

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2016

Present: Chairman Gallagher, Selectmen Diorio, Darcy, McCosker and Rideout; and T.A. Collins.

6:07 p.m. Chairman Gallagher called the meeting to order.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to approve the minutes and non-public minutes of 12/12/2016, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to table the manifest of 12/19/2016 until the meeting in January, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board of a notification of discharge violation at the sewer department which is being worked on now.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that she will be off on Wednesday and Thursday of this week and Thursday of next week.

Selectman Darcy mentioned the stabilization grant money for the schools; there is a bill being proposed asking to postpone for a few years.

He also mentioned that the Zoning Board had an appeal this past Tuesday on an administrative decision. The building inspector sent a notice to the renters of a property where chickens were kept. They were given 20 days to remove or appeal. ZBA granted the appeal. His concern is that we have a lot of spot zoning going on. The building inspector has no way to enforce ordinances as it stands. Discussion followed. James MacDonell stated that if no one complains, they get the variance. The complainant in this matter was not notified to attend. T.A. Collins stated that criteria were not followed. There are other criteria beyond unnecessary hardship. She has had conversation with the Town Attorney. Selectmen can decide whether to appeal this decision or not. If they decide to appeal, a letter will be drafted by the Town Attorney.

Selectman Darcy indicated that the Planning Board will meet tomorrow to talk about what they want to do. This is a good opportunity for the board to decide. Discussion followed re: whether or not this should be overturned, whether we need zoning, the inability by employees to enforce, and that criteria was not followed.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to uphold the Zoning Board's decision. There was no second. Motion failed.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to appeal the Zoning Board's decision based on the fact that legal criteria were not followed, second by McCosker. The vote is as follows: The vote is as follows: Darcy-I, Gallagher-I, McCosker-I, and Rideout-I. Diorio-No. Motion passes.

Selectman Diorio noted that the School Board met last week to discuss budgets. He attended police interviews and expects more to come. There is a budget meeting this Wednesday.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2016

6:30 p.m. Budget Committee members joined the meeting.

Executive Budget was discussed. T.A. Collins noted the increase was mainly due to health insurance and retirement.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to tentatively approve the Executive Budget in the amount of 172,363, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Elections, Registration and Vital Statistics was next discussed. The increase in Town Clerk and Deputy Salary is due to added hours per week. There will also be a one-time purchase of software put out by Avitar. There will also be an annual fee. This helps with reporting dog licenses and will also be capable of accepting credit and debit cards in the future. Positive feedback regarding the Town Clerk's office was mentioned.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to tentatively approve Elections, Registration and Vital Statistics Budget in the amount of \$63,181, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Financial Administration Budget was discussed. James MacDonell sat in the gallery for this and did not vote. Budget is up around \$4000. There was a question as to whether the armor car service was necessary twice per week. Yes, according to the Town Administrator. Selectman Darcy had a question for Mr. MacDonell as to the discrepancy re: Tax Collector salary. Mr. MacDonell answered that it did not cover the grade change. T.A. Collins asked why this was not mentioned previously and he indicated he mentioned it in June. T.A. Collins will look into and review this.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to tentatively approve the Financial Administration Budget in the amount of \$158,752.00, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously. James MacDonell returned to the table.

Planning and Zoning discussion included a question as to whether issues with the computer are being taken care of. It was noted that the salaries, health insurance and retirement increases won't be known until July.

Selectman McCosker made a motion to tentatively approve the Planning and Zoning Budget in the amount of \$103,291.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

It was noted that the Government Buildings Budget is down. It was mentioned that roof shingles will need to be replaced (slate replacements). T.A. Collins would like to see the Town Hall trim painted again and there is always some electrical work needed. In the future, the stage curtain will need to be replaced. Estimates should be obtained for a possible fundraiser and/or grant. If there is fundraising, acceptance as a gift will need a public hearing.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2016

Selectman Darcy made a motion to tentatively approve the General Government Buildings Budget in the amount of \$68,644.00, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Cemeteries and Parks Budget had previously been tabled because of roof and painting concerns. T.A. Collins pointed out that Frank Podlenski mentioned funds could come from capital reserves and not the budget. \$16,000 could be removed from building repairs.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to tentatively approve Cemeteries and Parks Budget in the amount of \$38,734.00, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Fire Department Budget was previously tabled by the Budget Committee. Selectmen will revisit this too. T.A. Collins informed the Board that there is more information needed; more of a breakdown needed from the Fire Department.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to approve the Emergency Management Budget in the amount of \$13,956.00, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins stated that she is waiting for Home Healthcare and Meals Program requests to come in re: the Health Agency Budget. Mr. Zavorotny feels that this is growing regularly and he is in favor of what they do but some feel uncomfortable that something is being paid out that they don't necessarily agree with.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to table the Health Agencies and Hospitals Budget, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Next, Welfare Administration was discussed. T.A. Collins noted that we have an excellent welfare director.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to tentatively approve the Welfare Administration Budget in the amount of \$68,386.00, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously.

Community Center Budget had been tabled by the Budget Committee. T.A. Collins said they are hoping to bring on more adult programs, in addition to the current programs. There was discussion regarding the electricity increase. There was discussion to reduce that line item from \$5150 to \$4700.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to tentatively approve the Community Center Budget in the amount of 55,777.00, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to tentatively approve the Conservation Budget in the amount of 500.00, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to tentatively approve Debt Services in the amount of \$127,665.00, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

For Capital Outlay, T.A. Collins pointed out that currently this is only lease payments. As warrant articles are gone over, she will be adding to this.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2016

Selectman McCosker made a motion to tentatively approve the Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$96,281, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins wanted to revisit the Water Department Budget. She found that full time and part time salaries were mistakenly added together. She will redo this budget so that it can be looked at again. This was tentatively approved previously but will be revisited.

Peter Zavorotny brought up the Capital Improvement Plan. There was discussion on getting estimates up front before making decisions and determinations, specifically mentioning a front line truck. There may be a warrant article to take down the old police station building to include asbestos removal and tearing down the building. Warrant Articles will be developed off the Capital Improvement Plan.

There is a Budget Committee Meeting on Wednesday, December 21st. Budget Committee members adjourned.

Sean Leary informed the Board that the School Board had discussed the town going first or the school going first on the Town Meeting date. The School Board would prefer to go first, based on their meeting being shorter. They would prefer to go first or schedule on an alternate Saturday. There was discussion on combining with the intent to alternate and how that has worked in the past. There was concern of losing attendance. Different options were discussed. It is up to the moderator on how this may be handled. Jill will check with Richard Johnson. Selectman Rideout asked if there was any feedback re: the building funds. Sean indicated that the meeting was pushed back to January. They will not do anything if they are not getting building aid. We are the only district that made the applicant deadline for 2017.

7:36 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a motion to adjourn, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary