

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
December 21, 2020  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

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

**Present:** Andrew Robertson, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Fred McGarry, Alden Dill, and Cynthia McHugh, Selectmen.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman Robertson stated that he would skip the Pledge of Allegiance but would do a roll call of members that were with him and everyone was present.

The first order of business this evening was an appointment with Chief Fisher from the Deerfield Fire/Rescue.

**Matt Fisher – Deerfield Fire/Rescue**

Chief Fisher stated that he just wanted to start with the quarterly update with the fire/rescue department and the couple things that he was trying to finish up before the end of the year.

Right now, to his surprise, they were at 429 calls for the year, which is 5 more than last year at this date which it seemed that all year it was a little slower than last year and there was a time in the late spring, early summer when COVID first started that calls were at one point were 16 or 17 below last year numbers.

He stated that he was sure that everyone was aware, that vaccines are starting to roll out and how that COVID process is going is that they have been working on that and Denny is the go-to with the state on her end and he stated that they had to get the roster over to the state for how they are going to be doing the COVID vaccine rollout for those who wish to participate in it. This is an ongoing, new endeavor.

He continued that they were awarded their forestry grant for the year which is something every two or three years, department supply it is every year but every two or three years they were awarded a grant.

They were able to get a matching grant this year which will be a 50/50 match. This year he put in for two, AED's. One for Forestry 1 and one for Forestry 2, ten nomex pants, the forestry pants that he gives the members to wear for forest fires and something that sort of came, mainly from out west, when they had the Corey Road fire and they used Candia's backpack blower which he stated that was new to the area for him and a lot of people haven't seen them but catching on in popularity where one individual can go around with the backpack blower and blow off the small fuels in the woods or field and kind of make a real quick fire line as opposed to having three or four guys going around with rakes and shovels. He put in for two of those.

Like he stated, they got the grant. The total of the grant is \$3,654.20 which equates to ultimately the town's portion is \$1,827.10.

The other grant that they got this year that he knew that they were aware of is the EMS in the Warm Zone and Shooting grant in which closed out paperwork has been sent to the state which will be getting back approximately \$5,999.04. It was a \$6,000.00 grant so they came as close to the \$6,000.00 mark for the equipment that was obtained.

A couple things for year end projects and purchases. Working with Rick Pelletier with drawings for a multistage project at South Station.

A number of years ago, Chief Tibbetts had used one of the spares or not being used at the time, Honda portable generators and he wasn't sure who helped him hook it up the manual transfer switch and he was assuming it was Rick, to get temporary power to South Station when they lose power.

Unfortunately, the generator and the disconnect is limited to only running the doors and lights only which leaves no heat and no water at the building when there is a power outage.

This past two, or three storms ago if they wanted to count the storm yesterday, was kind of an eye opener. He has been working with Denny, trying to get a EMPG grant from the state for some matching funds to get a generator at South Station like they were able to for Central.

Unfortunately, South Station is not a backup EOC or shelter so it falls very low with the criteria from the state to get awarded any state matching funds for a project.

So, he has been working with Rick, looking at what they would look at for a stand-by generator, such as size. It would be propane, putting in a Modine or hanging furnace like the ones that they have at Central Station which would allow them to remove the existing furnace which is original to the building from the mid-80's, removing the underground oil tank that is still there behind the building and try to take a multi-step approach towards using some of the year end funds to buy the generator with the install price from JD Power Equipment and next year work towards whoever is the propane vendor, whether it be Rymes or whoever, to sent them up with a new propane tank and assist with the propane hookup and the heater inside the building.

Rick is still working with JD Power to get a price for the package and has told him a couple of times that he is expecting the \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00 mark for the generator and the Modine heater and propane installation would be approached next year to get everything tied in and put together.

So, he didn't have anything harder or affirmed to come to the Board and to ask to use those funds at this time but is hoping by next meeting they would get something out of JD Power that is kind of firm and can sign on the dotted line so that they could encumber some funds for next year if that is something that the Board is willing to move forward with.

The other item that he is looking at for a large ticket item at the end of the year to purchase is that probably six, seven or maybe eight years ago, they started to transition away from our hydraulic, separate motor-powered Jaws of Life. They ran into a time where modern cars, modern metal exceeded what that model was built for. They have had it longer than he has been on the department so they have been transitioning to the e-draulic or battery jaws which are the platform that they have now for the modern steel in modern vehicles.

They are keeping the old Jaws of Life in service for the one tool that they don't have on the battery platform and it is the "ram" which basically is like, for the lack of a better term, a rod or cylinder that expands so his thought would be to use some funds this year to purchase that remaining piece to the kit which would allow them to take the older, hydraulically powered kit off Rescue 2 and move around some things on the truck to free up some more space and keeping in line and updating the equipment to meet the modern vehicles that they might have to extricate someone from.

The other items that he has been working with John on are warrant articles and he has made it pretty clear that there has been some discussion about limiting the number of warrant articles in order to help for things to succeed and ideally, the budget.

The couple of ones that he would look for support from the Board on and pushing forward this year would be the annual fire apparatus equipment fund which is for replacing fire apparatus, SCBA's, big ticket item and the EMS warrant article which is \$10,000.00 a year and the other one that he and the chief have been floating back and forth is in the 2020 proposed budget and the 2021 proposed budget he has asked for an additional 30 hours a week of part-time help.

He thought was to get some language together and John was able to send him some draft language almost as a contingency warrant article if the budget were to fail, there would be some language where if Warrant Article 1 fails but the voters still approve this article, they would still be able to fund those extra hours.

He thought that this wrapped up his notes.

Chairman Robertson asked if folks had any questions on the items that were discussed this evening and the vice chairman stated that he did.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked Chief Fisher if he could get a second quote on that. If the generator is going to be that much, they would have to get another price as much as he likes to keep it local to which he agreed.

The vice chairman stated that they needed to and they owed it to the tax payers to make sure that they use them right. It seems high for something that is going to run a couple of overhead doors and a propane furnace down the road but he would leave that up to the boss. He also thanked the chief for all he did.

Chairman Robertson asked if there were other questions for the chief while he was there.

Selectman Dill asked what the plan was for ambulance coverage for contracts running out in the spring with Raymond, what's the plan?

Chief Fisher stated that they had Raymond's contract that he will be reviewing with the officers and he believed that from past conversations with Cindy, they are going to have a sit-down with Raymond and there are a couple of items that they might want to address in the contract but his personal thoughts moving forward for another five years is that they renew the contract with Raymond.

He was not opposed that they need to start discussing an ambulance and if they get one in the next two or three years, using whatever time is left on a contract with Raymond as a transition period. If they have two members available and Raymond is on a delay coming from the hospital such as storm, they choose to transport or they are able to or if the part-time guys need to make the transport, they can.

Sandown, Danville and a couple of other towns down that way, transport. They contract with Trinity Ambulance. They don't use their ambulance as their primary transporting method and rely on their contracting service but they are able to transport for those instances if they need to.

Chairman Robertson asked if they definitely have a five-year renewal offer from Raymond to which the chief stated that they did. The chairman asked again if it was for five years to which the chief answered that he thought that it was and that he was trying to look it up as they spoke just to confirm.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she thought that it was a five-year contract, it just goes up again.

Selectman Dill stated that it was good news that they had a renewal offer. That is better than he thought they had.

Chief Fisher asked if there was anything else while he stumbled through technology and the chairman stated that he didn't have to give them exact details at this point if they have a renewal offer and it looks like it is five years out.

The chairman asked if there was anything else for the chief which there was none but continued that in regards to his request about encumbrances, typically they would look at those at their next meeting or a special meeting prior to the end of the year and take a final look at the budget and determine what to encumber. He thought if the chief could get a specific list to John of what he is looking to encumber with the amounts, they could make a decision and move forward.

Typically, and he didn't know what his thoughts were John, if that is going to be a special meeting or just Monday night's meeting, usually they do that the last week of the year.

Mr. Harrington stated that the Board just has that one meeting next Monday and that's it for the year and the vice chairman added "unless they have another one".

Selectwoman McHugh asked Chief Fisher if he was looking for 30 more hours for, why do you think you need 30 more hours, where do you want to put the 30 hours?

Chief Fisher stated that right now, the proposed plan would be to try and staff a second person, Monday through Friday during the day with the flexibility that if they wanted to extend those hours to Saturday, it allows him the flexibility but his general plan would be a second person, Monday through Friday.

Selectman Dill asked overall, what (could not hear the rest of the question).

Chief Friday stated that for the majority of the time, Monday through Friday, 6 to 6. He stated that he has transitioned from 7 to 5 to 6 to 6 so instead of the guys working 10's, they are working 12's and has allowed an additional member to be around early in the morning or those afternoon extra hours.

Selectman Dill asked the chief if he found that they were not missing calls, respond time is cut down?

Chief Fisher stated that respond time during the day has certainly been cut down.

Chairman Robertson asked if there were other questions for the chief to which there were none and thanked the chief for being with them this evening and like he said, they would take up encumbrances next week but if he could get a specific list to John so that he could get it to them as to what he was looking for, they would take that up next week.

**Regular Business:**

**Review of Outstanding Minutes of December 14, 2020**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of December 14, 2020

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

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

**Accounts Payable for week ending December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 - \$144,844.50**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable in the amount stated

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:** Vice Chairman Pitman asked if the \$102,000.00 is for the house at the corner of Birch, what they ended up getting after the town got their taxes and interest to which Mr. Harrington and the chairman stated that this was correct.

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

Chairman Pitman stated that he didn't have any signatures or correspondence so he would jump to the Town Administrator's Report.

He stated that he did have some correspondence but he was going to bring this up under Other Business.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Harrington stated that the chairman may be bringing this up under Other Business which is the Keech-Nordstrom invoice which he would need the Board to talk about.

Chairman Robertson asked if he was talking about the \$128.00 invoice that needs to come from the trust fund to which Mr. Harrington stated yes.

The chairman asked if Mr. Harrington needed a motion from the Board to remove that from the trust fund to which Mr. Harrington stated that he did.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know if everyone had a chance to review it. It was \$128.00 and it the charge for meeting with the architect.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve paying the \$128.00 invoice from the trust fund (Line 01-49164.0132 Police Department Warrant Article 6)

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

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

Mr. Harrington stated that the second item is that the plow truck that Matt Kimball uses is currently down. It is the newer 7-wheeler that the Highway Department owns. Steve Rollins informed him today that he believes that it needs at least a radiator as well as other work. It broke down during this last storm when they were plowing. He didn't have a date when it would be back in operation but it is currently in the repair shop now. He will keep him posted so that Mr. Harrington could inform the Board when it is back in operation.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if it was our repair shop, are they working on it to which Mr. Harrington stated that no, he sent it out and the vice chairman stated it had to go on a wrecker.

Mr. Harrington stated that he also wanted to let the Board know, he will be resending the Cornerstone letter addressed to Bob Sullivan back out to the Board tomorrow. Apparently, he moved and the letters were returned to Mr. Harrington so he has a new address and he will be resending the letter so if they saw that tomorrow, he just wanted to let them know why.

Selectman Dill stated that sight distance is even worse with piles of snow to which others agreed.

Mr. Harrington stated to let them know and to let everyone that was listening, and for the minutes, that the town offices will be closing at noon on Thursday and will be closed all day Friday for the holiday and the Transfer Station will be closing at 4 pm on Thursday for the holiday and for January 1<sup>st</sup>, they will be closed Friday, January 1, all day for that holiday as well.

The signs will be on the door and it will be on the town web site and the Facebook page as well.

Mr. Harrington stated that this was all that he had that evening.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Chairman Robertson stated that they had warrant articles and hope that people had a chance to look at those.

They have the two lake invasive species warrant article requests from the Pleasant Lake Association and from the Northwood Lake Association. Typically, they have included those on the list of warrant articles.

They also had a request from the Conservation Commission and this is regarding the property over on Nottingham Road that there was a legal holdup on the Marston Family Forest and he didn't have any particular objection putting that warrant article on and didn't know if any of the rest of the Board does.

They haven't finalized warrant articles as of yet but just take a look at these and review them and they can include them on the list or not. Typically, they have included the lake association warrant articles and figured that the town could decide and he thought that this was a good way to proceed this year as well.

They also had a request from the Heritage Commission to be included in the process for the warrant article for window replacement at the town hall. He didn't have any particular objection to including the Heritage Commission and didn't know if the rest of the Board does but again, that is something that they need to consider. He thought that it was great and the building is on the Historic Register and in the Historic District so he thought replacing the windows with historic appropriateness is probably the right way to proceed. They could certainly lend a hand and certainly take a little weight off of Ray's back as the Board proceeds.

The chairman didn't know if anyone had any comments or concerns about this warrant article request that they had.

Selectman Dill stated that the Heritage Commission, that isn't a warrant article is it?

Chairman Robertson stated that it wasn't yet but he believed that they are anticipating that there will be a warrant article for the window replacement.

Mr. Harrington stated that he and Ray had talked about this during the summer. They got a quote from a company when they were putting together bids for the fencing at the end of the George B. White parking lot to protect the drain and at the same time, these folks offered to give them a quote on replacing the windows which after inspecting, Ray has determined that most, if not all of them, the ropes have broken and the weights have fallen down to the bottom of the windows which causes difficulty getting them open when it is hot, people trying to getting them open, it has started to crack the panes of glass. If they don't take action, the windows are just going to keep deteriorating further.

Selectman Dill asked what kind of ballpark number are they looking at those to which Mr. Harrington stated that he didn't have those numbers right with him. They did send a quote in and he could have that for them next time if the Board is interested in putting a warrant article out there.

Since they were on warrant articles, January 12<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to get the warrant articles ready so they did have some time.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if Mr. Harrington could put them on one email and send them out to which he stated that he could.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she had a question about the windows and asked if they were modern windows or are these going to be the windows that go in the town hall.

Mr. Harrington stated that what this quote was for was to rebuild the current windows, not take them out, just rebuild and rehang the weights, repair the mullions. It is not replacing the windows. It is just repairing them.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that is why the Heritage Commission is interested in being involved as well to make sure that they don't replace them with aluminum, vinyl clad windows.

Mr. Harrington stated that it was never the intention to replace the windows, it was just to repair what they had because they don't function right now.

Chairman Robertson stated that moving along to other business, new business, they needed to make a decision with regard to the upcoming deliberative session.

Right now, the Fair Association has granted them permission to hold the deliberative session at the Arts and Crafts Building, giving them the ability to distance a little more. He knew that the town moderator and the school moderator are both in favor of going ahead with an actual session at the Arts and Crafts building at the fair.

They do have the ability to have a virtual meeting. John had emailed the guidelines for the virtual meetings out today. He didn't have a great interest getting together at the end of January, beginning of February, in a building with whoever wants to show up from Deerfield but that said, going through the guidelines for the virtual meeting. The virtual meeting, it seems extremely complicated and going to cost them some money. They would have to do a town-wide mailing in addition to the rest of the requirements and as he has said, both moderators favor having an actual meeting at the fairgrounds as distanced, unheated and open and face masked as possible but ultimately this Board needs to decide what they were going to do and they need to decide fairly quickly because they were bumped up a week. They were originally scheduled to have the town deliberative session on February 6<sup>th</sup>. It has now been moved to January 30<sup>th</sup> because of when the school deliberative session was scheduled, he believed.

The school board chairman has suggested to do both of the deliberative sessions the same day, back-to-back, starting with the town and followed by the school so they don't necessarily expose themselves twice.

At this point, he would look towards the will of the Board as to how they should proceed.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he thought that the second option was a bad idea.

Selectman Dill asked the moderator, Dan Holdridge, if he had heard anything on pushing it back. He knew that he had emailed up to the state.

Mr. Holdridge stated that he never got a formal response on that, the details. He had heard from several other moderators that it is possible in the event that it is declared that it is an emergency situation for the public's health and then you can delay it in that regard.

Eric and he met with several others, Fred and John, this past Saturday morning and they went through with good detail, the Arts and Crafts building and if they had the opportunity to swing by there, it is very well set up already and John Tobbe, from the fair, set it up for the COVID situation for their big board meeting and it was left in that same state.

So, the chairs are all distanced and he believed that they could host a safe event. He hoped that they could have a quick event, one that the town can get all their business done but that they expeditiously handle the business of the town and then they take a break after the town one and disinfect everything and then they start the school one shortly thereafter, maybe 1:00 pm or something to that effect.

He thought that it accomplishes a lot of things. It will save money only having (couldn't understand) once. They also respect everyone else's time by only taking up one Saturday. They are also adhering to Denny's requirements or requests for safe operation so they think that they can be fairly safe in this operation.

If you think about it in the big picture, go visit a Lowe's or a Home Depot. See how they handle this stuff and then look at what they are looking to do. They would require face masks to enter. That would be a requirement so they would not be doing two different hallways situation like they did for voting but they would have that requirement. They would have the windows cracked open per Denny's request and would have tractor loads of sanitizer there and he thought that this was the safest option at this point than waiting and delaying it until the end of the year when everyone is vaccinated.

He thought that they were in a tough spot but he honestly thought that in the best interest to the town that they move forward with the January 30<sup>th</sup> one so to get it done and move it thorough quickly. They won't hopefully, have too many warrant articles to go through and if everyone can appreciate each other's comments in a meaningful way and

just move quickly, they could get through there in hopefully, and people feel that things were done fairly and within the law.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he thought it sounded good and the chairman stated that he thought that the speed factor was going to be the moderator's role in moving things along and he knew that the usual characters that like to take twenty or twenty-five minutes to parse the English language or that sort of thing that they are looking for meaningful dialog here and want to move things along. If he was up for that as moderator, he thought that they could make it work.

Mr. Holdridge stated that he thought that they could make it happen and they have a great team from Joanna Waring and her team to Kelly Roberts and her team to John Harrington and all of the Board. He thought that they could do the right thing but do it expeditiously and meaningfully and everyone feels that it is fair when they leave. That is his goal.

Also, it was brought up that they should stream it so that folks that want to be part of it. Obviously, they can't vote but if they want to watch it live, to have it streamed so that folks can feel a part of it in a way that they can watch the deliberative session as they go on.

That way, for the folks that don't feel comfortable with coming at all, they still wanted them to see the event and see the business of the town.

Chairman Robertson stated also that if he read the guidelines for having the virtual meeting, it basically comes down to the Board of Selectmen to sort of decide what the warrant will be without much input as usual and he knew that Mr. Harrington and he discussed this a little bit earlier today and some other towns as well and they were concerned that there may be some pushback if they went virtual because the Board, at least on the town side, get to take over the warrants and that is not the way it has been done for the last 275 years in Deerfield.

Mr. Holdridge stated that this is an absolutely a genuine concern that he had as well. When you go virtual, you don't have the ability anymore for people to do the traditional amendments and changing and the like. There is literally, you have the discussion and then you have one meeting to vote that you are going to do a virtual and then you have second meeting to discuss the warrant articles and then you have the voting and then that's it.

Between the second one and the voting, the Board of Selectmen decide on how they are all going to look and so he didn't like that. Joanna Waring had mentioned that as well and he values her comments.

Chairman Roberson stated that at this point, he was going to ask the Board, he thought doing this sooner than later and get right on the format and get word out to the community is the best path to take. How does the Board feel about this at this point? Are they willing to go along with an actual meeting at the Fair Association's Arts and Craft Building?

Vice Chairman Pitman stated yes and he thought it would be a big mistake for people to leave and come back at 1:00 for the school. Fred can back him up on this as the last four or five years, at the school, it was lucky if there were 20 people there so unless they have a bigger crowd, they would be better off just to have it and get it done and Selectman McGarry agreed.

Mr. Holdridge stated that they just didn't know how long the town one is going to go so to advertise a time, so say that they started at 9:00 am and ended at 10:00 am or they could end at 11:00 am, they don't know so they have to advertise, he believed that there is a requirement that they have to advertise the date and time that they start and he didn't think that they wanted them to run into each other so that is why the thought process. That way they can also disinfest between the two of them.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that unless you are sitting there with a snowmobile suit on, it is not going to go very long. Windows open and doors in January.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that Dan was right. They definitely have to post a specific time for each meeting. They can't just say that the school meeting will follow the town meeting. He may be mistaken on that but he didn't believe that he was. They have to have a specific time for both meetings posted for the guidelines as well.

If they close the gap a little bit.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if they could put that it would not start before 11:00 am; could they use that for a ....

Mr. Holdridge asked Mr. Harrington as to what his thoughts were on that and he stated that he would have to check on the specifics as to what they were legally obligated to do. He has always understood date, time and place are a part of the posted warrant. He didn't know if they could be ambiguous regarding the start time.

Chairman Robertson stated that they had a little bit of time. Maybe they could find out their options before their meeting on Monday and make this final decision next Monday. Not to put you on the back-burner Dan but he thought that it was worth looking into.

Mr. Holdridge stated that just knowing that they are going to have it is fine for them and Kelly Roberts, Joanna Waring and himself and John, they can continue planning and everything is moving forward as is so that's fine. Getting clarification on the time for the school is absolutely prudent, so they are all good.

Chairman Robertson asked if someone could make a motion that they hold the deliberative sessions at the Arts and Crafts Building at the fair from the Board, it is probably the best way to proceed.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to hold the deliberative sessions at the Arts and Crafts building at the Deerfield Fairgrounds

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 3, Nay 1, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Robertson remarked to Mr. Holdridge that he had his answer, that they would hold the deliberative session at the Arts and Crafts building at the fair and will get back to him with the details regarding the time when Mr. Harrington checks on that with the appropriate authority as to what they needed to post.

Chairman Robertson stated that at this point, he would look for other New Business or other, Other Business.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he couldn't believe that this past storm, how much hard pack there was on the roads and then he took a ride down to the town shed and realized that for some reason, the salt bin was empty. He stated that in years past, it would be flowing out the door this time of the year. Right now, it is empty so it is probably because of that, that it is not being put out like it used to anyway.

Mr. Harrington stated that he might have an explanation for that. Steve Rollins came in and talked to him today and told him that they did have a problem with their salt delivery. Apparently, he ordered it two weeks ago and ordered four, separate deliveries. The first one showed up. The other three did not. When he called to check on them, the other three had been deleted out of their computer system and they were never going to show up. He had to make use with what he had left.

He has ordered five more deliveries. The first one showed up today and he is going to be calling them daily to make sure that the other four show up to get our shed full again.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he didn't know how many it takes to fill the shed but they need and he is glad that he has another one coming.

The other thing is and he didn't know if anyone else noticed but where did they get the loader that is down there?

Mr. Harrington stated that it is Steve's loader that he is renting the town.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked who brought that on and Mr. Harrington stated that he just found out about that today.

Vice Chairman stated that they have always come to the Board. Mark would get three prices and they could make a decision. At least and he asked the chairman who answered that this was what was done in the past.

Chairman Robertson stated that he hasn't seen anything with regard to renting a loader and haven't seen a rate either.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if it would be on the rate sheet that Mr. Rollins had given them or would that be a different rate now.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know and asked Mr. Harrington if he could make contact with Steve and have him let the Board know what the proposed rate is and tell him the Board needs to approve that.



Mr. Harrington stated that he would certainly do that and he would look for that original rate list that he did give the Board quite a few months ago.

The chairman was having an issue with Mr. Harrington's audio to which Mr. Harrington stated that he would look for the rate list that he gave the Board several months ago. It may be on there but he will also ask him to send in a current agreement with a rate for the Board to talk about.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he just wanted to make sure. He didn't want to know after the fact how much it is per month and the chairman agreed.

Chairman Robertson asked if there was any other business.

Selectman Dill stated that he didn't know if anyone else noticed the Conservation minutes. It was brought to his attention that they have some issues out at the Flanders-Lindsey property which he had to ask people where it was but they are having some serious ATV damage as well as a bunch of other stuff.

He asked Serita what she wanted the Board to do. At this point, she wants them to be aware of it and possibly mention to the police that it is a no ATV area.

He didn't know if they could put cameras up. He knew when he has dealt with Fish and Game on ATV misuse that the first thing that conservation officers ask is if there are pictures of the operators so that might be something that they think about doing. Serita did say that it is pretty bad damage and that they have taken out a part of the stone wall to access the property.

Chairman Robertson stated that he believed that the police are involved in this too. He believed that a police officer accompanied Eric Berglund on an inspection on some of the damage.

Also, apparently, someone has set up a shooting range and built a lean-to in there as well as the ATV damage. He suspected the police and the Conservation Commission have a pretty good idea where the access is coming from. It appears to be coming from an abutting piece of private property so maybe it will get some action sooner than later on it.

Chairman called for other business.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked the chairman if he was almost done or did, he have anything else that he was going to bring up to which he stated that he had nothing else more that he was going to bring up.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she is kind of concerned about the warrant articles and using the extra money that they had left over. It has been a rough year and she thought, as she has said before, the capital improvement things on the warrant could hold off a year and maybe they could get this budget passed if they didn't have so many things on the warrant.

Selectman Dill stated that he had to agree with Selectwoman McHugh on this one. He thought that they were going to bare bones it and it looks like the school is only going for just the budget. He thought that maybe this is the year that they don't do all the capital reserves for fire and ambulance and everything else.

He thought that the lake warrants, they are pretty small and that he agrees with Cindy on this one.

Chairman Robertson stated that next Monday they will have a list of potential encumbrances and they can decide on what they want to encumber; if they want to encumber anything and they can also decide what they want to do for warrant articles. He agrees that it is going to be a tough budget year.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if that money could go forward to 2021 instead of just spending it because they had it?

Chairman Robertson stated that if they encumber it, it's spent. If they don't encumber it, it rolls into the general fund and it is available at tax time.

Mr. Harrington stated that just to remind the Board, the only way that the Board can encumber money is if they have a signed contract for services to be performed in the next fiscal year. They cannot just encumber it if the money is left there. If they want to do something, they need a signed contract.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked that other than firing the architect, how do they get 1 million dollars off of that price for the police station? That is a little ridiculous.

Chairman Robertson stated that this is what he wanted to bring up next and basically if you read the explanation that he sent back to him, basically what he told him, and he talked to him on the phone as well is that your basic plan, and he considers this plan as basic plan in this day and age, is going to come in right around 2 million dollars and the .4 on top of that is what he estimated for soft costs, furnishings, that type of thing.

He didn't know what the Board wants to do at this point. He didn't feel that they had any chance of success putting forward a warrant article between 2 and 2.4 million dollars for the police department.

They could go back to the drawing board and Selectman Dill stated that they could hold the plans for a year or two, also couldn't they?

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it was ridiculous. They had \$180,000.00 for site work. Somebody needs to reel him in.

Selectman Dill stated that he agreed that there was no way in heck that they were going to get that passed this year. There is just no way.

Chairman Robertson stated that at this point, he didn't think that they were going to get a new set of plans before January to proceed with a bond article either.

He stated that he had not spoken in detail with Steve Keech to see if he has other suggestions with regards to architects and planning. He could certainly do that. Kyle was Steve's recommendation as the guy who could put together a good, low number for then with a bare-bones plan.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he just feels bad for the chief and the crew as they were excited about maybe a million, million, two that they might be able to pull it off and now it is doubled.

Chairman Robertson (garbled audio) included in 1.6 if things went over with unforeseen site work type of thing. 2.4 is a different animal.

Chairman Robertson stated that he would get in contact with Steve Keech and he will come back at their next meeting with any recommendations that he could get from him. There were two other architect firms that were mentioned for the planning and design and he could contact them as well.

His recollection though that both of them were much higher than Kyle's estimate of the project which is why they were happy to talk with Kyle.

Vice Chairman Pitman remarked that whatever the chairman could find out for them would be great.

Chairman called for other, Other Business at this point.

Hearing none, he didn't believe that they have any need to go into non-public session and if there are no further comments from the Board, he would look towards Citizen's Comments.

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

**None**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

**Next Meeting: Monday, December 28, 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*