

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 1, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 pm – Vice Chairman Pitman called the meeting to order

Present: Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Fred McGarry, Alden Dill, Cynthia McHugh and Dwight Barnes, Selectmen.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Vice Chairman Pitman asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag

Vice Chairman Pitman: Since our bookkeeper, Pete Lemay is here, we'll start the meeting with that as we've got a proposal in our packet for Board discussion.

Go ahead, Fred.

Selectman McGarry: Okay, Dick.

I guess several questions end up coming up. Would Pete qualify for the Finance Director?

Mr. Harrington: Who's the question directed to?

Selectman McGarry: You, Pete.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Pete, would you go to the mic just in case.

Mr. Harrington: I would have to review the job description. I don't have an answer for you right tonight on that.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What else you got, Fred?

Selectman McGarry: So, the ...

Mr. Harrington: I would maybe follow up a question and ask Pete directly if he's even interested in that position.

Mr. Lemay: Well, I would just say that the Finance, so the positions have changed drastically since I first started here.

Now that we hire MRI to perform, you know, part of the duties of the budget and reconciliation, the Finance Director position is really not a valid position anymore.

So, because those duties have been absorbed over there, there's still a good 60 to 70 percent of the function of the Finance Director that we kind of perform in-house.

So, it's not really whether or not I would qualify for that job. I think that the job is actually obsolete at this point.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That makes sense with the hiring of the MRI.

Mr. Harrington: What we've found over the past four years since that position remained vacant due to lack of finding a suitable candidate, our current Finance Director for lack of a better term, Rita Donaldson, works for MRI, has done a fantastic job for the town.

I believe it has been a good financial move for the town to save a full-time position and still get our needs met.

Selectman McGarry: Another one?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, keep going.

Selectman McGarry: I would probably like to be able to see a title and description of the proposed position with a range in salary rather than just looking at all of Pete's responsibilities and how they differ from, there added on, I should say to what the bookkeeper is.

Would we, any thoughts about another title, basically?

Mr. Lemay: That's part of the, in the request there. I just requested, basically, to come up with another position description, basically. The job would be different.

It wouldn't be the bookkeeper anymore and it wouldn't be a Finance Director.

I've done a little bit of research looking at six, seven towns around us and every town has different positions so it's kind of like everyone just kind of throws a dart at the board to pick a position.

The one that I found I think, the most realistic is a Finance Administrator so it basically kind of encompasses doing a lot of financial duties but not really being a Finance Director.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, what did you call it Pete? Finance ...

Selectman McGarry: Finance Administrator.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Makes sense.

Selectman Dill: And then this, I'm sorry to cut you off there, Fred.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No go.

Selectman Dill: What was the salary range when you called around to those local towns.

Mr. Lemay: So, it varies quite drastically as well because you have some people that are only working 40 hours in a two-week period whereas you have some people working 80 hours so it's really, the disparity is...

I tried to base my decision and that hourly rate kind of at an average but also knowing that I live in town and that I'm not here to take advantage of the town.

Selectman Dill: That would kind of be the difficult thing there is comparing with the same duties. It's not like police chief or we can just call and compare a police chief to a police chief for the most part.

Selectman McGarry: Would we drop the bookkeeper position if, once if this new position is established?

Mr. Harrington: If that is the question, what I would probably do is reclassify Pete into a new position.

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, that's what I mean.

Mr. Harrington: Maintain a bookkeeper position, just not have it occupied or do away with the bookkeeper position all together and just reclassify the position as, for lack of a better term, Finance Director.

Selectman Dill: Is MRI okay for a long term on this?

I know that was kind of like a fill-in for ...

Mr. Harrington: For fulfilling our needs, I would say yes.

Selectman Dill: Okay. So, we're not going to shoot ourselves in the foot in six months when they say this is a temp and we can't do it anymore.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, they've been what, four years?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And doing well.

Mr. Harrington: Rita has done a very good job in fixing some critical financial flaws in our procedures and it's working very well.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Dwight, do you have anything?

Selectman Barnes: Nope.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Fred?

Selectman McGarry: Let's see. So, if we agreed to this reclassification, how long would it take to put all the paperwork together to establish a new position so we could actually move Pete into that position or on the reverse side, if we held off on this to establish, write up the position and how long would that take to have that done?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Should be able to have that by Monday.

Selectman Dill: I would look at John for that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It is pretty well spelled out in his ...

Mr. Harrington: I think I could probably have it ready for Monday.

Selectman Dill: Would it mess with the budget that we, would we have to re-look at the budget on this?

Mr. Harrington: You would likely have to amend the current town administrator budget to include the new position at the new salary for 2022, yes.

Selectman Dill: Okay. But we would have to do that either way.

Mr. Harrington: You could make that amendment or motion at the MBC because tonight, I believe, on the agenda is approving the 2022 budget as the Board has reviewed currently but remember, we still have the Insurance budget outstanding so at the same time you amend the budget to include the insurance, you could amend the budget for the town administrator to include the new position.

Selectman Dill: I mean, I don't think it's fair to hold off a long time because of the budget. I think that's the least of the issues we'd have to look at for something like that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, is it's the Board's pleasure to draw up the paperwork for a Finance Administrator for next Monday night at the rate Pete proposed?

Selectman McGarry: We should have a salary range in there as well so with steps, I assume we have steps now, don't we?

Mr. Harrington: We have some general guidelines for steps.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Any thoughts, Pete?

Mr. Lemay: No, I just trying to make this thing as least difficult as possible. I think it's been four years that the town's been taking advantage of the situation. It's what I truly feel.

Selectwoman McHugh: We can't make this decision tonight, is that what you're saying?

Selectman McGarry: I think we can.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes, somebody needs to make a motion.

Selectwoman McHugh: I'll make a motion.

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh moves to approve the position of Finance Administrator at this meeting and sign the paperwork when it's ready

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Selectman Dill: I think what Fred's saying is that it's more than just doing this which is the easy part but to actually have it in the town personnel manual as this new position...

Mr. Harrington: So, what I will likely have for you next Monday is a new job description for the new position, the personnel action request effective the date that Peter has put down which is 10/28 with all of the new information on it with the new position title and that would be, you could vote and approve it tonight and the signing just takes place next week when I have the paperwork ready.

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

(Multiple members of the Board thanked Mr. Lemay for all he does)

Mr. Lemay: Thank you.

Mr. Harrington: Thank you, Pete.

Board Reorganization:

Vice Chairman Pitman: I would like to ask Fred to step up and take Andy's position as chairman until March, I really would.

Selectman McGarry: I was going to nominate Dick but since he has the most tenure on the Board and also, he's the vice chair but yeah, I can do that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'll back you up.

Selectwoman McHugh: Am I supposed to second that ...

Selectman Dill: Is this a motion or just a discussion.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Discussion.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, if Fred's willing to be chair then I think we ought to move that way.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Give him a chance. I've done it prior to this.

Selectman McGarry: Yes.

Selectwoman McHugh: I think Fred would do a fantastic job.

Selectman McGarry: Yeah, right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that a motion, Cindy?

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to nominate Fred McGarry as Chairman of the Select Board until March, 2022

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Mr. Harrington: Are you voting, Dick

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes, I did.

Unanimous, John.

Selectman Dill: How are we going to run as vice chair?

Mr. Harrington: I believe Dick.

Fred, you have the gavel, it's your meeting.

Chairman McGarry: All right. We have the position of vice chair and I'd nominate Dick.

Motion: Chairman McGarry moves to nominate Dick Pitman as vice chairman

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: The next item on the agenda, we don't have any other items ...

Selectman Dill: Hold on

Chairman McGarry: With regard to reorganization?

Selectman Dill: We do have one other thing because I'll volunteer to take Andy's position on the MBC since we do need a select rep to the MBC if and I assume this is okay with you Dwight if you don't mind taking over the Rec since that seems to be your wheelhouse anyway.

Selectman Barnes: That'll be fine.

Selectwoman McHugh: Come March, what's going to happen?

Selectman Dill: We're going to have to make a complete reorganization in March anyway.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, right.

Selectman Dill: That being said on the MBC, I think well, what's ...

Mr. Harrington: So, you've volunteered to be the rep but we need a motion.

Selectman Dill: We need a motion?

Motion: Chairman McGarry moves to appoint Selectman Dill as the representative from the Board of Selectman to the MBC and Dwight Barnes representative to the Parks and Rec

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: So, we'll have Mr. ... Alden, so Alden will be on the budget committee and Dwight will be the representative to the Parks and Rec

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

Selectman Dill: In that same vein...

Motion: Selectman Dill moves that the Board of Selectmen present a bottom-line budget to the MBC as the school has done for the last couple of years

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Vice Chairman Pitman: What do you mean?

Selectman Dill: That instead of bringing in the department heads and going through department by department, we present a bottom-line budget to the MBC.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Good motion.

Selectman Dill: I just want an official vote by the Board of Selectmen before I do that.

Selectwoman: So, you don't want the department heads to come in and explain why they're asking for some things that they're asking for?

Selectman Dill: Correct.

Vice Chairman Pitman: They can be called in.

Chairman McGarry: Unless the Budget Committee is asking for them.

Selectman Dill: They've come in. They've presented to us. We've made a budget and we're going to present the budget to the MBC.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And then it's up to them, Cindy.

Selectman Dill: Like I said that the school's done this for two years or three years now.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, that's okay ...

Mr. Harrington: When I was on the school board, that's the way I presented the budget so that was quite a few years ago.

Selectman Dill: Well, they had changed back and then they switched back to that. It's made the MBC go a lot faster.

Selectwoman McHugh: And it's not, you don't think it's a good for the department heads to be there, I guess. I guess I don't understand.

Selectman Dill: I don't see that that's necessary.

Selectman Barnes: They could be there upon request of the budget committee.

Mr. Harrington: The budget committee actually doesn't have any subpoena power. The statute indicates that the Board of Selectmen or governing body present a budget to the Municipal Budget Committee.

They have every right to ask questions of those governing representatives of which will be Alden in this case to the MBC and if Alden is unable to answer a question, he can pose the question to me. If I'm unable to answer the question and this happens every year, we go back to the department heads and ask the question.

There are even cases when the department heads do go to the MBC, there are still questions unable to be answered that night.

Chairman McGarry: Any further questions?

Selectwoman McHugh: No.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, it will have all the breakouts...

Selectman Dill: Yes. It'll have the same

Mr. Harrington: They will have all the same information that the Board has. All the backup.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The gist of the matter is they'll decide if they want to call somebody in.

Selectman Dill: The gist of the matter is instead of going through the Highway budget line by line by line, we're going for the bottom-line number of the budget.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Then they can dissect it all they want.

Selectman Dill: They can, their, they already picked up the packets last week so they're dissecting, I believe, as we speak.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds good.

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

Chairman McGarry: I'm voting by the way, John.

Mr. Harrington: Okay, thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You should.

Chairman McGarry: Do we have anything else on reorganization?

I don't see anything, okay. Ray.

Ray Ellis – Town Hall:

Mr. Ellis: Good evening, everyone.

Basically, tonight, I wanted to bring up the possibility of maybe shutting down the town hall for the winter or when not needed and I realized to do that, we'd have to have the plumber come in and put some fittings on like the highway department supplies the water for the town hall.

So, he would have to put a valve on in the highway department and they would be able to take a compressor and hook onto that to blow the lines out to get all the water out of the lines for the winter.

So, I asked him if it was possible and he came and looked it over and we walked through the whole building. He said, absolutely.

So, he was going to put a couple of bleed-off valves underneath the sinks, you know, in the traps so you can empty as much water as you can and let the air blow through.

And then, in the toilets themselves, we put some antifreeze in there to keep it from freezing.

By doing this one-time expense, and it was \$525.00 to do that, we'd be able to shut it down anytime that we felt like we needed to shut it down.

We've been having a lot of problems over at the town hall with the water system as you know, we're working on the tanks right now so we're not able to rent it out at this time anyways so I figured that there would be no better time than now to start this and shut it down to save us some money going into the winter months.

I know that last year during the cold months, we were spending up to \$100.00 a day to heat the town hall and if we rent the town hall, we only charge \$50.00, so it looks like a losing battle.

So, I didn't think that leaving it run all winter long with no one in it was going to do it any good so maybe we could figure out a way to shut that down and then if we need it back like in February for the deliberative session, all we got to do is turn everything back on. Turn the furnaces on and we're ready to go and then maybe after the deliberative session, if we want to shut it down for the rest of the year because it won't be needed until spring, we could shut it down.

So, that's basically what I'm proposing is that we spend the \$525.00 to get this set up so that we can do that and to see what the town feels like as far as the selectmen, what you think of the idea.

We've also given you the readouts and the expenditure report so you can see there what we'd be saving as far as electricity and oil and then like I said that this is something that we wouldn't have to, it was a one-time fee of \$525.00 to get it set up. After that, we could do it ourselves.

Selectman Dill: Hopefully, that we have a working sprinkler system again ...

Mr. Ellis: Right.

Selectman Dill: That won't be affected by this, correct?

Mr. Ellis: No.

Selectman Dill: No.

Mr. Ellis: No, that's a dry system.

Selectman Dill: Okay, I just wanted to make sure that we weren't going to have busted pipes and everything out of that.

How's that going, by the way?

Mr. Ellis: We just completed Phase 2 and in Phase 2, they went in and they pressure washed the whole inside of the tank. They went down in there and took pictures and examined what the inside of the tank looked like.

They did find a crack and they found a few pin holes. They're in the process now, they took pictures and they're preparing Phase 3 which would be what it would cost to repair the tank and get it up and running again so that's basically where we're at on that. Waiting for them. They were supposed to try to have it today but we didn't get it.

Selectman Dill: I think this is a good idea.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, if we can't use it, there's no need to heat it.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Would we send out a notice to anybody who uses the town hall over the winter to just notifying them

Mr. Harrington: There's currently only one organization that regularly uses the town hall and that would be the Historical Association. I could certainly draft a letter from the Board of Selectmen to send to them.

Selectman Dill: So, you don't see a problem just letting it, open it up, let it heat for a couple days for deliberative and then shut it down because we'll need it again for what, for voting and sometimes we have to heat then and I mean those are the only two I would ...

Mr. Ellis: I would heat it up a day or so before so everything's up and running and warm and make sure there's no leaks and the water is working fine.

Selectman Dill: But you'll be able to hold, to handle the shutdown again?

Mr. Ellis: Yep. The highway department has a compressor over there and it's big enough to blow all the water and air out of the lines so with that valve hooked up over there, it would be easy.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And with the fuel oil this year, I think it is a great idea.

Chairman McGarry: And once we've expended this \$525.00 you said we wouldn't have to incur that cost each time we ...

Mr. Ellis: No.

Chairman McGarry: each year we shut down?

Mr. Ellis: It would just to be to set all the pipes up and get it ready so that it's able for us to do it without any problems so we take the electric hot water tank and drain that as well and ...

Chairman McGarry: And the startup, there's no big problems afterwards?

Mr. Ellis: Nope.

Nope. Just shut all the valves, close the air chuck and turn the water back on, get the heat going, fill the electric hot water tank and then just make sure you check for leaks and things like that.

Selectman Dill: Is that the major electric costs we were looking at, was an electric hot water tank running all the time with no...

Mr. Ellis: Yes. It's a 40-gallon hot water tank and it's being heated constantly.

Mr. Harrington: Most of this cost is associated heat. It's a forced hot air system so anytime the heat comes on, you've got the blower on.

Mr. Ellis: There's two furnaces. There's one for the downstairs and one for the upstairs.

Selectwoman McHugh: And that's something you could, you yourself can do so we don't have to hire somebody to come in and do it.

Mr. Ellis: You wouldn't have to hire anyone.

Selectman Dill: I think it's a great idea.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Do you want to have a motion?

Motion: Selectman Dill moves that we set the town hall up to be shut down seasonally

Second: Selectman Barnes

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: When would we start?

Mr. Harrington: Well, that's interesting because the Energy Committee had been working with an energy auditor to come through and look at the town hall for heat loss and give us a report on the audit factor. She just contacted me today so we'll likely let her know, she's due to come in here next week so we'll wait until after she does her energy audit because the heat would need to be on in order to determine how much heat we're losing, believe it or not and then after that audit is done, we can close it up.

Selectman Dill: We don't have any seriously cold weather coming in for a couple of weeks anyway so it's a really warm November forecast so I don't think we're going to lose a whole lot...

Vice Chairman Pitman: With the heat on, we don't, they could do the water. It's just a matter of a switch for the heat. It's all hot air, right Ray?

Mr. Ellis: Right.

Selectman Dill: I imagine there's a bit of heat loss out of that building.

Mr. Ellis: Yeah, every window, every door.

Ms. Greig: I have one question. How quick could they get the building up and running because the town hall is our evacuation site for the school.

Selectman Dill: I just want to redo that because she wasn't at the mic so we can get it for the record.

The question was "how soon can we fire everything back up because it's a secondary evacuation site for the school?"

Vice Chairman Pitman: Which we can't use right now anyway.

Ms. Greig: Right.

Mr. Ellis: Well, right now I was told no one could use it unless the fire department is on hand so you'd have to pay a fireman to be there.

Ms. Greig: We've done that before with them on scene.

Mr. Harrington: Ray, would you say, Ray, I believe, would you say the town hall could be up and running within a day or several hours.

Mr. Ellis: Within a matter of hours, it could be up and running.

Selectman Dill: Especially if it's forced hot air heat, we could get heat coming really fast. It would be the water would be a little bit slower.

Mr. Ellis: Right. It would take a while to heat the hot water but ...

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Mr. Ellis: I, no more than a couple of hours.

Mr. Rhodes: My question was triggered by Mr. Dill's comment that we close it down seasonally. Would this become something that happens every year or would this, is this really to accommodate the?

Selectman Dill: I would guess by my motion I would see it as an ongoing action.

Mr. Rhodes: and if we're renting it out, how would that be a good thing?

Selectman Dill: Currently, if we're renting it, we're not really having many renters, correct?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can't.

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Dill: If we can't rent it right now period but before that we were definitely not breaking even on the rental to heat ratio.

Mr. Rhodes: I understand that too but part of the work of the Heritage Commission is it was actually to change all that to make it a venue and Mr. Ellis was part of that process as well to make it, I mean, \$50.00 a day I think it's a charitable, well no, we're not even charging charities.

Mr. Harrington: Excuse me, Fred, if a discussion is going to be had, this is not on the mic and the transcriptionist will not be able to capture this conversation. No.

Mr. Rhodes: So, the seasonality of the [close down] ~~costed out~~, if this is going to be seasonal every year close down, I'm just wondering what occurs with the encouragement that we've had from the select board to pursue making the town hall pay for itself and maybe even make some money?

I think from a venue perspective that venue can easily make \$500.00 bucks a day if we and I don't know if you disagree with that or not, Mr. Ellis but we've had people offering that now.

Mr. Ellis: Yeah, we, I don't see that happening until everything has been brought up to par.

Mr. Rhodes: I agree. I agree but part of what the Heritage Commission is doing is trying to make that a utile building exactly with things fixed up. Trying to figure out whether it's a doable project and if we're scrapping all that, I guess I'd like to know because if we're going to just be planning on closing it down seasonally, it wouldn't serve as a venue, we wouldn't be able to make any money on it.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: I think Mr. Rhodes is making sense that we can close it down for this year and see where we are next fall and do the same thing if need be if that, if the Commission is coming up with some good things to rent the building and it can pay for itself, then we can keep it open but maybe we should just do this year to close it down.

Mr. Rhodes: I think it makes sense this year given that the fire suppression system is compromised, I guess. Do we know even how long that's going to take to fix?

Selectman Dill: No.

Mr. Rhodes: So, a huge reason to do it this year but to make it a permanent thing seems like it's a bit self-defeating.

Chairman McGarry: I guess there's no reason why the next year we couldn't reverse ourselves, certainly can happen.

Selectman Dill: But I don't have an issue with that, it's just I would rather shut it down and hope we can come up with a better solution than keep it open again and again and again saying that yeah, we're going to

I haven't been in town that long but I've heard this discussion multiple times, I guess is what I'm getting at so in my mind, so I think in my mind, it's better to just nip it in the bud and say closed for a while until we come up with a better solution.

Mr. Rhodes: That's fair enough.

Selectman Dill: It just bugs me to be heating, it bugs me to be heating an empty room let alone be heating two floors of an empty historic building.

Mr. Rhodes: Oh, hear, hear and you know, the second floor has all kinds of issues, not just heating issues so I think the, what the Heritage Commission was doing was trying to come up, is doing is trying to come up with a comprehensive view of the town hall taking all these factors into account but obviously, you can't even use it right now because of the fire suppression system so maybe that's a good place to start.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight, did you have any question?

Selectman Barnes: Well, I think it's a good expenditure of money right at this time and close it down for this season and like Erroll says it would be great to see that building used in the future but this at least gives us an opportunity to shut it down as needed and save some money.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Any further discussion?

Selectwoman McHugh: Wait, were we supposed to change the motion to not say permanent?

Selectman Dill: I didn't, I never said permanent, I just said seasonally.

Selectwoman McHugh: Oh, seasonally.

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

Chairman McGarry: It's a vote that's unanimous.

Selectman Barnes: Good idea, good idea, Ray.

Mr. Ellis: Well, if nothing else, at least now we'll be able to do it anytime that we need to.

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Mr. Ellis: Yes, everything will be hooked up and ready to go.

Selectman Dill: Or if we lose power for an extended period of time, we don't have to worry about that building.

Mr. Ellis: Correct.

Selectwoman McHugh: I also had a question too, Denny, evacuation, you don't know when an evacuation's coming so Ray's saying you can start the building up in a day or two but you don't know that evacuation is going to come...

Ms. Greig: Well, I think with the heat, hours, we may not get the hot water but at least having heat if it's a 4-degree day and we're over there, the building is going to seem a little warmer and we'll get the heat up and cranked up. It should be okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's just a matter of flipping a switch for the heat.

Selectman Dill: Forced hot air should just be an on and off, right?

Mr. Ellis: And with the energy audit, we'll know where we stand.

(Multiple members of the Board thanked Mr. Ellis)

Chairman McGarry: We have Mr. Pelletier next on the agenda. Is he here?

Mr. Harrington: I do not see him.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of October 25, 2021

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of October 25, 2021

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

Accounts Payable Manifest - \$814,017.00 (\$800,000.00 to the school district)

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

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Selectman Dill: As I said, the school occasionally will bump that up.

Selectman Barnes: Yes.

Selectman Dill: Dwight was just asking me about that. I said usually it's small but the school payments you'll be able to notice when they come through.

Payroll Manifest - \$46,247.40

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Correspondence/Signatures:

No correspondence.

Abatement Computer Adjustment:

This is for the Corey Wildlife Association and the abatement amount of \$114.26 and asks us to refer to the letter dated October 20th.

Avitar recommends abatement of the \$114.26 plus any interest. This will be a computer adjustment only. No refund or check will be given.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the abatement as requested for Corey Wildlife Association

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: We have an abatement for Roland and Leanne Folsom. His request is for \$259.00 plus any interest due. That's for Map 208, Lot 61.

The assessment, the note that we have is the assessment was reduced for the final issue of tax bill to accurately reflect that lot is not buildable.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the abatement as presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: It's a vote unanimous so we'll just check off the granted.

Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – Map 406, Lot 011 – Blakes Hill Road

A 205-acre lot, 85 acres of which are to be cut.

Selectman Dill: What's the road?

Chairman McGarry: Blakes Hill Road

Selectman Dill: So, that's Class VI, right?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, it's on the Northwood end of the lot. Now, apparently, there's a house on it currently.

Selectman Dill: Do we have to, I'm just thinking on Class VI's, do we bond or anything like that?

Chairman McGarry: No, I don't know?

Selectman Dill: Just thinking that's a pretty good size cut with a lot of timber leaving.

Chairman McGarry: With the location as it is, it's question, I guess the question would be would it be easier to go into Northwood rather than coming back ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: They might be doing that. We don't know.

Selectman Dill: Well, that's Class VI in Northwood for a way, too so, yeah, because it's the end of that is Class VI in Northwood and then it becomes a regular road again.

Selectman Barnes: So, what happens if the road's damaged during the process?

Selectman Dill: It is Class VI which means we don't maintain it.

Chairman McGarry: Correct.

Selectman Dill: Which led me to, that's one of the reasons I questioned that is we don't maintain it but ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sign it.

Chairman McGarry: We just sign it or do we need a motion?

Mr. Harrington: There's no motion vote on an intent.

Selectman Dill: Is there a town administrator in Northwood right now?

Mr. Harrington: I'm unsure. I don't know.

Selectman Dill: You might want to ...

Mr. Harrington: I believe there is.

Selectman Dill: I'm just, I'm getting you might want to give them a heads up on that just because that's going to affect them more than it's going to affect us.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, his driveway come in at Blake's Hill Road.

Selectman Dill: But it's here but the timber's probably going up the Northwood Class VI is what I was getting at.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What's the name of the people, Fred?

Chairman McGarry: Mahoney

Selectwoman McHugh: 205 acres.

Chairman McGarry: Proposing to cut 85.

So, all we just need is signatures?

Mr. Harrington: That's it.

Selectman Dill: I cut up through there a couple years ago. I'm surprised how many houses are up that Class VI Road. You'd think there wasn't much but ...

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, right.

Selectman Dill: There's quite a few houses up there.

It's hard to tell where the line is. I don't know how many of them are in Deerfield and how many are Northwood but there's more up there than you'd think.

Chairman McGarry: And this is a letter to the Municipal Association.

"To Whom It May Concern:

We are ready to notify you which town officials and employees have authority to contact the Municipal Association.

The Board of Selectmen authorizes the following officials and employees to contact legal services directly.

Any member of the Board of Selectmen, listing ourselves, the town administrator, town clerk/tax collector, Planning Board chair, vice chair on the Planning Board, town planner, Zoning Board of Adjustment chair, Zoning Board of Adjustment vice-chair, Municipal Budget Committee chair and Municipal Budget Committee vice-chair."

Have a motion to, do we need a motion to send this?

Mr. Harrington: This is an annual letter that the New Hampshire Municipal Association requires us to file so that they know who they can give legal advice to and not.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to have the chair sign it as it only needs one signature

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Selectman Dill: Looking at that map on the Intent to Cut, all those houses I was; I was seeing is obviously Northwood, not Deerfield.

That would explain the Class VI in Northwood.

Chairman McGarry: All right and then we have the tax collector's warrant property tax levy and this is to Kelly.

"In the name of the State, you are hereby directed to collect property taxes in the list herewith committed to you amounting to the sum of \$7,033,965.00 and with the interest of 8% per annum from December 8th to thereafter and all sums not paid on or after that date."

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to direct the tax collector to collect property taxes as stated

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

We have no other items to be signed. No correspondence and Town Administrator's Report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: I have several items for you this evening and first I'd like to propose to the Board to get authority to change and upgrade our phone system from what is essentially an analog system that is 15 plus years old to a digital system.

It does not require any change of our physical equipment; our phones, our lines. This is all done at the server end of our system. It's currently a PBX system and it would change to an ISDN.

I know those are acronyms but it's a modern system. It's still over the phone lines. It's just carried by a digital signal rather than an analog signal.

This can be done in a day or two, the actual work. It will take several days, approximately 30 to 45 days to order. We have to have a new line brought in from the phone company which would necessitate the system being down the first time about 15 to 30 minutes when they change over the hardware to the actual system and then another 10 to 15 minutes to get the system back up and running after they install the line.

This would generally affect the police phone system and we have workarounds. I've briefly talked to the chief to see if he would be okay with doing this.

The company that would be putting it in has worked with other municipalities and the first time it basically involves forwarding any police calls to a cell phone so that they can pick up.

The second time that the phone would be down, it would not enable us to forward a call. We'd have to reroute any 911 calls for about 15 to 30 minutes so that emergency services could go out until the phone system's back up.

By upgrading our system, we look to save approximately \$400.00 a month on our phone bill.

The cost to do this upgrade is quoted at \$1,595.00. It's an on-time cost and I recommend taking it out of the community fund, excuse me, the Community Program Grant that we get from Wheelabrator so it would not affect the budget.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Kind of a no-brainer. It would be paid for in four months.

Selectman Dill: Not even that.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is this a system that Steve would, is familiar with or would ...

Mr. Harrington: I've been working with Steve for probably four or five months with a vendor that he knows to come in and upgrade that.

This would be a great improvement for what we have now. The signal would be a lot clearer and again, the \$400.00 approximately savings a month, it would be paid for in three months.

Selectman Dill: And it's operationally, the same ...

Mr. Harrington: Right, it's still the same handsets. It's using the same technology, just digital rather than analog.

Selectman Dill: Is it stable? Like are we going to have to worry about power?

Mr. Harrington: It still comes over the phone lines just like but instead of seven separate phone lines coming into the building, it'll all come through one.

Selectwoman McHugh: Do we have, is this is just for this building or is it ...

Mr. Harrington: It's just for this building.

Selectwoman McHugh: Firehouse and the transfer ...

Mr. Harrington: It would just be for the George B. White because they're all on separate accounts and they're just one phone line each for the library, the fire house, highway.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We could experiment here and if it works out, we could always ...

Mr. Harrington: I could look in to see if that technology could be brought over to them as well.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Any more questions for John?

Mr. Harrington: And I would work directly with the chief so that everybody is aware when the phone lines would go out. The first time, it would be seamless. They would just reach a cell phone. The second time we would put a notice out that their calls will be directed to another community but we'd still be able to respond to a 9-1-1 call.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves that they spend the \$1,600.00 on changing over the telephone system as presented in the George B. White Building

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Ms. Greig: So, my question is, is there a backup to the one line if we're going from multiple lines to the building to down to one?

Mr. Harrington: They're all still going to be separate lines. It's just that the signal is carried on one line.

Ms. Greig: Okay.

So, if there is an issue with the one line?

Mr. Harrington: I don't have an answer for that.

Ms. Greig: Okay. Thanks.

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Mr. Harrington: Second proposal I have for you this evening, I believe I mentioned several weeks ago that based on community suggestion about the ability to stream, live stream our meetings as we're getting into the winter months. I've been working with Steve for about six months since, well actually, since the last winter months happened, we got the request in then to upgrade our current capacity to be able to live stream.

It would involve upgrading this system in this room and I have three proposals for you. We've been working with Malloy Sound who is familiar with how to do this work.

The first proposal would be a full upgrade which would involve an additional camera, a new monitor and a new recorder. It would go from a DVD recorder to a digital recorder which would allow it to stream directly to the internet.

That price comes in at \$9,500.00.

The second cost proposal would be using our same camera equipment that is currently installed, a new monitor, a new recorder and a tablet to operate the system which I would need to operate from my seat to be able to tell the system when to start streaming and stop streaming and this would enable any other group that wanted to use the same streaming capability, they could use the same tablet to turn the system off and on. I would have to train them.

By keeping the same equipment and not buying another camera, that price comes down to \$1,598.00 and Steve would be able to do the work himself.

Of course, the first cost proposal involves Malloy Sound doing the work so we'd be paying for labor. That's why it's somewhat higher.

Vice Chairman Pitman: \$9,500.00 was the first one?

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

(Multiple members talking over each other)

That would be Steve and not buying another camera.

The first proposal involves adding another camera to the room so that when people are speaking at the public table, you can actually see them. Currently, all we see is the back of their head when they talk so this would be utilizing that camera positioned over on the wall and buying a new one for the Board of Selectmen or whatever body is meeting.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do you have a third quote?

Mr. Harrington: I do.

The third one is somewhere in the middle. That involves a new upgraded camera. Instead of that one, we buy a high-definition camera. Some of you may think that's a good idea or a bad idea but that would be located more towards the center of the room to give a better, clearer picture closer. A new monitor, a recorder and a tablet to operate the system.

The monitor that we are looking at is quite a bit larger so that we can actually see what the public is seeing and the recorder would go into the AV room and that wall would be all cleaned up with just a monitor on there and that price came in at \$3,198.00

Chairman McGarry: So, where would the camera be located?

Mr. Harrington: For which?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, for the final one.

Mr. Harrington: This camera would be replaced with a high-definition camera and likely be moved more towards the center of the room so you'd have the full look of the Board now. As you can see, that's what the public would see if we leave that camera in place. With a newer camera, it would be closer and more definition.

Selectman Dill: There's no John on that camera.

Mr. Harrington: No.

Selectman Dill: Where are we paying for these?

Mr. Harrington: This would all come out of the ARPA funds. This is all covered under our response to COVID-related pandemic issues allowing the public to participate remotely and watch the meeting.

This would only be observing. This would not be a two-way engagement.

Selectman Dill: Option two and three, are we recording it as well instead...

Mr. Harrington: All three of them are recorded.

Selectman Dill: Well, I meant storing it.

Mr. Harrington: Yes. It'll all be digitally stored and posted just like we have it now.

Selectman Barnes: I have a couple of questions. Right now, how quickly does it take people the opportunity to see the meetings?

Mr. Harrington: The meetings, hopefully by the next day. It involves taking out the physical DVD and loading it onto another computer and then it's loaded up to YouTube.

Selectman Barnes: Okay, so it's posted the next day. People would have the opportunity to watch it as it happens. Has there been a great deal of interest in that?

Mr. Harrington: We've, I've gotten several requests and there's been several personal requests here at the Board meetings over the past several months.

Chairman McGarry: I know I've received a couple of requests.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The same.

Mr. Harrington: People want to be able to watch the meeting from home and not have to attend but be able to see what's going on live.

Selectman Dill: Do you have more, Dwight?

Selectman Barnes: Yes. Just if, say for example, we decided to go with the second plan which is \$1,598.00 plan. If you wanted to upgrade that in the future, I'm assuming it would be the same equipment that you would already have and you just have to add to that, what you have to the ...

Mr. Harrington: The big cost difference with Proposal B at \$1,598.00 and Proposal C at \$3,198.00 is the purchase of a new high-definition camera. Those are about \$1,600.00.

So, it would be changing out the camera we have up there right now which basically been a wide-angle which squishes everything up.

Selectman Barnes: So, if you went with a \$1,598.00, you could upgrade that whole deal for another \$1,600.00 at some point in the future if you felt?

Mr. Harrington: It would require additional wiring and internal to bring it ...

Selectman Barnes: Okay, I'm good. Thanks.

Selectman Dill: What is the school doing? I know they ...

Mr. Harrington: The school has a different system. They actually have someone that attends every meeting with a laptop. They've purchased a camera that responds to sound. It sits on a, I haven't seen it myself but I've seen what it looks like, it sits on a tripod in the room and it responds to sound so it actually pivots around to wherever the sound's coming from.

It works, for the most part okay, if you've ever seen the school meeting but they meet in a much smaller venue.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

What about the, just going back to what we used to do in Northwood, we had a cable guy actually recording but we paid for all that out of the cable accessibility funds.

You know, I believe that's how we bought that here in Deerfield as well.

Mr. Harrington: That was in long before I got here. I don't know.

Selectman Dill: I just don't know if we have anything in those funds anymore because that was part of what we negotiated the last we renewed with the cable company. There was a bunch of basically public accessibility money available to upgrade for stuff like that.

Mr. Harrington: I could certainly check into it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Maybe if you could get that, maybe we could decide next week?

Chairman McGarry: Cindy had a question.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes, I kind of brought it up last week, too. Would this system be able to also do the cable television access channel?

Mr. Harrington: That is a totally different setup and it would not be part of this system.

Selectwoman McHugh: So ...

Mr. Harrington: It's possible. I would have to ask Steve if this could, whatever recording is done, could be then uploaded to the public channel.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. I just think that's important because a lot of people don't use a computer either.

Selectman Dill: But I think we're going the other way. I think there's a lot more people that don't have cable than don't have internet access. I think there's a huge amount of people in town that have zero cable TV.

Mr. Harrington: I think if I remember the last figure I saw, I think the membership for Atlantic Broadband is a little, is 860 something customers in town, something around there.

Selectwoman McHugh: It doesn't cost us anything to put it on that.

Mr. Harrington: No.

No, not with our current contract. That is part of it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Chairman McGarry: And this would go to the internet what through Facebook or what?

Mr. Harrington: YouTube.

Chairman McGarry: YouTube, okay.

Mr. Harrington: It would be instantaneous.

Selectman Dill: I've watched the last couple school board meetings, you know, the beginnings of them and it's a nice setup, you know. It doesn't require everybody to be at the school board meeting to know what's going on.

I don't think we would be as controversial and as interesting as the school board I hope but if we can do it, I think it's a good thing to do.

Chairman McGarry: With the new camera and the relocation, would be, I assume we would not be getting the head shots, back of the head shots for the microphone here, would we? Would it be a side view?

Mr. Harrington: No, it would still likely be the back of the ...

Chairman McGarry: It would, okay.

Selectman Dill: Unless we did the two-camera setup.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Harrington: See, in the initial proposal, which is the most expensive, we were going to repurpose that camera, move it to this wall over here pointing at that table and then purchase the high-definition camera here and there would be a switch located at the side of the table to toggle between the two cameras.

Right now, all I can do is pivot that camera to the right table.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's the \$9,000.00 ...

Mr. Harrington: Yes, and that requires Malloy to come in and run all of the cable.

Selectman Dill: And, I mean, it's bad for our meetings. The MBC meetings are ridiculous which just this one setup right now. You're missing half of the, third of the MBC over there in that.

Mr. Harrington: I mean, this does have the capability of getting somewhat wide but then everybody gets very small.

Selectman Dill: And I would assume the Planning Board meetings and the other meetings with larger boards have the same issue.

Mr. Harrington: Planning Board has quite a few people that come to that table to present and again, you only get the back of their ...

Chairman McGarry: And the issue with the Planning Board is a frequent or occasionally I would say, I was going to say frequently but it's only occasionally, we end up projecting plans to that back wall and no...

Mr. Harrington: It is possible with the high-definition camera being closer that might be able to be picked up in a streaming.

Selectman Dill: Keep in mind with streaming, it is all of just watching. There's no interaction from the... There's no ability to question or anything else from the greater internet audience.

Selectwoman McHugh: The \$3,100.00 price, we couldn't still repurpose that camera also?

Mr. Harrington: That would require some of the equipment involved in the \$9,500.00 because there's more equipment that is in there that switches back and forth so I would have to get a new price.

Selectman Barnes: Relative to the YouTube, if we did this, would we know how many people were looking in on it?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, you, there is a way Steve has figured out you can look at your viewership and find out how many people are actually tuning in.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think we need a little bit more homework done on the bottom two.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, I think we can, I agree with Dick on that one. I think we can pretty much say we're not spending \$9,000.00 on this but what else can we do.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, I hate to spend \$1,600.00 and we could get a lot more for \$3,400.00.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, and I would like what Cindy was saying, it would be good to reuse that camera to shoot, you know, at the table, is pretty important.

Chairman McGarry: Right, and more than just the back of the head.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, if we do buy a new camera, I'd like to use that one for something if we can.

Chairman McGarry: So, what do we want, would like John to do between now and next week?

Selectwoman McHugh: He was getting a different price for something, right?

Mr. Harrington: If I'm correct in what I understand, you're interested in the last proposal but would like to include using the existing camera pointed at the table and what that new price would look like?

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, what was for the \$1,600.00?

Selectman Dill: Pretty much a tablet.

Mr. Harrington: That leaves everything pretty much the way it is. That camera stays there. We get a new monitor, a new recorder and a tablet to run the system but this would be the picture you basically get live.

Selectman Dill: I mean, I've sat where you are John, you couldn't make that out to save my life.

Mr. Harrington: Which is why we're going to get a bigger monitor.

So, if I'm understanding, Proposal C with the old camera pointed at the table and the additional equipment.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Correct.

(Multiple members agreed)

Selectwoman McHugh: Couldn't we do those for both. Add a camera to the \$1,600.00?

Selectman Dill: That's pretty much the difference, though.

(Multiple members stating the new cameras)

Mr. Harrington: Yes, if you add that, that's Proposal C.

So, I'll come back to you with a new cost for Proposal C. Okay.

Chairman McGarry: With using that existing camera.

Mr. Harrington: And again, the proposal is to use the ARPA money for this.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Anything else?

Mr. Harrington: Yes. Well, actually, Ray went over the town hall and the sprinkler tank and the last question I had was, is it the intent of the Board to use the town hall for the deliberative and voting this, upcoming year?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Rather than going to the fairgrounds?

Selectman Dill: I really like the fairgrounds.

Mr. Harrington: This is a question coming from the town moderator and the town clerk.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, so he's asking?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Selectman Dill: I really like the fairgrounds for parking and being able to hold a sign out front and not being worried about getting run over.

No, I've had some close calls out front of the old town hall holding a sign and people flying into handicapped parking out front. It's not the best setup.

Chairman McGarry: What's the rest of the Board's feelings?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think it boils down to taking advantage of the fair. We should ask them first.

Selectman Dill: I mean, I'm glad the fair let us do it but I was just saying that was one major advantage I saw of having it there.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It depends if, it's been reset up. We didn't have a fair last year so now it's set back up for display for rugs and pictures and that.

Mr. Harrington: It would require moving all of those stands all out of the way again.

Selectman Dill: And, it wasn't the best setup for the Women's Club either being downstairs but I would like us, if we move back to the town hall though, figure out something out front for a place that people can hold signs and talk to people. It gets a little dicey in there. There is not much room to stand and have people come flying into those handicapped spots.

We might want to look into moving the handicapped spots or coming up with some other solution.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We could move that over to the side.

Chairman McGarry: I'm sure that could be a possibility, sure.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Just have the front for people coming into

Chairman McGarry: So, I guess the question would end up being, we ask the fair association with, would they be willing and if not, I guess we don't have too much of a choice. Is that a good assessment of the situation?

Selectman Dill: And thank the fair association for doing it last year. That really worked out well.

Mr. Harrington: So, bring the question back next Monday?

Chairman McGarry: Yes. And ask the fair if they'd be, if they would be willing.

Selectman Dill: Like I said, I just liked it from a parking situation.

Mr. Harrington: That's it for me this evening.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Unfinished Business:

Chairman McGarry: We have to approve the 2022 Town Budget

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the 2022 Selectmen's Budget as written pending the insurance adjustment

Vice Chairman Pitman: What about the Finance Administrator?

Selectman Dill: And other changes that we'll have?

Mr. Harrington: So basically, the reason I put this question on there is just to be able to present the budget to the MBC. Their first meeting is tomorrow night so we actually need a formalized, approved 2022 budget from the Selectmen with the caveats that Insurance needs to be adjusted and the proposed new position.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

[Dwight Barnes] ~~Mr. Rhodes~~: Yes, something that really bugged me last week was the salt budget on the highway side. Based on the numbers we had, if we have an average year, we're going to spend close to a \$100,000.00 and there's \$76,000.00 in this budget.

You know, maybe I'm a little late to the party on this question but I just, I'd like to understand how, you know, how that happens, you know. Do we make an adjustment at the last minute on that or how does that all work?

Selectman Dill: Basically, don't pave as much next year.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's your simple answer.

Mr. Harrington: Again, because the number is unknown, we don't know what the season's going to be like, how much salt we're going to be ordering. This is merely an approximate of what we may spend. The other opportunity for the Board if we are approaching the \$100,000.00 or looking like we're going over what is in the budget, if it's approved, you have the winter emergency maintenance fund that you can tap into. That's a trust fund that's put aside specifically for over expenditures if the winter tends to be a bad one.

[Dwight Barnes] ~~Mr. Rhodes~~: Okay. How much is in that fund?

Mr. Harrington: I believe it's close to \$100,000.00.

[Dwight Barnes] ~~Mr. Rhodes~~: All right.

Selectman Dill: But the other thing is it is a bottom-line budget so if we have to take it out of a different area, generally, that comes out of the road reconstruction line so, I wasn't just being flip, we literally don't pave as much next year.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

[Dwight Barnes] ~~Mr. Rhodes~~: Okay. Thanks.

Selectman Dill: There is a pile of salt down there. I drove by it today. There's a lot leaving, right now. We are all set on that, right Dick? You were able to sign it and ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Selectman Dill: Okay. And we actually had a decent price compared to the other towns.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Correct. That was the best news.

NO VOTE TAKEN.

New or Other Business:

Chairman McGarry: All right. Do we have any new business or other business from the Board?

Seeing none, we don't have any non-public session. How about citizen's comments?

Citizen's Comments:

Mr. Rhodes - Church Street

Mr. Rhodes: I thought it would never happen.

All my questions are about the public access. I think it's a terrific idea to do that. I think the COVID showed us that we can do public access pretty decently. You know, all across the country it happened and so I think it's a good thing.

Did you explore, Mr. Harrington, the ability to connect to cable with whatever gets set up here?

Mr. Harrington: I don't understand your question.

Mr. Rhodes: Well, Ms. McHugh was asking saying that there are people in town who have cable and nothing else. I understand that the trend is going away from cable and moving towards internet connections rather than cable connections but there's still a lot of voters who have cable so is there a way to get this not just onto YouTube which is an internet, basically, an internet ...

Mr. Harrington: That would be something I would have to explore. I don't have an answer this evening.

Mr. Rhodes: But having a live stream, I mean, I guess I'm curious because there are a lot of live stream options out there and I don't know how many of those, you know, looked at and I'm also wondering if there was a Board decision not to include interaction or whether it's just, you know, it was just, I mean, I don't know what drove the question of not including interaction because for all the Boards that worked last year through ZOOM, except for Santa Clause, the interaction thing was pretty good. I mean, I think it worked for a lot of people, you know?

And frankly, the Santa Claus thing was not on our system. That was on the southern NH [Planning Commission] system where there wasn't a password required to get in but I think there was a lot of benefit that we saw.

One of the questions is exhibits. I mean, I know Mr. McGarry brought it up but you know, not only the Planning Commission but other boards I think have exhibits and one of the things that live streaming services like ZOOM can do is actually, and I think the Planning Board actually required people to submit things now by .pdf if I'm not mistaken so with the technology that we have out there, that most people are using in their everyday lives; contractors, builders, all these people are doing and the rest of us as well, I'm just wondering why we're looking at a technology. It's like deciding to buy a car and then looking at [Yugo's] ~~Hugo's~~ instead of even looking at Chevy's. Not asking for Cadillacs but there's a lot of technology out there and I'm just wondering if we have a vision that sort of makes this a democracy friendly kind of exercise
How much is left over in the budget, in the ARPA budget after the ambulance? There's a fair amount of money in there, right?

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Rhodes: I mean, choosing between 10 grand and \$1,500.00 when you've had maybe 20, 30,000.00 left over on the ARPA funds just seems like you're shopping for [Yugo's] ~~Hugo's~~ rather than even Chevy's or Ford's or a Dodge let alone a diesel, right.

So, I'm just wondering if it's not, if we're, if we're going to go, shouldn't we go a little bit bigger than we're going? I mean, I think it's a great thing to be doing but that's [squandering] ~~wondering~~ the opportunity is sort of one of my fears here because I think there are a lot of options and I don't know what the costs are. I don't know if we looked at the costs but if we're going to do this shouldn't we do that and make it an exercise that'll have some legs and last so that's my public comment.

(Multiple members thanked Mr. Rhodes)

Denise Greig – Emergency Management

I would, my only comment is with respect to the elections. I think we would all very much love to say that the pandemic will be over. I don't know if we can do that and given that what we're looking at is 12 hours indoors in February, in March, windows closed, doors closed. I think last year it was a nice 4 degrees on the day that the deliberative session was originally scheduled.

I think it's realistic to take into consideration the health and safety, not only of the residents of the town but also of the employees and volunteers who will man the desks for 12 hours.

So, I think it is really important that we take that into consideration. It would be having looked at this with the election team last year, it's extremely difficult to fit everybody into town hall with the expectations that you can socially distance and I think that we need to seriously consider that and having been on the election team that moved those barriers in that Arts and Crafts Building, we had a great turnout from the election team who moved every piece around and I know we'd be happy to put it back so we do volunteer that effort again. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We'll bring that up.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight, did you have something?

Selectman Barnes: Yes, regarding what Erroll mentioned, did you ever have any kind of discussion with Malloy about the possibility of creating a system that would allow people participate?

Mr. Harrington: That's a much bigger system than what we're proposing even at the highest cost and it basically requires someone to manage it throughout the entire meeting.

Selectman Barnes: So, it would be a lot more money?

Mr. Harrington: Yes. I don't have a figure for you but that would require quite a bit of additional equipment.

Selectman Barnes: In lieu of that, would there be another way that you could solicit input from people, perhaps from their keyboard to a tablet here that could be included in the meeting? Maybe wouldn't be a back and forth but maybe, could you accept things from the community over the internet during the meeting?

Mr. Harrington: Again, that would require someone stationed to do that at every meeting.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Plus, Dwight, we're pretty well restricted to citizen's comments. It got a little out of control tonight from our standard procedure.

Selectman Dill: And the other thing that I would say is that the school board has somebody there running the system and they're not taking comments.

You know, on even with us, you know, we couldn't ask John to do that in addition to the meeting. We, I think you're right. I think we need somebody just to do that.

Mr. Harrington: It takes a little bit more dedicated time to run a system where you have engagement back and forth.

Selectman Barnes: Okay. Understood. Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Thanks, Dwight.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:45 pm

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, November 8, 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*

Corrected/Approved minutes submitted by John Harrington, Town Administrator