

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
May 11, 2020  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

5:30 pm – Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm

**Present:** Andrew Robertson, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman. Fred McGarry, Cindy McHugh, Alden Dill, Selectpersons.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman Robertson asked to forego the pledge due to it being a zoom meeting.

**Kelly Roberts – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Quarterly Report**

She hoped that everyone was doing well and had some things that she wanted to share with the Board tonight.

With everything that is going on now, please don't hesitate to stop her or ask questions or clarifications. She wants the Board and the residents to feel comfortable with how they are going about doing things right now and let people know how to obtain the information that they need to do their transactions.

First, quickly, she just wanted to talk briefly about revenue. She spent time earlier today with John to draw comparisons from 2019 to 2020 for their information.

Chairman Robertson stated that Mr. Harrington had shared the information with the Board.

Ms. Roberts thought it was interesting to look at and it will be interesting to see how the year progresses to see any trends. She thought that it would be more evident down the road as time goes on but if the Board had any questions about that, don't hesitate to jump in now.

The next thing really quickly that she wanted to touch on is the dog licensing deadline which was April 30<sup>th</sup>. As of today, they have about 54 percent of the dogs registered in town.

The annual rabies and licensing event that was scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The hope is that they can bring this back to the community in the future. Time will tell on that.

As of right now, the governor has not issued any emergency order that would waive the dog licensing procedures and requirements during this pandemic so just a heads up, coming up in early June she will be submitting the list of unlicensed dogs to the Board per law and having to move forward with the civil forfeiture process.

The next thing that she wanted to share with the Board is motor vehicle transactions. This has probably been the biggest adjustment or challenge during the closure. They are all different. They all have their little nuances or something going on.

Simple transactions are taking longer as they are having to field lots of phone calls, emails and meeting people in the parking lot to coordinate getting them their plates and stuff like that but people have been overwhelmingly lovely during this whole thing. Very patient with the process.

What she is trying to convey to the residents to help Kim and I as there are more steps added now so what they are doing is if people have straight renewals, registrations where they are not changing their renewals coming up, they are hoping that people will take advantage of the online and mail option that they offer. That would help them a great deal so that would allow them to triage the more complicated new registers and transactions that are taking up more time than normal. It's not that the transactions are harder, it's just that there are more steps involved now.

To alleviate any concerns as people, get anxious about their motor vehicle transactions, the transactions are being turned around very quickly. Renewals are turned around very quickly. As soon as they get them, they are processing them and getting them into the mail and people are getting them in a day or so.

So, that is the biggest thing that they are dealing with and are doing their best with that.

The other thing that she wanted to talk about briefly is tax collection. Hopefully, the Board will be approving the first half 2020 Tax Warrant tonight. They are setting the due date as Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. She was pushing to get this warrant on time and was pushing everyone and she wanted to thank the Assessing Department, Chris Robert, John Harrington, Amy and Kevin Roberge from Avitar Associates for helping get this done on time.

Due to this pandemic, a lot of towns will not be making the May 15<sup>th</sup> warrant deadline so they should be very proud that they made it because everyone right now is buried with work.

She felt strongly about getting this out on time because it keeps the revenue flow coming in during these times and also a heads up in the tax bills there is going to be a two page insert. This is to help residents who get a tax bill, how to pay their taxes during the closure and how to do the other common transactions that they do. Hopefully that will resonate and people will take that advice.

Part of the insert also includes important COVID-19 information that was provided by the wonderful Emergency Management team. This has a lot of good information that will get to every resident about that so that is comforting.

Normally, an insert would not be this extensive but with what is going on in the world, she felt it was important and that they could just answer the questions during quarantine. She thought about what questions people would have.

Another interesting thing that is a little off topic is that with the governor's Emergency Order Number 25. It has basically put a stay on the deeding process during the emergency so while they are under a state of emergency, she can't move forward with the deeding process.

The order does allow for the lien process to continue so as scheduled, and she knew earlier in the year that she had given the Board the lien/deeding schedule timeframe. As of right now, she is really on schedule for both. She is on schedule for the lien notification process and they are also on schedule for the deed process should the state of emergency be lifted.

That is something that they will have to watch for closely as things are changing rapidly from day to day with what is going on so she will continue to watch that closely.

Another thing that she wanted to put out there and she knew that the Board was already hearing about this but the preparations for Elections 2020 have to be done and it will be in a (couldn't understand) process this year. There is a chance this year with the pandemic that they could see close to an 80% absentee ballot turnout for the state.

The primary is in September and the general election in November and to put that into perspective, Deerfield has about 3,500 registered voters right now so that would be 2,800 absentee ballots to process. That is what they have to prepare for.

It is going to be a lot of work. The Secretary of State has a task force for the upcoming elections to give guidance. The town moderator, Dan Holdridge, will begin meetings for preparation once they have their guidelines for the upcoming elections.

She strongly urges that everyone knows that they are on top of this because she thought that preparation is what is going to make these two elections successful. So, this is a big thing that is coming up.

Important election dates that she wanted to share for the Supervisors of the Checklist, Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 is the last day that someone can change their party affiliation. Normally, it is a simple thing but with closure, it is a little bit different.

To make this possible and easy for voters, the supervisors have scheduled three, social distancing friendly events to get this accomplished and those days are May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 4 to 6 pm at the town hall on Church Street, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 10 Church Street, town hall and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 from 7 to 7:30 pm at the George B. White Building. So, that is a big deal and the filing for the NH State Primary is coming up very fast and the filing period will be from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 so they have a lot coming up in the election front and she will keep them posted.

On a sort of final note, they got the microfiche machine that Joanne Wasson donated to the town, like decades ago, up and running and they have been cataloging the film that they have so that is kind of fun to learn how all that works and Jim is finishing a big part of the annual report project which is kind of cool.

In conclusion, things are going really well considering what they are dealing with right now in the world. She was just wondering if any of the Board had any questions for her or anything that she might not be clear on that could help the public and again, she thanked the Board very much but please, if anything is not making any sense, she wants to make it as easy as possible for people.

Chairman Robertson thanked Ms. Roberts and continued to say that he used the vehicle registration process this morning, drop off box and Kim called him when things were ready. It went very smoothly and he has heard nothing but good things about how the process is working from other folks.

He asked the Board if anyone else had questions or comments for Kelly?

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that she is doing a great job.

The chairman thanked Kelly and asked Mr. Harrington if they had Steve Rollins with them to which it was determined that they didn't at this time.

Chairman Robertson stated that he was going to jump ahead to the tax warrant then they would go back to Steve if he gets online.

He stated that they needed to have a motion and a vote on acceptance of the tax warrant. He thought that everyone saw the preliminary information last week. The total number for the tax warrant was \$6,651,504.00. Didn't know what the Board's pleasure was.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to accept the tax warrant of \$6,651,504.00

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:** Selectman Dill stated that he just wanted to say that he was there, he could see all of the Board but his camera is not working so he could see and participate, he just can't be seen.

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

#### **Regular Business:**

#### **Review of Outstanding Minutes of April 27, 2020**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of April 27, 2020

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

#### **Accounts Payable – May 4, 2020 - \$39,544.38**

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$39,544.38

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

#### **Accounts Payable – May 11, 2020 - \$14,014.07**

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the accounts payable of \$14,014.07

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

#### **Payroll Manifest – Week Ending April 29, 2020 - \$65,794.11 (gross), \$41,755.68 (net)**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the payroll manifest as presented

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that he had correspondence from the Commerce Department, Bureau of the Census and thought that it was address to him and identifies him as the person or tribal chair. He has not conducted the perambulation with anyone on the Board this year but they have done their perambulation in accordance with the

RSA requirement schedule and have a copy that he thought was generated by Nottingham selectmen which includes all the GPS markers locations and he is quite confident that the boundaries for the town are valid. He could use a motion and a second from the Board so that he could sign the form and that we believe that the boundaries are still in place and valid.

He would note that they approved the Epsom boundary down on Swamp Road in the past year, year and a half.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman moves to allow the Chairman to sign the perambulation form for the Nottingham/Deerfield boundaries

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

The chairman stated that they will notify the Department of Commerce that they feel that their boundaries are in order.

Next up, they had an appointment to the Board of Adjustment for George Thompson. He stated that he had a copy of the appointment form in front of him and a copy of the Board of Adjustment's minutes whereby the chair, Josh Freed, accepted a motion and second, recommending the appointment of George.

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to appoint George H. Thompson to the Board of Adjustment

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Robertson stated that some of the Board may have seen something regarding Pinard Waste Systems contract that they were going to act on tonight.

After talking with Bart, Mr. Harrington has requested that they not act on it tonight. They had another couple to three weeks and John and Bart think they be able to get the town a more favorable contract and would like the opportunity to go back to Pinard before the Board yeas or nays the agreement that they provided the town.

If everyone is in agreement, he would table that. All were in agreement.

Chairman Robertson stated that the town property auction list is next on his agenda and John had provided the Board with an idea of the properties that they were ready to auction and he didn't know if Kelly's comments regarding the governors orders affect this John or if they should move ahead?

Mr. Harrington stated that he was going to speak to that today. It does. He has already talked to St. Jean Auctioneers and the town can't really hold a public auction until that emergency order is lifted however the Board can finalize this list so that he could get that to St. Jean's so that when the order is lifted, they could set an auction date.

He will need to set an auction date and backdate it sixty days in order to take care of legal letters to the property owners so they are looking at an auction date of maybe August or September sometime depending on when the order is lifted.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that they needed to keep moving because more than them are going to be more than them that are going to be held back.

Mr. Harrington stated that what he could get from the Board tonight is if any of the properties they didn't want on the auction, he would need to hear that. If they are good with the list as is then they will stick with it.

Chairman Robertson stated that the only concern that the Board had is whether the Conservation Commission was interested in the properties on Reservation Road and Bart has pretty clearly spelled out that they are not in the position to reserve or pass those properties to the Conservation Commission given the valuation of the property and the valuation of the back taxes so unless other members have concerns, he thought at this point, they are probably good to go with that auction list. Please speak up if anyone is not.

Selectman Dill asked if the Conservation Commission wanted the property to which the chairman answered that the Conservation Commission as he understood it, and that would be our attorney, Bart Meyer's recommendation, is that they invite the Conservation Commission to be a participating bidder.

Selectman Dill then continued with if it wasn't the Conservation Commission, say the town wanted it, the town would have to bid against the town, it is kind of an odd change.

Chairman Robertson stated that they wouldn't be in a position, he didn't believe, to go in with the Conservation Commission for that property without a special town meeting but he could be wrong there but he thought that the town was precluded.

Selectman McGarry stated that apparently there were two lists and which list were they talking about currently?

Chairman Robertson asked Mr. Harrington if he had the lists so that he could read to which he stated that he did.

Mr. Harrington stated that there are two categories. The top portion of the list, if you recall Fred, those are the properties that have been on the town books for many, many years. Some of them go back to the late nineties when they were taken.

The bottom portion are all of the current tax deeded properties that were done just last fall.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked Mr. Harrington if he could send out that new list and if they had a problem, could they get back to him?

Mr. Harrington stated that he certainly could but he was hoping that he could wrap this up this early but ...

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that they could make the motion subject to ...

Mr. Harrington stated that he would send the list out first thing tomorrow.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go ahead with the list of properties for auction subject to reservation after review

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:** Selectman McGarry stated that regard to the list of properties, properties that have been around for a while, they had the two properties that they picked up from the (didn't understand) subdivision, the eleven-acres that they picked up across the street from Mr. Mike's, and what is it, three-acres....

Mr. Harrington stated that there is a 3.9-acre lot off of North Road, it affronts the town road and there is the 11.5-acre lot which is right on Route 107.

The question that Selectman McGarry had on both of those was, he guessed again would be would the Conservation Commission have any interest in those. He didn't really see how they might but it would be good just to ask them from a procedural standpoint.

Also, since it is close to the school property, does the school board have any interest in any of those.

Mr. Harrington stated that he could share with the Board that the Conservation Commission got the full list as the Board did. They are aware of all the properties that are on here. He could certainly forward this off to the school board as well to see if they would be interested when the auction comes up.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if they made contact with the abutters to see if they were interested in some of these small pieces?

Mr. Harrington stated that St. Jean Auctioneer's will do all that. This issue was, and he brought it up to the Board the last time, if they do some of this work outside of the auction, then they are holding separate contract negotiations about the property and not putting them through the auction.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she thought that that is what they were going to do before they put it out to the auction was to try to contact some of these abutters.

Mr. Harrington stated that that was with the small pieces of property if they wanted to join them and the decision was that they didn't get a decision to join them up and never went forward with redoing the lines. He stated that he has already been contacted by some of the abutters and they are aware that those properties were going to be going up for auction.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he didn't get how the school could take tax money and bid against somebody else for property that the town is trying to liquidate.

Selectman Dill stated that he was confused on the new change and how recent is it that there are limits on how to liquidate for taxes?

Chairman Robertson stated that what is limiting the town's counsel in advising them to move forward is and was initially discussed, was, he believed two weeks ago, the Supreme Court decision that Bedford lost and it was in particular in regard to the properties on Reservation Road where the property value might be between \$400,000.00 and \$600,000.00 and the back taxes are in the neighborhood of \$150,000.00.

Essentially, they took the property which was worth considerably more than the back taxes and kept the money. They were sued. They said look, you got your back taxes, you owe them the difference and Bedford went to court. It made it all the way to Supreme Court and Bedford lost initially and lost in Supreme Court. This is what Bart is advising them not to do. That property is worth more than the back taxes owed. You can't just hold onto it for conservation or town use. If you are going to do something like that, they would have to create an actual value and now that they have the court case, the Supreme Court case has precedent. He just advised them that it is not in the Board's interest to move in that direction.

He continued that he didn't think that they could offer those properties to the school either as the vice chairman said. The cleanest way forward is to send these to auction.

Selectman Dill stated that it just seemed limiting on the town end of things, surprisingly limiting.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought so too but he thought that Bart had a valid point and if some other communities hadn't abused this, they would probably not be discussing it and it wouldn't have made it to Supreme Court.

Mr. Harrington stated that Bart actually was the attorney representing Bedford during the Supreme Court case so he's intimately familiar with the statutes and he didn't think that Bart was steering them wrong. Ultimately, it comes down to someone has to pay the difference of what is owed to the community verses what the actual value of the property is and if the town were to retain it and somehow donate it or gift it to the Conservation Commission, the town would have to come up with the difference of value and pay the owner.

Selectman Dill stated that if a private citizen buys this at auction, they are not on the hook for the difference, are they?

Mr. Harrington stated that if this property sells at auction for more than the town is owed, that difference automatically goes to the property owner. Whatever that difference is.

Selectman Dill stated but not the assessed value.

Mr. Harrington stated that it would be whatever it garners at the auction.

Chairman Robertson stated that the clearest path forward is the auction process but that is based on what Bart has told them.

Selectman McGarry asked what would happen if the bid price is less than what is owed in taxes? Do they have a right to reject that bid?

Mr. Harrington stated that the town could set a low limit to which they wouldn't sell at auction so if the town decides that they don't want to take any less than what is owed in taxes, penalties and fees on a piece of property, they can set that point and unless it goes over, it won't sell and that has been the recommendation on some of the larger parcels that owe quite a bit.

Selectman Dill asked if that could be set later, not currently and Mr. Harrington stated that this was correct.

Chairman Robertson stated that he couldn't remember, since they talked in depth regarding this if there was a vote taken to which Selectman Dill stated that there had not been a vote.

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Mr. Harrington stated that to just remind the Board, they have a substantial amount of time before they actually get to the auction. They will have to pick a date at some point but getting this stuff out of the way can at least alert St. Jean to make preparations for it.

Chairman Robertson stated that he was going to move to other correspondence. He was going to take them in order that they are piled on his keyboard as opposed to they actually had.

The first is an abatement recommendation and this is for the, actually he had two and was confusing to him, he had an abatement for Church Street, Map 414, Lot 104-1, Ed Cross. He didn't know if everyone had a chance to review this.

Avitar does recommend abatement on their 2019 taxes of \$5.00 total. \$2.00 for 1 and \$3.00 for parcel 2 and this is essentially a housekeeping issue that is correcting how these properties are listed on the tax warrants.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go with Avitar's recommendation as presented

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that he had a notice that does not require a vote. This is a letter from Gary Roberge just notifying them that due to the adoption of HK-700 and the complexity of the utility valuation for the year 2020, he will need any and all information that we receive from the town's utility companies forwarded to him. This will be an ongoing process as the new law requires utility values be updated annually.

Chairman Robertson asked if there were any concerns with sharing this information with the assessor.

None noted.

Mr. Harrington asked if he could possibly back them up for a moment.

Chairman Robertson agreed.

Mr. Harrington stated that on that abatement for Church Street, he had an amount of \$3.07 on the abatement. Selectman Dill added that this is what he had also but, in the letter, it had two different pieces.

Chairman Robertson stated that he was sorry. He was operating off of the letter of advisement from Evan and Mr. Harrington was right, it is actually \$3.07.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjust the motion from \$5.00 to \$3.07 for the Church Street abatement

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Selectwoman McHugh asked if she could interrupt for a second. Steve just texted him and he doesn't have the password to get into the meeting. He has been trying.

#### **Land Use Change Tax – Oakdale Avenue Realty Trust (Ed and Sandy Cross)**

If everyone reviewed the materials sent and the letter, Avitar is advising to deny this abatement request and it is fairly substantial reasoning as to why he feels to should be denied. He didn't know what the Board's pleasure was.

Selectman Dill stated that the chairman was going in a different order than what Mr. Harrington sent them out and he just wanted to pull them out and read them as they went.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to deny the abatement as requested

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

#### **Land Use Change Tax – Kings Grant, LLC – Map 420, Lot 24-1**

This is the valuation recommended for the land use change tax with total tax due seems to be \$130.00. He took it back and stated that the total should be \$13,000.00 and will need a motion to levy that land use change tax.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to levy the land use change tax of \$13,000.00

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

#### **Land Use Change Tax – Peter and Kimberly Hubbies – Map 405, Lot 68 - \$4,000.00**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to levy the land use change tax in the amount of \$4,000.00

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that they could take a break and take an update from Steve Rollins, Highway Agent.

#### **Steve Rollins – Highway Agent**

Mr. Rollins asked if they just wanted to know what has been going on to which the chairman stated to let them know what is going on and what he sees in the immediate future going on he thought that the Board would be interested.

Mr. Rollins stated that they obviously have been taking care of muddy roads when the frost was coming out. They have been doing some brush cutting, some pothole work, cold patching, a lot of beaver and muskrat activities on the dams, on the little grates that they use.

They have also been hammering a little ledge and cleaning up some intersections and that kind of stuff, spring stuff.

Chairman Robertson asked if Board members had any questions for Steve while he was here?

Selectman Dill stated that he had a request today to see if they could put a white line at the stop sign on South Road and Route 43. He figured that he would be talking to him so he told that person that he would pass it along.

Mr. Rollins stated that he would have to look into it.

Selectman Dill asked what the plans were for the next quarter, what is the punch list?

Mr. Rollins set up ready for the overlay work and pretty much carry on the same thing, taking care of the daily calls and whatever happens.

Chairman Robertson asked if Mr. Rollins had any questions for the Board. He did not.

Selectman Dill asked where the overlay was going to which he answered it was going on Candia Road, a piece of Middle Road and a piece of South Road.

Chairman Robertson stated that this was what was approved at budget time.

Selectman Dill asked if it were to be ground or just overlay and go?

Mr. Rollins stated that they were going to do a little patching where it needs to be patched first where an overlay isn't going to amount to anything.

Chairman Robertson asked if anyone else had any questions to which there were none and thanked him for his time and appreciate taking the time to figure out how to get on the horn and talk to them. It's been a challenge for all of them.

Chairman Robertson stated that he had one more Land Use Change Tax.

#### **Land Use Change Tax – Edward Sadick and Michelle Bortnick – Map 419, 95-2, \$9,000.00**

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to levy the Land Use Change Tax of \$9,000.00

**Second:** Selectman McGarry



**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit Exemption – Veteran's Credit – Donald Zurendanish – Pleasant Lake**

Chairman Robertson stated that the exemption paperwork is in order. The home is at 17 Ledge Lane.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked why this paperwork is different from the last time that they denied it?

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't think that they had denied it before but they sent it back to Avitar to ask for clarification as to whether the property was a fulltime residence and if that had any bearing on whether they should approve it or not.

Mr. Harrington stated that he did bring it back to Chris. It was a misunderstanding and this is the actual primary residence.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Veteran's Tax Exemption Credit

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Robertson stated that he believed that was the end of everything except for the Intent's to Cut which they normally didn't take a vote on but he would just like to take a vote just so they had some public explanation before they sign them online electronically.

**Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – Mr. Barton – Map 414, Lot 149 – off Griffin Road**

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Intent to Cut for Mr. Barton as presented

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:** Selectman Dill stated that he wanted to point out to Mr. Harrington that he thought that there was a typo on here as the anticipated start date was 11/1/2019.

Chairman Robertson stated that it may be a type, it may not as this is common.

Selectman Dill stated that they haven't started yet.

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – The Shucks – Map 403-1, 205-2**

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the Intent to Cut for the Shucks as presented

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Town Administrator's Report**

Several items for tonight to talk about.

First, he would like the Board to at least have a discussion, if not, come up with a path forward for Veasey Park. Traditionally, Veasey Park opens at Memorial Day but with the governor's emergency orders and the stay at home orders, that impacts the ability of the park to open and there is also a number of logistical issues, personnel issues, and operational issues which come into play, all dictated by a procedural outline and guideline issued by the State for campgrounds and outdoor parks.

He was not sure if anyone has heard from the public concerning Veasey Park but he would at least like to begin the discussion.

He had invited Travis to join them this evening. He didn't know if he was on. He didn't believe he was.

Travis McCoy stated that he was in the meeting.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know how the rest of the Board feels but he thought that maybe they should ask for a recommendation, a formal recommendation from the Veasey board as to what they would like to see happen and move forward from there, maybe in conjunction with the same procedures and regulations that the state is planning on using on their small beaches.

He didn't know how the rest of the Board felt about that.

One member of the meeting stated that it was a good guideline and others agreed.

Chairman Robertson asked Mr. McCoy if that was something that he could get back to the Board with a formal recommendation from the Veasey Park Commission to which he stated that absolutely he could.

They have been individually putting together their thoughts so what he will do is have a meeting this week and they will go forward with that and bring it back to the Board as soon as possible.

Mr. McCoy stated that they not only have members of the public but the lifeguards themselves also have concerns about how they would perform this season so he wanted to take that all into consideration and see where they were at.

He stated that he would be happy to compile that and get it to the Board as soon as possible.

Chairman Robertson stated that he appreciated that. He thought that they could move forward from there.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if the Board met before Memorial Day to which it was answered by the town administrator that their next meeting would be on May 26<sup>th</sup> which is the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

Mr. McCoy stated that he would recommend for now then that maybe they postpone the opening until after Memorial Day to which Chairman Robertson stated that it was a legitimate recommendation.

Selectwoman McHugh asked Mr. McCoy if he had a copy of the state guidelines to which he answered that he did. He had a copy of the 2.0 state parks and campgrounds.

In going over it, it looks like they could do it if they don't have any personnel issues. His biggest thing he thought and obvious, foremost, would be employee interaction with the lifeguards and lifesaving activities as well as if they are understaffed.

Closing down the park and restricting access from the water too because you know if you leave the gates open, people have a lot of different views as to how they are going to stay safe during this so he feels like they would need to police the area and they would need to encourage the social distancing if the gates are open.

All Board members agreed

Selectman Dill stated that there would also be the bathroom issue as to whether they would open those or not.

Mr. McCoy stated that he was leaning towards keeping the bathrooms closed. He thought what they would have to do is to encourage people to come down, cool off and get out. As crass as that may sound, in order to provide safe access to the swim area, not the picnic area for the socialization aspect. You are not going down to cook dinners down there. People could do that on their own deck so they would probably be looking to remove picnic tables, possibly removing the grills and just making it a place to go to cool off when it is 105 degrees and you are miserable locked up with your kids even though they are a blessing.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked how they were leaving this as it sounds to him like you could cool off or are, they locking the gate?

Chairman Robertson stated that they are going to postpone opening until after Memorial Day and wait until they get a formal recommendation from the Veasey Park Commission and move forward once the Board gets their recommendation.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that they need to get that posted immediately if that's the case so to give the people a chance to make other plans to which all members of the Board agreed.

Mr. McCoy asked if the Board had any concerns that may not be obvious but they would like the Veasey Park Commission to address at their meeting in exploring their recommendations such as the kayak path, anything they would know that they would have to stick to for sure?

Mr. Harrington stated that on his end, Denny and he, especially Denny, has been very closely monitoring this whole process. She is very knowledgeable about all the guidelines that have come out and he is sure that Denny would be more than happy to assist him in making sure that they are covering all their bases and maybe give him some guidance going forward if he would like that.

Mr. McCoy stated that he would reach out immediately to Denny so that he has a little bit more when they meet with the Commission, a little bit more information for the Veasey Park Commission.

Mr. Harrington stated as soon as he comes up with a statement from the Commission, he can get that posted online and on the town's Facebook page and get it out there.

Selectman Dill stated like the vice chairman said, they know that they aren't going to be open for Memorial Day now and probably ought to post something right off and others agreed.

Mr. McCoy stated that he is going to have a lot of upset taxpayers but they have to do what is right. We are not making a statement on anything else other than they are postponing the opening and working on a policy and their recommendation with the Board of Selectmen.

All thought that this sounded great.

Chairman Robertson thanked Mr. McCoy for being with them.

Mr. McCoy stated that this was great. All the excitement of a selectmen's meeting but from the comfort of his home!

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that Mr. Harrington had a couple of other things to talk about such as transfer station fees among other things to which he agreed.

Mr. Harrington stated that he got information back from Rick. They have seen a dramatic increase in their bulky waste, especially tires right now.

They have been following the policy of the Board and have not been collecting fees but for example, they have collected over 600 tires since the start of the year when on average they do 400 for an entire year and they have already had two trips by the tire removal company which is going to substantially increase the town's cost for all of this hauling.

His recommendation, if the Board agrees, is to put the fees back in place.

Chairman Robertson stated that they didn't give any official notice that the fees were waived to which Mr. Harrington stated that this was correct. They just have the staff stop taking them.

The chairman stated that they could just issue a notice just to be clear that the transfer station fees are now back in effect and if Rick and his crew feel comfortable collecting those fees, he thought that he didn't have a problem.

Selectman Dill asked how they would be collecting them? He knew that Northwood just stopped taking fee items which was more of a pain and he was glad that Deerfield didn't do that but he didn't know if he just wanted to open up a "business as usual" guys, go right ahead.

Mr. Harrington stated that he thought that they were going to proceed by not allowing people in the hut and just taking the fees and handing the receipt through the window, like a walk up, limiting the amount of contact.

Chairman Robertson asked if the Board was comfortable with going ahead with Rick's recommendation? All board members agreed except for Selectman Dill.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that they had three members that were comfortable and one that was not and that Rick could proceed but they need to practice the best possible management practices regarding social distancing.

Mr. Harrington stated that he would pass that along to him.

Mr. Harrington stated that he had two more items.

The next item would be a possible, updated statement from the Board concerning the current status of town buildings and town operation.

Their last statement came out in early March when the health crisis started and he thought it might be a good idea to update the community. He did send them some draft language to look at and use as a guideline. He asked if there was any comment on that.

Selectman Dill and the chairman stated that they thought that the language looked good and he was absolutely right, they did need to maintain regular updates and other board members agreed.

Chairman Robertson asked if the Board was in general agreement with the recommendations that Mr. Harrington forwarded early and all other Board members agreed they were. If they were not, he asked that they speak up. Other than that, Mr. Harrington has the authorization to continue as was outlined in today's update.

Mr. Harrington stated that he had one last item is that he sent out information that the first responders stipend program that the state is proposing. Towns do have an option to "opt" out. You don't have to do it so it would require a motion and a vote of the Board to take advantage of that program.

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to take advantage of the first responder stipend program

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:** Selectman Dill stated that it didn't affect them as it doesn't come out of the budget which Mr. Harrington stated was correct.

Chairman Robertson stated that Mr. Harrington did send them a two-page outline from the Resource Center of Homeland Security today, earlier.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if it explained who would get the stipend or if there were duplicate jobs?

Mr. Harrington stated that there has been quite a bit of debate amongst all the towns throughout the state since this has come out.

The guidelines, to some people, clearly indicate that anybody that is on the roster gets a stipend. There are interpretations of that that also people are taking as "if you are available and active and do respond, you get a stipend".

He continued that he has asked Matt to reach out to the fire marshal's officer before he puts any names down to make sure that he has clear guidance on how he is going to approach Deerfield's program with handing out stipends.

Selectman Dill asked how that worked with volunteers versus full-time guys, etc.?

Chairman Robertson stated that the outline that Mr. Harrington sent out earlier today gives a pretty good breakdown of part time versus fulltime.

Mr. Harrington stated that there is a whole chart depending if you are fulltime or part time, volunteer, police, EMT or fire, corrections officer. It is very elaborate.

Selectman Dill stated that he must have missed that and will dig it up. He apologized.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she didn't get it either but she knew about it.

Selectman Dill asked if it was a forwarded email and if so, it probably hit his spam folder and Mr. Harrington stated that he could take it out and attach it and resend it if they would like.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she thought that they had to be careful of the roster, that's all.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that they should only pay the ones that are working to which Selectwoman McHugh agreed.

Mr. Harrington added that this is why he asked Matt to get verification so that he's comfortable when he is putting names down on the list for reimbursement that he is going off guidance from the state.

Mr. Harrington continued that there are many options that people are understanding.

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Mr. Harrington stated that this was it for him tonight he believed.

Chairman Robertson stated that he had a couple of other things that had been forwarded from John.

They have the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Municipal Clerks Week which is just passed but they had a proclamation that they were going to forward to the town clerk/tax collector and did not have a chance to vote on that although they did prepare it and he would entertain a motion for the Board to move forward with that proclamation.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves forward with the proclamation for the town clerk/tax collector

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

“Whereas, the office of town clerk/tax collector is a time honored and vital part of what local government exists throughout the world and

Whereas, the office of the town clerk/tax collector is the oldest among public servants and

Whereas, the office of the town clerk/tax collector provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies, agencies and government at other levels and

Whereas, the town clerk/tax collector have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality rendering equal services to all

Whereas, the town clerk/tax collector serves as the information center on functions of local government and community

Whereas, town clerk/tax collectors continuously strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the office of the town clerk/tax collector through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and annual meetings in their state, provincial county and international professional organizations

Whereas, is most appropriate to recognize the accomplishments of the office of the town clerk/tax collector

Now, therefore, we the Board of Selectmen, do recognize the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in honor and respect as “Professional Clerk’s Week” and further extend appreciation to our town clerk/tax collector, Kelly Roberts and deputy town clerk/tax collector, Kim Crotty and to all town clerks/tax collectors for the vital services that they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities that they represent.”

They will move forward after the vote.

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

### **New Business/Other Business**

Chairman Robertson said that he was going to start this.

There are a couple of three things they need to take a look at, he believed.

The first is the proposed Pawtuckaway Park parking lots off of Reservation Road.

They had some discussion about whether they approved or disapproved, particularly about the 60-car parking lot proposed for the log landing which he believes is actually more in Nottingham than Deerfield.

The first small lot improvement they are going to do it totally in Deerfield.

They had some public input. They received input from around residents of Reservation Road of opposition of the parking lots.

This evening they received input over the weekend from another resident of Reservation Road in opposition of the parking lot. That person also felt that the entire entrance should be permanently closed off of Reservation Road.

He took that with a little bit of a grain of salt because that has been an entrance to the park since the park was started for decades and the person that wants it closed has only lived there a little over three years.

They also initially had some support. Avis Rosenfield had written them a couple of pieces, asking the Board to please support the parking lot because it would keep people off the roadway and he thought that the Board should probably issue some clear cut thought about whether they are supporting this or not, particularly since they are getting regular, public input.

He didn't know what the Board's pleasure was.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if this was going to be more than advisory at this time to which he stated that it would be no more than advisory. Clearly, it is a state park. It is Deerfield's road but it's a road to a state park and he didn't think that they would have much success as a Board of Selectmen trying to dictate where we thought that their parking lot should go and whether we thought that they could use our public road or not.

Selectman Dill stated that he also saw a couple of other people on the road, overwhelmingly their response has been no especially if it isn't a "pay to park" situation. There was one that was indifferent and every other response was negative.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if they had gotten four emails against this, asking them to not support this to which the chairman stated that they received two emails against this officially as a Board and one in support of.

She stated that she thought that she just got two as she was sitting there in this meeting?

She continued to ask who was going to maintain the road? She is against it. It is a lot of maintenance for that road.

Chairman Robertson added as well as the maintenance to the road is clearing Deerfield's responsibility and they have to maintain an extra stretch of it because of the park and because Nottingham is not much interested in doing the very last two hundred feet of it up to the Gazzola's residence.

Selectman Dill stated that it just stinks for Deerfield because it would increase the traffic on that road. To him, it's a lose-lose situation. You add that many more cars if they add sixty more parking spaces up there, it helping Nottingham out. That is the only win he saw. Nottingham got the short end of the stick by having everyone go into the main parking entrance but that is the main parking entrance and Selectwoman McHugh added that it comes off a state road.

She continued that that part is maintained by the state and yet Deerfield has our residents that are going to have to be putting up, we're inviting sixty more cars into Nottingham, Pawtuckaway.

Selectman Dill stated that it sounded like the fire chief also had reservations about this as well.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that he did when he spoke to them about it so is it the general advisory of the Board that they are not in favor of expanded parking areas off of Reservation Road to which all agreed that they were against it and Selectman McGarry added that he was against it because of the added maintenance of the road.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that this gave Mr. Harrington the Board's official position that he could use when people ask. What is happening is that people are inquiring whether the Board of Selectmen are for this or against this and Mr. Harrington was looking for some clarification. He thought that it made it pretty clear.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that the Board could be against it anyway but they couldn't stop them from doing it to which the chairman stated that he didn't know any way that they could stop it. If they decide to put the parking lot in, they will.

Selectman Dill stated that he and Mr. Harrington had a quick conversation this afternoon, that there is also state logging up there. They really need to be watching up there and if they are hauling out on that dirt road to make sure that the road agent is keeping an eye on it and that Deerfield's taxpayers aren't on the hook for the damage that the state does while they are hauling logs out.

All agreed.

The next thing that he would like to do under new and other business is to invite Warren Street Architects and Steve Keech to meet with them, possibly at their next meeting or schedule a separate work session to talk about moving forward with the police department design.

He thought that this is something that is clearly something that they would invite the police chief to and would also envision asking the folks that worked on the police department building committee.

This may be a little too much for a selectmen's meeting. Maybe something that they would want to schedule separately as a work session, just to get the process rolling, find out what Warren Street needs to do to get them some information as to what they are exactly going to propose for a project.

Mr. Harrington asked if he could speak and was asked to continue. The architect that he reached out to was working with Warren Street. He is now on his own. If they are still interested in working with that same architect, he would notify him individually.

Chairman Robertson stated that unless there is disagreement from the Board, he would be interested in pursuing that same architect because he had done a number of similarly sized police departments in New Hampshire and in Vermont and had a very rudimentary but workable plan that both he and Steve agreed would fit on this site that the Board and the committee proposed.

He didn't know how the rest of the Board feels about that but he thought that this is something that they should definitely work on and he thought he had already dragged his feet too long on this and should have brought this to the Board's attention sooner.

Vice Chairman Pitman said that since they are meeting on the Tuesday after Memorial Day, how about meeting the following Monday with just the police and the chairman was in agreement if the rest of the Board were in agreement.

All were in agreement.

Mr. Harrington verified that the date would be Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to which it was agreed it was.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he hoped at the next meeting that they could meet in their old meeting room, even if they had to sit six feet apart, especially if they are going to be having the police. They could wear a mask and sit there.

Chairman Robertson asked how the Board felt about that? Is that something that they want to see happen?

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if they would have ten-people requirement by then? Selectman Dill stated that the requirement is set to expire after June 1.

Chairman Robertson stated that they would definitely have to figure out how to make it public in this venue so that people could still see us and still listen to them but he thought that they could probably have a meeting of the Board and invite the public to attend the meeting by ZOOM.

Most were in agreement to try it and Selectman Dill asked which day that they were discussing to which it was answered by Selectwoman McHugh, the Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Harrington stated that he would have to find out how to work those logistics out and to just clarify, they wanted to meet in public and have the public attend via ZOOM.

Chairman Robertson stated that his only concern is that if they are trying to stay within the guidelines of a small group, they can't hold a public meeting and tell people that come that they exceed the number and tell them to go home.

Mr. Harrington stated especially with the number of guests that they are planning having, if they all show up, you would exceed that limit. Let him work on that.

Chairman Robertson stated to just let him know that the Board is interested in doing that and would like to see what options that they have available for that.

One other last thing that the chairman had, he was contacted by a citizen that he believed has also talked to Alden Dill inquiring if they would consider enacting a light ordinance in Deerfield.

This is in regard to a specific problem, essentially two neighbors, but the chairman did actually take a drive by and he can understand the person's concern. It's exceedingly bright LED lights that are left on for the better part of the evening if not all evening. It lights up their yard, their house. Actually, it makes it hard to drive especially if you are returning home on Nottingham Road and you come around the corner. It is quite a spectacle.

He didn't know what the Board's feeling was. There is a state RSA that encourages municipalities to adopt light ordinances with an eye towards light pollution, particularly in rural areas. He wanted to bring it up to the Board as he told the gentleman that he would. He is not expecting that they are going to act on this, this evening but just something to consider for their next meeting and whether that is anything that they are interested in doing or not.

Selectman Dill stated that he thought that they ought to do something. He recommends, and he knows that Cindy has driven by this a bunch at night as well on Nottingham Road.

Selectwoman McHugh just had a question and that was, is this an agricultural issue? Is that a crop?

Chairman Robertson stated that he assumes that this would be the fight that they would immediately get into.

Selectman Dill thought that this was their thought behind it but he kind of fails to see how it is legitimately agriculturally best practices.

Selectman McGarry asked where on Nottingham Road is it and was told by the chairman that it was almost directly across from Perry Road. He stated that he would have to check it out.

Chairman Robertson stated that if Board members could get a chance to get over that way after dark some evening, check it out. He could understand the property owner's concern.

Selectman Dill stated that it isn't the only one in town. There are a couple of other ones as well that are quite bright, all night.

Chairman Robertson asked if the Board had any other new or other business to discuss.

Hearing none.

#### **Citizen's Comments**

None

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:40 pm

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 5:30 pm**

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary  
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*