walk through smoke to get to a municipal building. Discussion followed about the distance allowed re: athletic fields. Selectman McCosker pointed out if it was a school event, there should be no smoking at all. If it were Parks and Rec., that's a different issue.

Selectman McCosker and Selectman Rideout noted that they were more comfortable with 25 feet.

James MacDonell cautioned that if the change was to "all parks", it would eliminate/remove a place for employees to go. Also, if weddings and events were held, it would eliminate places for guests/attendees to go.

Further discussion included a possible change to narrow down language to include specific parks and all athletic fields, including the access road to the pavilion and a question as to who would enforce.

Theresa Davis felt that the River Park should be included as a non-smoking area. Mike Wojchick suggested that there should be a designated area.

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Water and Sewer Ordinances

Chair Diorio informed all that this was to accept testimony re: proposed rate increases in the Water & Sewer Ordinances. There is a proposed increase of 2½% for both water and sewer, necessary to operate our systems and provide funds for capital reserves. T.A. Collins noted that it was suggested by engineers in the past to look at this on an annual basis due to many expensive infrastructure projects. The meter project and Main Street sewer project were paid by user fees. Most of the town is serviced by water.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the water and sewer rate increase to go into effect July 1, 2017, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to table the proposed Ban on Smoking and Shooting Range ordinance for a workshop, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

8:11 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary