

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 26, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Robertson asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag

Open Town Mowing Bids:

Mr. Harrington: The first bid is for town buildings and town grounds.

Blue Sky Landscaping: \$6,264.00

Mr. Harrington: The second bid is for the transfer station and transfer station hill.

Blue Sky Landscaping: \$1,760.00
Saints Lawn Care: \$1,500.00

Mr. Harrington: The next bid is for water holes and cisterns.

None submitted.

Mr. Harrington: The next bid is for athletic fields mowing and trimming and we have three.

Art St. Laurent of Pittsfield: \$5,500.00
He has enclosed a copy of his certificate of insurance as well.
TNT Landscaping \$6,500.00
Blue Sky Landscaping: \$4,708.00

Mr. Harrington: The next bid is for cemetery mowing and trimming and we have three bids.

TNT Landscaping: \$13,500.00
Saint's Lawn Care: \$ 8,750.00
Blue Sky Landscaping: \$10,538.00

Selectman Dill: And that is for all cemeteries, correct.

Mr. Harrington: It is for all cemeteries listed in the bid.

Open Fuel Bids:

Mr. Harrington: This is for town diesel fuel and we have one bid.

Chairman Robertson: Palmer Gas and Oil is pleased to submit this proposal; off road (couldn't understand) 30 cents off our daily fluctuating price delivered with our automatic delivery schedule.

On April 21st, this price was \$2.699 per gallon.

Basically, they are offering their fluctuating price minus 30 cents for off road.

Selectman Dill: It doesn't seem really (couldn't understand).

Chairman Robertson: This is the only one received as well.

Selectman Dill: We have had x number over the rack prices. The fluctuating price minus 30 cents strikes me as odd.

Couldn't understand either Selectman Dill or Selectwoman McHugh

Vice Chairman Pitman: Where is Rymes? They didn't contact anybody.

Selectman Dill: Well, Rymes just got bought out so things have changed over there.

Mr. Harrington: The next one is heating oil and we received two bids.

Rymes Propane and Oil: \$2.459 per gallon for 27,000 gallons for the 2021/2022 season based on today's market price. Pricing will be effective from June 1st, 2021 to May 30th, 2022. Commitment must be made prior to 1:00 pm, April 30th, 2021 for final price.

Palmer Gas and Oil: \$2.349 per gallon delivered by automatic delivery schedule.

Mr. Harrington: The last bid this evening that we are opening tonight is for town propane. We have two bids.

Rymes Propane and Oil: They are offering a price of \$1.599 per gallon for 11,000 gallons for the 2021/2022 heating season based on today's market price for propane.

This price will be effective from June 1st, 2021 and expires on May 30th, 2022. Commitment must be made prior to 1:00 pm, April 30th, 2021 for that price.

Palmer Gas and Oil: The offer is a fixed price of \$1.799 per gallon delivered by an automatic delivery schedule.

Chairman Robertson: That concludes the bids that we have.

I don't know if the Board wants to make a decision this evening, maybe at least on the heating oil given the schedule we got or have Ray review the mowing bids prior to awarding those.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think we need to do the heating oil and the propane tonight.

Selectman Dill: Yes, they both expire.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, heating oil, Palmer doesn't, propane does.

It looks like heating oil is going to Palmer but propane is going to Rymes.

Selectman Dill: Do you want to make that motion?

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to award the propane contract to Rymes and the heating oil contract to Palmer Oil

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: Selectwoman McHugh: These are for only 11,000 gallons, we don't go over that, right?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, I think that they went off what was last year, if my memory is right. That is what you asked them to bid.

Mr. Harrington: Diesel fuel was for approximately 8,000 gallons. Propane was for 4,000 for the town buildings, 7,000 for the school and heating oil was 15,000 for the town buildings and 12,000 for the school.

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

Mr. Harrington: So, to get this straight, you want Rymes for the propane and Palmer for the heating oil. Do you want to award the diesel or do you want to compare and chart?

Selectman Dill: We only got one bid so it's not ...

Is that how they are bidding out diesel in town? It strikes me as just odd. I haven't seen a bid that is just x number of cents under the bid.

Mr. Rollins: I'm not sure that it is market price? Can you put it out again?

Selectwoman McHugh: Who did we have it with this year?

Vice Chairman Pitman: We always have a problem with this one. It is usually only Irving or...

Mr. Harrington: Rymes had all three this year.

Selectman Dill: Do you know how they did it this year? Do you remember?

Mr. Harrington: They definitely saw the bids because you saw the bid for the other two. They just chose not to bid on the diesel.

Selectman Dill: How much did we buy at a whack?

Mr. Rollins: We had trouble this year. We went dry a few times so we have a 2,000-gallon tank up there and shared between the highway department and the fire department.

Chairman Robertson: So, we have a couple of options. We can accept the bid from Palmer or we can rebid.

Selectman Dill: I would like to rebid myself. That just seems like an odd bid on off-road but I am only one person. What does the Board think?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, it's not fair to Palmer because they have already extended their prices so either we don't do it or ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Did we send this out to everybody? Who did we send these out to or do they just pick them up themselves?

Mr. Harrington: This is posted on town website, Facebook, and Ray did reach out to all the previous vendors to let them know that it was posted.

(A lot of noise, couldn't understand the speakers)

Vice Chairman Pitman: I guess we can try it for a year.

Selectman Dill: Couldn't understand

Selectman McGarry: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: At least we know that we are 30 cents under market.

Selectman Dill: It's just hard to budget on that kind of figures.

Chairman Robertson: So, is the Board in agreement that they want to accept Palmer's bid for diesel fuel?

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to award the diesel fuel contract to Palmer Fuel

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Mr. Harrington: Before we move on from the bids, we did not get waterhole and cistern mowing bids and what should I do?

Multiple members of the Board stated to repost it.

Selectman Dill: I would like to have Ray go over the mowing and other bids

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, next Monday.

Selectman Dill: We have another meeting in a week anyway.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Because it is time to get going.

Chairman Robertson: Yes, Ray can give us his observations.

Mr. Harrington: That is the reason why I set a meeting for next week so that you can make a decision and they can start at the beginning of May.

I'll have him review them and get back to you next week.

Chairman Robertson: So, the next order of business is the Highway Department quarterly report and we have Highway Agent Rollins with us here at the microphone.

Steve Rollins – Highway Department Quarterly Report:

Mr. Rollins: This quarter, obviously, was a big slower than the snow and we have just been grading and a lot of trees. A lot of high winds, a lot of tree work. We have been doing some ditching and that is pretty much where we are at now.

We are fixing signs, downed signs.

Chairman Robertson: I did see the crew chipping today.

Selectman Dill: Have we heard anything from Eversource or the Electric Coop about the dead ash trees?

Mr. Rollins: Well, they have been working on them. They have been taking them down. They were leaving their trucks parked behind the shed so we were seeing them regularly but they are no longer leaving them there.

So, haven't been in touch with them recently and haven't seen them around town. I was a little concerned about them leaving the big wood on the ground this winter when we had plowing and stuff like that so they were supposed to be working on getting that picked up.

Chairman Robertson: They did pick some up but yeah, I haven't seen their trucks in close to a couple of weeks now in town.

Mr. Rollins: Yeah, they kind of disappeared lately.

Selectman Dill: I was just wondering if we had had any scheduling or anything like that. I have a bunch of people ask what we are going to do about them. There are just a ton of dead ash on these roads right now.

Mr. Rollins: And, we have been taking down the ash trees that were in the area of the trees that were storm trash, that we can do without a bucket truck, obviously.

Selectman Dill: It just stinks. Two or three, I guess it was two years ago, we had a crew out just doing those trees and they were flying up the roads and now that crew has seemed to have disappeared because when I asked the Asplundh guys about it, he said, no, it is a special crew and we don't know when it's coming.

I was hoping that you had heard.

Selectwoman McHugh: They are probably straight out right now with all the wind.

Mr. Rollins: I think that is the problem, actually. We had a big pine tree down on Middle Road today.

Selectman Dill: How are we doing, looking back on the winter. Nothing major broken and everything came out all right.

Mr. Rollins: No, we didn't have a lot of breakdowns so that is a good thing. We probably went through an average amount of material. I think we are behind on wearables because we did more treating than scraping plus not supplying cutting edges so that was a good call.

Chairman Robertson: Well, if the Board has nothing else, I would thank you for visiting with us, Steve and (couldn't understand).

Rick Pelletier – Building Department/Transfer Station quarterly report:

Chairman Robertson: Thank you Mr. Pelletier for joining us. The next order of business is the Building Department/Transfer Station quarterly report.

Mr. Pelletier: They're still building houses. I don't see it changing as long as they can squeeze out the land to put them and most of the people calling are all trying to find ways to squeak out more lots out of what land they have and it doesn't appear it is going to change this summer.

I get calls daily to find out where lots are or if I have any in my back pocket so I guess so they can build on something but other than that, it really hasn't changed at all.

I think I have six, seven new houses right now that haven't got started but will be.

Selectman McGarry: Is that seven for this year?

Mr. Pelletier: Yeah, I think.

Selectman McGarry: How does that compare with last year at this time?

Mr. Pelletier: I think, this year has been a little slower to start but it seems to be starting to take off now.

I think a lot of it has been finding land. People want to build but they are looking for land.

Skip Kelly is probably going to have three go in on Middle Road, one on Mt. Delight.

Vice Chairman Pitman: This is beyond the seven, Rick?

Mr. Pelletier: No, this is where they come from.

Skip is building three up there on Mt. Delight. There is one by van Berkum's. That's four. There are two on Middle Road. That's six and another one of Mt. Delight. That's what's currently going.

And, transfer station, we need help again.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Who got done?

Mr. Pelletier: Steve, he said that it was too much for him.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is Marie working out all right?

Mr. Pelletier: Other than that, yes Marie is working out fine.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Good.

Mr. Pelletier: Other than that, that is what's happening.

Selectman McGarry: Recycling prices, recycling materials, I guess?

Mr. Pelletier: Supposedly, some of them are rebounding, cardboard and paper are supposedly rebounding.

Selectman McGarry: Oh really, wow.

Mr. Pelletier: But I haven't seen it yet.

Tin, copper, aluminum, that's all been pretty much the same. That doesn't change much. Plastic is still nothing. Scrap metal is low but scrap metal has been pretty steady right now. I mean, we could make a little bit now on the cost is below once we ship it out. Handling really kills us. It costs so much to handle it. Handling costs keep going up and recycling costs are steady or going down so it is almost like a losing battle in that respect.

It's still cheaper than disposing some of it in the usual ways. I don't think there is anything we can do. It is what it is. We have to go with what the vendors are doing.

Selectman Dill: How about (couldn't understand) at the transfer station? Are they still up?

Mr. Pelletier: Last year was a good year. I mean, I don't see, other than bills, I don't see the daily tonnages. Pete is keeping track of all that and they give me a report every so often so I really haven't had anything to compare this year to, at this point.

I really, I don't think we can look back, other than when I am doing my budget as to how we fared but I think it was in line with last year right now.

Selectman Dill: The reason that I was asking is that John said that we had a pretty good amount of impact fees for the transfer station (couldn't understand) correct?

Mr. Pelletier: Correct.

Selectman Dill: Do you have a plan on that stuff yet?

Mr. Pelletier: We have been working on a couple of things but the hard part is that it is not all due to growth or expansion. We have probably had some things that it would be nice to replace but it doesn't work at this standpoint as to what the impact fee is supposed to be used for.

We could still probably still do some paving. That would probably qualify. I would still like to pave the back section. At least the ramp going down. That tends to be problematic in the spring and the winter because it is slippery and is harder to plow and as you know, you can sand it and salt it but once spring comes, it just turns to mud.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Why don't you get a quote on that, Rick.

Mr. Pelletier: Pardon me?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Why don't you get a quote on that because we talked about that before.

Selectwoman McHugh: We also talked about running water. How is that situation?

Mr. Pelletier: Well, we actually had to go back to DES to get permission. I didn't realize that we had to have permission from DES in order to drill a well there.

We've been given permission. It is all right to move forward with a well. The problem I have is that they want the well where I want to put the septic. Based on (couldn't hear), they want the well, from the landfill area, the well needs to go on the driveway side coming up to the building, in that general area. That grassy area, someplace in there or farther down.

That's where I was envisioning a septic system and the well more on the other side. I don't know if it is a really big issue. I think we made the well "non-potable". We could do that and then they don't really care where we put it. We don't drink that much water there.

I mean, the major purpose of the water would be to have a bathroom and be able to fill our own water tank for the purpose of firefighting in the case of a brush fire getting out of control.

Selectwoman McHugh: Or flushing in case of a spill.

Mr. Pelletier: What's that?

Selectwoman McHugh: Or flushing in case of a spill.

Mr. Pelletier: But ...

Selectman Dill: There is no other water source, fire department-wise anywhere near there, is there?

Mr. Pelletier: No. And the tank we have is only 500 gallons. It's not a mass storage tank. It would probably work to put out a brush fire or keeping down a brush fire but I don't know if it would be much use for the purpose of fighting fire.

Chairman Robertson: Any idea when you might have some (couldn't understand)

Mr. Pelletier: As far as ...

Chairman Robertson: When we can actual go ahead with the well? Is that a decision that you need from us?

Mr. Pelletier: Actually, no, we could actually just figure out how we are going to get water into the building, to get the sewerage into the building. Make it work because it doesn't have to work the way that I was envisioning it. I've got to probably would have to cross the driveway because of what the constraints that they put me on. I still really have to maintain at least my 75' from the septic system and I didn't ask the question but where it is a commercial entity, they may want me to maintain a 125' like they made us do at the school.

Selectman McGarry: Yup.

Mr. Pelletier: They might want a greater distance but initially I mentioned to CMA Engineering, I never actually contacted the state, I mentioned it to CMA Engineering and they said that you might have to have the state's permission and Zoey, the engineer that oversees that facility said that she would work on it and got back to me sometime this winter and said that yeah, you could do it. There are just some constraints and I really haven't done anything with it since because it was winter and we don't need it that badly and it wasn't worth digging up the yard and have the frost and everything else to figure out. We figured that we would wait until summer.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We could put it out to bid, though, to get the well drilled.

Mr. Pelletier: The well, we could. I don't know how ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: If we have the funds.

Mr. Pelletier: Yeah, we could put it out to bid. I mean, from what I see. Typically, with all the new homes I see now, they are getting \$6,000.00 a well for x number of feet, period. They all seem to be offering the same flat rate packages. They are all competing against one another. They get (couldn't understand) water was considered adequate for a new home and 500' and a pump.

If it is under 500', it's still the same, if it is over 500', it is the going rate for a foot and I don't know if you really want to go that route but personally, I would just as soon go by the foot, whatever it comes to. If we go over, it is still going to cost us and if we stay under, well, we would save.

I put in a well years ago and I just paid the going price per foot and I basically, broke even and I would have preferred more water but (couldn't understand) I got what was considered adequate and I was at my 500'.

Chairman Robertson: Well, I think that this is something that the Board is interested in moving forward on.

Vice Chairman Pitman: They should be able to give you a price per foot if you want to do that.

Mr. Pelletier: I guess that I should somebody working on designing the septic system. If we are putting in a well, we will need a septic system.

Chairman Robertson: I think that the Board agrees.

Mr. Harrington: Just a reminder, the transfer station has \$39,930.00 in impact fees.

Selectman McGarry: I am assuming a well and a septic system is justifiable with the impact fees?

Chairman Robertson: Other questions or concerns for Rick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Other Boards also thanked Rick.

John did tell me that I should give you a call and unfortunately, I didn't try to call you until the end of last week but I will catch up with you.

Mr. Pelletier: Unless I catch up with you.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, moving along, looks like we have outstanding minutes from April 19th, 2021.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of April 19, 2021.

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

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest

Accounts Payable Manifest - \$18,955.59

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest as presented

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Signatures/Correspondence:

Chairman Robertson: We have abatement recommendations for several people from Avatar. This is the Murphy's, the Brochu's, the Cady's, the Frechette's, Victu's, and PSNH power lease and I think ...

Okay, I'm sorry, the cover letter misled me here. This is just for the Frechette's and this is at 20 Parade Road, Deerfield, NH.

His recommendation is that I don't recommend that the town verify all available avenues (couldn't understand) for review so he is not saying (couldn't understand).

To make a decision on this, he is actually saying to do this.

Is the Board in agreement that we should review this?

Board members generally stated yes.

Chairman Robertson: Due to the nature of this, I am going to ask the Board to review this ourselves not in public and I would also suspect that the court may weigh in on this as well. There is background information.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Maybe she can (couldn't understand)

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, maybe we can get a recommendation from Christine based on the review.

Okay, we have a number of applications for tax credits. I believe that these are all military.

The first one is from John (couldn't understand) 203 Raymond Road. Paperwork appears to be in order and this is for the standard Veteran's Tax Credit.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit as requested above

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson: And the total is \$750.00 on that.

And we have another Veteran's Tax Credit. Actually, is this is an Elderly Tax Exemption and the paperwork appears to be in order and this is from Joanne DeCenzo of 8 Coffeetown Road.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Elderly Tax Exemption for Joanne DeCenzo

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Report of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber with Tax Levy Attached of \$1,154.62 – Dennis Crowley, Chester, NH – Property owned by Susan and John Smith on Mountain Road

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to collect the timber tax levy of \$1,154.62 as described

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Application for Current Use Assessment – Jason and Paris Sidmore – 29 Griffin Road, Deerfield

This is for ten acres.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That they are taking out?

Chairman Robertson: Putting in, it looks like. Their request was dated March 26th, 2021 so it is within the time frame.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, they want to put ten acres into current use?

Chairman Robertson: That is my take on this.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve 10 acres at 29 Griffin Road into current use

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

We will have a copy attached to the deed and their plans for the use of the land is hunting and trails.

Which brings us back to the abatement applications that we had for 51 Church Street, LLC and also land tax levy for 70 Church Street, LLC.

We had discussed last week as the landowner had provided a copy of a deed change that he had made that he felt corrected the situation that generated the land use change taxes that Avatar recommended to levy.

I had asked if they could hold off on this until Avatar had had a chance to look at the deed and see if that indeed corrected the situation that had generated the land use change taxes.

I don't have any correspondence from Avatar with regard to that.

Selectman Dill: Well, wasn't that in the packet of letters that you had sent out, John? Or was that the old one. I couldn't tell if that was the old letter from the assessor.

Chairman Robertson: I believe that it was the old letter.

Selectman Dill: It was the same, exact thing so I wanted to make sure that wasn't in there.

Chairman Robertson: One of the things, and I think what the assessor is going to tell us is whether he has corrected it or not, it was past the April 1st deadline for change.

The land owner is alleging that he had difficulties getting an appointment in March and was told that he couldn't have an appointment with the assessor until after April 1st.

I don't know what the Board's pleasure is on this. I would almost like to give our assessor, Evan Roberge, a phone call and ask him if this indeed remedies the situation and we come back and decide if we want to abate even though it was past the April 1st deadline.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Good idea. If you don't mind.

Others on the Board agreed.

Chairman Robertson: If the Board is agreeable with that, I would just leave that until we hear from both parties.

That was assessing now our other signatures.

First, we have our drought letter when you have a chance to read, just to remind folks that we are in a drought and ask them to please use water in a conservative manner and act accordingly.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to sign the drought letter as written

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

And we have a resolution continuing mask use in town offices and basically maintaining the same status we are under right now in the town offices and elections.

This has also been reviewed and recommended by the town moderator for the upcoming deliberative session and the upcoming election.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to sign the resolution continuing mask use as presented

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

I will say that Alden and Fred and I and Alden's daughter met with the moderator, assistant moderator and town clerk last week to make sure that we have people spaced appropriately with the chairs set.

Dan, as usual, had his hand in this and is ready to go.

Okay, we have a bunch of contracts for upcoming horse shows that the fair association, at the fairgrounds, through the fair association and these are agreements for the rescue squad to provide service for the horse shows.

If the Board is agreeable, I will just read the entire list of horse shows and dates so we can make one motion.

Selectman Dill: I just had one quick question for Cindy on this. Have you upped the price on these lately?

Selectwoman McHugh: No.

Selectman Dill: It seemed awful cheap.

Selectwoman McHugh: \$150.00 per day.

Selectman Dill: \$150.00 per day.

Selectwoman McHugh: It depends. Some days we do four hours. I don't know...

Selectman Dill: It just seemed low for EMT coverage.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, we don't supply any ambulance either so we're just having people there watching a horse show.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Luckily, Cindy likes it. She has a lot of friends there.

Selectwoman McHugh: I admit, I thought about talking to him about upping it this year. I wanted to see what our coverage was. Last year it was kind of difficult to get people to work it so that was my plan to see who I was going to get to work this summer.

Selectman Dill: I was just wondering. What are you paying people to cover it?

Selectwoman McHugh: It is split up. It could be, some people work only a couple of hours. Some people stay there all day. The town gets \$20.00 a day for supplies and we've been bringing the gator down.

There are the supplies which is usually a band-aid or an aspirin. Knock on wood, we normally don't have anything.

Chairman Robertson: Well, the shows in question, the shows that are requesting Deerfield Rescue Squad presence and the Deerfield Rescue Squad is offering to be present for a fee of \$150.00 per day for their services.

NH Horse and Trail Show	May 7 - 9
UBHA Chapter 14 Summer Classic Horse Show	August 4 - 6
NH Radiant Jubilee Horse Show	August 13 - 15
American Saddlebred Association Summer Spectacular Horse Show	September 3 – 5

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the four shows to be signed by the chairman

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Selectman McGarry: I think that Alden had a valid point on the tracking to make sure that we are not giving away time or money from the town basically, to cover these

Selectman Dill: This just looked like a low number to me.

Selectwoman McHugh: Like I said, we can find some kind of a home for two hours at lunch time and then come back for two hours.

Selectman Dill: Then again, if you are paying more, you might have a bigger pool of people to pull from too.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's why I wanted to up it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think last year, after not having any shows, it would be good to see how it goes.

Chairman Robertson: There is a Personnel Action Request and this is in regard to the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and it is a request from Kelly Roberts to move her hourly rate from \$16.40 to \$16.73.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Personnel Action Request regarding Kim Crotty

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't know how she came up with those figures.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, she has used an evaluation calculator and also has provided Kim's evaluation. There are a half dozen pages here and she is recommending a 2 percent raise.

Selectman Dill: That fits in her budget, right?

Chairman Robertson: It does.

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

Moving along to correspondence, we have a letter to Deerfield residents regarding the Atlantic Broadband Cable Television Franchise commitment and what stage we're at. This is just to keep the community aware. I think we discussed this.

Mr. Harrington: That is the ascertainment notice so that it gives the public a chance to have some input by letter or by email and it has all the instructions to be posted.

Chairman Robertson: Is it already posted?

Mr. Harrington: No. You needed to approve it first.

Selectman Dill: Fred had found some typos in it last week.

Chairman Robertson: That's why I thought it was posted.

Is everyone in agreement that the revised copy is acceptable?

Members agreed.

I would entertain a motion to release the ascertainment agreement with regard to the Atlantic Broadband Franchise

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to release the ascertainment agreement with regard to Atlantic Broadband

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Selectman Dill: On that same note John, I assume that you are paying attention to the NH Electric Coop and there, I think it is their surveyors that we have been seeing looking at telephone lines.

Mr. Harrington: I have not.

Selectman Dill: You have not. If you have a virtual email or email chain for those other towns, could you just put a feeler out there and see if anybody has a thing on the coop's plan, please.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Selectman Dill: It might be, that they are only going to be offering where the coop currently has customers or are they going to expand beyond the electrical customers are.

Mr. Harrington: My understanding is that if you take over a cable contract, it is for an entire community.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, but this is, this is a little different.

Chairman Robertson: They are offering it in a little bit different fashion. They are reaching out to NH Electric Cooperative customers and asking them if they have an interest in potential broadband and advising that they may well be offering in select locations.

Selectman Dill: But on the other hand, the guys doing the telephone surveys were in areas where there, where it's not Electric Coop customers which is why I am just wondering if it's, I get a feeling that it's tied together. They were really cagey about who they were working for. They just told me they were subcontractors for a telephone company.

Chairman Robertson: They may need some information that is available from the NH Electrical Coop because they had been making Facebook posts about it, the Coop themselves as I recall. There may be some information on their website available.

Selectman Dill: But like I said, this is where that big, joint cooperative town thing might come in handy. I don't think that they will know anything but it is something to watch as we don't get options like this.

Chairman Robertson: The last thing we have in the correspondence file is a quote from Skyline Roofing for work at the Deerfield Fire Station. This is the Church Street location. It has a number of specs in here.

Their quote is for \$25,190.00. That's a 40-year roof and some of these terms don't mean a whole lot to me. It's a certain teed shingle, vent two ridge vent with external baffle ridges among other things but we don't need to act on it immediately.

Mr. Harrington: That was the quote that we were asked to get. If we patched, it would be \$1,221.00 if we wanted to go that route. If we chose to do the entire roof and re-shingle, they would patch it currently and not charge us with the idea that they would get the contract to roof.

They would patch it and wait a couple of weeks and then re-shingle the entire building later.

Selectman Dill: Would we bid this out?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman Robertson: It's \$25,000.00 so we would have to.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I would get it patched and pay the price.

Selectwoman McHugh: We are going to wait right to see if we could offset some money for the ventilation system?

Mr. Harrington: Well, I am going to give you some information in my report in a few minutes.

Selectman Dill: Can we just get bids, start soliciting bids now?

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's not a good time to do it.

Selectman Dill: With building materials, I just have a feeling that they are just going to keep going up until the housing market crashes.

Chairman Robertson: Well, the other thing that we are looking at here is whether we should spend \$1,200.00 and patch it.

Mr. Harrington: Yes, between \$1,000.00 and \$1,200.00.

Chairman Robertson: Maybe we want to do that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, we can't have it leaking.

Board members agreed.

Selectman Dill: What did they say was the condition of the rest of the roof, John? If we patch it, are we going to get 4 years, 2 years out of the rest of it or ...

Mr. Harrington: Ray, are you on the line this evening?

Mr. Ellis: Hello, I'm here.

Mr. Harrington: Thanks for joining us. Could you explain what your conversation was with Skyline on the condition of the Central Station roof?

Mr. Ellis: Okay, so my understanding of the roof is that it is almost 22 years old since it was last shingled and he looked at it and the wind had on the hip of the roof, the wind had blown off like four shingles and it was right down so you could actually see some plywood.

So, he said that he could patch it. It would take two guys, four hours and the bucket truck to go up there and patch that and it would be between \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00 to do that patch.

He will not guarantee the patch. He said that the roof did look like it was in fairly good shape and that the shingles, there was no telling how long they would last and with another wind storm, like that, it could rip the other side off. So, he wouldn't guarantee it but he would patch it and it may last a year or more. He didn't know. He said it might last a week but if you do the whole roof, he was going to come down because he said he's about three to four weeks behind right now and that he would patch it for free if he was going to reroof the whole thing. But it was our choice. A patch would be between \$1,000.00 and \$1,200.00 and that would take care of it. We could see just how long we can get out of it and maybe do something else with it later on.

Or, if you decide to put a new roof on now, because we are nearing the end of that roof, he said that they are usually good for like 25-years and we are close to 22 now so that's where we stood on that.

I told him that we would get back to him with the information and get to John to give to you guys.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, normally our drawback that we have Ray, and thank you for that information, is that with a \$25,000.00 quote, we would clearly have to go to bid on that.

I don't think that the Board would want to have him patch it for free and then going out to bid. I don't know what the rest of the Board thinks.

To me, if we could buy a couple of years for \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00, I think roofing materials may well come down \$1,000.00, \$1,200.00.

Selectman Dill: If we are down to plywood, we have to do something now.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can't leave it like that.

Selectwoman McHugh: And this is shingles?

Chairman Robertson: Yes.

Mr. Ellis: Yes, they would put roof membrane over it first, which is a rubberized sealant and then they would shingle over that.

Selectwoman McHugh: There is no way to metal on there?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, it is too dangerous. It would kill somebody sliding off that roof.

Mr. Ellis: It is almost a 12/12 pitch on the side.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, so is the Board in general agreement that we should move ahead with the repair based on the \$1,000.00, \$1,200.00 estimate?

Members agreed verbally.

Chairman Robertson: I think that's your answer, Ray. If we could move ahead with the repair. We will certainly review this quote and decide if we want to go out to bid on the roof sometime in the future.

Mr. Ellis: Okay, I think that is a smart decision. Does need to be taken care of right away. We just recently had a rain storm and before it gets any worse.

Chairman Robertson: Yup, I agree.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you.

Mr. Harrington: Thank you, Ray.

Chairman Robertson: We have a report from our executive councilor, Ted Gatsas in here for your review and there are copies of the Standard Power of America check. This is what we received back from Standard Power in the amount of \$97.96.

Moving along, I would move to the Town Administrator's Report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: One item I wanted the Board to consider this evening. We got the estimate for the ventilation system down in Parks and Rec. That came in at \$32,400.00.

Rick had reviewed the results of that inspection by the HVAC professional and he also looked up building code and in order to get children in the building properly, that part of the building should be ventilated.

Those existing fans, even if they are up and running, they are exhaust fans and are not bringing in fresh air and I believe that was part of the opening criteria that the Board had said to properly ventilate down at the bottom of the building.

This is for, first off, summer camp and then longer term After School Program.

Chairman Robertson: So, I know in conversation with you, John, there was some talk about that we might be able to split the cost of this with Parks and Rec?

Mr. Harrington: That has not been proposed to them, it is a recommendation that I would like to explore with them because that would only cover that part of the building, if we split the costs, it would allow us to use our building maintenance trust fund for our half and if they would cover the other half of the ventilation system, we could get it installed and up and running.

Chairman Robertson: I believe that there was also mention of potential grant.

Mr. Harrington: That is not looking promising. Denny has explored two other federal grants and its just not in the language for infrastructure or physical plant improvements in these new pots of money and especially with the American Rescue Plan.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What about out of the \$90,000.00 from the school since this is for the school kids.

Mr. Harrington: Pardon? I'm sorry Dick, I didn't hear you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What about the \$90,000.00 the school has from that surplus.

Selectman Dill: We would be hard pressed to. It's kids but it's not the school's school.

Mr. Harrington: I don't know if there are criteria around school sharing its funding with other entities because they were very careful about sending municipal funds for school funds.

Chairman Robertson: You could certainly inquire.

Mr. Harrington: Sure.

Vice Chairman Pitman: This would have to go out to bid also, wouldn't it?

Mr. Harrington: At that price to purchase it, yes.

I just wanted to get you a ballpark figure anyway.

Selectwoman McHugh: This is the same sort of ventilation that the school has?

Mr. Harrington: I do not know what the school has. The recommendation was for our building and our design the way that our structure is. I don't know if it would be similar to what the school has.

Chairman Robertson: The school spent a fair amount of money last year or the year before on their ventilation.

Selectwoman McHugh: I was just thinking maybe it is time that we move them to the school. They are set up for it all ready.

Selectman Dill: The problem there is that the school doesn't have the room to do it.

Selectwoman McHugh: There is plenty of room after school.

Chairman Robertson: Well, it is certainly something that we can explore further but are we interested in putting this out to bid?

Selectman Dill: I personally think that we ought to because we told Parks and Rec that this was hinged on, their reopening was hinged on this and the sooner that we put it out to bid, the sooner that we get opened.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Now that we have specs, we don't have any choice.

Selectman Dill: Parks and Rec knows that this will push it back though, right?

Mr. Harrington: They were waiting on what the Board decided to do so I can update Nick and inform the commission.

One other item for you this evening, I would like the Board to consider allowing a lock to be installed on the ADA ramp door at the town hall.

There are actually two sets of doors. The original heavy double swinging doors that swing out and there is an internal one.

What happened frequently all last winter when there was a wind even, those doors would come unlatched and they would be swinging (couldn't understand) and it is really starting to break the entire door.

Ray is concerned that the structure is going to be fully compromised. The bottom hinge itself is not even attached to the frame anymore. The screws have given out.

The only way to rectify that is to actually put the same kind of lock that is on the middle set doors so that they can lock from the outside.

We were thinking about a simple system or a barrel bolt behind but both doors open out so you would never be able to lock it.

So, we got a quote from a locksmith and it came in between \$300.00 and \$350.00 to install this and hopefully resolve them from being open again and coming loose. The only thing holding them now are very old sprung mounted deadbolts that insert into the frame up above and they don't hold.

Selectman Dill: No, we have to fix that.

Others agreed.

Selectwoman McHugh: We have to fix it but my concern is that we didn't even use that building all winter and the wind was blowing it open?

Mr. Harrington: People would come, the only thing that we can surmise that people would come by to see if the building is open and they can't open any other door but they can open those and unless you know how to properly close them, they don't latch and the wind gets to them.

Selectman Dill: And we have had one hell of a windy winter and spring.

Chairman Robertson: It's under \$500.00 John, so thanks for telling us.

Mr. Harrington: It was work on the town hall and I just wanted to tell you all. I wanted to do the least evasive procedure to the town hall.

Selectman Dill: Those doors are going to cost us more than \$300.00 to replace.

Mr. Harrington: Thank you all and I will get that replaced.

That was all for me tonight.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, most of the other new business, other business we have covered with the exception of Swett Road. We have still not made a decision on what we want to do about that.

I think from our discussions prior; I don't think the Board is interested in doing a lot more than correcting the northern portion of Swett Road where it hits 107.

I would look to the Board for

Vice Chairman Pitman: I would like to see it put on hold other than for what you just said after talking to the owners up there. They are in favor of fixing that north. We are not ready to go with the other plan. The money isn't there to support it.

Chairman Robertson: Is the Board in general agreement that our view point is that we will clean up the entry way to 107 and close the lower or northern section of that road.

Members agreed.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to clean up the entry way to 107 and close the lower or northern section of Swett Road

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: Selectman Dill: And that means that we go with this...

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, nothing. We are just going to do the northern entrance.

Selectman Dill: I am in agreement.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think that our crew with a little guidance, can do that.

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

Mr. Harrington: So, just so I have this correct, when you say clean up the entryway on the south end, you have, no, closing then north side and cleaning up the south.

Vice Chairman Pitman: There is excess material there that they might be able to use elsewhere since it is a town road.

Scrape that back down to the pavement with 107, get the ditch open for the culvert to work.

Selectwoman McHugh: Grade it to that top culvert?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, and do some seedlings or something to stop traffic. They don't use it now as it is too rough.

Chairman Robertson: It hasn't been used in at least six months, probably longer.

Mr. Harrington: I will talk to the road agent.

Chairman Robertson: Other business or new business?

I did mention to John, a request to access the roof of this building for scientific purposes and I referred those people to you.

Mr. Harrington: Is someone going to call me?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, they will.

Selectman Dill: I had something brought up to me the other day that should probably be brought up in non-public. Just about a new trash situation that is going on in town.

One of the abutters brought it up to me and said that they are having a real rodent issue.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's not non-public.

Mr. Harrington: The building code enforcement officer has been working with them.

Selectman Dill: Do we have, to me, working with them and then I was being shown pictures of large amounts of trash, I guess, what's our next move beyond Rick going up and talking to them?

Evidently, it is quite a rat infestation going on on neighboring properties because of this giant pile of trash.

Mr. Harrington: I believe that we are talking about Pleasant Hill.

Selectman Dill: Yes

Mr. Harrington: In discussion with Rick, the first step was to try to determine who the actual owners are. I believe the original owners, a husband and wife, are deceased and a family member has been living there so he's been working with our attorneys and we needed to find out who the mortgage holder was and that mortgage had changed hands quite a few times and I was able to find the current mortgage holder. Rick was contacting the attorney in order to send a letter to them as the home owner currently and let them know what the situation was and what they needed to do to rectify the situation.

Selectman Dill: The pictures, like the pictures that the abutters were showing us, a rapidly increasing pile of trash.

Mr. Harrington: That is where we are right now with that.

The attorney is well aware of it and they have been strategizing.

Selectman Dill: That was the person's concern, they didn't want to be into what we were with the last one with trash.

Selectman McGarry: Is that something that the town could take action and put a lien on the property?

Mr. Harrington: That requires going to court. That's what happened to the other issue. We actually went to court and sued them and were put on as a lien holder so when the property did finally come out of foreclosure and got sold, we did recoup some of our costs.

Chairman Robertson: Unfortunately, it is not a speedy process.

Selectman McGarry: The big issue here is that they are saying that the rat population is increasing and for the neighbors up there, it is going to be increasingly frustrating for them.

Mr. Harrington: Possibly, there may be other action from a public health stand point. If that can be taken, I will discuss that with Rick.

Selectman Dill: I meant to bring up with Rick earlier and just remembered now.

Mr. Harrington: I can invite him to next week's meeting if you would like to discuss it with him.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, let's see where we're at.

Mr. Harrington: He would be the best person to speak to.

Chairman Robertson: We may need to go into non-public then so he can tell us what he is talking about with the attorney.

Other, other business?

Hearing none

Selectman Dill: Oh, sorry. I have got an over whelming amount of interest in the skateboard thing. I've been telling people that maybe it is a good idea to send their thoughts to you in email or letter form before the public hearing, John, just because I think that it is going to be a very busy public hearing and I just thought that that might be a little bit of a better way to convey the thoughts.

Evidently, it's really popular at the school and they are all working on letters.

Chairman Robertson: I got stopped while I was running by the last person that I would think was an avid skateboard supporter.

Selectman Dill: I just wanted to put that out there. Maybe you could put something out that we will take, in addition to public comment, take written public comment because virtually, I think it is going to be a busy, virtual public comment.

Chairman Robertson: We could have it in the parking lot outside.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, I think we should.

Selectwoman McHugh: I am kind of concerned, too because the other route that might not be so much for it, may not have the ability to go Zoom and do it on the computer.

Selectman Dill: How about at the field, at the Gazebo field?

Selectwoman McHugh: If everyone is going to come to the public hearing because they want it, if there is no opposition.

Vice Chairman Pitman: But, what do they want? What are they going to tell us they want?

Chairman Robertson: I don't know. I don't think that we can have an indoor public hearing and stay within any sort of guidance.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Not unless we let 10 in and 10 out.

Selectman McHugh: It's not fair if people can't come either. That's not right either.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can we do that, John? Let 10 in, move them out and let 10 in?

Mr. Harrington: I don't think everyone would be able to hear the public hearing and that's not really public.

Chairman Robertson: We would have to do it in one location. I think our only other alternative would be if we ran some extension cords and did it in the parking lot.

Mr. Harrington: The only way to do it now is to stick with the date we have and hold it at this building but go outside and that depends on the weather. You would have to have mikes set up.

Vice Chairman Pitman: One.

Selectman Dill: I think in the meantime, if we encourage people to send written communication before the meeting...

Chairman Robertson: They could leave comments here, at the town office, you can mail them, you can email them.

Mr. Harrington: I can put a notice out on Facebook and the webpage tomorrow but I don't know if that will reach necessarily the group that Cindy is talking about because they aren't on social media or computers.

Chairman Robertson: Or skateboards.

Selectman Dill: I was just thinking, the more that we can get that way, the better.

Selectwoman McHugh: And this public hearing is to lift the ordinance, correct?

Chairman Robertson: It is to listen to opinion on whether we are going to change the ordinance. Modify it, lift it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: After we hear the public's concern, we will decide.

Chairman Robertson: As it stands right now, our ordinance is in violation of our posted signs because our ordinance specifically says that you can't skate on the road but you should use the tennis court or the basketball court which we have signs hanging saying absolutely no skateboarding so at the very least, we should modify that.

Selectwoman McHugh: You can't get hit by a car on the tennis courts.

Selectman McGarry: No, that's true.

Selectman Dill: That's the last one I had I swear.

Chairman Robertson: Those comments are noted and well taken.

Selectwoman McHugh: I have a little concern too about the cemetery up on Parade Road. Anybody else have any concern with that?

Chairman Robertson: Nope, it's good that those trees came down.

Selectwoman McHugh: Can somebody tell me the arborist that advised them to take what trees down?

Chairman Robertson: I don't know exactly that was. That would be the Cemetery Commission and this has been a project that has been in the works for probably three years.

Selectwoman McHugh: The Cemetery Commission's minutes don't go back that far online. I looked those up. I was trying to find information there but I would like to know the name of the arborist that advised them to pull those trees down.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: That is on Parade Road Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes

Chairman Robertson: Other new business, other business?

Selectman McGarry: This is old business. Are we going to be taking some type of action regarding to the highway construction materials? The bids?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Did that go out, John?

Mr. Harrington: That went out.

Selectman McGarry: Oh, did we rebid it?

Mr. Harrington: No, the update on that is that we received three bids. One bid answered the bid correctly. One bid provided prices for all of the state statute guidelines for material, not what we asked for and one bid left out a whole classification of material that we had asked for.

Selectman Dill: Oh, okay.

Mr. Harrington: It makes it difficult to compare. The Board could or we could go out to bid. I have already drafted up a reworked bid which makes it very clear what we are looking for and also investigated additional language in contracting. It is called a cure and it allows the Board to ask questions about particular vendors, clarify what they sent in, usually within the first 24 hours as long as it is in the benefit of the town and I will be including that language in every bid going forward so the Board does have an option to call certain vendors and give them an opportunity to clarify rather than rebid.

Chairman Robertson: So, is the Board going to make the official decision to rebid?

All members verbally agreed.

Mr. Harrington: I will repost that.

Selectman Dill: That explains why Cindy and I were sitting here writing down things that weren't matching up to anything else and kept reading.

Chairman Robertson: Other new business, other business.

Hearing none, at this point I would look for Citizen's Comments if there are any.

Citizen's Comments:

Ms. Cady – Old Centre Road:

I have one.

The committee years ago, that studied the contract for having internet in town, came up with the fact that we couldn't get any other company that wanted to buy the equipment of Metrocast.

Then, things have changed. I read in the paper where NH Electric Cooperative has gone out and asked a bunch of towns if they provide them with broadband, would they take it somehow or another.

They apparently can, do broadband over their electric service and we do have NH Electric Coop.

I also read that where Peterborough and a town abutting are buying broadband for their towns so there seems to be several things happening.

With the federal government collecting a USF charge and a USF surcharge, when I was in the legislature in 2004, I put in a bill to stop having them charge that fee because we were already connected to 85% of the libraries and the schools which is what the original bill said that was put in for.

Now, we have Biden's government looking at putting in broadband as Kalema Harris said, when she came here so are we, in fact, spending money on a study that's going to lead us to eventually to the government setting up internet in the state anyways.

Chairman Roberson: Yup, your points are well taken, Mrs. Cady and the cable board is looking into the options that the Coop may have available.

Ms. Cady: Maybe you could have somebody from the Electric Coop come and speak to us or call in as to how they intend to do this.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you for your comments. Do we have any other citizen's comments this evening?

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:55 pm

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, May 3, 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*