

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
September 20, 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, and Cynthia McHugh, Selectmen.

**Absent:** Alden Dill, Selectman

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Okay, before we get uh, rolling, I'm going to announce that uh, I have to leave at 6:45 this evening so the rest of the Board will be handling whatever budgets we don't get through this evening but I just wanted to throw that out there ahead of time.

That said, our first order of business on the agenda is Mr. Cross and I believe both Mr. Crosses are here with us this evening and the microphone is yours.

**Mr. Cross – Thurston Pond Road:**

Mr. Cross: I had sent an email communication about having an opportunity for a non-public meeting.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, we have a very specific set of criteria that we have to us for non-public so what would, what would be the reason that we would want to do this in non-public?

Mr. Cross: Um, for the purposes of considering legal actions based on what has been going on and transpiring with that particular roadway.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, that um, that probably is not a reason that we can enter into non-public. Um, typically, if it is confidential, legal information being offered to the town by our attorney or if it's for the purchase of a piece of land or if it would affect the reputation of somebody other than us, we can go into non-public for those but just possible legal action is not something that we would go into non-public to discuss.

Mr. Cross: Okay, that's that wasn't my understanding um, not to say that I'm 100 percent correct on that but I did think that that would fit the criteria that was in the RSA.

Chairman Robertson: The RSA does indeed list (I) which is for consideration of legal advice by this Board but it would, we would typically go into non-public if we were going to receive sensitive information about defending the town, that type of thing, not just threatened or impending legal action.

Mr. Cross: Then I will, then obviously you're not going to want to meet in a non-public situation so at this point, I don't have any more to say if you aren't going to meet with me.

Chairman Robertson: We can certainly meet with you but I think the Board would prefer to do it in public rather than non-public and I don't believe this actually fits the criteria of going into a non-public meeting under RSA 91: A, 3, II.

Mr. Cross: Okay, thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, thank you.

Okay, moving on, we are going to continue with the 2022 Budget Review. First up is, well, before we get to that, uh, Mr. Shute, are you here to help with the Parks and Rec Budget or did you have another matter that you wish to discuss with the Board?

Mr. Shute: Separate matter with the Board.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, if the Board doesn't mind, I would recognize Mr. Shute at this time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Definitely.

Chairman Robertson: I think we've got a copy of the matter, plan for the matter which Mr. Shute which is (couldn't understand).

Mr. Shute: Yeah, Jeff Shute, Pleasant Hill Road.

I'm here on behalf of the Parks and Rec um, skating rink project that last year we, we purchased a skating rink and we had it constructed over at Hartford Brook because it was the only flat piece of ground that we could find.

We would like to have it over at the Gazebo um, for a lot of reasons. Closer to the center of town, there's better water source for taking care of it.

So, what we've done is um, with the help of Jason Franklin, from Franklin Associates, we surveyed the area and that's the, the plot that you have in front of you and what we'd like to do is, is level out an area hundred feet by hundred feet.

This would leave the area where the two drains are existing and the chicken pit is and we'd have 75 plus feet of grass area in front of the Gazebo.

The material that we're looking to do is probably a, some kind of a gravel material so that it's flattened and the rink can sit on it and then we can use it for other things. We could set up corn hole on it. We could do horseshoe pits. We can do volleyball, stuff like that; be more of a multi-purpose area.

We didn't want to put the rink back on grass because it basically will ruin the grass that we put on it so that's kind of why we didn't want to loam and seed the area.

So, what you have in front of you is the proposed area and we have people in town that have offered to do the work. Um, there's no cost to the town. We are fundraising right now to purchase a new liner for the rink. The rink is 44 x 88 feet so that's why we're going 100 x 100.

We also have a second rink that was donated. It's 30, roughly 30 by 60 so we were thinking we could do two rinks there; a small one and a larger one so um, wanted to bring before you guys, let's see what you thought.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Jeff, would this stay put up as far as the perimeter boards year around?

Mr. Shute: No, we take it down, put it up in November and take it down in April so ....

Vice Chairman Pitman: It would be a rakeable surface.

Mr. Shute: Yep.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds like a good idea.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is that adding to Hartford Brook? Would this be the third ring or is it nothing in Hartford Brook?

Mr. Shute: Nothing to do with Hartford Brook. Bringing the rink here.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Mr. Shute: It's moving it to the Gazebo rather than Hartford Brook.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah. Okay.

Selectman McGarry: So, would you be uh, cutting into that, into that, uh, ridge that runs out off the Gazebo?

Mr. Shute: Yeah, the idea would be to help to flatten that out a little bit and use that fill-to-fill in. It's not a lot. I think it's only a foot, foot and a half that we're looking at really playing with.

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, it looks pretty, pretty flat there.

Mr. Shute: We were going to try to get all the way to the road but I don't want to deal with those two drains there that are existing except we're going to try to create a swale so they actually drain better to that spot but we'll keep the pit where it is so that's kind of where we're at.

Chairman Robertson: I guess the one thing I would say, I, I almost feel like even though it wouldn't be required, that we need to have a public hearing on this.

This is the only central green space in town and for some reason, I had it in my head that we were going to move the rink and set it up on grass and reseed it and when the rink was gone, we, we'd still have green space and I'm concerned that there's going to be some community kickback if we take the large green field in front of the Gazebo and turn it into hardened, flat gravel and I think, I don't know how the rest of the Board feels, but I almost, you know, there's no timeline requirement, 30 days or anything for doing it but I almost think we should have a public hearing and invite people to comment and you know, if everyone's in favor of doing it, by all means, do it but if there's significant pushback over the removal of the grass, I think that's something the town should have a say in.

Mr. Shute: I mean, we can look at leveling it out and reseeding it but I, I won't, you know, if the rink goes on it, there's no guarantee the grass is going to grow back.

Vice Chairman Pitman: How much time does it take for the hearing?

Chairman Robertson: We could schedule a public hearing after our next public hearing. There's no legal requirement for it so we can do it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Next Monday, we could have a ...

Mr. Harrington: A public hearing, I would go minimum, seven days notice.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We do have one next Monday, correct?

Mr. Harrington: We do.

Chairman Robertson: Do you want to try the following Monday?

Mr. Harrington: Yeah, yeah, we could do that for you.

Chairman Robertson: Is 14 days going to kill anything, Jeff?

Mr. Shute: No, I mean, at this point, no. I mean I've been trying to get this done since December so I would just like to know that we're going to put the rink there before November 1<sup>st</sup>. You know, we're going to start thinking about when we set it up and get it ready.

Chairman Robertson: Yup, Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: How far away is this from that tank that we're working on?

Mr. Shute: The tanks are way up on the corner, isn't it?

Selectwoman McHugh: Up here?

Mr. Shute: Yeah, yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It says shed.

Selectman McGarry: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And manhole.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, I don't think anyone's uh, against the skating rink and having it centrally located but I have already heard some, some grumbling about, what do you mean you're turning it into, basically a parking lot when it's been beautiful grass and that's why the town bought it and ...

Mr. Shute: Yeah. It's fine. You know, like I said, if we have to, we can try to level it out and put loam and seed on it and see what happens. I mean, unless you don't want the rink there. I mean, it's just the water, a lot of good reasons to have the rink in that area so ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Definitely.

Chairman Robertson: I think it's a good, central location for the rink.

Mr. Shute: Okay, so you'll have a hearing on ....

Chairman Robertson: That will be October 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Harrington: The fourth.

Mr. Shute: October 4<sup>th</sup>?

Chairman Robertson: Yeah.

Mr. Shute: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: All right.

Mr. Shute: All right. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thanks Jeff.

Selectman McGarry: Thanks Jeff.

**Planning Board – Page 17:**

Chairman Robertson: Okay, moving into our regular 2022 Budget Review. The first item we have is the Planning Board which we are going to waive this evening. The Planning Board has not finalized the budget is my understanding, Fred?

Selectman McGarry: That's correct.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, so we can move to the Zoning Board.

### **Zoning Board – Page 18:**

Chairman Robertson: We've got a Zoning Board budget request for the 2022 year of \$4,366.00 and that is a \$980.00 increase from the prior year.

Ms. Cady (from the audience): Could you give us the page, please?

Chairman Robertson: Sure, that is page 18.

And the, the backup material gives the um, the, the listings of where the budget has gone up. Um, they want to uh, give their uh, recording secretary a raise, a fifty-cent raise.

Charges are fairly straight forward. That's the primary, that's basically, that's it.

Selectman McGarry: Yeah.

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

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Zoning Board budget as presented

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: That's unanimous, John.

Moving on to Government Buildings. That would be Page 20 and I would uh, thank the town administrator for getting these in numerical page order for us so we can just flip through them.

### **Government Buildings – Page 20:**

Chairman Robertson: We have a budget request for the 2022 year in the amount of \$108,715.00 for government buildings and we've got the backup information here. You can see what the increases are and how this breaks down.

We have Ray with us if people have specific questions.

Selectman McGarry: Ray, we're showing an increase of about \$1,100.00 bucks on the mileage?

Mr. Ellis: Right.

I use my own vehicle for the town so I get paid mileage for that.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Mr. Ellis: In the past, I guess, Mark had his own vehicle when he was fire chief and so he didn't use his vehicle but ...

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Mr. Ellis: I'm using my own vehicle.

Selectman McGarry: Yep.

Chairman Robertson: Other discussion.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, we're at the \$108,715.00?

Chairman Robertson: Yes.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Government Buildings budget as presented

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: All right. Okay, moving onto the George B. White Building, that being page 21.

### **George B. White Building – Page 21:**

Chairman Robertson: We've got a 2022 request in the amount of \$101,359.00. That's a 9.67 percent increase.

Mr. Ellis: Most of the increases are the prices of the oil.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah. I see water testing went up a little.

Mr. Ellis: Water testing, also.

Chairman Robertson: Questions for Ray?

Vice Chairman Robertson: Nothing we can control as far as an increase.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the budget of the George B. White Building as presented

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: Which will move us onto the Town Hall.

### **Town Hall – Page 22**

Chairman Robertson: And we have a requested Town Hall budget in the amount of \$33,952.00.

Obviously, the primary increase here is sprinkler system, uh, maintenance and also, uh, we've got an increase in the oil price. Rubbish collection went down.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The painting of it was under the Government Building, not here?

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, is that, that is, that scheduled this year, Ray, to get ...

Mr. Ellis: The painting? No because the town hall's been closed so we didn't fee we'd spend the money this summer.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: The, the painting, the painting request has gone into every budget we've presented. It just has not been uh, voted in.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Town Hall budget as presented

**Second:** Vice Chairman Pitman

Selectwoman McHugh: I have a question about the R.B. Lewis. I mean, I, we're paying them \$3,000.00 for the Town Hall and then more money for this building. What is our complete, R.B. Lewis contract?

Mr. Ellis: For a combination of charging the, inspections, for the all the buildings in the town as far as the exits and make sure everything is correct, make sure all the fire extinguishers are charged; they do that. They also check the fire alarm systems and they also run the alarm system itself which used to be under Paul.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right, but I'm just wondering and we're paying them \$3,000.00 just for the town hall.

Mr. Ellis: That's for the maintenance of the uh, sprinkler system and uh...

Selectwoman McHugh: What are we paying them for the George B. White Building?

Mr. Ellis: I think it's under contracts.

Selectwoman McHugh: It's under contracts but it's not broke down. Well, \$17,000.00.

Mr. Harrington: That includes the cleaning contract as well and any other contract services we have.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: That's not just R.B. Lewis.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, did we ever get to the bottom of this?

Selectwoman McHugh: What I'm asking is what's R.B. Lewis's contract for the town?

Mr. Harrington: When the original proposal was put to the Board to change from uh, Skycomm to R.B. Lewis, the cost was negligible for the maintenance and the alarm maintaining for the, for day-to-day alarms.

That the price for R.F. Lew also includes the inspection of all the fire extinguishers, the yearly testing of all the system which was broken up for. For a price, I don't have it with me tonight, Cindy. I can get it to you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can we put this on hold for next week and get that number because, ... big.

Chairman Robertson: Is it the Board's preference to hold off on the Town Hall budget until we have the total R.B. Lewis contract.

Selectman McGarry: Sure.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, if everyone's in agreement, we will hold the Town Hall budget then.

**(no vote taken, tabled until next week)**

Chairman Robertson: Which brings us to the Police Department.

### **Police Department – Page 30**

Chairman Robertson: And we do have the police chief with us this evening. And let me make sure I've got the total here. The total requested 2022 looks to be \$879,847.00. If you go through the backup, there's a few things in there that are up.

State retirement is, is changing again, our contribution to which I know adds \$30,000.00 or \$40,000.00 to that but uh, microphone's yours chief.

Chief Duquette: Thank you.

Yeah, um, so as usual, there's a couple the salary lines for starters, um based on the pay scale that we put in place um, accounts for a large part of that. Of course, when, you know, that also increases the median rate shift differential, holiday pay and overtime rates as well and yeah, the other big part of that is the retirement line went up substantially which we don't really have any control over.

Um, other than that, it stayed pretty much the same with the exception of a couple of things.

There's a decrease in the contract line of \$5,700.00 um, because we shifted some of our maintenance costs over the county when we upgraded our computer-rated dispatch system, our records and management system.

Uh, we had to add \$4,400.00 into our gas line. They reset the price, town-wide this year. I think we were \$2.29 or \$2.39 a gallon and we bumped that up to \$2.99 a gallon.

Um, other than that, I added more money into the cruiser line as well because um, the, the amount that's been in there for more years than I can remember and is simply not enough to purchase and outfit a car and um, and those, that, that's really the only changes in the budget. Everything else stayed the same.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, that \$42,000.00 covers you chief, to fit one in to buy one?

Chief Duquette: I'm, the, oh yes, yes, I'm sorry, yes, yeah, it should.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Other questions for the chief?

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Police Department budget as presented, \$879,847.00 budget

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

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

Chief Duquette: Do you want to hit the ACO and the Highway Safety? It'll take like two seconds.



Chairman Robertson: Sure.

Chief Duquette: You might have to go backwards, though. No, while I'm sitting here.

Chairman Robertson: We can certainly do that.

Selectwoman McHugh: We're on a roll.

Chairman Robertson: Let's start with the ACO and that is on page 62.

### **Animal Control Officer – Page 62.**

Chairman Robertson: And we have a requested budget in the amount of \$8,099.00 and you can see that the, the two lines where there is an increase in the budget are the vehicle, uh, lines because we know ...

Chief Duquette: Exactly, it all stayed the same except for, you know, she's got the vehicle now so we uh, we had put in uh, \$1,097.00, a \$1,000.00 for um, maintenance, tires, things like that and then the other uh, close to \$900.00 was for uh, fuel purchase.

Other than that, everything stayed the same.

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Animal Control Officer budget as presented

**Second:** Vice Chairman Pitman

**Vote: Yea: 2, Nay 0, Abstained 1, Motion Carries**

Chairman Robertson: The Animal Control Officer will abstain from the vote. So, noted.

Um, and then uh, Highway Safety.

### **Highway Safety – Page 41**

Chief Duquette: Uh, yeah, no change on that either. We just keep the dollar in there to keep it alive. We don't, we haven't used it for a couple of years.

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Highway Safety budget as presented

**Second:** Vice Chairman Pitman

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

Chairman Robertson: That takes care of that and I would thank you for being with us, chief.

Chief Duquette: Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Back to our regular schedule, we can move to the Transfer Station, uh, I think we're on the Transfer Station, no, Building Department first on page 39 and uh, we have a Building Inspection uh, requested budget in the amount of \$64,900.00.

This is up considerably from the prior year and I'm assuming that this has a lot to do with what we are um, seeing happen with ...

Mr. Pelletier: It's still, it's still dealing with contract obligations that we have with most of these vendors. I mean, unless we completely change the way we do things, um, we're going to be stuck with that for a while.

I mean, I've talked in the past about having our own truck and uh, doing more of our own hauling and things of that nature but obviously, that's not going to happen tomorrow and that requires considerable amount of funding.

I mean, a building or a different type of structure to completely cover our waste every time it rains or anything like that happens.

Any of our recyclables, we immediately get dinged with a deduction if they feel the moisture content is too high and I don't know how they measure the moisture content or if they feel the moisture contents high, they deduct from the weight, a percentage and it's not in our favor.

You know, I think I've spoken about it in the past. The more efficient transfer stations bale everything um, into cubes and they store the bales at the facilities indoor because if you bail the, a lot of the recycling vendors will actually pick the product up themselves but they want full trailer loads so we're talking sixty thousand, seventy thousand pounds of paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastics.

I mean, um, you can make roughly, a two-thousand-pound bale of plastic, roughly four feet by three feet by six feet and it'll weigh two thousand pounds.

I have a forty-yard dumpster. We're lucky if we can put two thousand pounds of plastic in it because it is like a big sponge. You compress it, you retract the ram, it all comes back okay, but in order to get rid of full loads, you have to store all those bales.

Pittsfield has, Pittsfield has a large facility, all indoors and they, they're hooked up with a number of communities up in that area and they take in everybody's bales and so forth and they sell them as a group so they can push more product at a faster rate.

Some other towns do it on their own but I mean, those are the ins and outs of the industry so, but, you know, I have no clue what the building would cost.

I did visit a building recently. Their building is one by two, one by one fifty. Everything's indoors. You drive in, set up similar to ours. They have retaining wall and they throw the product over the wall but they don't have bins, they just have it divided up with concrete barriers and they've got lines painted and they know that in this bin when the one, the rubbish is up to this line, they take it out with a bobcat and they put it in the baler and they make a bale and stack the bale in the corner.

Pittsfield does a very similar thing. Derry operates the same way. Um, I've not been to that many facilities but there's a number of facilities that do operate that way so.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Transfer Station budget as presented  
**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

Selectman McGarry: Let's see, we have an increase in the electronics disposal. Is the \$10.00 that we charge, is that, looking to increase that or what?

Mr. Pelletier: Um, well, I was once told that those prices were fixed in that I couldn't change those prices.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, typically the Board sets the prices but we certainly could, uh, I mean...

Mr. Pelletier: There's probably some stuff we could, I mean, the, most of the stuff we pay for by the pound. The TVs are probably the kickers that we're definitely, probably running in the negative with televisions but those are really going downhill now, you know the big screen, mama bears are gone and the uh, big tube TVs, we're seeing few and fewer of those so um, I don't know as we're taking as big of a hit on that. I don't have a, unfortunately, I don't have a count on exact types of TVs other than I know that I very seldom see a 37-inch picture tube TV in the bins anymore or one of those uh, Chester Draw TVs that's the size of three men.

Selectman McGarry: Is that something you could give us a recommendation on as far as uh, whether we should be increasing that from 10 bucks to ...

I can. I can look into it a little bit further. I can check around, see what other people are charging.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, we don't, we don't want to get ourselves in a position where we suddenly have electronics sprouting up in the woods.

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, right.

Mr. Pelletier: Unfortunately, that is the flip side because we still have a few residents that uh, we still have a percentage of residents that come in and cry about the cost of that stuff and then the next thing I know I get a call from the highway department or something like that or they come in and they picked up some of this and some of that, that they picked up on the side of the road and you immediately know that it must have been somebody that was unhappy when we told them it was a fee.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: It looks like the same thing with the tires too, right?

Mr. Pelletier: Yeah, well, they're not as bad. For some reason or other, they've uh, well, I think what you'll find is a lot of the tire shops get five dollars to keep the tires and we're at three so I think it's gotten um ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, this is increased too is what I'm asking.

Mr. Pelletier: What's that Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: The tire line is increasing.

Mr. Pelletier: Yeah, we did increase it only because, because we're disposing of more tires but as far as a cost per tire, it's actually cheaper to bring your tires to us right now than it is to have your tires done as somebody like some of the auto places and so forth because they've automatically kind of built, a price built in to their selling price for um, disposing of tires so you know, if you realize what that fee is, it's probably cheaper to have them put it in your trunk and take them here.

Chairman Robertson: Further questions?

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

Chairman Robertson: And, let me get to the last, I think. There's one more section here. Nope, that was it. That was the final.

Vice Chairman Robertson: Thank you, Rick.

Mr. Pelletier: You're welcome.

Chairman Robertson: Do you have a total for, uh, we'll need a, I can certainly add it up, I guess but we're going to need an overall total for the Budget Committee too because they're not going to be happy with four parts of the Transfer Station budget.

Um, and we did Animal Control. We've got Parks and Rec which is our final budget and that is page 68.

## Parks and Rec – Page 68

Chairman Robertson: Nick is with us. Give me just a second, Nick.

And the town portion of the Parks and Rec budget uh, includes, the full-time employee line, uh and an additional amount for uh, maintenance and uh, activities at Gazebo Field and Old Home Day as those particular venues don't generate any of the fees that go into the rolling fund so the, the budget request for 2022 \$102,503.00.

I think the primary difference is looking for the assistant director's salary in here.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that under the full-time line?

Chairman Robertson: It is and the breakdown on the back out, you've got the director and the assistant director as we've had in the, but this is a request to have all of it come out of the town budget as opposed to the revolving fund.

Mr. Harrington: Currently, right now, the assistant director's full-time salary is 50 the 80 fund and 50 the budget but what we learned last year is we ended up losing a full-time employee with the program shutting down and no revenue was coming into the 80 fund and we couldn't sustain paying that full-time person out of the budget and my feeling is if we're going to offer a full-time position with benefits in the town then we need to make sure that we've get adequate funding to pay for that person.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, it's been a crazy year.

Chairman Robertson: And funding that increases this by uh, what, oh, I'm having difficulty understanding if it increases if we did 50/50 last year and we're doing 100 percent this year, how come the line only went up \$27,000.00? Oh, because that's the half.

Mr. Harrington: That's the half that was covered by the 80 fund.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: That makes sense.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What's the \$3,300.00 go for on Old Home Day?

Mr. Lawrence: So, that can go towards everything from fireworks to the band. The expenses for Old Home Day accumulate pretty quickly. Um, other event, if we bring in uh, entertainment, anything throughout the day. Um, there's quite a bit of different things that it goes towards.

Chairman Robertson: And we'd added those two lines because Old Home Day doesn't, there's no registration fee for it so it doesn't generate funding the way that other Parks and Rec activities generally do.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Parks and Rec budget as presented at \$102,503.00

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: It appears to be unanimous, John. Thank you, thank you Nick.

Selectman McGarry: Total for the Transfer Station, \$416,468.00.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you, Fred.

Mr. Harrington: That's for all three of those separate budgets.

Selectman McGarry: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: See, that worked out well tonight, having them in order.

Mr. Harrington: Thank you, Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, thank you.

### **Regular Business:**

#### **Review of Outstanding Minutes of September 7, 2021**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of September 7, 2021

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

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

Chairman Robertson: We have, buried somewhere in here an accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$90,832.84.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest (and has a question)

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

Vice Chairman Pitman: How can we get a clearer idea like \$37,000.00 was on a credit card and it is without any breakout other than IT, PD?

Mr. Harrington: Uh, you mean, what is the email to you for the breakout? I can have, there is a cover sheet.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't want to make more work for Pete.

Mr. Harrington: To answer your question, the easiest thing to do would be to include the cover sheet to the credit card breakdown so you'll see the total price in the expense manifest and then the cover sheet which will break it down into individual charges.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Like, it's not usually anywhere near \$37,000.00, that's what, and I know it said IT.

Mr. Harrington: Pete has looked for every conceivable way to charge our expenses on the card because we do get a percent back which we'll add up at the end of the year.

That's why you've seen that bill increase over the months. He was able to charge all of our waste disposal for Casella and Wheelabrator which are pretty substantial charges.

Vice Chairman Pitman: If we could get a copy of that ...

Mr. Harrington: Yep, I will make a note.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, I think we actually, we do have a pretty complete breakdown of it in here.

Mr. Harrington: Right and I can have him include that sheet with it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: Great. Other questions or concerns?

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

Chairman Robertson: And we have a payroll manifest with a gross of \$83,407.72 which nets out at \$53,664.77.

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Payroll Manifest as presented

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

#### **Signatures/Correspondence:**

Chairman Robertson: All set? Okay, in the Signature File we have two items from Assessing.

The first is a timber tax levy uh, in the amount of \$488.52 to be levied against Anthony and Catherine Brock of Middle Road and we do have the Yield Certification Form on the front.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to collect the timber tax levy as presented

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: We also have a Notice of Intent to cut and this is from Roscoe and Kathleen Blaisdell and this is for a small, quarter acre uh, parcel of land adjacent to a cut that the Blaisdell's currently have under operation on Mountain Road but there is some question of the parcel. This is adjacent to the power line and between two parcels of property and our Assessing Clerk, Christine Robert is recommending that we deny the intent to cut at this time until ownership is, uh, truly discovered.

Selectman McGarry: So, we don't need a motion to deny.

Chairman Robertson: No, we don't. We would just leave it.

Selectwoman McHugh: I thought this was a neighborhood, is this the land that's supposed to be owned by Public Service?

Chairman Robertson: Uh, no, I believe this is between two neighbors, actually.

Mr. Harrington: Actually, this is between the corridor for Public Service and a privately held parcel. There's a small triangle of land and there's, it's currently in dispute as to who owns the land.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: And I would assume that the Blaisdell's are not, you know, interested in cutting it before ownership is established given the damage charges that they might well see if they ended up not

being the owner. Just to be on the safe side, I think if we don't sign the intent to cut until we get ownership.

Okay, we also have, we've got um, oh these are the uh, Society Trust Funds and I'm glad I have a cheat sheet so I don't have to read through them.

These are agreements prepared by the NH Department of Justice, Charitable Trust Unit and the three scholarship funds or trust funds in question and these are basically amendments to um, clarifying and cleanup language in the specific agreements we have for these charitable trusts.

The trusts are the Gentleman Joe Brown Scholarship Fund, and there is a language amendment changing the language from "provide a scholarship to a young man who exhibits manners, respect and thoughtfulness," to "provide a \$400.00 scholarship to a student", basically making it eligible for a boy or a girl in official language.

The Joseph Smith Carter Memorial Christmas Fund. This has an amendment "under the direction of Mary Ellen Carter or her designee" and Mary Ellen Carter no longer resides in the Town of Deerfield so they're recommending to change it to "under the direction of the welfare administrator for the Town of Deerfield".

And the Freewill Baptist Society Trust Fund, currently uh, they're, they're recommending an amendment to add, "the Freewill Baptist Society Trust shall be terminated pursuant to RSA 564: B4-410, a, and the balance of the trust shall be distributed in equal shares to the Deerfield Community Church and the Deerfield Bible Church".

And, each of these will require a motion to amend in keeping with the Department of Justice's recommendations.

Vice Chairman Pitman: One for all three that you read or ...

Chairman Robertson: We can certainly do that.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to amend the Gentleman Joe Brown Scholarship Fund, the Joseph Smith Carter Memorial Christmas Fund and the Freewill Baptist Society Trust Fund

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: And there's a spot for us to sign and there's a spot for the Trustees of the Trust Funds to sign as well.

I've never put these together. Use the expensive paper.

Okay, next in the signature file, we have uh, an agreement between the Board of Directors of the Deerfield Fair Association and uh, Deerfield Fire and Rescue and I believe this has been agreed to and requires the select board's signatures, uh and a motion. Total estimated cost of fire and rescue at the fair this year is coming in at \$47,000.65.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Deerfield Fire and Rescue agreement with the Deerfield Fair Association for coverage of the 2021 Deerfield Fair

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 2, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Robertson: Staying on the theme of Fire and Rescue, we have a Personnel Action Request and uh, this is for a gentleman named either Todd Dunyard or Todd Dignard and I apologize for how I

may have mispronounced that but this is essentially a new hire for an on-call fire fighter, EMR, adding a name to the list and the amount that is being requested is \$17.00 per hour.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Personnel Action Request for Todd Dunyard, (Dignard) and this requires one signature from the chair

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: And we have a second Personnel Action Request and this is from the uh, Library Trustees. They are looking to increase the salary of part-time employee, Ann Meyers to, from \$13.97 per hour to \$15.59 per hour and uh, this is a part-time position.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Personnel Action Request for Ann Meyers and authorizes the chair to sign for the Board

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: And last but not least, we have the MS-434 which is our revised, estimated revenues which we turn in, in September and our total revised estimated revenues and credits uh, are coming in at \$1,940,800.00 and we would need a motion to accept this and move this along to the Department of Revenue Administration

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to accept the revised MS-434

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Chairman Robertson: I would note that this too, requires one signature.

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

Chairman Robertson: That takes care of the Signatures.

Moving onto the Correspondence, uh, we have, uh, the letter from George Thompson still, basically he's thanking us for updating our minutes uh, per his letter. It still appears necessary to reinform to, to reinform, to affirm to the Board that one 8/30/21, I sent an email to John Harrington attaching my letter to the Board on this, of the same date.

These pertain solely to the trench across Thurston Pond Ridge Road. They did not state anything regarding the dam or the outlet or the pond or debris accumulating at this location and I thought we had taken care of that in the correction. Um, apparently, uh, Mr. Thompson just wants to reaffirm uh, what he said which I, you know we can it under advisement and keep on file.

And, let's see, uh, we also have the letter from Maura and Brian Adams um, that they had sent to us, uh, as well and I think everyone had seen that. It's been in the file and there were email copies.

And we have uh, information from DOT. Uh, we have uh, Ted Gatsas's Executive Council Report and some other general information including the Planning Board minutes in the Correspondence File.

At this time, I would look to the town administrator for his report.

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

Mr. Harrington: There was a question at our last meeting over the New Hampshire Municipal Association fees and after contacting them, they indicated that that was based on 2019 data which is what they had at the time when they billed us.



If there's no further questions on that, I'll move on.

Chairman Robertson: I think that was Alden's question actually.

Mr. Harrington: I do think that I might hold that over.

There was also a question uh, when Rick Druckenmiller was presenting his budget on the Cemetery, Cemetery.

The 2021 Cemetery Tree Removal Line was not, has not been used in 2021. The cost for the tree removal at Parade Cemetery were actually billed against the 2020 budget. That's why that line had not been spent this year.

You do have a new Cemetery budget page and a new total page in your folder to be added in to your budgets just to point that out.

An update on the sprinkler tank work. R.B. Lewis was out last week where they attempted to open up the top of the tank. Unfortunately, all of the bolts, 40 plus bolts, were rusted. They had to be ground off. They will be replacing them with all new bolts. It's currently secured by four new ones and they were also able to install a lock, locking mechanism on the top lid.

Uh, when they arrived, we found it open. Someone had left the lid off and my concern has been having that not secured. It's poses a, a hazard and a liability so they were able to put locks on it.

There's a key to that in the um, ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Who was in it, who ...

Mr. Harrington: We do not know. That cover can just be pulled off like a garbage pail lid at this time so there are not locks on it.

The fire department has keys to it, um, so that if there's ever a need to get into it, they can.

Um, once, uh, I did, I did hear from Tim Pappas from R.B. Lewis. They were in touch with their tank inspector. They're looking for about a week out to begin the process. Once I have a firm date, I'll share it with the Board.

The day before the inspector arrives, they'll be pumping the tank dry to allow entry into the tank and during this whole time, town hall will be off limits to any people inside the building while this is going on until it's refilled and the sprinkler system is put back online.

On that same subject, during my entire presentation on this inspection process, the Board had never voted to allow the expenditure to be charged against the Building Trust Fund which is where I would look to pay for this.

At the time, the estimated cost is about \$5,800.00. If I could get a vote this evening that when the bills start coming in, to use that fund.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to allow using the Building Trust Fund to pay for the tank inspection and repairs

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Mr. Harrington: And, I would like the Board's approval to schedule a public hearing for, we had a request to remove some trees on Harvey Road which is a scenic road.

Uh, Eversource Utility sent in documents that they would like to remove trees. I have that scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, do that and the skating rink?

Mr. Harrington: We could do back-to-back public hearings.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Beautiful.

Chairman Robertson: Great. Sounds like a good idea to me.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Selectman McGarry: Now, is it the intent there to have a hearing in addition to the Planning Board hearing?

Chairman Robertson: Do you have a scheduled Planning Board hearing for that?

Selectman McGarry: No, no not at this point.

Mr. Harrington: Uh no, this would just be the Board of Selectmen's public hearing.

Selectman McGarry: Well, the removal of trees on a scenic road fall under the Planning Board.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Selectman McGarry: So, I guess we could have a joint, you'd have a joint meeting which we could have the hearing and have members of the Planning Board present.

Chairman Robertson: Well, I think if, if it should be a Planning Board hearing, then it probably should be. I think the only concern that I have as a selectman is we don't go through what we did last time we did something on Harvey Road so I don't know that the Board of Selectmen wants any direct input uh, that the Planning Board should have. We just want to make sure somebody has the hearing.

Selectman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Harrington: So, I'll, I'll wait on this and let the Planning Board hold a public hearing on this?

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, and then uh, I guess the question would end up being is any other, any other work on the road would be taking place beyond the, uh, beyond the simply removing of the trees.

Chairman Robertson: It's from Eversource so I suspect they are just looking for tree removal and not ...

Mr. Harrington: From what I understand, there are two poles that are in a state of um, decay, that need to be removed and once they remove them, that the poles and lines right now are right in the trees so before they put up new poles, they want to cut the trees back.

I do have the documentation which I can pass on to Jane for the Planning Board's uh, use.

Selectman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Selectman McGarry: I guess the only concern I ended up having is if the road agent was going to be doing some work out there in addition to the tree removal, then I think it would be appropriate for the Board of Selectmen to have a separate hearing as well but if it is only trees then it falls under the Planning Board for uh, light removal of the trees.

Mr. Harrington: I will pass that on to Jane.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Chairman Roberson: That's good. One less public hearing for us.

Mr. Harrington: And the last item I had; I did include a sample request for proposal which was found by Fred for your review. This was a sample to take a look at for any potential RFP for a design build project for the police department.

And that's it for me this evening.

Selectman McGarry: And if I could, the information we had received with regard to the Farmington RFP uh, certainly pales in comparison to the extent that this RFP or design build uh, was and this was only for a, was it a \$700,000.00 job or something so it would uh, the, so I think what we need to do is to uh, put some more effort, not necessarily following this exactly but using this as a guide to as far as the level of detail we should be, should be asking for, for contractors.

Mr. Harrington: That's it for me.

Chairman Robertson: That's it for the town administrator.

Okay, moving into unfinished, new or other business.

#### **New/Unfinished/Other Business:**

One thing I want to mention uh, before I leave is that I was approached by Jeanne Menard regarding the memorial service that's coming up for Jim Tomilson and they have some interest and I believe they've talked to Ray and they've talked to John about using Gazebo Field as an overflow area if they need it for people after the service.

Jeanne had asked me if the Board would consider allowing them to use the bathrooms in town hall. Both John and I had said that technically the town hall was closed.

She said it would be wonderful and easier for them if they could use the bathrooms in town hall. If, if they can't use the bathrooms in town hall, they will bring in porta potties and set them up but I did tell her that I'd bring it before the Board to see what the Board's thoughts on it were.

Selectman McGarry: I have no objection to using the bathrooms in the town hall.

Selectwoman McHugh: Anybody ask Ray?

Mr. Harrington: I don't know if they've asked Ray. Jeanne came in and talked to me.

Chairman Robertson: I believe she did talk to Ray today.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: And what was his, did he have any concerns opening up?

Chairman Robertson: Not that he expressed to me. Um, obviously, we'll have to clean it after it's used or in speaking with Jeanne, I can see if, if possibly ....

Mr. Harrington: We would have to bring over supplies. There's nothing over there right now.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think as long as they cleaned it afterwards, it's not a problem.

Chairman Robertson: They don't want to use the kitchen. They don't want the inside space. They were just looking for added bathrooms if they needed it.

So, is the Board's general thought that we would let them use the bathrooms?

**(Multiple members of the Board stated yes)**

Chairman Robertson: I can pass that along to Jeanne.

I think that was the primary um, other or new business I had. I would note that Jim's uh, service is this Saturday and it will be at the Deerfield Community Church and it's going to be held outside in the parking area behind the church.

Any other new business or additional ...

Selectman McGarry: Yes, Mr. Chairman. You have a, we all have a copy of a plan that has been presented to the Planning Board and this is a proposed subdivision by Mr. Cross on Range Road and one of the issues or the major issue that came uh, in the, in the public hearing we had with Mr. Cross was the fact that uh, he is uh, claiming in this, on this plan ownership to the centerline of Ridge Road and the Planning Board, Planning Board had some concerns with regard to approving this plan because in effect, the Board would be agreeing that uh, Mr. Cross owned to the centerline of Ridge Road and considering the fact that uh, this, this is up in the air, the, as far as ownership is concerned, the Board felt that we should contact town counsel to provide an opinion as to whether or not we should be, we should be making this uh, basically ratifying this, this claim by Mr. Cross.

And so, I mentioned to John about this and, and John suggested we bring this, I bring this before the Board uh, as to whether, whether we should uh, pass it on to town counsel or whether we should sit on it at this point.

Chairman Robertson: I think we should pass it on to town counsel but ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think we definitely need to sit on it and then decide what to do. You know, we're right in the middle of all we've been doing this homework.

Chairman Robertson: Right and I will say um, and I will share this info, I'll share the book and page number uh, with Mr. Cross but I was able, thanks to a kind citizen, to get referred to the Arthur and Marion Baker plan which is dated February, 1981. It's textbook 1675, page 5, was done by David Sidmore and it clearly identifies Thurston Pond Road and Ridge Road as Class VI roads.

Shows the property lines and, and bounds at the stone walls on the side of those properties and this as I said, was dated February, 1982. It was 10 years before the discussion was picked back up by the Board of Selectmen about whether to re-lay out so to my mind, it seems very clear um, and pretty much every plot plan I've looked at on these roads with the exception of Mr. Cross's, uh, shows the bounds being the stone walls on the side of the road and the roadway intact.

As I said, I'm not sure how far, looks like Mr. Cross's goes for 300 feet, 107 plus 220 on that measurement. His is the only plot plan that shows that road being owned by abutters and I find it really hard to believe that over a mile or road is recognized as discontinued by everyone else but the last few hundred feet of it aren't.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, can, how do we put this on hold where we have a hearing coming up?

Chairman Robertson: Um, well, I think we can ask the Planning Board uh, to ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: To not hear it?

Chairman Robertson: To not hear this until ....

Selectman McGarry: Well, we're in the middle of uh, we accepted the plan so and the Board has, the Board has 65 days to take action on any plan that comes before it and uh, ...

Chairman Robertson: And our hearing is the 27<sup>th</sup>?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, next Monday.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, so we'll have time.

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, so there's more, there's plenty of time um, as far as the 65 days that the Planning Board has so ...

Chairman Robertson: So, if we want to put this on hold, we'll have to make a decision about the status of the road.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you, Fred.

Selectman McGarry: Yep.

Mr. Harrington: Excuse me, Andy. Am I taking any action with this at this point, or no?

Chairman Robertson: Uh, no. I think we're gonna move ...

Selectman McGarry: Well, maybe if we had a vote by the, by the Board just requesting the Planning Board to hold, to hold action on um, on this.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to hold action regarding Ridge/Range/Mr. Cross

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman Robertson: Thank you, Fred.

Okay, other new business or other business?

Mr. Harrington: Do you want some uh, correspondence to the Planning Board regarding this vote?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, if you could just uh, just note that the motion was ...

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, we have a meeting Wednesday night. Mr. Cross is uh, this particular project is coming before the Board again.

Chairman Robertson: This Wednesday.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Are you good on time?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, I am going to leave in about four minutes.

Actually, this might be a good time for me to leave if we're concluding new business.

Vice Chairman Pitman: If we are done with that, we'll just do citizen's comments.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, if you can take over for me, Dick, I would appreciate that. **(Chairman leaves the meeting)**

**Citizen's Comments:**

Vice Chairman Pitman: Any citizen's comments?

I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Selectwoman McHugh: Nope.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay Brian, I didn't see you.

**Brian Adams – Thurston Pond Road:**

Hi. Brian Adams. Thurston Pond Road.

In regard to George Thompson's letter, um, I installed a water bar uh, on Thurston Pond Road just up from my driveway which I am authorized to do by the agreement 40 Thurston Pond has with the town.

There's no trench and there's no excavation. There's no water going on to Mr. Thompson's property.

I put the water bar there to prevent erosion so that people could still continue to enjoy the Class VI road so that's all I have to say.

Thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you, Brian.

**Mrs. Cady – Old Center Road:**

Back when Kate was going through all of the research for her building of her home on Thurston Pond Road, that it wasn't a closed, it was a Class VI road but it was not closed only by gates and bars and there's been so much money spent on that, I would think we have all the legal advice and information in the files if we go back to Planning Board minutes then and the legal letters that went back and forth and I know, Joanne Wasson had a whole file and she told me she gave her file to George Thompson.

So, to keep spending money on this seems ridiculous when we've done thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars back in the early 90s.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And 80s.

Ms. Cady: I mean, can't we go back and look at the records of what we've already got.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We have and it'll be the public hearing next Monday night.

Ms. Cady: I'm sorry?

Vice Chairman Pitman: It would be a public hearing next Monday night from all the research.

Ms. Cady: There'll be a public hearing ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Monday night, the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Cady: Next Monday night?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Anybody else with citizen's comments?

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to adjourn at 6:45 pm

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 27, 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*