TOWN OF DEERFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN February 1, 2021

February 1, 202^a MINUTES

Call to Order

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

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

Absent at Roll Call: Alden Dill, Selectman (Came into meeting at 8:37 minute mark)

Chairman Robertson: I am going to forego the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and our first appointment this evening is with Nick Lawrence from Deerfield Parks and Rec and this is in regard to his request from a couple of weeks ago to consider using the American Legion Post 103 as an indoor space for indoor Parks and Rec activities.

He had sent us the two-page summary of what he hoped to do so at this point, I would recognize Nick if he is with us.

Nick Lawrence: Parks and Rec - DPR/Legion Agreement:

Nick Lawrence: So, I just wanted to answer questions and address concerns from the previous meeting.

Chairman Robertson: I guess what I would say Nick is that the Board has some concerns because we weren't aware that you were looking to program at other locations.

Obviously, we still have the GBW building closed and part of the reason that we had that closed was out of safety concerns for groups.

I had also talked with Denny Greig and reviewed the state recommendations, that sort of thing with regard to indoor activities and the Board had some concerns.

I don't know if individual members at this point, have questions for Nick?

Selectwoman McHugh: Why can't, I don't understand why we need to use the Legion?

Chairman Robertson: I will jump in quickly Nick. I think the reason that Nick was looking at the Legion was because we still have the GBW closed.

Nick Lawrence: Correct.

Selectwoman McHugh: Where we have spent a lot of COVID money to make that building usable, we should use it.

Chairman Robertson: We have spent some of the grant money as we changed the doors and some other things to the building with the grant money that we got from the state.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Andy, are the police safe if we open up our building?

Chairman Robertson: I don't know exactly. It depends, I guess, on restroom usage. I know in incidental conversation with the police chief, he is not really excited about us opening up the building but ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: I didn't know if that had changed since we got the new doors. I haven't spoken with him.

Chairman Robertson: I believe they are still using the same public rest rooms. That may not be the case. They may be using the ones to the south of the town clerk's office as opposed to the ones on the lower level.

Selectwoman McHugh: My concern there is that this is still a town program. We are set up with an industrial bathroom. The bathroom at the Legion is still basically, kind of like a residential bathroom. I don't know, it is still a liability to me if you have them at the, it is much safer at the George B. White Building.

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Chairman Robertson: I think the question that we are down to is do we want to authorize programming in the George B. White Building or just tell Nick we don't want him to resume indoor programming at this time and I think that is where we are.

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't see why we can't open up the George B. White Building for small programs.

Chairman Robertson: I guess, what are you thinking for numbers Nick with regard to the indoor programs that you specified; things like the Lego League and pottery, that type of thing?

Nick Lawrence: Sure. So, it's just programming in small groups of ten to twelve at most where social distancing would be possible. We certainly want to adhere to all the state guidance, CDC guidance and keep people safe.

Just giving people things to do during this time. We are trying to just not give up on it. The point behind the legion was trying to exhaust all of our options just knowing that the goal of the Board was to eliminate all programming in the building for as long as possible while it's not completely safe.

So, we are just kind of thinking outside of the box to find a different place to do it if we could so again, small groups, looking ten to twelve people at the most. There would be DPR staff present at all times. We would take care of cleaning. We do much of that already for the events of the sports that we are able to hold so we didn't think that it would be much different than that but where it is indoor, we do understand that there is a sensitivity to that. It was just about trying to get creative about how we still do something for the community because we still get questions weekly about what there is to do for people of all ages. For kids, for people all the way up to seniors. People are still looking for things to do and we feel that it is still our duty to try to at least make an attempt to offer things to them. That was the thought process behind using the Legion and they were willing to do so.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. I think one of the things that I would mention Nick is, at least I wasn't aware that we had other programs going on, particularly exercise programs in other buildings.

I think that when the Board of Selectmen decided not to open the GBW, it was as much that we didn't want the people in the GBW but it was also that there was a danger, particularly to exercise-based programs indoors and thought that we had affectively closed that as well when we closed the GBW.

I will say, our co-emergency management director, Denny Greig that I talked to, did not think that this was a good idea but that was her opinion as expressed to me.

I guess at this point, if the Board wants to move forward with this option, I would look for a motion as to what we want to do.

Selectwoman McHugh: Andy, my other concern too is that the Legion, you don't know who rents that Legion the night before or so that is why I think that our building is safer to use.

Chairman Robertson: I would agree with you Cindy that there is a lot of unknowns about the Legion but ...

Selectwoman McHugh: So, I would move to make a motion to open up or Park and Rec's area, is that what we are looking for?

Chairman Robertson: I would assume, you would make a motion to open up the Park's and Rec traditional classroom space on the lower level of the George B. White.

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh moves to open up our Park's and Rec traditional classroom space on the lower level of the George B. White Building

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Chairman Robertson: So, we have a motion to open up the GBW with a second by Fred for discussion purposes. I think the other concern we have here is that if we open this up for indoor programming, we are quite likely to get the exercise program and maybe yoga back looking at being in that space too. I may be wrong but and that is a little different than small groups of children involved in sedentary activities.

Selectman Dill: I apologize that I missed the beginning of this discussion. I am not in favor of opening up for either myself. I think that there is a reason that we have this closed down and I don't want to just jump in opening this up.

Chairman Robertson: So, the motion we are looking at right now is specifically as to whether we should open the GBW and the maker of the motion, Cindy, has pointed out that she thinks that the GBW is a safer facility to use than the Legion and part of her reasoning was the restrooms are clearly better in the GBW where we also don't know who's in and out of the Legion when our programs are in there.

Selectman McGarry: I would like to get direct input from Gary on this before I vote, one way or the other. That's basically why I wanted to have the discussion on this (couldn't understand).

Selectwoman McHugh: And that's fine but we used COVID money to buy fancy doors to lock that section off so Gary shouldn't have a problem if there is nobody going up into his section of the building.

Chairman Robertson: I guess my input would be to seek guidance from two people. We could ask Gary, or actually three people. We could ask Gary how he felt about it. We could ask Kelly how she felt about it and we could ask Denise Greig to give us a formal opinion as to opening that but we have a motion, I'm sorry, was that Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't think it would hurt to wait two weeks to get those three opinions.

Selectman McGarry: I agree.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. Further comment.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I would rather get the three opinions than just say no or regret saying yes.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, further comment on the motion. Okay, I will call for a vote on the motion.

Vote: Yea 1, Nay 3, Abstained 0 - Motion Fails

Chairman Robertson: Moving to the next phase here, we still have a question of whether we want to authorize the American Legion post for indoor space and I guess I would look for a motion on that as well just to make sure that we are very clear.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to go ahead with their plan for Parks and Rec at the Legion

Second: No second on the motion

Discussion: The motion fails

Chairman Robertson: I guess, unless someone wants to make another motion, we are looking to leave you in limbo for another fourteen days Nick.

Nick Lawrence: Okay. That's okay. I appreciate the time. Could I just ask you if there is a sense from the Board if you would be open to a summer camp proposal at this point or do you think that will need more time as well?

You know that we use the building usually. This is usually our planning stage where we start in February so, I don't know if that's something that you guys would be open to looking at in the next couple of weeks as well or do you think that it needs to wait?

Chairman Robertson: Why don't you let us bring that up at our next meeting Nick when we get formal input from the folks that we are planning on meeting with.

I would hate to tell you no, we're not at this point but I also hate to give you a false hope so I know that this isn't the answer you wanted probably but if you could give us the two-week period, I think that we can give you some answers.

Nick Lawrence: Okay, that sounds like a plan. I appreciate the time. Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you Nick.

Moving on, I think that we have Rick Pelletier with us who is going to comment on the salt shed project. I believe that Rick has inspected the concrete work that was done and had some input for us.

Rick Pelletier - Building Inspector; Salt Shed Project

Chairman Robertson: I don't know if you are with us Rick?

Rick Pelletier: Oh, yay.

Chairman Robertson: Good. Good to hear your voice Rick. At this point, I would turn the screen over to you if you want to give us an assessment of what you've seen down there and possibly some advice.

Rick Pelletier: Burn it. I mean, the whole project is (couldn't understand) here. I mean, unfortunately, you start putting up a building and no one has even, I didn't even know this was going up but I have been down there.

A number of things. First of all, the new wall that was poured is no where near deep enough in the ground. It was basically been poured on top of the ground and there is nothing to basically hold it up other than itself. The contractor did pour an abutment on the, in the opening on the left-hand side of the front corner which will stiffen that front corner.

There probably should have been a couple of more reinforcing abutments poured along the long wall to stop the pressure of the material from pushing it out.

Secondly, you better run a shed roof from an existing building over to the top of this new wall and I don't know if anyone has paid attention but the footings on that building are not much farther in the ground than the existing, the new wall we just poured. That is way they only dug as deep. They checked the footings on the existing salt shed and they figured since those were adequate, this would be adequate for this building.

But if you look at the existing salt shed, the left-hand wall is bowing and tipping out about two inches. And then the knee wall on top of it is following it but the top of the knee wall can't move because it's tied to the roof. So, basically, the roof of the existing building is holding the wooden wall in place and the wall, basically in the middle, is buckling out. That needs to be stabilized somehow otherwise it is totally pointless to even consider adding another roof to tie the rest of the new wall that we poured into that to enlarge the space without first stabilizing the existing wall that you are going to use for part of your support.

That is going to require a structural engineer to evaluate that to see if we can even salvage it or not. If it isn't worth salvaging, then I would say the additional salt shed should be a totally separate building, independent of the existing building because the existing building itself is slowly failing.

Chairman Robertson: How old is the existing building, Richard?

Rick Pelletier: I'm not sure. I remember you guys having discussion with Alex with putting a new roof on it but I honestly don't know when the actual concrete was poured. I was told the other day that Alex built the whole thing, too but I don't know that for a fact. It was built from scratch as well but again, I don't know if that concrete is enforced because I was never consulted on that until after the first roof basically fell in because it was, because they took out most of the tresses with the loader.

I don't know if there is any reinforcements in that concrete. Again, I never saw a plan or anything. I did eventually get a tress plan when they put the tresses on it but that is all I really know about that building but I did check the footings. They aren't much different than we poured under the existing building.

I spoke to the contractor that poured the concrete. He indicated that the concrete should have been designed by a structural engineer. He put a fair amount of steel on it but he says that he was given no direction other than a print to pour a wall. He said no one said whether it should be reinforced or not reinforced. They did tell him to put some steel into it but as he said, I'm not a structural engineer. He said that he put quite a bit of steel in it but I doubt it's adequate.

But, as far as the square ability, well he said, the existing building crooked and no one was there to make any decisions so it was a choice of do I make my wall parallel the existing building, that is not straight and is tipping on its own or do I make my two walls so my corner is square and most people get obsessed with the fact when concrete contractors don't pour concrete corners so he took it upon himself to pour the corners square.

As far as missing the footing actually on one end, that was an error on his part but I feel that is a minor, the wall is still sitting on the footing, it is just not in the middle of the footing and he did drill the footing to support the wall, to tie the wall to where he missed the existing rebar that he put in it.

But the reality is that footing is not deep enough. Probably, at least a third, if not half of that wall should be in the ground to hold it up and the concrete should be reinforced sufficiently to support the load so that assuming that the

wall doesn't move because it is properly anchored in the wall, we don't snap the concrete off at grade level. The only way to prevent that from happening is to reinforce it properly with rebar and steel and there is no evidence other than he did tell me what he put in it for steel. I made note of it but I would probably have to run it by a structural engineer to see if he feels that there is sufficient steel in it for what we are doing or we just go back to square one. And that is about what I can offer.

Selectwoman McHugh: That rebar that was sticking out that he missed, he put other rebar in there to reinforce it?

Richard Pelletier: Correct. He poured the footings with vertical pieces of rebar sticking out of the footing for the wall to set over. He measured the back corner of the footing from point A to point B.

In the front, he admitted that he measured, measured on the back from the existing wall to the outside corner. On the front he mistakenly measured from the existing wall to the inside of his footing so consequently when he set his wall on it, the front edge of the wall ended up flush with the outside edge of the footing rather than centered on it.

To compensate for it, he drilled the last seven or eight feet of wall and put rebar in the footing so he still had the wall anchored to the footing, but the only purpose of those vertical pieces of rebar serve, they are not to reinforce the wall, they're to stop the wall from sliding off the footing. That's the sole purpose. And one rod down the middle of that wall is great for stopping it from sliding off the footing or moving off the footing but it does nothing to strengthen the wall structurally.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. So, your recommendation is to get a structural engineer here to review what went in there for streel before we do anything further?

Richard Pelletier: I would want to review, go through with him what's in there for steel and see what he thinks as well as his input on what we can do to stop that other wall from further moving otherwise it's pointless to tie the new shed to it. If we can't stabilize it, it is only going to get worse. The righthand side of the wall is perfectly fine because the salt shed is full of material most of the time and the outside of the right wall is up against the banking so you have equal pressure on both sides, so that wall is basically, not moving.

But the left-hand wall only has material inside with nothing supporting it outside and over time the pressure of the material and pushing and compacting material in there is gradually pushing the front corner out. The back corner is still fine but that is because it is a ninety-degree corner tied to a perpendicular wall so it is a lot harder for that to move unless it were to start to crack and then it could do the same thing.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. John, quick question, I thought that we had Steve Keech take a look at those plans and the site before we started on this? Do you recall if that happened?

Mr. Harrington: I thought that I did send them to him and he sent his comments back.

Selectman McGarry: He did. I don't believe that he actually looked at the site and I had suggested that we have a structural engineer look at it and I should have pushed harder to have that be the case.

Certainly, the other issue that comes up too is that they should of, those, one of the sketches that he had, they should have gone to Rick and I am sure that Rick would have called for a more detailed plan than what Steve had provided us.

Richard Pelletier: The only plan that I have been given is John sent me some plans the other day which is basically an architectural rending of what the salt shed would look like and a detail of the roof rafters for that roof which is inadequate for a building of that size. The rafters are way undersized for this area. I believe that Brox did the roof and the rafters are fine for Rye and Hampton Beach where their ground snow load is about 30 pounds. It is not adequate for Deerfield at 70 pounds. So, that is the only detail that I have is on the roof rafters and they are inadequate.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, just thinking back, Dick had raised concerns about the roof rafters, about the plan that we were presented from the get go so what's the Board's pleasure at this point? Do we want to get a structural engineer take a look at this? I think that is probably our best route even though it is going to cost us a little money.

Selectman McGarry: I agree.

Selectman Dill: It is the only thing that makes sense at this point.

Chairman Robertson: Is the rest of the Board in agreement that we should have a structural engineer give us some advice about what can be with this?

Selectwoman McHugh: We kind of have to, I agree.

Chairman Robertson: Any objection to moving forward with the structural engineer?

Selectman McGarry: No.

Chairman Robertson: Next question. Who should we be using as a structural engineer?

Richard Pelletier: We have one out of Lee that I work with quite often on other projects, by other contractors here in town. He has also done a couple of projects for us in the past. He's close by. I think one visit to the site and my input as to what I know, he can come to a reasonable conclusion right off the bat as to whether this can be salvaged or how to salvage it and then if we want to design a new wall and so forth, we can move forward from there.

Chairman Robertson: Is the Board in general agreement that we should move forward in that fashion?

All members stated yes.

Chairman Robertson: Rick, if you can get that information, if you have that information, maybe get it to John so John can make contact to schedule an appointment, unless you can do that yourself, Rick.

Richard Pelletier: I'm capable of dealing with that myself directly with the engineer. I would rather speak directly than to have intermediaries, no offense to anybody but...

Mr. Harrington: None taken.

Chairman Robertson: I was just going to use John to set the appointment up if you would appreciate that but if you can handle that yourself, that makes just one less step.

Richard Pelletier: I can handle that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I hadn't realized that I had been muted that whole time. I was throwing a few comments out. Sorry about that.

Tobin is a great guy, the one Rick's talking about and I'm sure if Rick talks with him, we can come down to this but when you take a wall like that on the existing salt shed with no backfill against it, we have a real problem and that roof that I was involved with, after the first one collapsed, we can't have the roof with a little bit of plywood and wood holding, continue on holding up those concrete walls for the existing salt shed. It was designed to have dirt or backfill halfway up at minimum.

Just like this new one, he talked about, which we fought from the beginning of it, not putting it there, the design that it was so I don't know what the Board's plan is after Tobin looks at it. I guess see his report but usually when steel is in the footing of a retaining wall like that, it goes up at least halfway if not three-quarters the way and ties instead of just sliding the wall, it gives the wall some structural strength and that is what is going to be missing in this one because we know what's not there.

Selectwoman McHugh: I have a question. What is it that we want the structural engineer to tell us? Rick is saying that it's not deep enough.

Richard Pelletier: My first thought is number one, can we reinforce the existing wall to the old salt shed sufficiently so that it doesn't move anymore and then we can come off of that and we will probably end up repouring the other wall anyways because it's not in the ground far enough at all, okay, and if the other building can't be reinforced, then the salt shed should be totally freestanding, independent of what's there now, otherwise. That's the only alternative.

Vice Chairman Pitman: They tried to use the common wall and the common wall is taking a beating and it's not going to last and so we are dumping good money after bad if we continue with this.

Selectwoman McHugh: I am wondering if we should take it down and start over and then get the engineer in.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And get his opinion. Like Rick says, if we can salvage that wall without backfill, it's going to take some type of dead man pour to it and then you can't pull in with a loader because you won't have a smooth wall to go against.

Richard Pelletier: Correct.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's not a good deal the way it sits right now. Not being critical of the people but we have real problems.

Chairman Robertson: Well, I think that the Board was in general agreement a few minutes ago that we should go ahead with the initial consult with Mr. Tobin from Lee to see if there is any capability to salvage this or if we should just start over and clearly, we will need his input if we are going to start over too so I think if Rick can move forward with the appointment with Mr. Tobin to get his professional opinion, what the best course is, I think that is the direction we should move in unless there is objection from the Board.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Great idea.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Richard Pelletier: I will get ahold of him within the next couple of days and probably will have some input for you by sometime next week.

Chairman Robertson: Very good. Thank you, Rick.

Kelly Roberts, Town Clerk:

Our next appointment this evening is with the town clerk, Kelly Roberts. Kelly did send out some preliminary information regarding revenues and regarding dates and some other information but at this point, Kelly, if you are with us, I would turn the floor over to you.

Kelly Roberts: Hello Everyone! Thanks for having me – I am here tonight to update you on revenue, collections and to fill you in on some projects.

To make the presentation more exciting, I sent some graphs. I know some clerk/collectors can be a bit dry so I tried to get you guys some visuals. I don't know if it is possible to share that to the screen or if we can incorporate it into the minutes.

Chairman Robertson: We can certainly incorporate it into the minutes and I believe that John has been working on incorporating it into the screen as well.

Kelly Roberts: Cool.

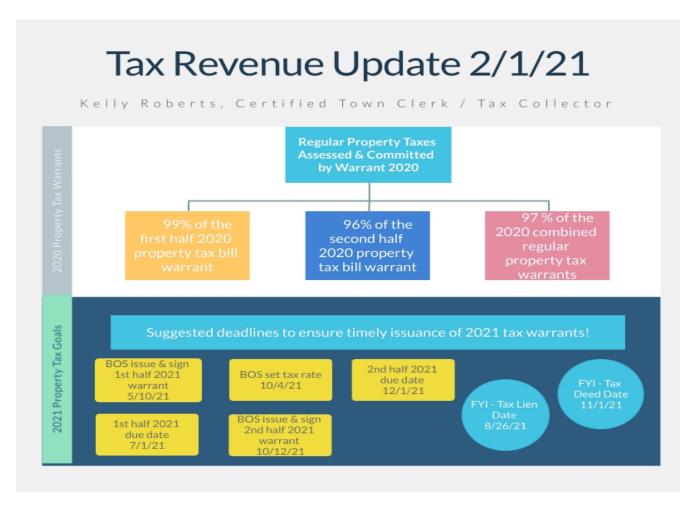
Mr. Harrington: Kelly, let me know which slide you want me to put up and I will put it up.

Kelly Roberts: Let's start with the tax revenue update 2/1/21, the one with the property tax percentages and then the timeline for you and the Board.

Selectman Dill: You guys are like, fancy.

Kelly Roberts: So, I thought that I would share with you some revenue statistics and I wanted to wait until after the due date so I could give you guys some good data and if you look at this chart, underneath where it says regular property tax assessed by warrant 2020, you'll see that 99 percent of the first half of 2020 tax bill was collected. 96 percent of the second half and 97 percent combined total for 2020 warrant was collected and that is amazing given the year that we had dealing with the pandemic and elections.

So, I was really happy see that. I wanted to wait until after the due date because I wanted to show you guys this number because if I presented you the number as of December 31st, it would have been different because the second half bill was issued in December but not due until January so I wanted you guys to have a complete picture of that warrant, so that is why I did that.



And then I have been calendaring and I am trying to map out my year. I map out my year for my tax bills, liens, my deeding, and I want to coordinate with you guys, I know that this is draft, but I put out some dates that would allow us to have tax due dates all in this year so our first half bill would be due July 1st and our second half bill would be due on December 1st if we use this model and I know that this first half bill is probably easier. The second half bill can be more difficult because there's all that goes into the tax rate setting and the meeting for that so I understand that but I was hoping that we could make a goal to work with the DRA to get us a priority tax rate setting as the last two years, the second half tax bills have been the following year.

That's okay but it's off track. I mean, if we are looking for good represented numbers for grants, for auditors, it's a lot easier to have those, all in one year so our revenue doesn't look less in one year and more in the other.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't think any of us are arguing with you, Kelly. It's a great idea. Let's just push it through.

Kelly Roberts: Good. Okay.

Chairman Robertson: The only drawback we have Kelly is that we are somewhat dependent on DRA for that fall tax rate setting so if we can get them to give us an early appointment and get right back to us, we'll be in good shape but if they drag their feet, we're not in a position to really be able to do much about it.

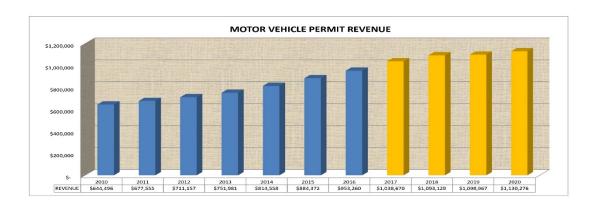
Kelly Roberts: Yes. I agree.

Chairman Robertson: We can certainly hold their feet to the fire.

Kelly Roberts: All right. Sounds like a plan. Yes, that's just a hope and these, I understand that there's lots to it to get that final bill out so I understand that. This is just a perfect world calendar. Hopefully, it can work out.

And, then I wanted to share some other cool, I have two other cool graphs and then I will update you on archive.

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Okay, this graph was rather exciting for me and I hope that it was for you guys too. What I liked about it is, I wanted to present the revenue that wasn't just me spitting numbers at you and so you could see it and I did ten years and you can see it gradually increase at a steady clip but what is really exciting, if you look from 2017 forward, we have topped the million-dollar mark for motor vehicle permits which is huge for a little town.

There are some Class A motor homes that contribute to that but I think that from the time that I got here to where we are now, that is a pretty good increase in motor vehicle revenue.

I was surprised to see the 2020 number. I didn't know with the past year with everything that was going on, how much that was going to affect everything but it still seems to be pretty much right on target so I was excited about that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: A lot of new pickups.

Chairman Robertson: I was going to say, Deerfieldians like expensive trucks.

Selectman McGarry: Kelly, it might be interesting to see the actual number of vehicles that are represented in at least the last four years or so to see if it's related to the number of vehicles or just the assessed value of each of the types of vehicles registered.

Kelly Roberts: That's a great idea, Fred. It sounds like another graph I will have to create.

Selectman McGarry: Sounds good.

Kelly Roberts: And then there was another graph and this was interesting and I thought that we would all have an interest in just seeing this going back ten years and you can see just looking at it, the ups and downs, the extreme highs, the extreme lows and you can see where we were during the financial crisis, how that affected our community.

And then you can see how we gradually improved to the lowest I've ever seen in leining which is surprising but I thought that it was interesting to see that. The 2019 lien number is the lowest we have ever had in the last ten years and the 2020 lien which will go out in 2021, it will be interesting to see what that number is because that's the number that will be more reflective of the time during the pandemic.

So, just thought that was an interesting look. We are definitely collecting the money and the tax due money is definitely going down and the global financial crisis, I just thought that it was an interesting highlight in this graph for you guys to see where we were then, where we are now.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Obviously, you are doing a good job Kelly.

Kelly Roberts: Thank you.



So, that's what I have for you for the visual revenue update and next I want to update you guys on the archive project which is kind of like a mega project with many different arms and legs and I don't want to bore you too much but I do just want to fill you in on where we're at and where we're going.

One of the projects that we tackled is the organization of the Clerk's Archive room which is in that hallway kind of by the Board of Selectmen meeting room. You guys probably know where that is. It is amazing how we overtaken with paper it was.

Over the years... no decades, paperwork has been stacked in the room, boxes on top of boxes. So, our project was to review each box, each folder and each piece of paper to compare them to the State's retention schedule and determine what needs to be kept permanently, and what needs to be kept for a set period of time.

Any paperwork that was past its retention period was pulled out for destruction and it amounted to hundreds of pounds of paper, some going back to the 1990's.

I would like to share that the archive room shares so much history from the old tax books that are meticulously handwritten from everything from "Head" taxes, if you guys remember the old days, to "Property" taxes going back nearly 100 years. As computers came into existence, we still had 5-1/2 floppy disks, for those of you old enough to remember those days.

Over the past couple of months and many, many hours, the room has been sorted, organized, labeled, and is in a useable condition. Being able to access the records quickly and accurately saves my office time and therefore money in doing research for you guys and our customers.

I would like to thank Joanna Waring for her help and time with this project. It is always great to work with her. Another, and just a reminder, a great example of Joanna's work is the Town Clerk Record Index Book which catalogues all the warrant articles and important town information going back through 1863. I don't know about you guys, but I utilize that all the time. It's the first place I go when I start researching something. It's just an amazing tool.

Another arm of this archive project, the lien redemption project. Lien redemptions are permanent records that we have to keep which and we are going back and we are scanning them and we are organizing them and this is a project that Dianne has been working and so far, Dianne has scanned as PDFS redemptions from 1980-2014, and has created an excel index for redemptions from 1980-1990 which is searchable, you can organize it. It's an awesome little tool, there are formulas in it.

Why this is an important for me or a future clerks or selectmen that need to research things is that we field phone calls from title researchers looking for book and page numbers for releases and often they are calling us for decades old information that they could not easily locate at the registry. By having this data available and sortable at our fingertips allows us to provide this information efficiently. Sometimes this type of request can clog us up for a couple of days, if not a week or so this is an amazing tool that will be available to all of us.

I would like to thank Dianne Kimball helping with that. That is a tedious project with lots of excel work and she's been good resource. She came with previous experience working with Department of Vital Records, and has first-hand experience with the organization and preservation of permanent records so that has been a valuable asset.

I just want to highlight Kim, our fabulous deputy town clerk. She has been in charge of the Town Report archive project and it probably goes without saying that one of the most popular permanent town records is the annual town reports and Kim has been working to organize, catalogue, and preserve these reports. She has organized and persevered the books that we have and have placed them in these special archival boxes and she has researched how to do that. These are going to be PDF'd and available online. This will help protect some of the early reports from the 1800s, which are very fragile, probably shouldn't be touched and should probably be handled with gloves. I just want to thank Kim for working on this.

These three ladies this past year have taken on a lot but they understood the importance of the archive project and what that does for our town and our future. Despite everything that was on Kim in 2020 due to the pandemic and the workload, Kim was able to get this done. I am very thankful for her hard work and dedication.

The Archive project is a massive undertaking, that may take me the next three years to complete. Once it's completed, it's still not done, because it will always need to be maintained. I just wanted to take a little time and explain the magnitude of this. I just want you to know that we are all going to benefit from this. When you need something, it is going to be available to you very quickly.

The last thing that I wanted to update the Board on.

Actually, a question for you. Do you feel it's necessary that I read off who is signed up for office or do you think that is pretty much out there?

Chairman Robertson: I think that this is pretty much out there at this point Kelly. You did a great job of getting it on the Town Clerk's website very quickly but I don't see the need for it in this venue but I do appreciate the work you did to get that out there having it on the blackboard and getting it on the web very quickly.

Selectman McGarry: I have a question. Does the fact that we are delayed until May, does that change the open filing for office or not?

Kelly Roberts: It does not.

Chairman Robertson: It does not. Everything essentially freezes in place from the time that we made the decision to delay. So, you can't introduce, there isn't no additional candidates, you can't introduce new warrant articles, you can't change the budget. It's just all frozen and moved to the delayed date.

Selectman McGarry: Okay

Kelly Roberts: The last thing that I just wanted to say that I do think, with the delay, it is a long campaign period for the candidates which can be a good thing for them if it is their first time and I want the Board to know the Clerk's Office is in good shape as far as being prepared for this election. We can do anything after the General Election. Don't you worry, we are going to be prepared.

I do think we are going to see a higher-than-normal absentee voter turnout compared to other town elections just due to continued safety concerns of COVID-19.

As always, we feel safety is our utmost priority, and I feel that voting absentee is the safest way to vote during this pandemic still.

I also want to thank John Harrington and Nick Lawrence for helping us move all the archive boxes. I probably would have passed out from exhaustion if I had to do that all by myself so thank you very much.

Chairman Robertson: Well, thank you Kelly for your very detailed report. We hadn't spoken to you in a little while but that is all great information and we appreciate your time.

Any questions for Kelly before she goes?

Selectman Dill: Thanks Kelly.

Kelly Roberts: Thank you.

Jeanne Menard - Perambulation of Town Boundaries:

Chairman Robertson: Our next appointment is with Jeanne Menard and she has made a request to be on the agenda with regard to perambulation of the town boundaries and I don't know if everyone saw the appointment form that I may have been the only that saw it. It is just a brief request but if you are with us Jeanne, I would certainly recognize you to speak to the matter.

Jeanne Menard: Good Evening. I am here with my mentor, who also happens to be my mother.

Chairman Robertson: I so happened to have perambulated with your mother.

Jeanne Menard: Yes, she mentioned that.

I have three questions for the Board.

The first one is, is there a need for this volunteer activity to get out there with an assistant and invite the abutting town to do the same, if they would like and get out and check the monuments and verify that all is well on each of the town boundaries?

So, I wasn't sure when the last time this had happened. I think there is some past precedence that indicates that it was done once every seven years. With that, I would pose that question.

Chairman Robertson: Sure, and I would think that your help would be welcome, Jeanne. Typically, what we've done is done it in sections as your mom has probably alluded to although I believe your mom and Mrs. Tomilson actually undertook the entire perambulation probably seven or eight years ago.

Fran Menard: We did.

Chairman Robertson: I know I did the Candia/Hooksett section with Dick Snow probably about five years ago and we also did the Epsom monuments within that seven-year period.

And the seven-year period isn't just a suggestion. It is actually state, RSA that the Board of Selectmen have to do it with the abutting towns so which in our case is Hooksett, Candia, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham and Raymond, I believe we a pin on the corner, too. That would be the one in the beaver pond.

We certainly need to do it and we are probably coming up on seven years for at least some of those line sections.

Nottingham has a very good digital map that they prepared the last time the lines with Nottingham were done. Epsom actually has a very good map with GPS coordinates, GIS coordinates as well but the Board of Selectmen under the RSA have the ability to appointment representatives to either replace or assist members of the Board and I don't know how the rest of the Board feels but I assume that there is at least a select person or two be happy to have you replace them identifying those markers, Jeanne.

If you have an interest, we can certainly look at the time that has elapsed and what we are looking at for time requirements with towns and move forward from there.

Jeanne Menard: Wonderful.

Selectman Dill: Do we need to make that a motion, Andy?

Chairman Robertson: We would need a motion to appoint Jeanne as our representative to assist the selectmen with perambulation, yes.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to appoint Jeanne Menard as our representative to assist the selectmen with perambulation

Second: Selectman McGarry and Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: It appears to be unanimous Jeanne and if my schedule permits, I would love to be involved as well and have a recollection of some of the markers that have been, at least on one or two occasions, buried, and myself found and I know your mother has a pretty good record with her work on with Mrs. Tomilson as well.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Andy, I will handle Pleasant Lake for you. I know where those two are.

Chairman Robertson: Great. We will keep you in the loop and be back in touch Jeanne with what we are looking at for elapsed time with each of the boundaries.

Jeanne Menard: Okay, that sounds fantastic and I am going to assume that I will use communication with John Harrington if I am reaching out to an abutting town, that I would run things by John before sending anything out to the town.

Chairman Robertson: That would be perfect.

Jeanne Menard: And the last concern that I have that I don't know if there is any precedent for notifying land owners that there maybe people on their back boundary. I imagine some of these monuments are in people's backyards, potentially so I can talk with John about that concern as we can put a notice out if there is a need to put a notice out with a particular area or residence that might be wondering what in Heaven's name is going on.

Chairman Robertson: It is not legally required because as a select board member, or a duly authorized perambulation representative, you have the right to be on any property posted or not but it is probably a good idea. I can't, a couple of the monuments, the one in Candia, you have to walk across someone's front lawn, sort of across the street from Papa's to get to. There are a couple of others that are front and center that you really have to cross people's lawns and it would be a good idea to give those people a heads up that we were coming.

Jeanne Menard: Very good and I am excited and thank you for your support and I will wait to hear back from you.

Chairman Robertson: Great. Thank you, Jeanne.

Serita Frey, Conservation Commission:

Chairman Robertson: Our next appointment is with Serita Frey as chairwoman of the Conservation Commission and I believe she wants to speak to us about the warrant article on the warrant.

I don't know if you are with us Serita?

Vice Chairman Pitman: It doesn't sound it.

Chairman Robertson: Do we have Serita with us at this point?

Well, I am just going to briefly go over this. My understanding is the Conservation Commission was looking for the Board of Selectmen's support for the Marston Farm Town Forest warrant article.

Unfortunately, I think the Board wholeheartedly supports that project. It involves getting \$50,000.00 of grant money among other things that take care of the cost but unfortunately, the state RSA prevents the Board of Selectmen from officially recommending on the ballot, any warrant articles that don't involve appropriations, spending or are a special warrant so, irregardless whether we had placed that warrant article on the warrant or whether it went on as the petition, which it did, the Board of Selectmen can't formally recommend it.

Unless there is disagreement from members of the Board on the call this evening, I think it is pretty clear that the Board of Selectmen does support this and we made it clear to the Conservation Commission, including signing documents and transactions, that we are in support.

I don't know if anyone has anything to add beyond that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You are right on target.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of January 19, 2021 and January 25, 2021

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of January 19, 2021

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest

Accounts Payable week ending January 25, 2021 - \$29,643.11

Vice Chairman Pitman: What happened to the million?

Chairman Robertson: That's coming up.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$29,643.11

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: Chairman Robertson: I would note for the record that this was previously signed by the Board

in electronic format.

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

Accounts Payable week ending February 1, 2021- \$1,025,051.85

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the accounts payable for the week ending February 1, 2021 in

the amount of \$1,025,051.85 **Second:** Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Chairman Robertson: Obviously, we aren't using the million involved in that figure.

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

Payroll Manifest week ending January 20, 2021 - \$67,676.96 (gross), \$43,171.64 (net)

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the payroll manifest in the amounts stated above

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Payroll Manifest (for a missed timecard) January 28, 2021, \$171.39 (gross), \$147.03 (net) inadvertently missed in the previous pay-period

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the payroll manifest as indicated above

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Signatures/Correspondence:

Chairman Robertson: The next order of business is that we have a renewal from Raymond Ambulance and this is running from this year, 2021, that being April of this year to April 1st of 2026.

The contract starts at \$15,000.00 and has a \$500.00 annual increase for its duration ending at \$17,500.00.

I think this is still an excellent value but would look to the Board for a decision as to whether we want to re-up with Raymond Ambulance.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the contract from Raymond Ambulance for years April, 2021 to April, 2026.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: Selectman Dill: John, is there an escape clause in there, for example, if we buy an

ambulance, let's say, in three years?

Mr. Harrington: I believe Cindy and Matt both reviewed it. Cindy, I don't think there is, is there?

Selectwoman McHugh: No, there isn't. Even if we did buy an ambulance, we would need a couple of years to get using it anyway.

Chairman Robertson: Fred, did you have a question?

Selectman McGarry: I was just asking if there were any comments by Cindy on this?

Selectwoman McHugh: I think that it is a good deal.

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

Chairman Robertson: We have the 2020 revenue recommendations or expectations and John, for some reason, I failed to print that sheet. Do you have the numbers with you or at least the total for the revenue estimates?

Mr. Harrington: Yes. And this was reviewed by myself and Rita. For 2021, the number is \$1,787,200.00. Remember, that doesn't include all of the property taxes collected or overlay because we get those from the state afterwards. We are basically looking at the revenues that we collect from fees, permits, and the like.

Chairman Robertson: We do need a motion of this, that the Board has to accept the estimated revenue.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to accept the estimated revenue of \$1,787,200.00 for 2021

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: I don't know if this actually requires a vote. Maybe you, John, can jump in but we have notification from Atlantic Broadband that they intend to start the renewal process with the Atlantic Broadband contract with the Town of Deerfield.

That renewal date is actually in 2023 but by federal guidelines, they have to notify us at this stage of the game that they are moving forward with the intent to renew.

I know from years past, when we have tried to get anyone else interested in giving us a competitive service estimate, we have found that we have no one interested in giving any sort of estimate, never mind, competitive. I don't know what the Board's pleasure is at this point, if you want to reach out and see if there are any other carriers at this time that are interested in the community of Deerfield or do you just want to go ahead with Atlantic Broadband?

Selectman Dill: If we could do any, any reaching out to any company, I think people would be glad. We have our fair share of issues with Atlantic Broadband and I know that we probably won't get any back but I think that it would be in our best interest to reach out here.

Chairman Robertson: We can certainly do our do diligence and put this out there.

Selectman Dill: It's three years out there or two years from now when we renew but I think we have got to start looking to see if there are any options.

Selectwoman McHugh: I agree with Alden. There are a lot of unhappy customers in town and we should at least try and reach out and see what we can see.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, well I won't take a vote on the renewal inquiry at this point then and let's reach out and see what we got for interest. Like I said, we have a little time to move forward here. This is simply a notification from them that they have to notify us two years in advance that they are planning to renew.

So, if the Board is in agreement, we will see who else is interested before we commit.

We have several refund requests from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector from first half, 2020 tax bills and maybe I will just read all of these and make one motion for the group.

Deely's Map 414, Lot 098 \$2,885.00

 Berube's
 Map 416, Lot 002
 \$1,000.21

 MacEwen's
 Map 415, Lot 020
 \$ 36.00

 MDGF, LLC
 Map 411, Lot 018
 \$ 11.00

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the refund requests as read by the chairman

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: Next, we have the usual 2021 Board appointees for various positions in town and if there is no objection, I will read the names and the position and we can do a sweeping motion to reinstate all of these unless the Board has concerns.

Animal Control Officer: Cynthia McHugh - 1 year

Welfare Director/Deputy Health Officer/Co-emergency Management Director: Denise Greig - 1 year

Health Officer/Building Inspector: Rick Pelletier – 1 year

Co-Emergency Management Services Director: Kevin Barry - 1 year

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the appointments as read by the chair

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Chairman Robertson noted that these are all reappointments, there is nothing new here.

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

Assessing:

Chairman Robertson: We have an abatement request and this is a three-party property, Boynton, Briggs, Wallace, a four-party property, never mind, I am reading this incorrectly. This is for Wallace and Boynton Briggs, Tax Map and Lot 423-072. They are recommending a \$41.00 abatement.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the abatement as read by the chairman

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Next is the abatement recommendation for the Tordoff's, Tax Map and Lot, 409, 033, and the recommendation is to abate \$1,084.00.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the abatement as read by the chairman

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

The rest of these are Land Use Change Tax warrants and essentially, we have to collect our fees for land coming out of current use.

The first is a piece owned by the Crosses, 29 Range Road. Tax Map 414, Lot 071 and the calculated land use change tax is \$9,500.00

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to collect the LUCT for Tax Map 414, Lot 071 from the Crosses

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Land Use Change Tax collections for the Crosses on 29 Range Road and this is for Tax Map 414, Lot 071-3. The amount to levy is \$9,400.00

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to collect the LUCT from the Crosses at 29 Range Road, Tax Map 414,

Lot 071-3.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Land Use Change Tax for the Ketchican's at 27 Range Road, Tax Map 414, Lot 071-2. The amount to be levied is \$9,400.00

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve collecting the LUCT in the amount of \$9,400.00 for Tax

map 414, Lot 071-2 **Second:** Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: That concludes our regular business for tonight's meeting and at this point, I would note that under signatures and correspondence, we did receive an email today expressing some concerns about Planning Board proceedings and Zoning Board.

I don't intend to take that up this evening publicly but to make everyone aware if you didn't see that email, a letter from a concerned citizen that we may have to address in the future.

At this point, I would look to the Town Administrator for his report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: Several items for you this evening.

The first, to loop back to the Board, the auditing RFP has been posted and due back to me by the 16th of February at 2:00 pm.

My recommendation to the Board is that once we receive the proposals, that the finance director review all the proposals that are submitted and make a recommendation to the Board at a special, scheduled meeting on February 22nd. We don't currently have a meeting that date with just one agenda item to just review and approve the proposals.

The Board should make a decision to award a contract at that meeting. Time is of the essence as they are responsible for doing the audit for 2021 as the first year of the contract so if we could move in that direction, I think that it would be appreciated.

Chairman Robertson: Yes, and I think that is a good idea to have her review the proposals particularly since she is coming from MRI, she is going to be very familiar anybody and everybody doing audits in the state of New Hampshire.

Mr. Harrington: That is my feeling as well.

Just an update from the fire chief, Engine 2 is currently out of service. They had a pump failure and they are waiting for more information on the approximate cost of the repair and any details coming, I will forward to the Board as soon as I get them.

I sent out a proposed town report cover contest. I don't know how the Board feels about that or would like to pursue that as an alternative to bringing options to you?

Other towns have done it successfully. I just thought that we may want to try it.

Chairman Robertson: How does the Board feel about the town report cover contest? Is that an agreeable way to proceed?

All members agreed.

Chairman Robertson: I think you are good, John.

Mr. Harrington: Okay. That is it.

Chairman Robertson: Questions for John?

Hearing none, I am going to ask for Unfinished Business.

Unfinished Business:

I have some but I will let anyone else go first.

Okay, hearing nothing, I had a couple of emails from Kyle Barker regarding the police department. He contacted John as well today and forwarded some information.

Kyle is the architect who gave us the preliminary estimate of costs for the police department.

There is a new wrinkle in his latest communication. He also doesn't think that we should build the police department across the street from the GBW. He thinks that site is unviable.

I had spoken with the Board previously about another possible direction we might want to move in and wondering what the Board's pleasure is in this?

I don't want to get too deep into this and I certainly don't want to spend a lot more money with Mr. Barker if that is not the direction that we are looking to take and looking for a little bit of direction from the Board before I get back to him.

Selectman Dill: I thought that we had moved on.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Andy, how did you make out with the Rochester company?

Chairman Robertson: I haven't set up an appointment yet. Gary and I are going to meet with them. I believe that it is Matt Groen is the contact that I had there but I wanted to make it clear to the Board that I had received more correspondence from Kyle and wasn't intending to pursue that but I know that he has sent emails to people other than myself so.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I say that we don't spend a cent until you meet with Rochester.

Chairman Robertson: Is the rest of the Board in agreement with that?

All agreed.

New Business:

Chairman Robertson: The one thing that I would mention, I saw a Planning Board notice of Public Hearing coming up on the 10th and I noticed that the meeting, although it indicates on the agenda that the public can't come to the meeting, they can tune in as we are via phone or ZOOM. It says that the meeting is being held at the GBW and I wasn't aware that we had authorized groups to meet in the GBW officially at this point.

Selectman McGarry: We have been meeting in there for quite a while. It was primarily because it is difficult to take and review plans and things that are being submitted to the Board over by ZOOM or whatever.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. I guess I hadn't been paying close attention but that makes sense but I just wanted to make the Board aware of it if they weren't. I guess I wasn't thinking of the difficulty of presenting large scale plans, that sort of thing.

Selectman McGarry: Right, and we have limited it only to applicant who's coming before the Board no abutters or whatever are allowed to come into the building. They all have to be present via ZOOM.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. Great. I wanted to bring that up.

Any other new business to discuss?

Selectwoman McHugh: What are we doing with the dedication of the town report? When does that have to be finalized?

Chairman Robertson: Fairly quickly and the only suggestion that I had seen is the one that you made Cindy and I thought that it was a good dedication but I don't know how the rest of the Board feels?

Selectman Dill: I am good with Cindy's dedication. I thought that it was a good choice.

Chairman Robertson: Then I think Cindy, you had offered to see if you could find a photograph?

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Chairman Robertson: And I don't know if you have the ability to dig up more information on the nominee, I know that, unfortunately, they have passed away but there is quite a bit of information in his obituary but you were friends of the family as well and might be able to flush that out a little bit.

Selectwoman McHugh: I can, yes.

Chairman Robertson: Great.

Other new business?

Okay, hearing none, at this point, I would look to Citizen's Comments.

Selectman Dill: John, I think you have to unmute some people.

Mr. Harrington: I can't unmute them. They have to unmute themselves.

Mrs. Cady - Old Centre Road:

I had a thought on the town's perambulation being done because I don't know if there has ever been a survey of the town but I was recently talking with a person and it seems some construction guy in this town has buried one of the boundaries.

Chairman Robertson: The Raymond boundary.

Mrs. Cady: No, no, I am talking about another town Andy, and I was just wondering if it wouldn't be a good idea to have a survey here of to the lines of the town and where the bounds are.

Chairman Robertson: I appreciate the input. I think in some cases, we have had to some actual surveying in regards to the Epsom line. There were two discrepancies fairly recently.

Mrs. Cady: I remember your resetting the stone or whatever it was that was the bound, so many feet difference.

Chairman Robertson: It is certainly something that we can consider. We appreciate the input.

Mrs. Cady: And, the other thing is, when I was serving in the Legislature on one of the committees, Brian Burford, who is the now in charge of Vital Records told us that floppy disks and disks get some kind of a mold and start disintegrate after twelve to fifteen years so while I think it is commendable that Kelly is doing this, I would hate to see, as Brian says, paper records disappear because paper seems to stay, nothing else does so she may want to talk with Brian over what she shouldn't put on disks or floppy disks.

Chairman Robertson: I could certainly pass that along.

Other Citizen's Comments?

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn

Second: (couldn't hear the second)

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday Monday, February 16, 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 approved by Board at meeting on 2/16/2021