

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 24, 2016

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

6:00 Chairman Gallagher called the meeting to order.

Selectman Diorio made a motion to approve the 10/24/16 manifests and the minutes and non-public minutes of 10/17/16, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins presented papers appointing Megan Bassett for the Planning Board to take Dwight Smith's position. Selectman Darcy made a motion to have the Board sign the appointment papers, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins presented a petition and pole license #31-0978. It was determined that this is for Plain Road between the curve and Freedom Acres for electric, telephone, and cable. Selectman Diorio made a motion to sign the petition and license, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins gave the Board the MS1 Summary Inventory Valuation in the net amount (minus utilities) of \$243,076,429. Selectman Darcy made a motion to sign the MS1 Valuation, second by Diorio. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a motion to sign the 2016 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

There was discussion re: the Police Department Garage. A second bid was received. Information was sent to five contractors. Two responded. George Newman Construction bid was \$65,500 and GPI Construction was \$90,998. Selectman Diorio made a motion to accept the bid of \$65,500 from George Newman, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

There was a complaint received from a resident on Charles Drive regarding a tractor trailer truck using that road. Discussion followed. It was determined that there would have to be an ordinance to enforce that large trucks may not use that road and more information is needed. Selectmen are aware of this concern and if there are more complaints, may look into this further. There was suggestion of having the police department follow up with complainant.

T.A. Collins had a letter inviting communities concerned with the cutting of school funding to attend a forum to explore solutions. This will be on 11/4/16 in Franklin. Discussion followed including the concern that this could result in increases in property taxes and that stabilization grants are being phased out. Selectman Darcy will plan to attend the forum.

T.A. Collins gave the Board budget information that was available, together with a four-year history sheet. The remaining information will be ready on Thursday. She noted that Chief Faulkner would be in later this evening to address the Selectmen.

Selectman Rideout attended a Rec. Meeting on Thursday. The issue with soccer was taken care of. T.A. Collins added that the fields will be fertilized and crabgrass control will be done in the spring, fertilizing and grub control in the summer, and fertilizing and seeding in the fall (late September). A meeting with the school department will be held when Jill returns from vacation.

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Selectman Diorio was approached by someone regarding a shooting range. He knows the police department needs a place to shoot as well. Discussion followed. Chief Faulkner is looking into an NRA grant re: a shooting range.

Richard and Cathy Johnson stated that they asked to come in to discuss a tree on their property by the cemetery that was taken down. They saw Tim Nichols' truck and thought he was doing work in the cemetery. As Richard was leaving for work he knew it was limbed. Cathy was told the tree was being taken down but thought it was in the cemetery. Richard noted it was hard for him to fathom how a tree could be taken down on a citizen's property. Discussion followed including that the RSA mentioned was designed for the woods. T.A. Collins presented Mr. Johnson with the Forester's Report. Richard indicated that no one spoke to them before the tree was taken down. They feel it was completely on their property. Their deed states the fence line is the property line. There was a question as to why the tree was taken down. T.A. Collins explained that it was thought to be a border tree and there was threat to the cemetery. The tree was thought to have been hit by lightning. Tony Orzino stated that Tim Nichols had pointed out that the tree was 130' high and rotten. It was leaning towards the cemetery. It was a dangerous situation. He wrote a proposition to the Town Administrator that it was dangerous, someone could get hurt, and there could be irreparable damage. Selectman Rideout feels we should have notified the Johnsons. There should have been communication. Tim Nichols addressed the Selectmen. He stated that the tree was 130' tall, there was damage to the bottom. The tree was leaning hard towards the cemetery. He believes it could have fallen in a windstorm and would have fallen 150' across the whole cemetery. Selectman Darcy indicated that he can't imagine that we would have done this if there were no threat, however there was a failure in communication to let the Johnsons know. It was determined that the logs have not been removed as the Johnsons put a sign up. T.A. Collins indicated that what happened was a lesson of what shouldn't have happened. The offer presented was the low offer. She was going by information from the forester. Dave Mann is going to work on marking the boundary. Selectman Darcy was going to motion to offer \$1080. with a letter of apology and noted that procedure and policy should be followed with communication. Mr. Johnson felt that \$2000 was fair and reasonable, with the stump ground down. Selectman Darcy made a motion to offer \$2000 with a letter of apology, and log removal, and having the stump ground down, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously. The Board apologized and indicated they were glad to come to a resolution.

Selectman McCosker noted that next Tuesday he will be at the Beautification Committee and will be swearing- in the members.

It was agreed that next week, the Selectmen's Meeting will be on Tuesday 11/1/16 at 6:00.

Selectman Darcy asked when all budgets would be complete. It was confirmed that they would be ready on Thursday. He asked if the Board should put together a policy on communication. Jill will check into what other managers have in place.

Selectmen Rideout indicated he will be at elections on November 8th later than originally mentioned.

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T.A. Collins will be on vacation from November 4th until mid-day November 14th. The Selectmen can do a workshop re: her evaluation on November 7th. Selectman McCosker noted that he had parent-teacher conferences on that date. Selectman Diorio would like a copy of last year's evaluation.

Sean Leary questioned whether town employees' retirement is fully funded by the town. It was determined that now the town does fully fund police officers and employees. He asked about the next Brownfields meeting. Jill will ask JB to send him a schedule. T.A. Collins noted that the Masonic property got approved but there will be a gentleman coming in on November 14th who is interested in that property.

6:55 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a motion to recess until the Police Chief arrives, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

7:00 meeting reconvened.

Chief Faulkner informed the Board that he is seeing an uptake in violence and types of calls. He is highly concerned with safety:

1. Short staff is a concern.
2. Burn-out is a concern.
3. Back-up time/wait time is also a concern. This is with other departments as well.

He is down two officers and one is in training. He has four applications currently in. He spoke of a recent melee outside of the VFW and there was a 15-minute wait for backup. One of the officers was injured. He is getting community support for more officers. He would like the Board to put in for two more officers on the Warrant Article for the next town meeting. He would like 10 full time officers so that there are two on each shift. He is aware of overhead but this would bring down the overtime currently expended. He can look into a grant but isn't sure if he can get one now. There may be a restriction to wait. He will look into this. Based on call volume, we should have 2.5 to 4 officers per 1000. Hinsdale's call volume and arrests are beat only by Keene in this area. Discussion followed regarding current overtime, required training, and reasons for high call volume. Selectman Diorio felt there was no question of need; the concern is how to pay for request. Maria Shaw spoke of a recent incident where she was a victim and the officer responding was the only officer available. He had to go after the offender by himself. The Town was not covered for the entire time the officer had to transport the offender to Keene. It seemed like forever before backup arrived ... 20 minutes to a half hour. She would hope that the Board would consider putting this on as a warrant article. She stated that, until this happens to you, you don't understand (the safety issues). There is a need for more officers. Discussion followed. Selectman McCosker mad a motion to do a warrant article to two full-time officers, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously

7:28 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a motion to enter into non-public meeting under RSA:91:A-3, II, (a) personnel, second by McCosker. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I, McCosker-I, Gallagher-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:29 p.m. Regular meeting reconvened.

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Selectman Darcy made a motion to seal the minutes, second by McCosker. The vote is as follows: Darcy-I, McCosker-I, Gallagher-I, Diorio-I, and Rideout-I. Motion passes unanimously.

8:30 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a motion to adjourn, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary