

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 30, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 pm – Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order which was original scheduled for March 29, 2021 but was rescheduled due to lack of power and internet.

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

Absent: Alden Dill, Selectman (Chairman Robertson: I would note for people listening in that Mr. Dill will be joining us probably slightly later when he finishes evaporating a little more sap.

That said, we will forego the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag listed on the agenda as I'm not sure who has a flag and whether it is in vicinity.

Our first order of business this evening, is an appointment with Skip Kelley and I believe he wishes to address us regarding his application and recommendation from the Zoning Board of Adjustment for him to be an alternate on the ZBA and at this point, I would turn the floor over to you, Mr. Kelley, if you are with us.

And I can see that Mr. Kelley is with us but I can also see that he is muted. I'm not sure if that is on our end or his end.

Mr. Harrington: I'm asking him to unmute.

Skip Kelley – ZBA Alternate appointment:

Mr. Kelley: Can you hear me now?

Mr. Harrington: Here we go.

Chairman Robertson: I can hear you now, Mr. Kelly and I would turn the floor over to you at this point.

Mr. Kelley: Okay, so, thank you.

First thing, just a minor item since I know that we keep minutes. My last name is actually spelled, K-E-L-L-E-Y so if somebody, whoever takes the minutes, could make that correction, I would appreciate it.

Chairman Robertson: We can get that handled.

Mr. Kelley: Okay, so, I wanted to address some comments that were made regarding my offer to become an alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjusters so I prepared a little blurb I'm going to read and I'll stand ready for questions if anyone has any afterward.

Chairman Robertson: Great, thank you.

Mr. Kelley: I understand that there are some concern citizens who think my offer to serve as ZBA Alternative is somehow, unwise and should be rejected by the Select Board due to the fact that I'm a real estate developer.

I have inferred from this, that the concern is I either am or will be pro-development.

That assumption is highly prejudicial and unreasonable in my opinion.

If, it is the intention of the town to stack the ZBA so it is either pro or anti-development, I want my offer to serve be withdrawn.

The purpose of the ZBA is simply to determine whether or not, five criteria are met. The fact that I'm a real estate developer gives me insight that not every citizen has, in that I have experience with the variance process.

If we wish to apply the logic that I am inherently inappropriate to serve on the ZBA, then by the same logic, civil engineers, surveyors, loggers, excavation contractors, real estate agents, well drillers and landscapers could never serve on the Planning Board.

Likewise, environmental experts, soil scientists, arborists could never serve on the Conservation Commission.

If, on the other hand, someone has an issue with me personally, I've yet to hear it but I invite anyone to put their concerns on the table, here and now and that (couldn't transcribe last of sentence).

Chairman Robertson: Okay, do Board members have questions for Mr. Kelley at this point?

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, I have a question. Skip, this is Fred McGarry. One of the concerns raised was the potential conflict of interest that may end up having, may be occurring, with some cases coming before the ZBA which you are appointed as an alternate to, how would you deal with a potential conflict?

Mr. Kelley: Let me be very clear. (Audio was muffled) anything to do with the case, I will absolutely recuse myself.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: I would mention just for the record here, I did talk to Skip this past week.

I know the Board was somewhat confused as to whether Skip was before the Planning Board or before the Zoning Board with his present development on Mt. Delight Road and I think it is worth mentioning that in my discussion with Skip, he made it clear that the lot on Kettle Rock Road has actually been sold to another individual and he is not seeking to develop that. He is no longer before the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board had given him a variance on the frontage of that lot. Skip sold that piece of property to an abutting property owner and is now focusing on a subdivision that is going before the Planning Board. I believe there is a Public Hearing coming up fairly shortly for a development off of Mt. Delight Road which meets the frontage requirements and does not involve Class VI roads.

I think, it wasn't mentioned in the meeting but I think that had weighed on some of the select board members minds when we first saw the application or the recommendation from the Zoning Board for appointment.

Mr. Kelley: If I may add to that Andy, in fact, you can check with Jane Boucher, I told her probably six or eight months ago that I was interested in offering myself as an alternate to the ZBA, however, I knew that I had a case coming before the ZBA and I said that at this point, I don't want you to even mention it to anyone because I don't anyone to think that I am looking for any undue influence of any kind. So, again, I encourage you to verify that with Jane Boucher.

Also, I wanted to point out Andy, when you say that I sold a lot, it's on paper that I have a contractual agreement to sell the lot. It has not yet been deeded to the other party. It is all pending, some lot line adjustments and so forth that I am doing with the Planning Board.

And, again, I want to state this as clearly as possible, I'm not looking for anyone's special treatment on anything at anytime of any kind. I don't do business that way. I don't want to do business that way.

This is borne of one single fact. I have lived in this town a long time. I love the town. I care about it. I have three of my four children living here, five of my seven grandchildren living here so if you want to know my vested interest, it's them.

I felt that it was time that I offered to do something. Other members of my family, as you folks may know, have done various volunteer things for the town of Deerfield. I have not. I thought that it was high time that I did some of that myself and that is the sole reason I offered to get on the ZBA.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. I don't know, does anyone else on the Board have questions for Mr. Kelley?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I just want Skip to know that there were no negative comments from the Board at that meeting but just because of the unclarified information that we had about Kettle Rock and that his name wasn't brought forward, that was the only reason, there was no bad blood.

Mr. Kelley: Sure.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And it needs to be on the record.

Mr. Kelley: Absolutely reasonable. I have no issue with that, Dick.

Chairman Robertson: I don't know what the Board's position is at this point, if you want to take Skip's comments under advisement and bring this up at our next meeting or if people want to consider action now or now but I will leave that for the Board to advise me.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, I know that we have had some letters from taxpayers so maybe we should take it under advisement and get a chance to read those and make a decision at the next meeting.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, I think that that is a fair way to move forward. We will be meeting in two weeks and we've had Skip's presentation this evening and appreciate him clarifying his intentions and coming to us.

Not necessarily an easy or want a thing to do but we appreciate your time, Skip and I think that the Board will take your comments under advisement and make some sort of decision at our next meeting unless I hear a disagreement from the Board.

Mr. Kelley: Absolutely, thank you very much and listen, I stand by whatever the Board decides. I will take issue with no one. I just wanted to say my piece and I appreciate given the time to do that so, thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Absolutely, thank you, Skip.

Moving on, our next appointment is with Fire Chief Matt Fisher and this is regarding potential, new part-time fire fighter and EMT rescue hires and this is in keeping with the slots that the chief has discussed with us off and on over the past couple of years and I would turn the floor over to you, Matt, at this time.

Mr. Harrington: He was with us, Andy, I do not see him right at this moment.

Chairman Robertson: I was just noticing that his phone number had disappeared.

If you can hear us, Matt, if not, I am going to move on to regular business. If he rejoins us, we can plug him back in. I believe he just wanted to discuss the applicants that he wants to put forward for those time slots that he had.

Mr. Harrington: I believe so.

Chairman Robertson: I am not seeing Matt reoccur here so I am going to move to review of outstanding minutes and I believe that we have minutes from March 15th, 2021.

Mr. Harrington: March 16th.

Chairman Robertson: Well, the agenda said the 15th but I will go with the 16th.

Mr. Harrington: That's a typo, Andy, it's the 16th.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of March 16th, 2021

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the minutes of March 16, 2021 as presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable:

Accounts Payable for the week ending March 22, 2021 - \$1,044,919.61

And, I would note that this has already been signed by the Board.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Accounts Payable for week ending March 22, 2021 in the amount of \$1,044,919.61

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Accounts Payable for the week ending March 29, 2021 in the amount of \$22,813.81

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$22,813.81

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Payroll Manifest for the week ending March 17, 2021 - \$68,772.33 (gross), \$44,791.29 (net). (This has also been signed by the Board previously)

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Payroll Manifest for week ending March 17, 2021 as presented

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

(Alden Dill has joined the meeting)

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

Mr. Harrington: Andy, sorry for interrupting, Matt is back with us.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. So, I am going to stop with our regular business at payroll and recognize Fire Chief, Matt Fisher to discuss the new, part-time fire fighter and EMT hires that he's proposing.

Chief Fisher: Can everybody hear me?

Multiple members of the Board stated yes.

Chief Fisher: Sorry about that, my internet froze up and dropped out of my computer.

I am before the Board to propose providing conditional offers to three new part-time firefighter/EMT on-call positions.

We advertised at the state Fire Academy, the Municipal Association, and a few other locations, I believe.

Looking at a few more folks to be on the on-call list for part-time firefighter/EMT positions.

I have five, well I had several apply, or send in resumes and applications, five of which met at least the minimum criteria, three were able to make our interviews last week, two were not. I was able to interview one of those two earlier this week and those are the three names before you.

One would be Matt Dube. The second would be Adam Schaub and the third is Ian McFarland.

Chairman Robertson: Are any of these folks presently on our department, Matt?

Chief Fisher: They are not.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Are they from the area?

Chief Fisher: One is from, is currently on Northwood Fire, one is on Epsom and the other, the third individual lives in Massachusetts, is on Candia but is in the area quite a bit so he would be available more as, well all these positions are on-call, truly on-call, filling shifts.

Vice Chairman Pitman: When you say on-call, will they have specified hours?

Chief Fisher: So, how we have been running the program is, say, in the middle of let's say March, I put up a calendar and let the part-time members sign up for their shifts and then I schedule them basically and they fill in those days.

So, it is listed as on-call as we only have on paper, two, 30-hour a week positions which are filled by those two main members, if you will, but primarily through the on-call members that supplement, if I explained that correctly.

Selectman Dill: So, Matt, how many on-call guys would this make?

Chief Fisher: I would list it as the part-time, it would list us at eight, I believe.

Selectman Dill: But, basically, so you will have two that you are primarily scheduling and then six to fill in when those two can't make it?

Chief Fisher: All eight are primarily scheduled because one of them works, it's how the shifts are filled, basically because the other, they all have full-time jobs somewhere else so it's their availability that fills the open hours.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That was my next question. Aren't they full-time elsewhere, Matt?

Chief Fisher: No, they all have full-time jobs but not all of them are on full-time departments.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, their jobs aren't full-time fire.

Chief Fisher: Not all of them.

Chairman Robertson: Any other questions for the chief?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'm all set.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, so I, so essentially, do we need a motion at this time, John, or would we wait until we see the Personnel Action Requests come forward for the three?

Mr. Harrington: I will have the three ready for you with the meeting on the 12th and you can your motion at that time.

Chairman Robertson: Great.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that soon enough for you, Matt?

Chief Fisher: Yes, we are still doing backgrounds and physicals and that sort of thing so we are still in that process so the three of them won't be working between now and then anyway so that should work.

Selectwoman McHugh: Matt, did you interview the Epsom guy?

Chief Fisher: Yes, that is that third name, Ian McFarland.

Chairman Robertson: Other questions for Matt?

Selectman Dill: Well, I might have missed it. Did we get the pump set up Matt?

Chief Fisher: It is, it is currently at the fire house in Engine 2 getting replumbed and fit for the truck. Very hopefully that in the next few days Engine 2 will be back in service.

Selectman Dill: Thanks.

Chairman Robertson: All right, if there is no further questions or comments for Matt, I would thank you for joining us and appreciate the input regarding the three, potential new hires.

Chief Fisher: I apologize for the struggle on my end.

Chairman Robertson: No worries, I apologize for delaying the meeting to another night.

Signatures/Correspondence:

Okay, at this point I am going to go back to our regular business schedule and next up on our agenda items for, not actually on this agenda specifically but it is a 2020 audit questionnaire and this is from Plodzick and Anderson. I hope people had a chance to review that. It is really basic. It is an intricate part of the audit process and we need to make a motion to move forward and sign the questionnaire. John has filled it out.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, Andy, so is this what, I can't think of her name, Rita, is this who she recommended after the other bids?

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, John, can you jump in on that?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, this was the winning bidder that the Board went along with Rita's recommendation and awarded the contract for auditing of the town.

Chairman Robertson: This is the standard questionnaire that they submit prior to beginning work for us.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

Mr. Harrington: The Board fills out one, the Trustees of the Trust Funds fill out a questionnaire, the Library fills out and also the town treasurer.

You each have your own questionnaires.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve Plodzick and Sanderson

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Chairman Robertson: I would note that we have a motion and a second to complete and sign the Plodzick and Sanderson audit questionnaire that has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Dill: I assume that we are authorizing Andy, as the Chair, to fill it out?

Chairman Robertson: It has, John has actually or Rita has actually completed it I think for the most part as to how we would, it is a yes or no question, fairly straight forward. I believe I do have to sign it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You can add that to the motion to have it signed by the chairman.

Chairman Robertson: Is that agreeable to the second?

Selectman McGarry: The second agrees.

Chairman Robertson: Further discussion?

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

Chairman Robertson: Next up, we have a Personnel Action Request appointing Susan Crone to the Library Staff and this is as a replacement for Ann Vennerbeck.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Personnel Action Request for Susan Crone as presented

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have another Personnel Action Request for the appointment of Jessica White as the new Deerfield Parks and Recreation Commission transcriptionist, basically, taking minutes at the recreation commission meetings.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the Personnel Action Request for Jessica White

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We also have the Plodzick and Sanderson letter. I actually do not have a printed copy of that we basically need a motion to accept them as our new auditor.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve Plodzick and Sanderson as the town's new audit company

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have an application from Primex for Cyber Security Insurance. This is their public entity application which they are requesting us to fill out. This isn't a part of our standard package. It is an add-on from another insurance company by Primex for our benefit and this essentially covers us because we accept credit cards and personal information online at this point and they are asking for a little bit more information.

I know that John sent that application copy to all of us to review but it's fairly straight forward and we need a motion to proceed with that and I think that it is extremely valuable that we have cyber security coverage in place as we are now taking people's credit cards and personal information online.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Then you recommend it, then.

Chairman Robertson: I surely do.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve filling out the application from Primex regarding cyber security insurance

Second: Selectman Dill and Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Mr. Harrington: I would note that the chairman only needs to sign the application.

Chairman Robertson: It is a chair only signature on the application.

And I would note that the chair has nothing to do with the insurance company or the brokerage or the agency or anything else placing this.

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

Chairman Robertson: We have the oath sheet for the police department's new hire, that being Officer or Officer Pro-Temp, John Delaney, that we need a motion to approve so we can move forward with the hiring John and getting him into the academy.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the hiring of John Delaney for the police department

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: Okay, and we also have two oath sheets from the Heritage Commission. One is for Debra Murphy and the other is for Carol Levesque, both who are long standing members of the Heritage Commission and the Heritage Commission is wishing to reappoint them and we would need a motion and a second to authorize reappointment to Debra Murphy and Carol Levesque.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve reappoint to the Heritage Commission for Debra Murphy and Carol Levesque

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: Moving on to our assessing business, we have a Land Use Change Tax assessment for 51 Church, LLC in the amount of \$245.00, if we could get a motion to levy that tax.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to collect the LUCT from 51 Church, LLC in the amount of \$245.00

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have an Intent to Cut from Roscoe Blaisdell. This is for Map 418, Lot 004. This is off of Mountain Road.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do we need a motion for that, Andy?

Chairman Robertson: Actually, we don't need a motion. Just make note of it.

Selectman Dill: Have we authorized truck travel yet? That would be my only concern in there.

Chairman Roberson: I believe the weight limit signs have all been pulled at this point.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: I would also note, every morning when I run, for the past two weeks, I have been passed by a number of logging (audio not understandable) a little before daylight.

Mr. Harrington: The anticipated start date listed, Alden, is May 1st. We should be dry by then.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, we have an abatement request and this is NH Electric Coop, were they the sole entity on this John?

Mr. Harrington: Yes

Chairman Robertson: I wasn't able to print. For utilities.

Mr. Harrington: Yes, NH Electric Coop.

Chairman Robertson: And it is recommended that we grant the abatement?

Mr. Harrington: No, it's actually recommended that the abatement be denied and a letter by Gary Roberge.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you for that correction.

Can I get a motion to deny the abatement request from the NH Coop?

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to denied the abate request submitted by NH Electric Coop

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

And before I jump into the next one, I have an abatement request from G. Gauthier and this is for Map 408, Lot 048 of \$497.65.

My recollection is that this was agreeable to abate, John?

Mr. Harrington: The assessor is recommending the abatement and I want to make a correction; it looks like the amount of the abatement is \$497.65.

Chairman Robertson: So, that is what I had.

Mr. Harrington: Okay, sorry.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, is there a motion to grant the abatement per the recommendation of our assessor?

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the abatement for G. Gauthier in the amount of \$497.65 per the assessor

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have an abatement request from the Gazouski's and this is for Map 208, Lot 049 and John, I don't have the abatement amount listed on this that was requested.

Mr. Harrington: There was none listed because it is recommended to be denied.

Chairman Robertson: Could I get a motion to deny the abatement request from the Gazouski's for Map 208, Lot 049?

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to deny the abatement request from the Gazouski's for Map 208, Lot 049

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have a veteran's credit and this is for the standard credit. This is from S. Orr and this is regarding property Map 415, Lot 084. Paperwork appeared to be order when I reviewed it, could use a motion and a second.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the standard veteran's credit to S. Orr

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: Okay, we need to levy a timber yield tax to Mr. Roscoe Blaisdell for timber harvested off of Lot 418-004. The timber tax levy is \$214.19 and John, is this the corrected amount for the one that we had already levied?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, it is.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. Yeah, this is an adjusted amount from our previous levy that we had approved.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the timber tax levy of \$214.19 from Roscoe Blaisdell

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have a yield tax levy and this is for Katherine and Eric Berglund, Lot 409-76 and 210-33, sub-parcels 1 and 2 and the timber tax levy is in the amount of \$317.75.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to collect said yield tax levy from Katherine and Eric Berglund

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We have a notice of, and these don't require a vote, but I am just going to read them in the schematic here.

Notice of Intent to Excavate by Steve Rollins and that looks like it's beginning 3/31/2021 and another Notice of Intent to Excavate by Steve Rollins for 2021 into 2022.

Those don't require action from the Board of Selectmen at this time but we do have an excavation tax investment levied on Steve Rollins at Lot 209-035 in the amount of \$396.86 that we do need a motion and a second to levy.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to levy said tax from Steve Rollins

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: We had a number of pieces of correspondence that the Board has reviewed. I don't know if anyone wishes to comment on those in public at this time?

Hearing nothing, I would move onto the Town Administrator's Report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: One of the items that I wanted to discuss this evening which the Board has brought up previously, was the crushing of our town-owned reclaim sitting at the town pit.

I had a discussion with Steve Rollins and asked him to resubmit an updated quote for his equipment only using the smaller crusher which is less expensive per hour than the two previously quoted.

As has been done in the past, which is why I included the expense report from 2018, or 2019, excuse me, which illustrates in the past, that the agreement was to crush up to a certain amount of money. After that, it's done.

And, in doing that, I looked at our budget and I am assuming the default budget line-item number of \$16,000.00 for gravel processing. \$3,211.00 has already been spent out of that line which if we were to propose a \$10,000.00 crushing limit, that would leave about \$2,700.00 left over for other gravel products if the road agent needed to purchase them.

I do believe that Steve is on the line. I also asked him to calculate, based on the per hour rental, how many tons could be crushed in an hour which would help us gauge what it's costing us per ton, using his equipment.

Steve, are you there?

Mr. Rollins: I am.

Mr. Harrington: Would you like to add to that conversation?

Mr. Rollins: Just the math, if you want it.

Mr. Harrington: Sure.

Chairman Robertson: That would be good.

Mr. Rollins: Okay, so, right now when you purchase reclaim from me, it's costing \$10.62 a ton and if we crush the reclaim that we have, it's not a get rich but it is a savings as it brings it down to \$8.14 a ton.

Selectman Dill: How much of the pile that the town owns can you crush for the \$10,000.00?

Mr. Rollins: Oh, I am guessing probably a third to maybe half.

Selectman Dill: So, we have a big pile up there?

Mr. Rollins: Yeah. I mean, it all depends on, so now we are using just the little crusher so we are going to be picking through it as we do it but that machine puts out about, safely about 65-yards per hour. So, the excavator has got time to pick through so it shouldn't be bad.

Selectman Dill: Now, are we going to use the loader that we are renting from you up at the shed as well?

Mr. Rollins: That was the original plan except the rental ends, I think, tomorrow.

Selectman Dill: That was what I was thinking, yeah.

Mr. Rollins: Yeah, so I was trying to get this all done sooner so that we could do that but now we are not so the price is figured in with all the pieces of equipment.

Chairman Robertson: Up to \$10,000.00.

Mr. Rollins: Yes. Well, whatever you guys tell me you want done.

Originally, you guys wanted everything so that is why the price was as high as it was because you wanted everything cleaned up and in the past, when I have done it for other previous road agents, they just gave me a dollar amount and told me to crush that much and then they would just add to the piles more.

That is how the pile got to be so big, I believe.

Chairman Robertson: Other questions for Steve while we got him with us?

Selectman Dill: So, we wouldn't, we wouldn't be making any new material, we're not bringing in any more reclaim in to crush until we know what we are doing for road projects so this would at least shrink the pile, you think, by a third to half?

Mr. Rollins: Exactly.

Selectman Dill: Okay. That would make sense.

Mr. Rollins: Hopefully. No matter how you figure it, it's a \$2.50 at least savings and I figured my math on the tight side so that if anything we will probably make more material because the machine actually does do better than 65 but I wanted to count on worse-case scenario.

Selectman Dill: And, what do we have down there to load it onto the trucks? We just have to bring the backhoe down if we wanted to haul it out?

Mr. Rollins: Yeah, well what we do now, if we know that we are doing a lot of something but we do put some small stockpiles behind the town shed for the midnight washout or the one load here, one load there thing.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Chairman Robertson: Other questions?

Mr. Rollins: I would like to add, if I can, the reclaim in the spots that we did use it, I remember that we had a discussion about using reclaim verses not and in some spots where we did use it, it worked out in our favor this spring and actually, Carl and I have had a pretty lengthy discussion about trying a couple of spots where we think it may save us some summertime, washboard problems and possibly some springtime mud problems.

So, we have a little test spot that we want to try some on and see if it is going to be effective in other spots in town.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. So, I don't know if the Board wants to move forward. I know time is sort of the essence here with regard to grinding this reclaim and having it available for our use but what's the Board's pleasure?

Selectman Dill: I say let's move ahead with it with \$10,000.00 as a set figure and see how far it gets us.

Selectman McGarry: Yes, that makes sense.

Chairman Robertson: Is there a disagreement?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes. I don't have a problem with Steve but I have a problem of it by the hour and would it be \$10,000.00 worth. Everything else that we do goes out to bid.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, well, I think that we should probably put this to a motion then. Is someone willing to make a motion?

Vice Chairman Pitman: If he wants to say that he guarantees so many tons at \$8.00 a ton or whatever times that to do that to \$10,000.00, I'm in favor but if he can't, I can't vote for it.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, well, we're at a little bit of a stalemate then. I don't know if you have anything that you can add Steve?

Mr. Rollins: Well, I can't guarantee tons because the town doesn't have scales. I can guarantee yards.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I would rather see it by the yard, Steve (couldn't understand).

Mr. Rollins: Well, 75, well the machine will do 75 a yard, 75 yards per hour. I told you guys that it would do 65 just to be safe so...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Fire up your calculator, Fred. What is 10,000 into 75?

Selectman McGarry: I will have to grab it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't have one here so ...

Mr. Rollins: So, we already planned on 65 to be safe.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Let's split the difference and say 70.

Selectman McGarry: 143.

Mr. Rollins: Okay, sure.

Vice Chairman Pitman: 143 what?

Selectman Dill: 143 yards in 10,000 at 70 yards an hour.

Mr. Rollins: I don't think your math is right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't think it is right at all.

Mr. Rollins: What you want to do is multiply 65 times the number of hours. So, you have to divide the \$440.00 an hour by \$10,000.00. That will give you the number of hours and then multiply the number of hours by the 65 yards per hour.

Mr. Harrington: If you divide 440 into 10,000, it gives you 22.72.

Mr. Rollins: Now, multiply that by 65 yards.

Mr. Harrington: 22.72 times 65?

Mr. Rollins: Yup.

Mr. Harrington: 1,476

Mr. Rollins: There you go.

Selectman Dill: That is at 65 yards. Can you do that by 70?

Mr. Harrington: 1,590.

Mr. Rollins: Yup, 1500 yards. And, I'm guessing there is 4,000 or so up there so ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, it would be 1500 yards for \$10,000.00, is that what you are saying?

Mr. Rollins: Yup.

Mr. Harrington: That would be \$6.28 a yard.

Selectman McGarry: Yup.

Mr. Rollins: Yup. I came up with my math with \$6.76, just to be safe but ...

Mr. Harrington: You were basing that on 65 yards.

Mr. Rollins: Yes, I was.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, just for the record, how many yards, Steve, can we get for \$10,000.00, approximately?

Mr. Rollins: Approximately, 1500. Either way, you are going to save yourself \$2.50 buying it from me.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, in your defense, we're saving a lot more than that because a yard weighs a lot more than a ton.

Mr. Rollins: Well, that is why I did the math to the ton for you but then you wanted it converted back to the yard.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right, but it is a better deal with you doing it by the ton.

Mr. Rollins: If you do it by the ton, then it is going to cost roughly, and this is on the high side just to be safe, \$8.14 a ton where you are buying it from me for \$10.62 a ton so I am shooting myself in the foot by crushing your material but I am cleaning up the mess in the pit that basically, is hazardous material that needs to be cleaned up and giving us room in the pit to use that property for other stock piles of other stuff and cleaning up an eye sore and getting us the material cheaper.

Selectwoman McHugh: Steve, when you are going to move this, are the town guys going to move it and bring it back once it's crushed?

Mr. Rollins: No, we're crushing it right in the pit. That is what we do. We move our ...

That's another thing, I'm not charging you to move in and set up. That was always, when I did that for Mark, he just, what he would do is typically, I'd have a two-hour, basically charge for moving and set up. Well, I'm right down the street.

Now, it does take an hour or more to tear it down and set it back up but for Mark, he would just, one of my hours was the move so he would just give me an hour to move because obviously, the loader and the excavator don't take any time to move. So, he would give me an hour to set up and tear down.

Now, if I am in there for a week, I would only charge a move, for anyone else, one-way but obviously, less than a week, it isn't worth ...

And as far as getting a price from anyone else, I don't know anyone else that is going to come in there for 22 hours and crush. You are more than welcome to look around.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, I don't even want to get one. I just want to make sure that everything is on the level here, how much for how much.

Mr. Rollins: The only person that I am shooting in the foot here is me.

Chairman Robertson: I am going to move back. I think that this would probably be best decided by having a motion as to whether to authorize Steve to process, based on the discussion that we have had, up to \$10,000.00 worth of reclaim that we have in the town pit and I think that the easiest way to get through this would be that someone could make a motion and we can get a second on it.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve Deerfield Sand and Gravel to process \$10,000.00 worth or reclaim located at the town pit

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: Selectwoman McHugh: I just want to clarify, Steve, what will, what are you estimating \$10,000.00 will give us?

Mr. Rollins: Approximately 1500 yards.

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

Chairman Robertson: It appears to be unanimous so we will move forward, Steve, if you can get that going as soon as you are able to move forward and I appreciate the background information that you gave us this evening.

Mr. Rollins: All right. Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, back to the Town Administrator's Report.

Mr. Harrington: Okay, a couple more items.

I have contacted Brookside Mechanical. This is an update on the rooftop venting at the GBW.

They came in and assessed all the venting and they will be sending me a quote for the necessary repairs to make the ventilation operational but in addition to some new units, a couple of them are rusted, frozen and they are no longer operational. In order to get them up and running, those units would have to be replaced and somewhere in the history of doing work at the back end of the building, the electrical supply was cut off to all of the venting down there. I believe it was around the time the generator was put in and they put in the new panels.

As I get the story from Rick Pelletier, there was a decision made that that was not essential so they disconnected all the power to those vents which will need to be reconnected.

I've got several calls out to electricians. I have not heard back as to the estimate of what that might cost and once, I have all those quotes, I'll be back to the Board to let you know whether or not you want to move forward with this project which is critical to Parks and Rec opening up their programs because we had to improve the venting.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Selectman Dill: There is no state money or grants or anything like that at this point for things like that, correct?

Mr. Harrington: There is the Federal American Recovery Plan. I don't have any of the details yet. We are all still waiting here with what we can spend it on.

There is a possibility that infrastructure costs might be part of that spending process. If so, I will absolutely take advantage of those dollars to apply it to this because it is directly related to COVID-19.

I will keep you posted on that.

For the 2021 bids that are getting ready to be put out there and published, there's two sections. There are the highway bids which involve road reconstruction, roadside mowing and winter sand and paving.

The plan that I had was to post the road reconstruction, roadside mowing and winter sand on April 1st. Those would be due back into my office April 16th.

And the Board, if they agree to hold an additional meeting, would be able to open those bids on the 19th. That is currently not a scheduled meeting but in order to keep ahead of the bidding process and keep it earlier, we were a little late last year, back in May.

The mowing should really be decided and moved on when they come in.

If the Board is agreeable, I can schedule an additional meeting on the 19th to review those bids.

Chairman Robertson: That makes sense to me. I don't know if there is any opposition among other Board members?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Not at all. I was going to bring it up under New Business with all that we have going on, meeting weekly for the next couple of weeks so we can get some of this behind us. To see the paperwork first and pass along the table and we can bring that up later.

Mr. Harrington: And then the paving bid, I wanted to ask the Board, what type of bid was the Board interested in publishing this year.

Last year, we went to a new style of bid. It was very detailed, multiple sections to it as opposed to the previous bids that the town has used since I've been here.

So, is there any indication if we want to continue using that process or go back to the old version?

Chairman Robertson: I will look to the rest of the Board. I know Fred put quite a bit of work into that and I think a lot of that was based on his experience with state protocols for bid performance and it seemed to work for us this year.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think it makes a difference if we are going to be doing reconstruction or if we are going to be topping. I think that when we get a figure of just how much we should be topping, there won't be a lot of reconstruction money this year which would make it a lot easier.

Selectman Dill: The problem, like you were pointing out John, is that we don't know if we have that warrant article until late June.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We have \$257,000.00.

Mr. Harrington: I was just going to talk further on that.

What my recommendation is, we do a first post for just the \$257,000.00 which we know we are likely to have, even in the default budget and in the secondary bid, send that out after the voting to see if that paving warrant is approved and then you will have an additional \$250,000.00.

I don't think we can post the whole amount of money, not knowing if the warrant passes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, that wouldn't be right.

Mr. Harrington: Now, as far as the roads to be paved, that's why I sent that list out to you today to begin to look at. Whatever style of bid we use, we are going to need to list what needs to be done on what roads but before we can do that, we will need some kind of general estimate as to the work being done on the roads you're listing to not go over that \$257,000.00.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, and I think it comes back to Dick's point this evening. We need to figure out whether we're going to invest heavily in reconstruction or if we are going to complete some of the projects that simply need top layers that we had reconstructed previously and haven't completed.

Selectman Dill: I can't get that email that you sent out to zoom in but just when I can later John, it's the yellow stuff at the top that is a priority, correct?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, the entire list is prioritized. As I explained to the Board earlier, that list is first sorted by the heaviest used road in the worse condition and if you look at the columns for priority, those are all the "5's" and 5's mean that those roads are used the most in town.

So, South Road would be heavily used. Maple Ave, not so much. That's more of a road to service ...

And then among those level 5 roads, again sorted it by worse condition to best condition. That's how it filters to the top, those sections of road.

Selectman Dill: It just zoomed in and now it makes sense, thank you John.

Selectman McGarry: And those roads, those road sections that are on the list, would probably, would probably be requiring some kind of reconstruction and as a consequence, would be a high cost per running foot verses if we are just going to be doing an overlay, that's going to be relatively inexpensive by comparison.

Mr. Harrington: Each one of those roads segments has a number which corresponds to the large map that I have posted down in the conference room so someone would have to go in and analyze where that location is and then look further in the chart.

They have listed what condition that the road is in and what it would require to bring its standard up.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You don't get any deals with a bunch of chop, chop, chop around town.

Selectman Dill: Especially with those first two also having poor drainage conditions. They are going to require more work then just laying some pavement over it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Just so it gets in the minutes, I would like to see John talk with the previous road agent and confirm 7700 feet of Griffin Road and Parade and Nottingham which are projects that are done and need to be finished to see what that comes in at.

Chairman Robertson: And I don't even think you are going to need to confer too much with Mark because those were all pretty well documented when we approved the initial phases of work on those roads. It should be able to find that in the minutes pretty easily.

Mr. Harrington: So, you said Griffin Road and I'm sorry...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Parade and Nottingham. All have base coats that haven't been finished with the top coat.

Mr. Harrington: Griffin, Parade and Nottingham?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Mr. Harrington: Okay. So, the Board would like me to talk to Mark?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, I think that is the general consensus and I think that he will also find, pretty clearly, in the minutes how many feet.

Mr. Harrington: I will get in touch with him this week.

And one other, two other items.

As far as the town mowing, it would include buildings and grounds, transfer station, waterholes, cisterns and athletic fields and cemeteries.

Again, my date schedule would be posting on the 1st of April. Those would be due in to my office by the 23rd and then the Board would open and review them on the 26th so that way I am splitting up the highway bids from the rest of them as to not have so many bids to open in one night.

Chairman Robertson: Is the Board in general agreement that that's agreeable?

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's kind of late on the mowing but that's okay.

(Others agreed it was okay)

Mr. Harrington: And the last thing to mention, there is a scheduled Earth Day this year. It is on April 17th from 9 to 11:30 however this year there will not be the traditional lunch at town hall.

Chairman Robertson: Just the trash pickup.

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Dill: If people want to get bags, John, who do they get in touch with?

Mr. Harrington: We have a box of bags right out in front of GBW every day. They can come in and help themselves. We put the box out every morning.

Chairman Robertson: Anything else, John?

Mr. Harrington: That's it for me tonight.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, moving onto new or other business.

New or Other Business:

Chairman Robertson: One thing I would mention and I mentioned this briefly to John, something that has concerned me a little bit over the past few years is a number of vacant homes we have in Deerfield at present.

We've got a couple of sites with mobile homes that have been sort of semi-abandoned. We also have some homes that are owned by Eversource or owned by a subsidiary of Eversource in neighborhoods that have now been vacant for four or five years.

There is some concern, in my mind, to have the community have vacant property and I don't know offhand what we have for ordinances in town. I believe that we may have some, at least, skeleton ordinance with regard to vacant property but it seems to me that we might reach out to some of these property owners.

I'm thinking of a property with a couple of mobile homes on it on South Road. I'm thinking of a property on Mt. Delight Road that has an abandoned mobile home with a seasonal camper set up on it now. I'm thinking of the Eversource home on Haynes Road, the Eversource home on Cate Road.

These properties have been vacant for a long time now with no particular action in at least in the last five years and I don't know if it's necessarily good for these neighborhoods to have just vacant homes present.

We also have the, and I am not sure of the intention of the auction buyer for the home on Birch Road but that certainly I think construes a safety hazard among other things. It's not well secured. The floors are not stable.

I'm thinking I'm not going to make any particular suggestion or motion this evening but it is something that the Board should consider, at least in my mind, reaching out to property owners and asking what their intention is and advising them that we would like to see something happen with these properties.

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that something Rick, who would do that, John or Rick?

Chairman Robertson: Well, I think, Rick would do it. As I said, I'm not, I haven't had a chance to dig into our ordinances and see what the specifics or any ordinance we might have but I think that the Board should probably direct Rick.

If we have an ordinance in effect, the Board should probably direct Rick to act upon them. If we don't have ordinances in effect, we may want to consider ordinance, particularly as some of these sites have gone on for well over five years with no habitation and sort of open residential structures.

They are an attractive nuisance. I think that they are a danger you know, in terms of kids, that sort of thing.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Are they paying their taxes and just vacant?

Chairman Robertson: I think in some cases they are paying their taxes. In some cases, they may be a little bit behind on the taxes but yeah, they are just sort of abandoned residences.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, we can't use that for ammunition as far as unpaid taxes.

Chairman Robertson: No, I don't think there is any one that has hit, that has crossed the three-year point in regard to unpaid taxes. Certainly not Eversource but I'm also uncertain as to why Eversource needs to own perfectly inhabitable residential property and keep it vacant for five years plus.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, I think you are right. What we need to do is get started.

Chairman Robertson: I think the first thing is probably for me to talk to Rick Pelletier and find out what we have for ordinance in town with regard to abandon or unoccupied property and move forward from there but I just wanted to bring it up to the whole board.

Selectman McGarry: I think that the only thing we have in the Zoning Ordinance is in regard to a collapsed or burned buildings. I don't think there is anything in there but Rick is probably more familiar with it than I am but I think that is probably the only thing we have.

Chairman Robertson: Well, I think that we have a couple of these that are on the verge of collapse. We may have to hold up a little bit then.

Other new business or other business?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can we discuss our next meeting?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, absolutely.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It is time to start, with just the selectmen and John, meeting at the GBW?

Chairman Robertson: Yes. I am sorry, Dick. I sent out an email saying that I would bring that up tonight and I had completely forgotten about it. Not forgotten about it, just got caught up in the other items.

I guess the email that I had sent out earlier was to basically, query the Board as to whether it is time for us to start meeting as a group again at the GBW.

In my email, I had mentioned I didn't know if we necessarily didn't want to invite the wholesale public back to our meetings. It would be us, masked and distanced accordingly and invited guests if we needed to speak to someone, particularly if we need to look at plans or need to look at paperwork and wanted to get the Board's pulse on whether that was something we were ready to start doing again or not.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I figure if we can space out on the table and get a little more room than we had, six feet apart.

Chairman Robertson: I think at this point, the majority of the Board, and not to disclose personal medical information but I think the majority of us have been vaccinated or are close to being vaccinated and I am comfortable with it.

Selectman McGarry: The Planning Board has been following that procedure and it seems to have worked out okay for us.

Chairman Robertson: John has assured me that he can still include, fully include the public via phone or via computer.

Selectman Dill: So, John, that is okay for us to meet in that way with kind of in public but not in public?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, that is what we were doing prior to going totally remote. We were doing the hybrid model which allowed the Board to meet as long as you are allowing the public to have access to listen and comment on the meeting.

Selectman Dill: My only concern is I think we still have a number of cases in town. There were 14 last night. I personally, would rather hold off.

Chairman Robertson: I guess I am going to ask for a basic show of hands then to determine how to do this.

Those that would be in favor of meeting with limited public access, physically, obviously full public access via the internet, if you could show me your paw.

So, there is one opposed. At this point, I am in general agreement that we should be able to do this safely.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Let's try it.

Chairman Robertson: So, if we all come down with COVID and end up in the hospital, we will know that it was not a good idea.

Beyond that, so, I think John, if we could schedule our next meeting using the hybrid model with the Board meeting in person, well-spaced out. We will have to put an extra table in the group of tables that we have down there if that is possible.

Mr. Harrington: I will do what is possible given the length of the mike cords. That would be the only restriction but I will see what I can do.

Chairman Robertson: Other new or other business?

Selectwoman McHugh: What's, when we are talking about road reconstruction, what is going on with Sweat Road now?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Hopefully nothing.

Chairman Robertson: I don't think we have authorized any action on Sweat Road at this point. We took under advisement the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association's last recommendations to us but we have taken no action.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Just for the record, I checked it after that, we got an inch and three-quarters rain the other night and I checked it and Sweat Road didn't wash anywhere near what it used to. It's still not right. We need to get rid of that north entrance but as I followed that down 107 north, it wasn't sand from Sweat Road that was going into the lake, it was the shoulder.

Selectman Dill: That is what I was thinking. I drove up by there yesterday and slowed down to look and the state has piles of rock out in that ditch line and I didn't see sand in those piles of rocks.

I have to also say, Steve did a good job catching up on Echo Valley Road. That got soft, fast, yesterday.

Chairman Robertson: That poor Fed-X guy.

Selectman Dill: They put stone in there but it was a quick catch. It worked.

Chairman Robertson: If there is no other business that the Board wishes to bring forward at this point, I would move to Citizen's Comments.

Citizen's Comments:

(Unidentified person) I would like to speak, please.

Chairman Robertson: Certainly. Could you identify yourself and feel free to speak.

It's Harriet Cady.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you.

Ms. Cady: I believe that when you go back to meeting in the hall, if people show their slip that they have had their COVID shot and are willing to wear a mask, if that is what you want to put on it, and they are sitting six feet apart, they should be able to attend meetings.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you.

Other citizen's comments?

Hearing none,

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:39 pm

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, April 12, 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*

