

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 28, 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.

Chairman Robertson stated that he was calling the meeting to order and continued to state that he didn't have a lot business to handle this evening and wanted to get right into that.

He did want to go into a non-public session under 91: A 3, II (c) once they were done regular business but that will be at the end.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of December 21, 2020

Vice Chairman Pitman remarked that he didn't see them so he wasn't going to make a motion on them.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the minutes of December 21, 2020 as written

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Selectwoman McHugh asked if Selectman McGarry was with them and Mr. Harrington stated that he appears not to have video or audio but was with them. Vice Chairman Pitman stated that this could be a problem.

Accounts Payable week ending December 28, 2020 - \$81,651.59

Chairman Robertson stated that he would note that this does include, he believes it includes a \$4,500.00 charge for the loader that they had discussed last week as well.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it was included and would make a motion to approve and discuss it after.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$81,651.59

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion: Vice Chairman Pitman stated that if that doesn't fly, they could credit that back towards something else, correct? He didn't want to hold up the payables.

Chairman Robertson stated that he believed that they probably could to which Mr. Harrington stated that they could approve the accounts payable all but that. They could approve the accounts payable with it and if they determined something after, you can do it that way as well.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he wanted to approve it without it since it hasn't been approved yet.

Chairman Robertson asked if anyone has a calculator near them to remove \$4,500.00 from \$81,651.59.

Mr. Harrington asked if it was \$4,500.00 even to which the chairman stated that it was. He came back and stated that it was \$77,151.59.

(New Motion)

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable of \$77,151.59

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: The chairman stated that it has been adjusted because the \$4,500.00 which was the monthly rate that they were billed by Deerfield Sand and Gravel for use of a loader. The Board had not approved that use of the loader and can take that up after the accounts payable.

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries (Selectman McGarry couldn't be heard)

Chairman Robertson stated that he would get the payroll out of the way before taking up the loader issue.

Payroll Manifest for week ending December 23, 2020 - \$67,883.25 (gross), \$43,412.01 (net)

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the payroll manifest of December 23, 2020

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries (Selectman McGarry not heard)

The chairman stated that at this point, while they have the accounts payable, they have this winter loader contract from Deerfield Sand and Gravel, signed by Steve Rollins, basically renting them a 4-yard 530-E loader with plow frame for \$4,500.00 a month from December, 2020 to March, 2021. He has indicated that the Town of Deerfield will supply fuel, Deerfield Sand and Gravel is responsible for maintenance and repairs.

He asked what the Board's pleasure was with regard to this.

Selectman Dill stated that he guessed the first question that he would have is why they are renting it?

Chairman Robertson stated that he suspected that it was keeping with what they have done in years past. They rented a similar loader from the former road agent during the winter months for loading because the larger loader worked better for loading trucks and Selectman Dill added, than the backhoe and the chairman repeated than the backhoe.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that this loader is way overkill.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it is a lot larger loader than they need and it is 50 percent more money than last year and it is not staying at the ~~pit~~ town shed.

Last year, when it was in the ~~pit~~ town shed, it stayed there after it got dropped off. It wasn't running our fuel running back and forth to the ~~pit~~ Deerfield Sand & Gravel where it comes from and back again when it is needed. So, it is a gray area that needs to be resolved but \$4,500.00 is a lot more than \$3,000.00. Originally with Mark, it was \$2,800.00 but then he went to \$3,000.00.

Selectman Dill asked if it is at the ~~pit~~ Deerfield Sand & Gravel or the town shed to which the chairman answered that it was at the town shed.

Selectwoman McHugh asked what it would cost to rent one from Windmill or whoever and it would be at the town shed and be available to all the rest of our employees.

Chairman Robertson stated that he could certainly look into that. He asked the vice chairman what he thought that they needed in regard to size, a 2 yard or a 3 yard and the vice chairman stated that a 2 yard is big enough as that was all that the other one was.

Selectman Dill added that they are just loading salt and sand and the vice chairman stated that it is going to be mixing. They will be grabbing a bucket of this and a bucket of that and mixing them together. You take the majority of the sanders except for the big trucks, are one- and two-yard deals and a loader like that, you have to run out of the corner of the bucket or have it go out the back of the sander, over the motor and that.

Chairman Robertson stated that he guessed that he could get the rates, why didn't he get rates from three rental companies. He knew that there were a couple in Concord that they have used in the past and he could certainly contact Windmill as well before they approve paying \$4,500.00 and before they approve this agreement.

Selectman Dill stated that he knew that he said that it had a plow frame and asked if it had a plow on it. He hadn't seen it yet.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he uses the town plow. He stated that this doesn't matter as it is there for them to use so who cares if it has a plow frame on it.

Selectman Dill stated that they would have to take the plow frame off every time they are going to load trucks with it anyway, or take the plow off and the vice chairman added that he would think that.

Chairman Robertson stated that they should proceed in that manner then. Is everyone in agreement to which members stated that they were.

Chairman Robertson stated they would go back to the agenda.

He stated that they didn't have anything in Signatures or Correspondence and asked for the Town Administrator's Report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington stated that he had no items for the Board tonight

Chairman Robertson stated that Mr. Harrington had sent the Board a list of warrant articles from last year. They would need to go through that but they didn't necessarily have to do it this evening, they had time but they needed to go through that and decide to include or not include some of those maintenance articles that are rolled year to year for funding, primarily for fire/rescue and safety things.

If everyone has John's copy of that and could look through it before next meeting so they could make some decisions about whether they want to keep any of them or not.

Selectman Dill stated that it took him a second to realize that these were last year's budget items and had wondered when they had voted on them.

Chairman Robertson stated that it is just a framework to give folks some perspective as they think about it to see what they have carried because most of those from fire and rescue have been carried for a number of years now, if not a decade or better.

Selectman Dill stated that he was really leaning towards leaving those off this year. This is the year that they just go bare bones. Let's just go budget and necessity.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she hoped that the school would take these steps too and Selectman Dill stated that this was what they were doing at this point. They just have a budget.

Chairman Robertson stated that the school doesn't have any warrant articles.

Selectman Dill asked what they were looking at as far as petition articles and asked Mr. Harrington if they had gotten anything yet.

Mr. Harrington stated that he has gotten a couple of inquiries. All that he has received is what he has sent them which is the Pleasant Lake, Northwood Lake and the Deerfield Conservation articles and again, the deadline for that is the 12th as a reminder for petition warrant articles.

Chairman Robertson stated that he talked with Mr. Harrington earlier and it doesn't look like they have anything beyond possibly the cemetery tree money that might need to be encumbered.

Mr. Harrington stated that he had put in a call to the trustees and was just trying to find out if Jared Messina had started the cutting, then he can bill in 2020 even if they receive the invoice in 2021. It will be backed into so they wouldn't have to encumber. He was just trying to find that out for the end of this meeting but he never got a call back.

Mr. Harrington asked if anyone knew if the cutting had started up there at the Parade cemetery to which no one knew.

Selectman Dill stated that he was sending him a text now and he would let them know if he hears.

Mr. Harrington stated that this would be the only thing and he knew that they wanted to use that \$5,000.00 and something towards that bill.

Chairman Robertson stated moving along to New Business or Other Business at this point.

Hearing nothing, he would mention that he did not get a chance to talk to Steve Keech about his thoughts on what a realistic or more realistic price might be for the police department warrant article. He intended to talk to him this

week. Considering the holiday, it has been difficult but he should be able to talk to him this week and he will get Mr. Keech's thoughts out to the Board as soon as he has them as correspondence.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked when did it grow to 5,000 square feet on the first floor?

Chairman Robertson stated that they had been talking in that size range from the notes that he had. They had looked at a low number of he would say, 3,600 and a high number of 6,000. The space wasn't necessarily what caught him off guard as much as the overall dollar increase on it.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that this is where he was backing into it with another builder, commercial. They were surprised that it was that,... he had no idea that it had gotten that big and they were surprised also. 2,600 in the basement which is short money as it is just concrete work for that.

Chairman Robertson stated that he had the original notes from the committee that he is going to use when he talks with Steve and he will verify exactly what they talked about for square footage.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that this would be great. He thought that they could come up with a much better figure if they got that figured out.

Chairman Robertson agreed and then asked for any other new business or other business at this point.

He continued that at this point, as he mentioned earlier in the meeting, he would entertain a motion to go into non-public session under 91: A-3, II(c), Matters which discussed might affect the reputation or well being of an individual not on the Board.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go into non-public session under 91: A-3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries (Selectman McGarry couldn't be heard but was on the session)

Chairman Robertson stated that he would note that no action was taken in the non-public session and would look for a motion to seal the minutes.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

At this point, Chairman Robertson would move to Citizen's Comments.

Selectman Dill stated that he had one more thing before they went to Citizen's Comments.

He stated that he talked to Jared real quick before they went into non-public session. He was going to do it this week but with the rain and the soft soil, he couldn't get the crane over to the cemetery so probably it won't be until, well we are getting another storm New Year's so it won't be until they get frozen ground again so they will have to encumber that.

Chairman Robertson asked Mr. Harrington if he had the exact amount and asked if it was a flat \$5,000.00 to which Mr. Harrington answered no, it wasn't, there was some change involved.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that they could do \$5,000.00 and Mr. Harrington stated that they could. It wasn't much over \$5,000.00 if they just wanted to do \$5,000.00, that would cover it.

The chairman asked if someone could make a motion to encumber \$5,000.00 for the tree work that the Cemetery Commission had planned for 2020.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to encumber \$5,000.00 for the Cemetery Commission for tree work planned for 2020

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

At this point the chairman stated that he would move to citizen's comments.

Citizen's Comments:

Errol Rhodes – Church Street

Mr. Rhodes commented that he was wishing them all a Happy New Year and a job well done, thank you.

Board members thanked Mr. Rhodes.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn and wish everyone a Happy New Year

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: The chairman wished all the members a Happy New Year as well.

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

Next Meeting: Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:30 pm

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

Corrections/Clarifications done by vote of the Board of Selectmen on 1/4/2021.