

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
May 10, 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

Chairman Robertson: Our first agenda item this evening is a meeting with fire chief, Matt Fisher, who I believe is joining us via ZOOM.

Are you with us, Matt?

Chief Fisher: Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

Chairman Robertson: I can.

**Matt Fisher – Fire Chief**

And, the reason we asked you to visit with us a little bit is we looked at the officer promotions at last week's meeting and there was some question about one of the officers not being a resident of Deerfield and we were just looking to get some explanation and maybe your comfort level with that and the reasoning behind it and thought it would be better to hear it from the "horse's mouth" so I suggested that we have you join us.

Chief Fisher: Okay, well with making the promotion, I do not have any reservations or any unease with the promotions that I made.

Internally, posted the position of deputy fire chief for the department. Through that process, three internal applicants applied.

How I conducted the promotional process included three different steps, if you will. First step was I invited or asked five area fire chiefs to sit on a panel. Those five chiefs met and interviewed all three candidates and provided me with their recommendation for the position tiered, 1, 2 and 3.

Next step was I brought in an additional outside fire chief out of the area who came in and sat and did a practical evaluation, if you will, or practical scenario with the candidates. Provided the recommendation on a 1 and 2 basis. The third candidate had to withdraw himself from the process.

The third and final step was a sit-down interview with myself where I reviewed how the process had gone with those two individuals, what they saw as challenges moving forward, where to see the department move or topics that they would like to tackle and advance in.

After meeting with the two individuals, made the decision to, as you see, promoted Assistant Chief Dubiansky and Deputy Chief Gallant.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you chief for the explanation and what your thinking was in the process you used.

Do the Board members have questions for the chief?

Selectwoman McHugh: Was the deputy position posted?

Chief Fisher: Yes, there was a position posted for deputy fire chief.

Selectman Dill: So, we still have one running for deputy fire chief then?

Chief Fisher: No, at the end of the process, I promoted John Dubiansky to Assistant Fire Chief which is a position that the department had had, if I can say this right, Gary Clark was the last Assistant Fire Chief and when Gary Clark stepped down, I guess, technically, I would have been the last Assistant Chief.

So, in the past, the fire department has had a varying command structure ranging from two deputy chiefs to an assistant and two deputies and so forth and so on throughout the years.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. Other questions or concerns for the fire chief?

Vice Chairman Pitman: It has nothing to do with the promotion. How are we doing on coverage on Sunday's?

Chief Fisher: On Sundays in particular or just in general, Mr. Pitman.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Either.

Chief Fisher: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I know we put that warrant article in there just in case (couldn't understand) on that but hiring more if we have to make a decision to hire more while we wait or what in order to have coverage.

Chief Fisher: Coverage seems to be spotty, if you will, if that makes sense, depending on people's availability. After hours, if we don't have, let's say if we had a part-timer working 6 to 6, after hours its, as you know, we are a call department and the response is based upon people's availability at this time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right, but if we have to help you out here, if you are that short-handed, we need to know that, I think.

Chief Fisher: I would certainly not be opposed to, I guess, first step would be to see if the budget and/or the back up warrant article were to pass in June would kind of be my first, kind of step and we would certainly like to revisit the issue in June, seeing how those warrant articles go.

Chairman Robertson: Thanks. Anything else for the fire chief this evening?

Selectwoman McHugh: I would like to re-ask that question, Matt, was deputy chief posted?

Chief Fisher: Yes.

Selectwoman McHugh: The deputy chief position was posted?

Chief Fisher: Yes, it was.

Selectwoman McHugh: Was the assistant chief posted?

Chief Fisher: No, it was not.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Any other questions or concerns?

Vice Chairman Robertson: So, the Assistant Chief is "number 2" and the deputy chief "number 3" on the totem pole?

Chief Fisher: That is correct.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What happens after that? Just curious as to who's ..

Chief Fisher: Captain McHugh would be next in the command.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Captain, okay.

So, everything else is filled?

Chief Fisher: We will be promoting an EMS lieutenant next and possibly another fire lieutenant at this time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Anything else?

I would thank you for joining us, Chief, and appreciate your (couldn't understand)

Chief Fisher: May I add one thing?

Chairman Robertson: Sure thing.

Chief Fisher: Testing the waters as to how the Board feels in regards to Oyster Stew?

We did not have an Oyster Stew in 2020 because of COVID. It is typically held in April. I have, obviously, we have pasted April and I had not had an Oyster Stew in April. I have been keeping my eye on June but wanted to get the Board's feeling if even having an Oyster Stew was something that we wanted to think about.

My initial thought was having it downstairs with having the bay doors open as the weather improves. Kind of a similar setup as we do our breakfasts for Old Home Day.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I would think that it would be mandatory that it be downstairs.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, I guess my thought Matt, would be as state guidelines loosen, as long as we are still in compliance with state guidelines, I wouldn't be against Oyster Stew.

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: As long as he has the help to do it.

Selectman McGarry: Are we going to have a spaghetti and meatball alternative?

Chief Fisher: Yes. We will certainly have an alternative as I am not a fan of the oyster stew so I like options.

Chairman Robertson: I think that the Board is in general agreement as long as we stay within the state guidelines and operate as safely as we can, Matt.

Chief Fisher: Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Have a good evening.

Chief Fisher: You, as well.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, next on the agenda we have the highway agent, Mr. Rollins, who is with us.

Are you comfortable talking with us in public session, Steve or ...?

Mr. Rollins: Yes, I don't know why I'm here.

### **Steve Rollins – Highway Agent**

Chairman Robertson: Okay, well, I will give you the (couldn't understand) of why we asked you to come join us and then you can decide whether you want to talk to us publicly or go into non-public.

I think one or more board members have been approached and asked as to where the road agent is on a regular basis.

The Board shares some of that concern. Coming off the winter, honestly, no problems in doing what needed to be done but we are being made aware that people don't see the road agent with the highway crew and the Board has concerns about it.

Mr. Rollins: Okay, so, I don't know what you want me to say.

Today, I was over on Lang Road a couple of times with them and then I was at the shed for a little while. Went down to the dump and repainted the stop line down there.

Looked at a couple of driveway permits and, that was today.

So, no, I wasn't with them every minute.

Chairman Robertson: I did see the truck there this morning when I went by.

Mr. Rollins: I'm there every morning, so, we come up with a plan and go on from there depending what the plan is. I go off and pull beaver screens or whether we go off and do ditching or tree call, whatever it is, it's different every day.

We meet every morning and split up from there.

Chairman Robertson: I think the Board's primary concern is that the highway agent position in Deerfield is a full-time position.

Mr. Rollins: It is and it's also nights and weekends. It's not just nine to five. It's not what it does. My people go home at 4:30 and I'm still on call the rest of the night so if there is a tree across the road, that's what I do so it's not a nine to five job and that's kind of how it works.

Somebody has to be here on the weekends. Somebody has to be here. It seemed like last summer, every weekend I had a tree across the road, usually about 11:30 at night.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is it so bad that we ask for a time card so we can see what, so we can have ...

Mr. Rollins: I am on call all the time, though. I mean, it's like a tow truck driver, sometimes I'm sitting there waiting for a call to happen but ...

Selectwoman McHugh: But, if we had a time card, and someone questioned us, we can pull the time card out and say no, he was doing this or he was there.

Mr. Rollins: Right. And you have a time card that says that I'm on call. I'm available if needed 24, 7. That's what I fill out.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, we asked you to do a time card.

Mr. Rollins: I do my time sheet every week and there is a line that says that I was available that day.

Selectwoman McHugh: But there is nothing there.

Mr. Rollins: I do it the same way as the other road agents did it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, times change and to me, I think the guys should be doing time sheets, too.

Mr. Rollins: They do time sheets.

Selectwoman McHugh: Worked on Cole Road? Four hours, worked on Pleasant Hill for four hours or Nottingham Road for two hours, you know what I mean?

Chairman Robertson: A log of activity, basically.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. I'm not just asking for you to do it, I would like to see the whole department to do it. I mean, the police department does details and we do when we do details.

We are at a detail at the fairgrounds. Detail for Eversource or you know.

Mr. Rollins: I can look into it.

Chairman Robertson: You don't have to look too hard because I think John had worked on a timecard a while ago which basically gives you the opportunity to log what you are doing and we aren't looking for a 15 minute by 15-

minute breakdown but spending Tuesday working on Cole Road and spending Friday night, four hours in the middle of the night moving a tree, that sort of thing, if those could be logged somehow, I think it would make it easier for us so to notify those folks.

And, I know ...

Mr. Rollins: I guess, I'm not seeing any complaints on my end. Nobody, everybody is saying just the opposite to me so if there are people complaining, I would love to know who so I can resurrect the situation.

Chairman Robertson: Well, I think public meetings like this will resurrect some of it but I think like Cindy's point, the Board is interested in knowing a little more specifically, what's going on with the highway department.

Mr. Rollins: So, from the five people, this is the warning.

Chairman Robertson: The Board is, yes.

Selectwoman McHugh: We need backup though. You know, we can't do that if we just have a piece of paper with hours on it with blanks, it just doesn't ... We would feel better answering ....

Mr. Rollins: So, you are telling me that you have people outside this Board that are wondering what I'm doing?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Mr. Rollins: You do.

Selectwoman McHugh: We have, I have had people call me that you are out riding your bike or you are over at Mike Blye's. This is what I am talking about. I am not saying what you are doing is right or wrong. You could have been up all day and all night and took off during the day. I would like to see that. I would like to say that he was out all night and he has the afternoon off instead. (couldn't understand) You know what I mean?

I'm sure your guys (couldn't hear) do they do time sheets? Do you know where that truck is? Or are they sitting at the Dunkin Donuts drinking coffee.

Mr. Rollins: Yes, they do a time card. Start time and end time.

Selectwoman McHugh: And, what job they were on. It's the same thing, I think. I don't think that we are asking too much and I don't think we are trying to pry, I think they just need answers, too.

And, it is people that are seeing you about, around and about, that's all.

Chairman Robertson: I think I am a little bit familiar as well as Alden is, I know when, in years past, when I spoke to the road agent in Northwood, he was pretty blunt in telling me that he kept a specific log and put the details on his time sheets so those jerks on the select board couldn't corner him and I think, having some ideas of what projects are being worked on and along the lines that Cindy was saying, as well.

Selectman Dill: The other thing, Steve, if we put down how much time we are putting on work too, it could justify equipment.

Like Cindy was saying, directing the road crew, if we can see we are putting in the time fixing the one piece of equipment, all the time, it justifies us a lot better to work on replacing that piece of equipment as well.

So, it's not just wondering what is going on.

Speaking of such, how are we doing transitioning from winter to spring? Are we all done or are we partially done?

Mr. Rollins: I guess I don't understand what you're asking.

Selectman Dill: Equipment wise and everything picked up from the winter.

Selectwoman McHugh: Paul's truck disassembled or is it still sitting in the garage?

Mr. Rollins: No, still sitting in the garage with the sander in it.

Selectman McHugh: Yeah, we got to get that out of there. The sand, the salt will eat the body won't it.

Mr. Rollins: It's oiled and but yeah, it would be nice to get it out and it would also be nice to get my salt shed done so I can build my hanger to hang the spreader in. I am kind of waiting on...

Chairman Robertson: Well, it seems to me that we never had a salt shed with a hanger previously for the sander in that truck so there must be another solution. You can't put this on another hanger...

Mr. Rollins: We rebuilt the .... So, we used to have an old set up of hangers that were in the building, in the heated part of the garage now so we welded those up and fixed them up so that we could hook the spreaders however, we are short one spreader hanger so that will probably be telephone poles like we had before.

Chairman Robertson: Well, thank you. If you could come up with something short term so that we can use that truck...

Mr. Rollins: We can use blocks or something for now.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, it doesn't make sense to me to use that truck as a rack and could make better use of it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Get the salt out of it.

Chairman Robertson: Well, ...

Selectman Dill: (Couldn't understand)

Selectwoman McHugh: Salt in the spreader....

Mr. Rollins: It's been washed out but yeah.

Chairman Robertson: What does the Board wish to do at this point?

Selectman McGarry: Well, we probably want John to work with Steve to supply the information to the Board that they are looking for.

Chairman Robertson: I think we've got a prototype that is more than a time card. It's a log so that you can, you know, put in information as to what you are doing that the Board want to see that, Steve.

As I said, it doesn't have to be specific to that you took twenty minutes for lunch, that sort of thing but we like to know the day to day, week to week, what projects are being worked on.

So, can you get together with John and do that?

Mr. Rollins: Yup.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you. Appreciate it.

Anything else for Steve?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I have a note about Swett Road. Did you look at that?

Mr. Rollins: I did.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, and I think the jest of that was that one, they aren't happy with us but two, they would like to see a report of anything we do and spend so they can look for any grant opportunities for the town or whatever offset they might get.

Mr. Rollins: So, my question is for the Board is what would you like us to do?

Vice Chairman Pitman: The only thing that we had and we agree with the Sidmores and that is to do away with what I call the north entrance and make it so silt doesn't wash down and clean the culvert where (couldn't understand) and Don Boyle's where it crosses the road between that house where there is sand over the road.

Chairman Robertson: I think that we have had talked about that previously offline and I think that we may have even have some plan of sorts (couldn't understand) exactly what you were going to do there. Exactly what Dick said. Closing up that lower, north entrance.

Mr. Rollins: Barricade it off with a couple of rocks or something like that?

Chairman Robertson: Some sort of berm

Vice Chairman Pitman: Or plantings

Mr. Rollins: The reason that I was thinking rocks is because you have to wait with some sort of berm to grow in. If I just set a couple of rocks there, the job is done.

Selectman McGarry: I think that they are expecting us to also have it loamed and seeded or whatever just to get some vegetation growing in there as well.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right. That is what they were, they are always worried about traffic because it hasn't been used for a number of years.

Mr. Rollins: Yeah, it is kind of growing in on its own.

Selectwoman McHugh: Do you know the state crew?

Mr. Rollins: Yup.

Selectwoman McHugh: Because I was speaking with one of them and, is it Dave?

Mr. Rollins: Yup.

Selectwoman McHugh: He has some ideas about Swett Road, too and I don't know if you want to talk to him and see if you guys are on the same page, I don't know.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Probably should.

Selectwoman McHugh: I know that he had a whole plan and was waiting to send it in but they thought we were doing something else.

Chairman Robertson: I definitely think we need to coordinate with what we do there right away. Pretty quickly, though.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (couldn't understand) maybe they will find some funding to do some paving at the end of it to help with the washout there.

Mr. Rollins: So, I will get a hold of Dave and see what he had going and we will go from there.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That will be great.

Mr. Rollins: Now, while I am here and speaking good, last Thursday, I believe it was, went to Lee and went looking at blocks for the retaining wall you want to do out here.

Shea does not have blocks that match those blocks down there and which that doesn't matter, it's up to you. I personally think they should match since you face both walls when you drive out.

Also, they don't make the blocks in Lee. So, they are down in MA so we would have to get them in.

So, they are supposed to email me information on that stuff. I haven't seen it yet but do you want me to search for, I think those blocks were Miche', from Miche' over there. Do you want me to see, Ray's kind of dumped this on me to get the blocks?

Selectman Dill: What you are saying is that there may be another place, another venue than from Shea.

Mr. Rollins: Right. Do you want me to get them from Shea or do you want me to ...?

Chairman Robertson: I don't believe the Board is locked into any supplier. If you know any suitable blocks that would match what we've got ....

Mr. Rollins: Similar to what we've used everywhere else in town.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What we have out there now doesn't match anything.

Mr. Rollins: Right, exactly.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (couldn't understand) for safety.

Selectwoman McHugh: You have to keep price in mind, too. We don't want to pay double for matching blocks.

Mr. Rollins: Right, right. They all seem to be about the same price range.

Selectman Dill: The other question that I always seem to ask is if you have anything on the ash trees yet because the problem that I am seeing is that, is the plan going to be is that we send the town throughout or someone to work with you to get rid of them or are we going to wait for Eversource ...

Mr. Rollins: We're basically letting Eversource take as many as they can because that is cheaper for the town but obviously limbs are starting to fall off, fortunately, all small so far but, yeah, it is going to bite us in the butt eventually.

Selectman Dill: Would you do that with a tree crew ....

Mr. Rollins: I do but I only have ...

Selectman Dill: I know, there's no budget for that.

Mr. Rollins: I mean, I have a budget enough to hire a tree crew for two days, maybe three. That isn't going to go far.

Selectman Dill: No, it's not.

Mr. Rollins: So, I mean ...

Selectman Dill: I don't want to burn up that whole, until we get the warrant article, I don't want to burn it all up on tree work ...

Mr. Rollins: No, we are taking as many as we can. I know, I get a call from a home owner that tells me about their ash trees in front of their house and the first thing that I do is well, can I push it onto your land? If I can push it onto your land, and there are no wires, then it is something that we can take care of with the backhoe and Carl and obviously that is the cheapest route for the town and we've done actually, quite a few like that way.

But rather than going door to door, or knocking on doors, I have kind of been waiting for people to call because I couldn't knock on every door in town so that has been the way and Public Service and the Coop taking the ones that they've got marked which they still have a lot marked.

Selectman Dill: They have a lot marked but I haven't seen them in a while.

Mr. Rollins: They disappeared for a while.

Selectman Dill: Is there anybody around, a local tree or Asplundh guy that you can get in touch with?

Mr. Rollins: Oh, yeah. I have. I have spoke with them and they basically told me they go by the ribbons and they can't put a time on it because obviously, storms, they disappear for that and so on and so forth and we have had a lot of wind.

Chairman Robertson: Every time in the lower half of the state is in the same boat.

Mr. Rollins: So, it's just a matter of, we could pay out a bunch of money and go after these trees but ...



Chairman Robertson: We don't have the money.

Mr. Rollins: We don't. We do a little bit at a time and obviously, the ones that are leaning towards the road or could create a problem are a little higher priority than the ones that are standing straight or leaning back but then some of the ones that are leaning back towards people's homes, those are the ones that I am getting a call from and I am able to push them in the opposite direction and still leave them on their property so it's less of an expense for us to have to take care of.

So, it is a whole lot of give and take.

Chairman Robertson: Other concerns for the road agent?

Vice Chairman Pitman: All set for now.

Chairman Robertson: All right. I would thank you for seeing us, Steve and if you could get together with John, we would appreciate that.

Mr. Rollins: Okay. Thank you.

### **Regular Business:**

Chairman Robertson: We have two sets of minutes from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, that being public meeting minutes regarding the skateboard ordinance and the business meeting.

### **Review of Outstanding Minutes of the Public Hearing and the Business Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve both meeting minutes

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:** Mr. Harrington: I have one correction, on the public hearing minutes, page 2, line 1, it was recorded as Kevin Warner should be Kevin Webber.

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

### **Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest**

#### **Accounts Payable Manifest - \$23,629.03**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable manifest as presented

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:** Vice Chairman Pitman: Is there any set time John to do these fire extinguishers so they can come around and check them?

Mr. Harrington: It's an annual inspection.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is it?

Mr. Harrington: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: They don't just show up?

Mr. Harrington: No. They call ahead. They coordinate it with Ray to make sure he's available to get them into all the buildings and the fire extinguishers that they check, they are checking for obviously the content to make sure that they are full. They are actually date stamped on the tank. They have an expiration date for that and last year we had to replace quite a few of the tanks as they were out of useful life span and they weren't allowed to leave them in the building. This year I think we only had one or two that they had to replace.

The others, some were low and they refilled and brought back.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

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

### Signatures/Correspondence:

Chairman Robertson: Moving onto signatures, the only signatures, well, we have a couple other things here. The primary thing I have in front of me is the abatement request we had from Mr. Rhodes regarding 51 Church Street, LLC which we handled last week.

I was confused because we had a tax levy and we also had an abatement request for 71 Church Street.

After talking to John, Evan and Assessing here, basically, we will just let the LUCT levy in the amount of \$8,800.00 dissipate. Put a copy of the minutes with it. That goes away. We don't have to take further action or sign it.

We do have a land use change tax amount of \$245.00. This was an initial one which Evan recommended that we abate and they don't actually result in a refund because it hasn't been paid. It just changes the computer record and the tax record because the name was changed back.

We did take a vote to grant that last week but I didn't check the box (couldn't understand).

The second one was 51 Church Street also, and this is regarding a lot line adjustment which previously put current use land, a very small strip, into a taxable parcel, which was then taxed and we have an abatement request for that.

Evan talked to Mr. Rhodes and verified that today, and that would be to deny.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You want a motion to deny it?

Chairman Robertson: Yes.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to deny the abatement for 51 Church Street regarding a lot line adjustment

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Mr. Harrington: We can hear you, Mr. Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes: Nobody, Evan never spoke to me.

Mr. Harrington: I talked to Evan today and he indicated that this was discussed in your meeting with them.

Mr. Rhodes: In the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Harrington: I don't know the date. I believe so.

Mr. Rhodes: Something's confusing because that is the \$245.00, we were talking about.

Chairman Robertson: The \$245.00 was abated.

Mr. Rhodes: And the \$8,800.00 is going to go away so what's left? I'm not aware of anything else that he spoke with me about.

Chairman Robertson: Well, I suggested that you meet with the Assessing Clerk and look at this and we can revisit it Mr. Rhodes, if we need to.

Mr. Rhodes: Yeah.

Chairman Robertson: My understanding is this takes care of both the payment requests. Does away with the \$8,800.00 and corrects the \$245.00.

Mr. Rhodes: Is there an amount associated with this?

Chairman Robertson: There is not one listed. There is not an amount associated with it.

Mr. Rhodes: As long as that is the same, I'll come in and talk with the Assessing Clerk.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you.

Mr. Rhodes: Thank you.

Selectwoman McHugh: Andy, I'm not going to sign that until the question about the whole thing...

Chairman Robertson: I didn't hear whether you wanted that to extend to the vote too?

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, no, I was going to vote until I heard all this confusion and we don't know if Evan talked to him about that so ...

Chairman Robertson: He may need to revisit it and we can remotion it if there is something incorrect.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. I guess I will sign won't this.

Mr. Harrington: So, are you going to abstain?

Chairman Robertson: No, she just isn't going to sign it.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, we have a couple of appointment forms here.

First is a request from the Parks and Rec Commission to appoint Brian Fisher to the Parks and Rec Commission or reappoint him. This will make him a member of the Parks and Rec Commission through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

We also have a request to reappoint Jeff Shute to the committee and again this would put him in his position until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the abovementioned appointments as read

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: We have a contract from Rymes and this is just in response to us awarding them the propane. We awarded them the bid for propane; 11,000 gallons at \$1.599 and requires one signature but I will need a motion to sign.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to have the chairman sign the contract with Rymes Propane for propane

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: Okay, under Correspondence.

We have nothing in the Correspondence File beyond an update from Executive Councilor Gatsas so he is very thorough about providing us updates about anything they do.

We have bids tonight for waterhole and cistern.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, Mr. Gatsas answers his phone and gets right back.

We have a bid for waterholes and cisterns from Saint's

Mr. Harrington: Saint's Lawn Care

Chairman Robertson: Saint's Lawn Care. Not a whole lot to it but they give us a total bid of \$3,000.00.

We also have a bid from Mark Tibbetts for water holes and cisterns. (Couldn't understand). The bid is \$2,800.00 for the season. Mow and trim all water holes and cisterns every three weeks or when needed due to weather conditions.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Any others, John?

Chairman Robertson: One more, and this is from John St. Pierre of Blue Sky Landscaping and he has given us a bid of \$3,500.00 for 14 water holes and 11 cisterns.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to award the mowing of water holes and cisterns to Mark Tibbetts for \$2,800.00

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:** Selectwoman McHugh: I have a question. Do the, this is for mowing and picking up branches?

Chairman Robertson: Well, we have

Selectwoman McHugh: (Couldn't hear)

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, we got two that say mowing. Mark's gives a little more detail, I think.

Selectwoman McHugh: Do the caps on them need to be repainted? Is that something that we can get the fire guys to do during the day?

Selectman Dill: (couldn't understand) myself.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, I think the fire department should be able to make sure those fences are correct, the signs are up. I know there's one from this winter up on Middle Road that had a tree down across in front of it. Hopefully, it's gone but that should fall onto the fire department.

Selectwoman McHugh: Firehole maintenance also should fall onto the fire department; do they know that?

Chairman Robertson: I assume they have some sort of an idea but we can certainly remind them that it's their responsibility to keep the fences and the signs and make sure that they are clear.

I believe the cisterns, too, particularly the newer ones down by the highway shed that we've had some discussion in the past, to make sure that they stay painted as well.

If there is nothing else in correspondence....

Mr. Harrington: Did you vote?

Chairman Robertson: Oh no, we didn't.

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

Chairman Robertson: Everyone seemed in agreement.

Mr. Harrington: I know. I was just keeping it official so we don't have to revisit it.

Chairman Robertson: Moving along to the Town Administrator's Report.

#### **Town Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Harrington: Okay. I have two items for you this evening.

I have the unfortunate honor to let you know that Ruth Hanahan, the building cleaner for almost two years, is moving so I am very sorry to see her go. She's been a great asset to the building. Everyone really likes her. She's really become part of the staff here. Her last day here will be May 28<sup>th</sup> so I will be posting that job.

I've talked to Candace at the library and we are going to do a joint posting because Ruth had just started cleaning the library as well and I'm hoping that with the combined hours, it might attract more people. It will be a total of 15 hours a week between the two buildings so I will get that posted this week and see if we can get another candidate in here to clean for us.

The other item is that we are going to have to go out to bid again for the diesel contract. When we called Palmer today to set up our account, they let us know they don't sell road diesel. They only sell off-road diesel.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, it was off-road diesel.

Mr. Harrington: Right. We are looking for diesel for trucks on the road.

Selectman Dill: I think that's off road.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No.

Selectman Dill: No, but isn't there an exception for government vehicles.

Mr. Harrington: The fire trucks use that too.

Chairman Robertson: My recollection is that we have to apply for the tax credit. You can just run the off-road fuel but it may be worth looking into.

Mr. Harrington: I shall look into it.

Selectman Dill: It surprised me when we were talking about it and you said, oh yeah, fire trucks and for some reason, I think we might be able to on municipal run vehicles.

Mr. Harrington: I will check that.

Selectman Dill: I would because diesel is getting a little weird.

Mr. Harrington: I will definitely check on it.

So, you want me to check to see if we can run off-road diesel.

Selectman Dill: To see what we are running right now.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, let's find out if we can.

Chairman Robertson: Because we might be doing it illegally.

Mr. Harrington: I will find out both. How about that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: It would easier than applying for a rebate.

Selectman Dill: It would be a lot easier than applying for a rebate.

Mr. Harrington: I will let you all know in an email so you all don't have to wait until the next meeting and let you know which way; we are going on that.

Selectman Dill: I move to authorize going out to bid if we have to for diesel.

Chairman Robertson: No (couldn't understand)

Mr. Harrington: We will have when we don't have anything in place. That is not the case right now.

That's all I had this evening.

Chairman Robertson: Great. Thank you.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Selectman McGarry: I was going to ask John if he had any inquiries in regard to the bid documents that we had for paving.

Mr. Harrington: One vendor and several of those companies that track construction projects but one actual vendor which I have sent the material to.

Selectman McGarry: Okay. Good.

Mr. Harrington: And, that is due back to the town, paving is due the 20<sup>th</sup>.

We have the salt shed due on the 17<sup>th</sup>, road reconstruction materials on the 20<sup>th</sup>, paving on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the ventilation system on the 26<sup>th</sup> so those bids are still out.

Chairman Robertson: Great. Other unfinished business?

Vice Chairman Pitman: This was asked this weekend if we think there are any openings on the Veasey Park Commission.

Mr. Harrington: None that I have been made aware of. The last one I think we had was the chair, Travis.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, let us know if there is one. We have a resident that is interested.

Mr. Harrington: I will let you know.

Chairman Robertson: Alden.

Selectman Dill: A whole bunch of stuff came up at the Rec meeting the other night.

I'll start with the easy one. John, with the town engineers and the gazebo field where we wanted to level it there by the old chicken pit, (couldn't understand) and asked if we had, I believe it was (couldn't hear) or Jeff had a town engineer draw up some plans for (couldn't understand) to pour cement.

Mr. Harrington: I hadn't heard that yet.

Selectman Dill: Could you check with (couldn't hear). The problem is that we have been waiting quite a while to get these plans so that we can do something. We are going to have to do it soon which brings up the next question.

Old Home Day. And we were discussing plans for Old Home Day and wanted to feel out, see how the rest of the Board felt about it so that we can start getting that all planned out.

Chairman Robertson: Personally speaking, I would be in favor of planning an Old Home Day and knowing we may have to modify it to stay within state guidelines, so be it but I, to my mind, Old Home Day sounds like something you could quite successfully do even if we are still in COVID regulations.

It's outside. The food distribution might have to be changed a little.

Selectman Dill: That was the first thing that came up. A couple of people were a little bit more (couldn't understand) than some. We may need to take out the potluck part which I (couldn't understand) but doing just the chicken barbeque rather than the whole thing.

If everyone feels comfortable with that, I will send that back to the Rec Commission.

Chairman Robertson: I think things like the parade and concerts. There's probably not money for fireworks but things that we have done in the past, along those lines make sense to me to do.

Selectman Dill: Okay. The other thing that came up, which you discussed with John, was the air filtration. There was some disagreement whether we are, the way that I interpreted it, that we said that there is not going to be any programs down there until we get air filtration.

There was some disagreement on if that was how we originally were looking at it or not.

Chairman Robertson: I don't know if we actually made a firm motion.

Selectman Dill: There was no motion in the minutes.

Chairman Robertson: We had a fairly general discussion about it. You know, it come to us as to see if we could get the old one to work and then sort of worked into the old ones aren't going to work no way, no matter what and I don't know if we did anything more than talk about it from then on.

Selectman Dill: So, the problem that that brings up is the Summer Camp program and if we are going to have that up and running in time to run the summer camp program here.

I suggested that they start looking at plan b in case this isn't up and running.

Chairman Robertson: Nick did have a Plan B for his ....

Selectman Dill: Well, that is Plan ...

Chairman Robertson: That is what I was recollecting.

Selectman Dill: The other one we brought up was to do it at town hall which I know that there is no air filtration and is the town hall.

Chairman Robertson: There is no air filtration and only one bathroom.

Selectman Dill: (Couldn't understand) that's where Parks and Rec is standing with us right now. Stop and consider before we get too far out on this right now.

Because if bids come back the 26<sup>th</sup>, we award it, I don't know if they are going to have time to get the system up and running so that's the problem.

I think it's fifty kids or fifty to seventy that are signed up right now.

That's all I got.

Chairman Robertson: All right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I have one. Any idea John, when Town Reports are coming out?

Mr. Harrington: I just sent the proof to Steve Jamele who will forward it to the printer. I have them scheduled to arrive the week before we vote. They will be available the first week of June which is when they have to be available, seven days before the vote.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'll pass that on.

Mr. Harrington: There will be an online version available and also hard copies available for people to pick up.

Selectwoman McHugh: What happened to material bids?

Multiple people talking low. The 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Robertson: Other business or new business?

**New Business:**

**None**

**Other Business:**

**None**

Chairman Robertson: Hearing none, I would move to Citizen's Comments at this time.

**Citizen's Comments:**

**None**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:20 pm

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 24, 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*