

## SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

### TOWN OF TROY

Thursday October 15, 2020

**Selectmen Present:** Richard Thackston, Curtis Hopkins, Timothy Wilson

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*Chairman Thackston opened meeting at 6:09 pm.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

### **3. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:**

- A. The Historical Society was in attendance to present the proposed budgets for the Historical Society, Kimball Hall and the Cheshire Railroad Depot.

Lynn Smith from the Historical Society inquired about some charges that were applied to incorrect accounts. She asked the Town Administrator to have corrections made. Lynn Smith also asked the Town Administrator to look into the charges for electricity in May 2020 as the charges for that month were much more than other months in the year.

The Cheshire Railroad Depot budget presented included no changes from what was budgeted for CY2020.

The Historical Society is looking for a slight increase in advertising to \$350. After a brief discussion with the Board of Selectmen, Lynn Smith and Kim Chaffee decided to increase that line further to \$410 for the year. A change in line items to add a "General Supplies" line with \$100 instead of "Office Supplies."

Kimball Hall's budget proposes an increase to "Building Maintenance and Repair" of \$500 for completion of projects begun in previous years. The Board and Kim Chaffee and Lynn Smith had some discussion regarding heating fuel and furnace service. The Historical Society no longer wishes to use kerosene as it is too costly.

Kim will contact the Town Administrator regarding furnace service.

**MOTION** to approve the Cheshire Railroad Depot CY2021 proposed budget as presented, the Historical Society proposed budget, with adjustments, and the Kimball Hall proposed budget, with adjustments by Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

- B. The Planning Board budget was presented by Kyle Smith. Henry Underwood attended via telephone and Jon Collins was in attendance. The proposed budget changes over the prior year's budget resulted in an increase of \$1,366. Most of the changes are in anticipation of development of Troy Mills.

Discussion followed regarding the Planning Board Clerk. The Board presented the idea of a "Land Use Clerk" to be split between the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment and some other town clerical functions. Jon Collins volunteered to serve on a committee to look at the development and recruitment for the position. The amount for the Planning Board Clerk will remain as proposed until further development by the Board of Selectmen.

**MOTION** to approve the Planning Board CY2021 proposed budget as presented by Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

- C. Rhonda Sheats from Troy Water and Sewer Department presented the department's proposed CY2021 budget. The only increase over the CY2020 budget was \$1,108 for health insurance.

**MOTION** to approve the Water and Sewer Department CY2021 proposed budget as presented by Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

The library's proposed budget is tabled for review to the next meeting for clarification on the Health Insurance line.

The Board took up **NEW BUSINESS** at 6:40 p.m. instead of the next agenda item, **SPECIAL BUSINESS**, A. **Stop Sign Public Meeting**, to allow residents to arrive for the 7:00 p.m. start time.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Driveway Permit – Paving tabled to next meeting. Further explanation is necessary.  
B. Intent to Cut – **MOTION** to approve Intent to Cut #20-453-14-T, Map 34/Lot 30 by Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
C. Town Administrator Guild presented a change to the Town's personnel policy. Adjustment of the number of hours worked in the proposed change is necessary. This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

#### **7. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOTION** to approve the payroll manifests of September 8, 2020 in the amount of \$965.63, September 14, 2020 in the amount of \$17,362.08, and September 21, 2020 in the amount of \$13,449.52, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Chairman Thackston, **VOTES: 2-0-0.**

**MOTION** to approve payroll manifests of October 9, 2020 in the amount of \$12,559.52, October 11, 2020 in the amount of \$17,671.83, which includes the Fire Department pay, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson, **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

**MOTION** to approve accounts payable manifests of October 5, 2020 in the amount of \$7,152.96, October 7, 2020 in the amount of \$60,614.32, and October 15, 2020 in the amount of \$526,734.64 for the Tax Anticipation Note due, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson, **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

Chairman Thackston gave an update to the Board regarding the use of a Line-of-Credit versus a Tax Anticipation Note. All financial audits of the Town of Troy need to be completed to date in order to be considered for a Line-of-Credit.

**MOTION** to approve the October 1, 2020 Selectmen's meeting minutes, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

**MOTION** to approve the October 1, 2020 Selectmen's non-public meeting minutes, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

#### **4. SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

A. Many residents were in attendance to address the erection of the stop sign at the intersection of High and Prospect streets this past summer. Chairman Thackston began the meeting by presenting the petition to request the meeting with the Board, signed mostly by residents opposed to the placement of the stop sign. Todd Cavadini, 532 West Hill Road had circulated a citizen's petition to request the Board of Selectmen hear the concerns of the residents who are opposed to the stop sign's placement. Chairman Thackston also presented an on line petition responded to by residents who were in favor of the stop sign. The majority of residents in attendance spoke in favor of removing the sign. The residents questioned the basis of the Board's decision to place the stop sign. It was felt by the consensus that no traffic study was done and there was no data presented in favor of the stop sign. Tom Matson, 74 High Street spoke in opposition of the way in which the Board arrived at their decision. Tom also questioned why the Police Chief, Fire Chief and the Road Agent were not in attendance at this meeting to address safety concerns. At this point, Police Chief Ellis made his presence known in the audience. He stated that he signed the petition, not in opposition of the stop sign but in favor of the Board meeting to hear residents' concerns. Chief Ellis also questioned the basis of the Board's decision. Chairman Thackston stated there had been previous noticed meetings for residents to attend before the stop sign was erected and the Board heard from no one. The Board, at the previous meetings, had heard recommendations for a four-way stop, but had elected to place only one stop sign, making the stops three ways. Todd Cavadini asked about the removal of one-way status of the streets in the area. Chairman Thackston replied there was no known benefit of the one-way streets. Lisa Steadman spoke in favor of the stop sign, stating that due to her home being in close proximity to the intersection, she was asked for her opinion in April 2020. Stacy O'Brien raised a question in regard to a plan for the winter months as it may be difficult for drivers coming off the hill to stop at the sign. Tom Matson asked the Chairman to take a straw poll of those present. Chairman Thackston denied the request as it is evident most of those in the audience would like the sign removed.

Lisa Steadman reported that until the stop sign was placed, the First Student bus service refused to pick up her children at her home. Selectman Hopkins received comments on line both in favor of the stop sign and opposed to the sign. Selectman Wilson expressed interest in the Board's reconsideration of the decision to erect the sign. Chairman Thackston called the question. Selectman Hopkins abstained from the voting, Selectman Wilson voted in favor of removing the stop sign. **VOTE: 2-0-1.**

Selectman Hopkins reported a comment on line from the Cheshire County In Session Public Forum webpage: "crazy".

B. Warrant Articles Proposal was the next item on the agenda addressed by the Board. The Board discussed creating a warrant article to raise and appropriate funds to demolish properties in town that the court has deemed appropriate.

**Administrative Report:** The Town Administrator reported the increase to Health Insurance rates for the upcoming calendar year at 6.8%, no change to dental premiums or Life Insurance and Long-Term Disability. Short-Term Disability Insurance is set to increase by 4% all over last year's rates. PRIMEX sent expected rates for Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability coverage. Workers' Compensation rates will increase 15.3% and Property & Liability are set to increase by 4.7%. Ms. Guild will add these increases to the budget proposals for the next meeting.

Town Administrator Guild also presented a Timber Tax abatement for Map 7, Lot 10 in the amount of \$245.53. The tax had been calculated incorrectly. The resident paid the new amount of \$1,049.30. **MOTION** to approve the Timber Tax abatement Selectman Wilson, **SECOND** Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

**Board Chair Report** – Chairman Thackston announced a Candidates Forum scheduled for October 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Samuel E. Paul Community Center. He encouraged residents to attend. Besides himself, for NH State Representative, the following candidates have indicated they will attend: Lucius Parshall, NH State Representative Candidate, Representative Bruce Tatro, re-election, Jennifer Rhodes, NH State Representative, Senator Jeanne Dietsch, re-election, and Denise Ricciardi, NH State Senate.

**Other Board Member Comments** - Selectman Wilson announced that wearing of facemasks will be necessary to enter the polling place at the upcoming elections. If a voter does not wish to wear a facemask, outside voting will be available to accommodate the unmasked voter. Social distancing will be encouraged as well and personnel protective items will be available at the polls following the state's guidelines. Moderator Thackston addressed the hours of voting as 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday November 3, 2020. He also noted that an individual is needed to sanitize each booth after each voter has utilized. Moderator Thackston is also looking for rides for those who wish to vote in person, but have trouble getting to the polls.

Selectman Wilson noted that he will be able to attend to the polling place for the entire day.

Selectman Hopkins announced the “overbooking” of the pavilion at the community center making a new plan of use necessary. To reserve the use of the pavilion, parties must contact Bob Norton, Recreation Director. The new reservation procedure is being created by the Recreation Committee and will be available to the public in the future.

Selectman Hopkins reported the Haunted House will take place on October 30 and 31 on the second floor of Town Hall observing the same hours as Trick or Treat, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Accommodations will be made following COVID-19 regulations. Masks are required. There is no charge for the Haunted House.

Trick or Treat will take place in Troy on October 31, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Those participating are asked to follow COVID-19 protocol.

On October 25, 2020 the Recreation Committee is sponsoring a Community Dinner to-go. It is a beef dinner, with all the fixings for \$5.00 a plate, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

The Board took a short recess at 8:21 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:33 pm.


**MOTION** to enter non-public session, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Thackston, YES, Hopkins, YES, Wilson, YES.** The Board entered non-public session at 8:34 pm.

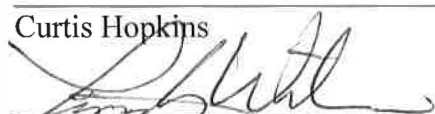
**MOTION** to exit non-public session, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Thackston, YES, Hopkins, YES, Wilson, YES.** The Board exited non-public session at 9:20 pm.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 9:21 pm by Selectmen Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Wilson. **VOTES 3-0-0.**

**TROY SELECT BOARD:**

  
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Mary Guild, Town Administrator

  
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Richard Thackston, Chairman

Curtis Hopkins  
  
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Timothy Wilson