

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 16, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

Roll Call: Andrew Robertson, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, and Cynthia McHugh, Selectman.

Not on call at roll call: Fred McGarry and Alden Dill, Selectmen. (Both joined meeting later on)

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Robertson forewent the pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Robertson: The first order of business this evening is listed as Serita Frey but I am going to take a quick break in the middle here.

It is not on the agenda but we did set tonight as the deadline for the bids for the town audit and I believe that we got two bids, John and I am hoping that you can open those and share them with us quickly.

Mr. Harrington: The first one received was from Plodzick and Sanderson out of Concord, NH and that is for, it is a bid for fiscal years ending 2021, 2022, and 2023 with optional extensions for 2024, 2025 and 2026.

And, the second bid that came in is from Melanson and Heath and again, I believe that it is for bids starting 2021, 22 and 23 which was in reference to the RFP which we put out.

At this time, if the Board is in agreement, I would recommend that we turn them over to Rita Donaldson, our finance director for review and to make recommendations at a special meeting called next week on the 22nd, with just this one agenda item to make a decision on.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do they have a price, John?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, could you give us an idea

Mr. Harrington: Sure. It is broken up by year.

Looking at Plodzick and Sanderson, for a financial statement audit, they have \$19,925.00 for all three years, 21, 22 and 23 and that same price if we were to extend for the next year for 24, 25 and 26.

They also have a separate line for a single audit listed as \$2,000.00 for each of those six years.

With out looking further into the proposal, I would not be able to tell you what they are referring to and they also have hourly rates for particular positions within their agency listed.

For Melanson and Heath, they have financial statement audit for 2021 of \$20,000.00; 2022 of \$20,500.00; 2023 of \$21,000.00; 2024, if we were going to extend, \$21,500.00; for 25, \$21,500.00; and for 2026, \$21,500.00.

They also have a single audit rate listed at \$3,000.00 per year. That range goes from 2021 and including the three extension years of 2024, 25 and 26 at \$3,000.00 each.

And they also have listed an hourly rate.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, is the Board in agreement that we will turn this over to finance to take a look at and make a recommendation to us.

All Board members agreed.

Mr. Harrington: I will prepare an agenda with one item for next Monday just to review the proposals and make a decision.

Chairman Robertson: Great. Thank you, John.

Okay, our next order of business is the Conservation Commission Quarterly update and I believe that we have Serita Frey with us this evening for that.

Ms. Frey: Yes, good evening everyone. Great to see you.

So, I just have three main items in our quarterly update for the Conservation Commission and the first is communication that we have had with our town forester, Charlie Marino and he has highlighted a number of properties that are at the point where they should be harvested or at least we should consider that in the near future.

Those include three town forests; Weiss, Lindsay-Flanders and Wells and I bring this to your attention because he also highlighted the town-owned woodlot on Brown Road adjacent to the transfer station but that is not in the Conservation Commission's purview. I believe your purview, the Board of Selectmen's so I am just flagging that for you that Charlie Marino thinks, oh no, he's saying that it was recently harvested.

(Jumbled voices, not understandable).

Ms. Frey: He included it on his list as the recently harvested woodlot, so I don't know if there is some management that he is thinking that needs to happen there or not.

I will have to, I guess, follow up on that. I didn't read that note correctly when I was going over my notes. I thought that he was including that as a property that should be harvested in the near future.

The second item is related to the Marston Family Forest which we have a warrant article as you know on the ballot for June for the town to vote as to whether that should become a town forest.

If that passes, then we will be able to close project and be reimbursed \$50,000.00 from the LCHIP Program (Land Community Heritage Investment Program).

And then finally, I think that this has been on your agenda before but I just wanted to flag it again and that is that there has continued to be issues with the Lindsay-Flanders in terms of both ATV use and target shooting on that property and we have been in communication with the police department. We notified Fish and Game but there is concern about this a pretty severe safety hazard because there is evidence that weapons are being fired into that forest near trails.

It is unclear as to who is doing that but that is something that we are working on, just to let you know that this is kind of ongoing.

We are going to be reposting the property. The signs that we had posted before were taken down so we are going to repost that but if you have any suggestions of how-to kind of improve the situation there, we would certainly welcome them.

Other than that, this is what I have for this evening.

Chairman Robertson: Any questions for Serita from the Board?

Hearing none, I would thank you for your time, Serita. Appreciate your input.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well-done.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, our next order of business is Nick Lawrence from the Parks and Rec Program and as most people recall, Nick had come to us with a request to open the lower section of the George B. White Building for Parks and Rec activities, classrooms in particular and we told him to come back tonight.

In the meanwhile, we also received a letter from the Parks and Rec Commission asking if we would consider opening the GBW Building on the lower level for the Parks and Rec Commission use.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We also had Jeff Shute on that too?

Chairman Robertson: We also had a request from Jeff Shute as well, an individual email asking us to consider opening the lower level of the GBW and I assume that your request hasn't changed, Nick?

Mr. Lawrence: Yes, that remains the same.

Chairman Robertson: Yup, I guess I will open this for discussion. One thing, so that everyone is on the same page here, I had done a little digging with the Parks and Rec departments around us yesterday and today and I shared this with the rest of the Board of Selectmen and I am just going to go through these so that we are all on the same page.

Northwood: Cancelled their basketball program. Has no indoor programs. Focused on a ski program and an ice fishing derby as their primary activities. They are planning on having baseball and softball.

Nottingham: Cancelled their basketball and have no indoor programs. They are offering martial arts and an exercise class via ZOOM and are planning on having baseball and softball.

Epsom has limited basketball. Skills and drills with no games, no indoor programs. They are planning on focusing on baseball and softball.

Auburn cancelled their basketball program. No indoor programs. They are offering an e-sports network. Apparently, this was started by other Parks and Rec programs in surrounding towns. They play against other towns and they are having some virtual classes, cooking and crafts. They are planning on baseball and softball, too.

Strafford had limited baseball, limited basketball, skills and drills with no games that is offered through a private, non-profit sports association in town; no indoor programs. They focused on their ski program and Candia does have basketball and indoor soccer. That's offered through the Candia Youth Athletic Association which is private, non-profit through the SEAL House and they have had indoor basketball and indoor soccer. They have no indoor Parks and Rec programs.

That's what I found from looking at the towns in our immediate vicinity as far as what they've done with regards to opening up.

I don't know if other Board members have comment?

Selectman Dill: We had also asked Denny and Gary to provide us with some feedback on this too.

Chairman Robertson: I did talk to Gary. I don't know if Denny is online with us.

Gary said that he is not adamant either way but he would prefer limited access to the building. If you pushed him, he would prefer limited access.

Mr. Harrington: Denny is on the line with us, Andy.

Chairman Robertson: Did you want Denny's input, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes, if we could get her input.

Chairman Robertson: Are you agreeable to that Denny?

Denny Greig: Thank you. Yes, I am happy to just make a couple of comments. I am certainly recognizing that (couldn't understand) life has gone one, but I just think at this juncture, (couldn't understand) constantly, at this point, bringing home the message that mixed households with adults is extremely dangerous at this point and this becomes even more (couldn't understand) with the arrival of in New England (couldn't understand) crept slowing around New Hampshire.

This variant is fifty percent more transmissible at a time of year with the dry air, it is more transmissible. We are looking at (lost audio).

Chairman Robertson: I'm sorry, I've lost Denny.

Selectman Dill: And we've lost Fred.

Chairman Robertson: Hopefully Fred will come back but other questions from the Board?

Selectwoman McHugh: (Denny interrupted as her audio came back)

Denny Greig: (No audio)

Chairman Robertson: I think that we have lost Denny again.

I guess at this point, I would recognize Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: We are about, the fact that they are sending K-5 back to school, are we not? I don't see an issue with bringing a small group of kids. Don't open it up full bore but there are some activities that we can do in those three classrooms that we just got money for to change that door.

That really bugs me that we used that COVID money to help us open that and we're not opening it.

Chairman Robertson: Well, part of the reason that we used the COVID money was to block off, we had people from Yanni's and private businesses going into the town offices so in fact, we had people with open containers wandering into the town offices to see what was going on from Yanni's and that was, at least to my mind, a large part of the reason that we reinforced those doors and used the COVID money but ...

Selectwoman McHugh: (couldn't understand)

Chairman Robertson: Your point is taken though.

Selectman McHugh: The kids all go to school together.

Selectman Dill: Yes, there are in school together Cindy but they are very segregated in school. Classroom third grade with Mrs. Smith and third grade with Mrs. Whomever aren't mixing together and it's keeping, if they have to do contact tracing down, I think the smaller amount of mixing we can do, the better right now.

Selectwoman McHugh: I think that we should open it. It's a small amount of kids, not full bore like I said, a couple small programs. That's all, I guess.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, I guess as far as my thoughts, I think that we have a couple of more months here to go to get out of the winter. I don't think that there is going to be any tremendous programming value added prior to baseball and softball and my opinion would be is that we should keep it as is and get through the winter but I don't know how the rest of the Board feels other than Cindy with regard to that.

Selectman Dill: That is basically how I feel about it, too. I mean, we are still at a higher, we are going down in town, we have seven cases as of last night but that is still quite a bit more than we had when we started to close everything down and I think Denny, before we lost her, she was talking about the variants and we found a couple of them now in New Hampshire. I don't see why we would open up more right now.

Chairman Robertson: Well, at this point, I think it's probably best if we had a motion one way or the other and vote on it.

Chief Duquette: I'm sorry, it's Gary from the police department. I'm sorry, I called in and just wanted to get in my two cents worth in this if I could.

Chairman Robertson: Absolutely. I sort of paraphrased it so it would be much better if it came from the horse's mouth.

Chief Duquette: So, I, believe me, I would like to return to normal like, as much as, if not more than everyone else would but we keep talking about kids' programs, I have the letter in front of me from the Parks and Rec Commission and it says that the DPR would like to offer adult yoga, senior fitness and adult pottery to the community so it's not just kid's programs that we are talking about here.

You know, my opinion on this thing is I think that it is a little premature to open up this building. I think we are kind of still in a tough spot here and you know that we should give it a little bit more time and maybe revisit it in the springtime.

You know the double doors that went in are great when they are locked. I can personally tell you that I have found them unlocked a few times since they have replaced them and I am pretty sure that the town administrator has found it unlocked once or twice himself and I know that John had sent out emails to all of us saying that hey, we have to keep the doors locked, this is how we do it so we are kind of depending on everybody to do the right thing.

Unfortunately, that is not happening so we can't guarantee that those doors stay locked. You know, unfortunately, we have all these other departments working under one roof. I think that is a big issue and not offense to Nick and the Parks Department, I understand that we want to get things going here. We all would. I just think that this thing isn't under control quite enough yet and I think that we should give it a little bit more time so my humble opinion, I think that we should wait a little longer and not open it up right now and maybe wait until springtime.

So, that is all I wanted to say here.

Chairman Robertson: I appreciate your input Gary and I think seriously, as you are the department head and have the largest number of employees in the building.

Other comments from the Board.

Ms. Libby: Is this comment time limited to the select board or residents of the building?

Chairman Robertson: Well, it's supposed to be but if you can tell me who I am talking to?

Ms. Libby: Sorry, so this is Katie Libby and I work with the Parks and Rec Commission and I just wanted to and maybe you are going there already but the comment was there are a lot of departments under one roof and I think the original proposal was to hold these programs at the American Legion who has been open for several months now, operating adult fitness without any instances of community spread or you know, successfully.

So, like I said, maybe you are going there anyway but if the concern is control of exposure to the other town departments at the building, the Legion is an alternative that has been open to working with us.

Chairman Robertson: Great. We were aware of that Katie and I thank you for your input.

Other Board members that want to comment at this time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Hearing Chief Duquette's comments and Denny's, I will make a motion that we put this on hold until March 15th and revisit it then.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to put opening up the building for Parks and Rec until March 15th when the Board will revisit it then.

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 1, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson: I'm sorry Nick, but I think that we are going to hold the course just a little bit longer before we consider opening the classrooms.

Mr. Lawrence: So, the next step would be returning on March 15th and discussing opening then or is that not going to be comfortable time either?

I just want to reiterate that we are also looking ahead to summer camp too and I know that there is a lot of uncertainty and that is the opinion of the Board, right now but we are also trying to figure out where we stand, and I know that the Parks Department is also getting a bunch of questions each week because this is normally the time that we roll out details of summer camp so I was just curious as if this is going to be a more appropriate time that you can even consider the building because we need a (couldn't understand).

Chairman Robertson: I think that we are definitely going to reconsider it on March 15th. That was the gist of the motion and I think if you've got proposals for what you are thinking about for the summer activities at that time, if you could give us a little more detail on them, that would be an appropriate time to do that as well.

Mr. Lawrence. Okay, I will have that ready.

Selectman Dill: On the summer camp thing, it seems like most of the summer camps are planning right now to go with the caveat that it may change but it may change by June and I was kind of approaching the DPR camp kind of the same way in my mind.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Andy, I think that Nick should proceed with what he has for plans and we will just take it a month at a time to see what we can help him out with. You can amend my motion.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. I think the gist of the motion is, at this point, we are not ready to open the classrooms.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Definitely not.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, moving on, this is not on this evening's agenda but we have received the report from Tobin-Farwell regarding the salt shed construction and I believe Rick Pelletier is here to discuss his meeting and review with Tobin of the concrete work that was done as well as the existing storage shed.

Are you with us, Rick?

Well, maybe I believed wrong.

I think that probably everyone has had a chance to take a look at the engineering report from Tobin. I was hoping that Rick would be here to give us a little guidance because basically Tobin says that there is no cost-effective way to bring the existing or proposed (couldn't understand) to rebuild it.

He also says that he considers this is a low-risk category building and I wasn't sure of the differentiation was between the two.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No one lives in it. It's not, whatever the word is, inhabited by people.

Chairman Robertson: Yes.

Selectman Dill: We have Fred, kind of.

Selectman McGarry: Yes, kind of, sort of.

Chairman Robertson: What action does the Board want to take so we can talk to Rick.

Selectman Dill: So, I have the same question, he is saying that since there is no occupancy, go ahead with it or was that letter saying take this down and start from square one?

Selectwoman McHugh: I think he was saying both. We could tear it down and start from square one but it was a low-risk problem so go ahead with it.

Chairman Robertson: I really would like to get Rick's input on this as Rick actually met with Tobin, walked around the facility and could probably tell us in a little more detail what was communicated.

I don't know how the rest of the Board feels.

Selectwoman McHugh: I think at this point, it's a moot point to wait another week or two weeks to talk to Rick. Let them finish it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, we said that the rest of it was going to go up. Are we ready for that stage or do we need to hear Rick's opinion as to whether we keep the concrete or bulldoze it?

Chairman Robertson: Well, it's up the Board as to which direction you want to move.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I would like to hear Rick's opinion. If we are meeting Monday night for the auditor, maybe we can definitely plan on Rick on Monday.

Chairman Robertson: Yes. How does the rest of the Board feel about that?

Selectman McGarry, Yes, I agree with that.

Chairman Robertson: Are you also in agreement, Alden?

Okay, let's try to make sure that we have Rick on board for next Monday's meeting then.

Selectman Dill: In the meantime, we aren't dumping anything on that pad or using it for anything currently, correct?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, there's no material there, Alden.

Selectman Dill: I just want to make sure.

Chairman Robertson: I haven't been down so I'm not sure.

Okay, moving onto our regular business.

We've got, let me find my vote sheet here.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of February 1, 2021

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of February 1, 2021

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Mr. Harrington, Andy, there is one correction on the very last page. It indicates next meeting is Monday, February 16, 2021 and it should be Tuesday, February 16th.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Duly noted.

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

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

Accounts Payable for week ending February 8th, 2021 - \$75,740.66

And that has been signed.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Accounts Payable manifest in the amount of \$75,740.66

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Accounts Payable for the week ending February 16th, 2021 - \$46,165.23

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Accounts Payable manifest in the amount of \$46,165.23

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Payroll Manifest for the week ending February 3rd, 2021 - \$71,650.52 (gross), \$46,795.98 (net)

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amounts noted above

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: Next up, we have a cemetery deed and this is (couldn't understand) cemetery deed. They are looking for three lots at Old Center. We have the deed before us and I believe they have paid the \$600.00 and we need a motion to move forward with that.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the sale of three cemetery lots in the Old Center Cemetery

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: That \$600.00 amount, is that \$600.00 times three or \$200.00 times three? I couldn't tell by reading the deed.

Chairman Robertson: That looked to me that it was the total of the deed.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I didn't think that they were that cheap but maybe I'm wrong.

Chairman Robertson: Do you have any further information on that John?

Mr. Harrington: I am looking at the deed myself. I can definitely verify with Peter Lemay but I am going to say that it is the total for all three.

Chairman Robertson: I think Dick raises an interesting point. That does seem really cheap and I thinking that maybe the maker of the motion and seconder of the motion sit on this until we can clarify the dollar amount.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can put it off until next Monday.

Selectman McGarry: I would go along with that.

Mr. Harrington: I can add that to the agenda.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Next up, we have a request from the Zoning Board to name three people to the Zoning Board.

This is long time member Anthony DiMauro as well as Jonathan Leer and Stephen Stevenson.

I don't know Mr. Leer or Mr. Stevenson but I did a little checking and they are certainly residents of good standing of Deerfield and have been put forth by a vote of the ZBA for recommendation.

So, I don't know what the Board's pleasure is?

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve all three that the Chairman listed for the ZBA

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have an application for a Veteran's Tax Credit. This is from Jeffrey Blinch. It's the standard \$750.00 credit that is allowable under RSA and town guidelines. The paperwork looked to be in order and appropriate.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit for Jeffrey Blinch

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Selectman Dill: I have to hold off on that because I am getting about every third word so I am not actually voting on stuff here.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, well we had three for the Veteran's Tax credit for Jeffrey Blinch.

We have an application for an Elderly Tax Exemption from Lucy Myers and she is looking for \$154,000.00 exemption and in speaking with both the Assessing Office and our assessing folks at Avatar, by virtue of the information she provided, she is not eligible for that credit, primarily due to assets and they are recommending that we deny the request for exemption.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do you need a motion saying that we deny it?

Chairman Robertson: We should have a motion.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to deny the Elderly Tax Credit requested by Lucy Myers

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Selectwoman McHugh: Why isn't she eligible?

Chairman Robertson: Because of the assets that she has. There is a sheet that you have to list what you have for liquid assets, hard assets. It's stipulated by state RSA and the town has adopted the guidelines as stipulated by RSA.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay, I see.

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

Chairman Robertson: So, the exemption is denied.

Okay, that was everything that required a vote.

I would note at this point, that we do need to go into non-public under RSA 91:A-3, II (I) this evening. We can do that at the end and I think that everyone has had a chance to review the Signatures and Correspondence that John had forwarded.

One thing that we should probably take up is the, we had a draft letter, just stating that the town opinion, the Board opinion with regard to COVID-19, I know Fred had provided some edits to that. Is the Board in general agreement that it is the acceptable statement for us to move forward with?

Selectman Dill: Yes, I am.

Chairman Robertson: Is anybody not in agreement?

Okay, then we should probably move forward with that with Fred's edits and at this point, I would look to the Town Administrator for the Town Administrator's Report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: I have a couple of items this evening.

I have an update to the Board from the fire department.

The Engine 2 pump is currently out of service which means that Engine 2 is out of service. I have filed a claim with Primex. I did that on the 5th.

The pump, during regular testing by our fire department, failed and they shut it down. It was brought for repairs and the recommendation at that time from the repair shop was that it was not worth fixing and needed to be replaced.

The estimated cost for the new pump is \$16,111.00. I do not have an estimate for freight or labor. That is coming and once I get those figures and documentation, I will pass that onto Primex in hopes that it may cover the failed pump.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Why would it cover the failed pump? Why would Primex cover that failed pump?

Mr. Harrington: As an equipment failure.

Selectman Dill: It's a pump. The insurance guy in me is laughing here. I don't think that we won't get much coverage.

Chairman Robertson: I think that they will deny it.

Mr. Harrington: I wanted to file it anyway in hopes that if they weren't going to cover it, at least they would be notified of an equipment failure.

Selectwoman McHugh: And it can't be fixed?

Mr. Harrington: That is the information that Chief Fisher got from the pump people. Apparently, it has already been rebuilt once but the damage to the interior of the pump from ongoing failure has rendered it not worth fixing it. Some of the parts that would be needed to repair the pump, would likely exceed what it would cost for a new pump.

Chairman Robertson: I think that was the pump that we ran a dead woodchuck through.

Selectman Dill: Isn't Engine 2 one of the older trucks though? I mean, is this one we are planning on replacing in a year or two, or five?

Mr. Harrington: Cindy, you're muted.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes, I am assuming it is but I don't understand why that pump can't be fixed. For \$16,000.00.

Chairman Robertson: Yes, I think it is probably a good idea to have Chief Fisher come discuss this with us, John.

Mr. Harrington: Absolutely.

Selectman Dill: I mean, even if we could fix it for eight or something which is still expensive to fix but God, that is a lot of money.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I bet it is going to be in the 20's before we are done if we go this route.

Chairman Robertson: Yup, well let's meet with Chief Fisher and find out exactly what the options are.

Selectman Dill: This short Monday meeting is getting a lot longer.

Mr. Harrington: For those folks that weren't aware of it, we did have some ongoing phone issues with the highway shed. That has been remedied today. They ended up replacing quite a bit of phone line that apparently had been struck by lightning further down the road. They replaced all that wire and the highway shed phone is back in operation.

In the interim, the road agent's phone was listed on the town website and on the highway page for people if they needed to contact him, they were calling his cellphone directly.

And, that is it for me this evening.

Chairman Robertson: Any questions for John this evening?

Hearing none, I will move on to unfinished and new business.

Unfinished and New Business:

I know that I had an exchange with Cindy earlier who was on some early morning, at least one early morning car accident, I believe this morning and had some concerns about the road.

I didn't know if you wanted to address that Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, the roads were pretty horrible this morning. When I went to bed at 11:00, the state went by fixing the roads, pretreating the roads and I talked to a couple of state people and they were out all night. They didn't go home.

Another surrounding town, they went out at six, pretreated the roads, went home, went to bed, got up at two and went back out to the roads.

Our roads were horrible today and I don't understand why. Where was our highway guys?

Chairman Robertson: That I don't know what their schedule is for pretreatment or what time they roll.

Selectwoman McHugh: Who's responsible for calling them? Is it the police department, is it the fire chief, is it?

Chairman Robertson: Typically, in my experience, the highway agent has determined the schedule for pretreatment and when they are going to roll and work in conjunction with both the school and the police department, that being the police department notices that things are icing up or things are getting more hazardous than they expected, they'll give him a call.

Otherwise, the morning time has been permuted on the commute time and school busses.

Selectwoman McHugh: My big concern today was this morning was that the car accident was minor. It was out on Cate Road down past the transfer station, the guy just didn't make the turn. He was going slow but it was so icy that you couldn't walk on them.

Had that been a real bad accident and we needed a couple more trucks with more equipment and maybe an ambulance or two, that would have been a nightmare so I just think, we did call and Steve sent a guy up but he didn't do anything. He backed up as far as he could and then drove off and he didn't get around the accident and he didn't come back 43 and come down Coffeetown to get that part, at least I never saw him and when I left, I called Steve and said, "Look, the coast is clear, you can get out there to sand that road".

So, I was just curious who determines when the highway guys go out, I guess.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, typically, it has been the highway agent that makes the call.

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't know, I don't know and Brown Road had incidences too.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Other Unfinished or New Business.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Would it be possible, is it too much work for John, I'd like to see a breakdown by storm of the different trucks, who's getting the hours in because we keep getting these payables and it is not broke out at all and I don't know, I think it would be interesting to tell the tax payers that the ice storm cost them \$20,000.00 to do and another one cost us twelve or thirty or whatever it is.

It just seems like it is really vague with the amount of money that we are spending and who's getting it. I didn't know if John could graph this. Certain weeks, different contractors will get a lot more. I know that they are not putting bills in, storm by storm, they are doing it when they want to get paid, I believe. It doesn't add up.

Mr. Harrington: What I might be able to do is that the plowing payroll sheets that do come in are put in by date so I might be able to organize whoever plowed, say on the 14th and identify who plowed on the 14th from what time and how many hours, if that would be helpful.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes, by date, by storm, by dollar amount, that would be great.

Mr. Harrington: I can do that, Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you, John.

Other new business or other business.

Okay, hearing none, at this point, I would entertain a motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91:A-3, II(I), discussion of legal matters whether an attorney is present or not.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go into non-public session under RSA 91:A-3 11(I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: I would note for the record that no action was taken in non-public session.

I don't believe that we need to seal the minutes because we are going to make a public motion at this point with, in regard with what was discussed so at this point, I would look for a motion to settle the BTLA Appeal of the Town of Deerfield verses PSNH that dates from 2014 and this would require us cutting a check in the amount of \$166,598.50.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve settling the BTLA Appeal, Town of Deerfield verses PSNH from 2014 and cutting a check in the amount of \$166,598.50.

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

And, we will take the \$166,598.50 from the General Fund. A portion of that will be accounted for on the 2020 books and a portion will be accounted on the 2021 books.

Okay, at this point, one last shout out to the Board for New or Other Business.

Selectwoman McHugh: Did we do that cemetery deed?

Chairman Robertson: We did not. We discussed whether the price was right on that. It was three plots and the amount was \$600.00 and it seemed low to us so we were going to bring that up at our next meeting.

Citizen's Comments:

None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:28 pm

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, February 22, 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*