

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 22, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Matt Fisher, Fire Chief:

Chairman McGarry: First on the agenda is the fire chief but he won't be able to be here tonight and we're going and we're going to be taking up the A/V upgrade to the Board meeting room out of order since Steve is here to talk about it.

A/V Upgrade to Board meeting room:

Mr. Harrington: All right. I'll start off. It's a project that Steve and I have been working on for at least five or six months. I believe the Board has received quite a few emails of suggestions on how to upgrade the current video/audio capabilities in this room for meetings of boards and committees.

And, working closely with Malloy Sound, we've come up with a plan that we feel is pretty close to meeting all of the needs, actually all of the needs that have been expressed thus far.

The plan would include the purchase of a new high-definition camera replacing the one at the back of the room there. That camera would be repurposed to show a forward view of the community table when folks are speaking instead of looking at the back of their head and we would also now be able to live stream to YouTube and Channel 24 simultaneously for folks to what on either media access that they have either through cable tv or internet and then we would also post a recording of the video the following day as we always have on the town website.

This would be based on a ZOOM platform. What folks would see at home is obviously what is coming through the cameras, not the whole ZOOM screen. The operator, in this case, would be managing the ZOOM meeting from this desk location.

There would be a computer set up underneath with a monitor, keyboard and mouse and they would have to run the system from this location here.

Any questions and that price tag is pretty close to the higher price tag that I gave you folks a couple of weeks ago. That comes in at \$9,255.00 and they would be American Rescue Plan grant money but in order to accomplish all of the requirements that both the community has expressed and the Board, there is quite a bit of equipment that would need to be purchased to accomplish that.

Chairman McGarry: This is certainly some topic that I've received quite a few emails on and urging that we have the capability for, not necessarily the Board of Selectmen but for other boards to be able to entertain comments and that ...

Mr. Harrington: Yes, this would satisfy that. There would be a separate speaker mounted in front of the dais here to allow anyone speaking from remote viewing at home to speak to people in the audience or the Board. The HD camera that would be new would be able to be multi-directional as that one is and be able to show the back wall for presentations during a Planning Board meeting and then come back to the Board here as well.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Does that mean there's somebody else sitting next to you, John, that's running the computer?

Mr. Harrington: Well, in my case, I would be running it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You are capable of handling what you're doing?

Mr. Harrington: Right. I would be running it and then for any other board meeting or a committee meeting that would like to have the meeting live streamed, someone would have to be trained on how to function over here.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I just think it makes a big difference if you're capable instead of us having another employee. That's great.

Mr. Harrington: Right.

Selectman Dill: So, for ZOOM, we can, for the other committees, because one of the things that I've heard a lot about was Planning and Zoning. If they're putting pdfs in, we can share those out on the ZOOM link? Pete? Steve? Person in the audience whose working with us.

Mr. Jamele: I'm not real familiar with ZOOM. I don't use it so I don't know if he can throw a pdf on the screen.

Mr. Harrington: I believe and it hasn't happened yet but I know I've attended other meetings where people ...

It's up to the host. In this case, it would be me to open up the ability to other viewers to be able to put documents up.

Selectman Dill: I just don't think, for us, I don't think it's a big deal for this committee but I think for Planning and Zoning, it would be a major advantage to be able to electronically share these documents rather than printing them up and having people have to come to town hall and pick them up.

Mr. Jamele: Well, there is an option that projector could be used if someone was sitting here with a laptop can plug right into here and they could show those pdfs through that and through that projector and the camera can be pointed to that back wall where people

Mr. Harrington: Are you saying people at home can share documents and have it shown ...

Selectman Dill: There's got to be a way that people at home can just open a document that is being discussed.

Mr. Harrington: Yes, I mean, provided

Selectman Dill: That's all I'm talking about. I'm not talking about them sharing in documents but I'm just trying to get

Erroll's actually the one that's brought it up the most but just with Planning and Zoning that we're still requiring coming in and getting a paper copy or access to a paper copy rather than just being able to get an electronic copy for Planning Board.

Mr. Harrington: As long as the document's posted on our webpage, anybody can download it and look at it.

Selectman Dill: Again Fred, that's more of your end of the committees than mine.

Chairman McGarry: And I guess we could, well we would have to get somebody over there if we actually had to put it on to like a laptop ...

Mr. Harrington: Much like Sylvia does now.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: But still, we're only looking at \$9,255.00 for everything.

Mr. Harrington: That's it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's good.

Mr. Harrington: Any other questions?

Selectwoman McHugh: There were three amounts we had last time that we were going to go look at. I thought the 9 was this ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: This was the high one.

Chairman McGarry: The high one.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Mr. Harrington: Everyone was looking at the middle one which was 30 but as soon as you bring into the capability of interactivity ...

Mr. Jamele: And the new camera.

Mr. Harrington: And then that brought the price right back up to the higher one again.

Selectman Dill: Because we have to buy equipment to make it interactive.

Mr. Harrington: Right.

Chairman McGarry: Denny, you had a question?

Ms. Greig: On Zoom ~~ZOON~~, there's share screens so the host has the capability of sharing their screen so if there's not just one document but say a power point presentation, they'd be able to share that.

Mr. Harrington: But that power point wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be able to show it here.

Ms. Greig: Could you put it up? Have a projector show the meeting.

Mr. Jamele: If someone has it on their laptop and sitting here, certainly they could show it on their projector.

Ms. Greig: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: But it would take a physical person there.

Mr. Jamele: Yes. That'd be the live stream that people would see it.

Ms. Greig: All right.

Mr. Jamele: That's another step that was something that hadn't been talked about when we were setting this up.

Ms. Greig: Are we going to improve the microphone system?

Mr. Harrington: The microphone system will be the same.

Mr. Jamele: These are fine.

Ms. Greig: Because that was one of the great complaints when we went to ZOOM with the Planning Board.

Mr. Jamele: Oh, the ZOOM. Yeah, that's another thing. Let me clarify. John, I don't use the ZOOM. John is going to be using the same ZOOM system you've been using all along. That's not incorporated into the live streaming so we're basically here to talk about the live streaming.

Mr. Harrington: What we had and was working effectively was the external microphone that would attach to the computer or laptop which picked up the voices from the Board.

The problem was we had masks and we had the mics too far away from people when they were talking. That's when people complained that they couldn't hear so that's why we need to keep the mics close to and this will pick up your voice which will come up over the ZOOM meeting.

Selectman Dill: We're using these mics for this system, right?

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Dill: Because I think when we started doing the ZOOM, we weren't using them, well because we weren't all here so okay.

Mr. Harrington: Correct and what was happening, it was people at home. If you were within the ZOOM meeting on the computer, everybody heard clearly. It's when folks are present in the room. That didn't get picked up through the ZOOM meeting quite as well because people were not speaking clearly into the microphone.

Chairman McGarry: Any other questions?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is Malloy the only one you check with, John?

Mr. Harrington: We've been working with Malloy, yes.

Selectwoman McHugh: We can't get bids from other companies to see if they could do it cheaper?

Mr. Harrington: We could.

Mr. Jamele: We've looked at the pricing, excuse me, we have looked at the pricing. The only difference would be ...

His pricing is fair enough and he's put a margin in it of course. When he buys the equipment, he can add a little bit more so I know the price of the equipment is fairly accurate. It's the labor. Now that's a different thing, so. We don't know exactly how many hours it's going to take him to do it.

Selectwoman McHugh: It's not our policy so it just seems like we should get, be getting three quotes from some sound people to do this but ...

Mr. Harrington: I could certainly do that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think you should, John.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: If this is a good one, that'll confirm that this is good.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We ask everybody else to get them or expect them to so, Cindy's right.

Chairman McGarry: Any other questions for Steve?

Okay, thank you Steve.

Mr. Jamele: Thank you.

All right, Community Power.

Community Power:

Mr. Harrington: You all got the documents that I sent you over the weekend?

I also have a representative from Standard Power who we've been working with for quite a number of years. He's here to answer any questions that the Board might have outside or pertaining to the information that I sent you.

This is Ryan Polson from Standard Power and I met with him and Bob Hayden several weeks ago and they went over all of this information with me and I'm just forwarded onto you. This would be a community decision whether or not be part of this program and then it would go out to each individual community member where they would have the option to participate or not participate in the program.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, we're doing this for the taxpayers to decide?

Mr. Harrington: I believe the first step is the governing body needs to agree to participate in the program.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We have to think this is a good idea and then pass it on.

Mr. Harrington: Correct. Add anything Ryan.

Mr. Polson: So, the idea is to get approval from the governing body of a town on whether or not the idea of Community Power is a good idea to look into.

If that is the end result, then a Community Power Committee would then be formed and would work with whatever vendor the town chooses to develop a plan and that plan would have different phases including public input and then would get prepared for a town meeting vote in March, if that's when the town meeting is.

Obviously, this March, this coming March is probably not super realistic at this point but that would be the kind of the timeline to, when a final decision on, yes, we want to move forward with this plan and it gets voted on at the town meeting.

Chairman McGarry: So, a vote at town meeting, what would that actually do?

Mr. Polson: That would give the go ahead to go out to bid for the electricity contracts that the town would be purchasing based on the plan that was developed.

Chairman McGarry: And, can individuals, would be able to take in and sign up for this or how would that work?

Mr. Polson: So, this idea existed already in New Hampshire but it was an opt-in program so to start one of these programs, you had to get a ton of people to opt in to all agree to do this and it basically meant that it was unrealistic to be able to do something like that so language changed in 2019 to make it an opt-out program so now anyone, any eligible meter, electric meter which means anyone that is not currently using a third party supply on their electric bill would be eligible and automatically would be enrolled in a program.

However, a mailing would go out to every eligible person with the ability to opt-out or choose different pricing options. We've been encouraging communities to add greener options for people who have interest in that so I would imagine in talking with the Energy Committee prior to this and with John that having some greener options in addition to the cheapest rate I could get, having multiple options for people to select or not select.

Chairman McGarry: Other questions?

Selectman Dill: So, we have an Energy Committee, right?

Chairman McGarry: Yes.

Selectman Dill: So, theoretically, they would be the ones who would be working with this to come up with the plan to go ahead on this?

Mr. Polson: Not technically so it's written in the law that there has to be an actual community power committee that cannot be the Energy Committee however the members of the Energy Committee can be on the Community Power Committee.

So, we've found in working with starting out, working with the city of Keene and now as we're working with Marlborough and Swanzey currently, on their plans they have Energy Committee members. They have some staff but not required. We like to encourage local business owners who live in town to be a part of the planning committee for this so it kind of depends on who is interested in being a part of the core committee that develops the plan.

Chairman McGarry: How large are these committees, typically?

Mr. Polson: Keene's was fairly large but they are a city but I believe Swanzey and Marlborough's are six to eight, maybe at most so with their input and our team working together, there's more than enough people to develop the material which will then go out.

Actually, my boss, Bob, is in Marlborough tonight for one of their public sessions where the community is welcome to come, learn about the program, give their input so that's just one of the steps along the way but that's kind of. An energy committee is a good place to start for getting people interested in and starting this committee.

Selectman Dill: Well, so, I guess my next question would be those are the three, the only three communities that you've got this implemented or started in?

Mr. Polson: Currently active, yes. We have, we've already presented with dozens of other communities and each have their own timeline and their own priorities so yeah, the three active ones currently are those three but we've been working with schools and towns in New Hampshire for ten years now and have sixty plus schools and town customers and we expect several of them when their communities are ready to pursue this program as well.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: In this here, says anyone who receives a bill from Eversource is eligible. So that doesn't count people from the Coop?

Mr. Polson: It does. So, we've typically dealt with, I mean, Eversource is the largest utility in the state so a lot of our, some of our material will have just listed Eversource but no, all utilities are eligible for this program so Eversource and the Coop in Deerfield would, those residents should they want to participate, would have the ability to.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight?

Selectman Barnes: Is your company ten years old?

Mr. Polson: Yes, 2010, April of 2010, I believe. We've been working with Deerfield since 2015, I think.

Selectman Barnes: Is there a state entity that oversees your industry?

Mr. Polson: I don't know the answer to that. I would assume we, the Public Utilities Commission would. We register as a, we're an energy consultant in Nashua so we register with the Public Utilities Commission as a registered broker and consultant so I don't know if that answers your question but ...

Selectman Barnes: Well, I guess my question would lead into is there somebody that's keeping score out there for companies like yours and how do you rate?

Mr. Polson: I don't know if someone is keeping score. I just know that we've had success for the past ten years working with towns and schools predominantly and we have had a good relationship with Deerfield for a while now so I can't speak to other people's perception of us. I can just speak to the amount of clients we have. The amount of municipal clients we have and have had for a while.

Selectman Barnes: Okay. Like businesses, can sometimes be graded by people like the Better Business Bureau, where people could file complaints, etc. if they had concerns with a business so I was wondering if there's an entity out there that looks at you like, that fields complaints relative to your company and if so, I mean, are you guys 100 percent or are there people out there that have concerns about how operate?

Mr. Polson: I don't know the answer to that. Everyone's obviously entitled to their opinion on how we operate. We, I would like to think that anyone we work with, once we work with them, they will continue to work with us and that's kind of our philosophies that not everyone's our customer but we hope to eventually have everyone as a customer so, I mean, we, our retaining rate for customers is very high so while we're a smaller New Hampshire based company, in general, we do a good job with the customers we do have.

Selectman Barnes: I'm just asking because we had conversation a little earlier about early on when the sourcing of power from other places other than the utilities came into being, there were a lot of people that, you know, weren't quite above board so that's the only basis of my question.

Mr. Polson: So there definitely are predatory companies that can scam, especially the residential side. You don't really see it on the commercial/industrial side. We work with some of the largest supplier, energy suppliers in the country for the commercial/industrial and we vet them in that process so I believe the town is Constellation. They're one of our favorite suppliers to work with but on the residential side, yes, there has been some negative history which we don't typically, haven't typically dealt with the residential side until Community Power came into existence.

Community Power is a great way to prevent predatory companies coming in because it's a plan that was developed by the town with the help of us, if that's how it works out and the suppliers being used are the same suppliers that we use on the commercial/industrial side.

So, these larger companies that have been vetted and are able to provide services that will not, you won't have your rate change in six months after like some companies.

Chairman McGarry: Alden, then Dick.

Selectman Barnes: Thank you very much

Selectman Dill: I was just. You keep saying there's been a relationship with Deerfield for ten years. What is the relationship with Deerfield?

What are you guys currently providing?

Mr. Polson: So, since 2015, we approached the Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission back in 2015 about putting together a buying group of towns, of the member towns of that planning commission so Derry, Chester, Candia, Deerfield, etc., Windham.

So, we essentially put a, went out to bid for an electricity contract back in 2015 that the town and all the members or the members who agreed to enter into this aggregation at the time, that's when we started working with the towns when the town signed that original contract so on the town-owned accounts, electric accounts, we've been saving them money with a supply contract and then in addition to that, the town's been a member of our group net metering hydro program so in addition to being a broker of electric and gas contracts, we administer twenty-five hydro plants across the state through group net metering which is a way for small hydro plants to sell their power or provide benefits of the power they produce to end users and we typically give those benefits to schools and towns.

So, in addition to the savings on your, the town's electric bills, we've been sending checks quarterly for the past five years for additional hydro benefits.

And then in 2019, when the Community Power law passed, obviously something new that we wanted to start looking into because it's another way to help towns so that's kind of where we're at now and just something else that we could look at that the town could benefit from.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I have to throw water on your fire but you're talking to the wrong committee. We need you to talk to a committee that can get back to us with all these proposals, questions, whatever we have. It's nice to hear about it but we aren't in the position to do the homework. It needs to be done as we speak here from what you've said tonight.

Selectman Dill: I mean, I had a question. Peter called me the other night who's on that committee to ask me what I thought about it and quite honestly, I really didn't understand it and they were going to bring it up again at their meeting because Peter said he really didn't understand it so I think I agree with you on that Dick. I'd like to hear from ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: I want an Energy Committee to get back to me

Selectman Dill: With their recommendations

Vice Chairman Pitman: Talking to the right fellow in the audience.

Mr. Harrington: Ryan has already presented to the Energy Committee and they were in support of him approaching the Board at this point.

I had Wes and his group entertain a presentation by Ryan so they already have talked to the Energy Committee.

Selectman Barnes: So, they communicated with you and said they give the thumbs up?

Mr. Harrington: Correct. That's why Ryan's here. That's why I'm presenting it to you folks.

Now, we can certainly get more information or I believe start another energy committee or what would it be called at that point?

Vice Chairman Pitman: He said it had to be a separate committee. That's why we're talking about it.

I guess at this point, if the Board is interested in continuing down this road, this would give a green light to form yet another committee.

If the Board is not interested in this program at all, then we can thank Ryan and not move forward but I would need you folks to be on board before we continue further into developing another committee.

Selectwoman McHugh: I think, I don't know enough of it right now so I mean, I'm not for it or against it but I think our Energy Committee should have come to us and kind of let us in on everything and explained it to us.

I mean, what is it? Where does the power come from? Is this, I'm ignorant of the whole thing, I guess.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What happens when the power goes out, you don't have Eversource.

Mr. Polson: You do have Eversource. Eversource will always provide, will always deliver the, or coop, will always deliver the power to you so if the power goes out, Eversource, it's Eversource and the Coop's job.

The only thing that changes is on your bill where it says supply, the supply portion, that's the only thing that will change.

Depending on what option you choose, maybe you choose 100 percent green option, that rate will show up on your bill for the cost of your supply. Nothing else changes. Eversource or Coop still deliver your bills. You still pay Eversource or the Coop.

It's just a way the program, in general, is just a way to give people the option of paying less than the utility.

Mr. Harrington: Ryan, would it be fair to say if someone were to choose the green option 100 percent, that source, the power source rate would be slightly higher than say a fossil fuel rate because the sources of energy being, you're paying for, are coming from solar, hydro or some other type of renewable energy as opposed to say, a coal-fired or natural gas-fired plant? Would that be fair to say?

Mr. Polson: Yes, so you would be, there's a thing called a renewable energy credit or a REC and those are by-products of renewable energy sources producing power.

So, in selecting, in the city of Keene, for example, has four pricing options. They have a default rate which is roughly the same as the utility default rate. Eversource but it has a little extra green. They have a cheapest option that I can get which would look to be significantly lower than the default rate and then they have two greener options that I believe are plus fifty percent and then plus 100 percent green and those options, you are purchasing REC's.

The RECs provide the greenness that will make someone or a community which Keene has a pretty lofty goal of being 100 percent renewable by 2030 so they were big into having those greener options.

So, those residents who yes, who want to pay a little more, there are people that will want to pay a little more to be a little more green.

There are the people and it'll probably be the majority that say just give me the cheapest rate and that's fine, too but the program in general is kind of there to promote the idea of being a little more green and having a community be a little more green and continue that learning about what the town is. If the town has any renewable or green goals, it's great to, it's first of all, it's great if they do but through this program, it definitely could promote that for future contracts or future programs.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight.

Selectman Barnes: Based on the thumbs up from the Energy Committee and what sounds like a pretty solid company here, I'd like to make a motion that we accept this proposal and allow it to move forward.

Motion: Selectman Barnes moves to accept this proposal and allow it to move forward

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Selectman Dill: So, basically, all we're agreeing to tonight is a memorandum of understanding in order for the new committee to start and then to come up with their recommendations, correct?

Mr. Polson: Yeah. A committee would need to form obviously and then the committee or the town would need to, we would hope that the committee would choose to work with us but the committee would need to figure out who they wanted to work with and from there, if it is us that is selected, we would work with the committee to develop what the plan, the Community Power Plan is and then over the course of if they really want to make it to this coming March town meeting which I don't know if that's possible but there are certain milestones that the committee would have to do like public sessions and canvassing the public but ...

Selectman Dill: I highly doubt it because the warrant articles are due by what, end of December for non-petition?

Mr. Harrington: January 11th.

Selectman Dill: For all?

Chairman McGarry: For all?

Mr. Harrington: That's for all.

Selectman Dill: Either way, I doubt it.

Mr. Polson: Right but even if you're looking at 2023 at this point, it's, I would say, it's still good to get that committee started and start educating the community and what this program is and what will be offered because it will definitely benefit.

Plus, we don't know, maybe stuff evolves in the legislature next year which could affect how the programs can work in a positive way, let's hope so definitely good to get the ball rolling even if it's a year out.

Chairman McGarry: Any further discussion?

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

Chairman McGarry: It's a vote unanimous.

2022 Draft Warrant Articles and Default Budget:

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that something that we can look at Fred?

Chairman McGarry: The question is, can we look at these or do we want to take them up right now?

Mr. Harrington: You can look at them. That's the reason I sent them over the weekend. I mean if you have any questions, we can talk about a question now. You certainly, I didn't send them out to make a decision. It's just a draft version.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Anybody have any questions on what we have currently in front of us?

Selectman Dill: Just on the default, John, the warrant articles two, four and five, those are last year's warrant articles?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, that's, that column there is the current budget.

Selectman Dill: Okay

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, the budget and the default budget are accurate?

Mr. Harrington: If you're looking at Warrant Article number one, yes, those numbers are currently accurate.

Selectman Dill: Okay. So, the default on this one would be the 41 ...

Mr. Harrington: \$4,122,731.00.

Selectman Dill: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Anybody else have any questions on what we have in front of us right now? I guess ...

Mr. Harrington: These two documents are due to the MBC, I believe, in two meetings, I'm to present those so I gave them to the Board early so that you'd have time to review them.

What we would need to do is go article by article, looking at the amounts and then vote on whether or not you recommend or not recommend each article.

Underneath each article that has money there is a list there that it says recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee.

So, we would need to have all those votes in before I presented to the Municipal Budget Committee and this would come, this would then turn from a draft to a final warrant.

The default budget, you just want to vote in and accept. This is prepared by the Finance Director based on our current budget and any obligations financially that we have to maintain.

Chairman McGarry: Do we want to proceed through these or do we want to wait.

Mr. Harrington: I can put them on next week's agenda if ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Is there any that we can go through just to get them off the list?

Mr. Harrington: Sure. I can tell you Article One is the budget and default budget as it always has been.

Article Two is a repeat of the road reconstruction warrant article which was raised to \$250,000.00 from earlier conversations. This year it was thought that to increase it by another \$50,000.00 would be a good idea.

Selectman Dill: Do you want to just vote on some of these tonight.

Chairman McGarry: Might as well.

Article One, we've basically already approved the budget so that's should go, show of hands.

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend

Chairman McGarry: Number Two \$250,000.00 for road repairs.

Mr. Harrington: That is the same language that we had ...

Selectman Dill: Yeah. Last year.

Selectman Barnes: Can I ask a question?

Chairman McGarry: Sure.

Selectman Barnes: So, this, the \$250,000.00 was put in this year and was \$200,000.00 last year?

Mr. Harrington and the chairman: Correct.

Selectman Barnes: So, I know you guys have already gone through this so if you believe that's a good number to get the roads fixed.

Selectman Dill: It's a starting number.

Selectman Dill: The big thing in my mind for what we're going to run into is tree removal. We're, every time Steve's in here we ask if we're going to get anything out of Asplundh and they basically tell us when we get to it.

At some point, these ash trees are going to have to start getting cut down.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is that part of number two though?

Selectman Dill: That's part of number two because we have that in there. I thought we did.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, I don't see anything about roads

Selectman Dill: ... repair and reconstructing existing roads and extruded drainage improvements. Yeah, I thought we had tree work in there last year.

Mr. Harrington: This is the language from last year.

Selectman Dill: I'd like to add tree work.

Chairman McGarry: No, we certainly could add it to it, sure.

Selectman Dill: In my mind, I think that's important.

Selectman Barnes: So, that runs hand in hand with the road work generally?

Selectman Dill: Generally, yeah, I mean, it's the same department that's going to have to take care of that. That's out of the highway.

Mr. Harrington: So, in the last sentence you'd like to add under use for improvement, reconstruction, maintenance, crack sealing, engineering of roads and tree removal?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Selectwoman McHugh: Now, I wanted to ask too, the paving we just had done this past year, is that going to have to be resurfaced like Nottingham and Griffin did this year from ...

Selectman Dill: I think he put the final coat on it.

Chairman McGarry: Yes, he did.

Selectwoman McHugh: He did already?

Chairman McGarry: That was ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: He had extra so we did the others.

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Mr. Harrington: That was base coat and top coat. The top course.

Chairman McGarry: No, he put top course on the three major roads that we had done and then he did an extension on Middle Road and that's a top course as well going up from, I guess, from Birch up to just short of Leavitt's.

Mr. Harrington: That was an overlay.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: Which I thought the roads had to sit for a year before they could do that.

Chairman McGarry: Not necessarily.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

So, none of this money will be there so that's my question, I guess.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Should be for all new.

Mr. Harrington: So, the sentence I have right now to be edited is "The funds will be used for the improvement, reconstruction, maintenance, crack sealing, engineering of roads and tree removal."

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: As needed.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: So, show of hands on Number Two.

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend

Chairman McGarry: Number Three.

Mr. Harrington: This is a new warrant article. One of three from the Cemetery Trustees.

Chairman McGarry: To be expanding the Dowst-Cate Cemetery for \$80,000.00.

Selectman Dill: And this is, oh, to raise and appropriate, okay, I wanted to make sure that wasn't there.

Mr. Harrington: This is a two-part warrant article. First it establishes the expendable trust fund and then it asks to raise and appropriate.

Selectman Dill: Now Phil talked about this at the meeting the other day. Basically, they're running out of space.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: We talked about this a while ago.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: All ready for a show of hands?

5-0-0- Selectmen Recommend

Number Four – Municipal Cemetery Restoration Expendable Trust Fund. This is another \$80,000.00 but this would be separate from Article Three?

Mr. Harrington: That is correct.

Selectman Dill: So, they're looking to add to the number of cemeteries we're going to permanently maintain over the six we currently do, correct?

Mr. Harrington: What they found out by research is that the town actually has 29 town-owned cemeteries. We currently only maintain six so these additional dollars and the establishment of the trust fund to possibly put more funds in, in the future will help to bring back some of those other 23 cemeteries.

Selectwoman McHugh: Its kind of, what if somebody has a cemetery on their property and we can't get there? Do we have access to all these cemeteries?

Mr. Harrington: That's a question and an answer I don't know.

Selectman Dill: I know that not all of, this is, there's a difference between the town-owned ones and the private ones. There's a huge number of private ones as well and those don't necessarily have, that I know those don't have access.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right but I mean the town owned ones. How do we know they're town owned?

Selectman Dill: Well, I know that there's a couple of cemetery trustees members that have done a ton of research on it to find out that they are.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's not what I'm asking. I'm asking how do we know they're town owned? I know people's done research. They were asking people to come forward if they had a cemetery on their property.

Selectman Dill: Because then they found where the cemetery was and they were able to go back through the deed records and find out that it was town owned. I mean, I don't think the cemetery trustees are just guessing on this.

Selectwoman McHugh: I'm not saying that either. I'm just ...

Chairman McGarry: So, do we have an actual list, I assume?

(Not sure who said next) We have a list.

Mr. Harrington: I believe the trustees do.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes, on my property, I wouldn't want somebody going out there working in it and you have to go through my property to get there. That's what I'm asking. So, how ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think John should get back to us.

Chairman McGarry: You can get back to us with a list, I guess.

Selectwoman McHugh: And this, we've already got our mowing contracts through the roof by taking on water holes and cisterns and these cemeteries that we never had before in a default budget and now you're going, we're taking on all these cemeteries and we still want to use that money so I guess I don't understand. We do Park and Rec's mowing. We do cistern and water holes mowing. Where Parks and Rec used to take care of it themselves. The fire used to take care of it themselves but all these are coming all together so ...

Chairman McGarry: So, you can get back to us with a list of the municipally owned cemeteries.

Selectman Barnes: Question?

Chairman McGarry: Dwight?

Who currently maintains the six town cemeteries and what is involved in the maintenance?

Mr. Harrington: That's done by a request for bid every year and the cemetery uses its own budgetary funds for their mowing of the cemeteries that they are responsible for. That's the six that is mentioned in here.

Selectman Barnes: So, is it just mowing?

Mr. Harrington: Mowing. Fall cleanup.

Chairman McGarry: You got tree removal, too.

Mr. Harrington: They have to find if there's tree removal then they, we have to hire a special tree company. The mowers don't take the trees down. They're just responsible for general mowing, trimming and fall cleanup.

Selectman Barnes: Thanks.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The good news is Mark Young is back handling this. He'd gotten done when he was road agent and he's willing to accept the responsibility. It's a good thing.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, is that one of the things we can take away from Ray?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Mr. Harrington: Because Ray manages the mowing contracts and that was something that the Cemetery Trustees approached the Board two years ago and the Board accepted it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Because Mark wasn't there but Mark is back and that is what I'm asking is can't Mark have this back?

Mr. Harrington: We can certainly approach Mark if you'd like to do it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I know he told me it's rather embarrassing to go pick a site with somebody that's just lost a loved one and have it up to snuff.

Mr. Harrington: So, I can approach Mark to see if he would like to take over the mowing contracts for next year?

Vice Chairman Pitman: That'd be great.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: Or at least give him a call.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It doesn't have anything to do with Article Four but ...

Chairman McGarry: No, it doesn't but anyways...

Vice Chairman Pitman: We're making progress.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Article Five.

Mr. Harrington: So, we'll get back to Article Four?

(Members verbally agreed)

Chairman McGarry: Article Five. A 3-1/2 percent pay raise, for cost of living raises, excuse me, for town employees amounting to \$77,000.00.

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend.

Chairman McGarry: Article Six is basically a redo on the warrant article that had previously been passed for \$50,000.00, right?

Mr. Harrington: I put that in from 2019. That's why the entire warrant article is highlighted. Didn't know whether or not you wanted to put it back in or not.

Chairman McGarry: Well, we would be having a warrant article to cover the, assuming we get through the whole interview process and everything else of with the design/build and we need a placeholder for that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right, so this isn't what we did the last week, Fred?

Chairman McGarry: No, no, the, what we did last week is just start a status on the way and we'll, we're going to have to take and plug in a number here, probably sometime in early January.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We better wait on it then until ...

Mr. Harrington: So, leave it as a placeholder?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Mr. Harrington: Depending on the amount of money, it may move within the list but I can leave it.

Chairman McGarry: It's definitely going to move from numbers, place number six up to a higher number.

Mr. Harrington: Right. Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Number seven. Fire Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for \$50,000.00.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is this for a fire truck?

Mr. Harrington: This is the same warrant article that's been on the warrant since I have been here. I believe it's a capital reserve fund. That is for the fire truck.

Chairman McGarry: Hold on, that was ...

Selectman Dill: Yeah, I was just going to vote for it.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, by us voting us, it just lets the taxpayer vote?

Selectman Dill: Yeah, we're just voting our recommendations.

Mr. Harrington: Your votes are going under the recommended.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Harrington: Or not recommended, however you vote.

Selectman Barnes: Quick question.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight.

Selectman Barnes: Do we know how much is in that capital reserve fund right now?

Mr. Harrington: I don't have those numbers with me.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Next week.

(Multiple members of the Board speaking, no translation)

Selectman Barnes: Just curious.

Selectman Dill: I had the same question because I know people are going to be asking us that once we recommend that.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Number eight. \$35,000.00 for a Cemetery General Maintenance Expendable Reserve Fund.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No amount to be raised from taxes.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, it's out of surplus but that's just to establish it and then they're going to use the proceeds from the sales which seems like a better idea.

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend

\$32,000.00 for Fire Emergency Water Supply Expendable Trust Fund.

Selectman Dill: Is this, we do already have it, okay.

That's another one I think we ought to table just to get an amount in that and have we ever used this?

Have we used this one?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: That was the cisterns in back of the highway garage.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is this what the cisterns and mowing is being paid out of, too?

Mr. Harrington: No. The water holes and firefighting budget has its own mowing line. That's what that's paid out of in the budget.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, I guess I don't understand what this is for then.

Mr. Harrington: This is money that the chief is putting aside to repair existing waterholes that need to be dug out, cleaned up, fencing and also the installation of any new cisterns that may be beneficial to the town.

Selectwoman McHugh: This has been here too so can we put this and see what the amount is in this?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

Chairman McGarry: It sounds like we're probably going to do the same on Number Ten. Number Ten is the Municipal Government and Buildings Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund for \$25,000.00.

So, it's another trust fund so I guess we're going to be ...

Selectman Dill: Might as well stay consistent.

Mr. Harrington: If you want to give me a moment, I can go get those numbers.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, that's all right.

Mr. Harrington: All right.

I wasn't prepared to go through these this evening. That's why I didn't bring them over.

Eleven is also a trust fund which is a recreational facility maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

Selectman Dill: But it's a truck.

Mr. Harrington: No, this is a new one.

Chairman McGarry: A new one, okay.

Selectman Dill: Yes, another one.

Chairman McGarry: Any questions on that one?

Do you want to vote on that one now?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

4-1-0 Selectmen Recommend

Chairman McGarry: Number Twelve. This is the tax clerk and deputy town clerk.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Bringing them up competitively with the town.

Mr. Harrington: This warrant article is put in by the town clerk/tax collector. Should the budget fail and we have a default budget again, and this warrant article passed, this warrant article will be funded.

Should the budget be supported and voted in and this warrant article voted in then this warrant article will not be funded.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Ready for a vote on this one?

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend

Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Expendable is another trust fund.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, give us a number.

Selectman Dill: All right and I think I'm going to ask Cindy's question.

What is the difference between this one and the other one?

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: If somebody could explain that to me.

Selectwoman McHugh: Where was the other one?

Selectman Dill: The apparatus fund. You're on the fire department. Aren't you supposed to know that?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes, because this is vehicle. This is equipment. The other one is apparatus.

Selectman Dill: Fire apparatus and equipment. This is the fire vehicle and equipment.

Mr. Harrington: I believe number 13 can be used for repairs. This is an expendable trust fund. The other one is a capital reserve saving for the fire ...

Selectman Dill: Gotcha. Thank you.

Selectwoman McHugh: Again, I'd like to see the, what we have in that fund.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

Selectman Dill: That is a major difference though isn't it, John?

Selectwoman McHugh: Like the pump.

Selectman Dill: Oh yeah, no I, yeah, that makes more sense now.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Fourteen.

Community Center Trust Fund. There's a new one on this, correct?

Selectman Dill: Guessing from the Rec Department.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, what's ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, where would that building go?

Selectman Dill: That's a new one.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, what did they just, we just had one for that.

Selectman Dill: That's playgrounds existing playgrounds and athletic fields, courts and surrounding areas.

This is to build a new recreational facility.

Vice Chairman Pitman: \$20,000.00 won't build a salt shed.

Chairman McGarry: This is only for planning and design and it's not going to come close to the design either.

Selectman Dill: No, we need more info, where it will go.

Chairman McGarry: I don't think they know, do they?

Mr. Harrington: Well, there's a huge write up in the back on the second page.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's huge.

Selectman Dill: I thin this could be one that the Rec Commission ought to come in and talk to us about before we vote on it if that's good with everybody else.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Perfect.

Selectman Dill: That's a pretty major move and like you said, for \$20,000.00, that isn't going to dent the planning.

Chairman McGarry: No.

So, we'll bring in the Rec Committee in.

\$10,000.00 for Rescue Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Good. Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Only because I'm assuming originally that was put in there to buy stuff like the LifePak12 and our Lucas' in the van. The van needs replacing so ...

Selectwoman McHugh: I know I want to vote rather than wait on this one but I guess we do.

Selectman Dill: I was going to wait to see what was in it but yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: There's not that much because we've used it.

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend

Chairman McGarry: All right. Sixteen. Purchase a Utility Vehicle for Parks and Rec.

Mr. Harrington: Currently, they only have a 15-passenger van that used for hauling supplies around, trailering their utility trailer and if we continue to use a passenger van as a multi-purpose utility vehicle, we're going to start, we're going to lose life on that vehicle itself.

That's the reason their looking for a more rugged vehicle to do some of the heavy lifting.

Selectman Dill: So, I guess the question would be where are they buying it for \$15,000.00. Are we just going to go up to the state and buy a used one?

Selectwoman McHugh: We're going to go to an auction and get a bus.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, that was a good deal.

Selectman Dill: Well, no, I think they don't want a bus now, they want like a pickup, basically but where are we going to get that for \$15,000.00?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Dwight, do you know anything about it?

Selectman Barnes: I'm sorry. What was the question?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do you know anything about this. Did it get through the cracks?

Selectman Barnes: Well, just basically what the information says here. You know they do need another vehicle; you know. Obviously, they're looking at something used here.

Chairman McGarry: Do you want further information on this or are we ...

Selectman Dill: Well, they're coming in anyway.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, that's right, yeah.

Selectman Dill: I guess my major questions on this one is just where, what's the purchase plan?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: I thought Parks and Rec is supposed to be a revolving, self-maintained department? What's happened with that?

Selectman Barnes: Just looking for a little support from the community on some of these things. Parks and Rec is involved in a lot of things that don't pay for themselves but they're good for the community so...

Mr. Harrington: For the most part, Cindy, they do pay all their own bills and there is only one line currently in the budget for a full-time person and half of the second full-time person.

I believe what their seeing now is as things are aging and they need to maintain. The revolving fund was never designed to do that.

Chairman McGarry: And, looking at this more closely with the, it's not a \$15,000.00, it's only a \$10,000.00 because \$5,000.00 is coming from so \$10,000.00 not going to buy you much.

Selectman Dill: No. but in the budget, we're buying another police car and getting rid of the last ...

Mr. Harrington: I believe Gary is using that as trade in and he needs ...

Selectman Dill: Okay, never mind. I was about to say, there's a utility ...

Mr. Harrington: I've already asked him.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: I guess the question I would end up having and we can save it for Parks and Rec when they come in is that \$10,000.00 number a realistic number?

Mr. Harrington: I've tabled it and I'm going to invite Nick and a member of the Commission to come in.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It should be, maybe it should be \$15,000.00. We'll find out when he gets here.

Chairman McGarry: Seventeen is milfoil control at Northwood Lake.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Very important.

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend

Chairman McGarry: And then \$2,500.00 for Pleasant Lake Preservation Association to monitor vehicles, oh yeah. Vehicles and boats that are going to be coming into Pleasant Lake.

Mr. Harrington: The Preservation Association has already reached out to me to ask the Board to support this again on this year's warrant.

5-0-0 Selectmen Recommend

Mr. Harrington: So, I have made notes on all the tabled items. I'll have all those figures for you next week and I'll invite the Parks and Rec director in so he can give you more information on that.

Did you want to vote on the default budget or did you have any questions.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Nothing we can do.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, I was about to say, it is what it is, right?

Chairman McGarry: Motion to approve the default budget in the amount of \$4,122,731.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the default budget as presented above

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Vote is unanimous.

Regular Business:

Outstanding Minutes of November 15, 2021

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman abstained due to the inability to read while gone.

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

Accounts Payable Manifest - \$63,608.98

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the accounts payable manifest as presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Selectman Barnes: Just a quick question.

Avatar payment about \$4,400.00. Are they paid on a regular basis or.?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Monthly besides the contract.

Selectman Barnes: Always monthly.

Mr. Harrington: It's either bi-monthly or quarterly but it's part of a contract. A set amounts.

Selectman Barnes: How long is the contract?

Mr. Harrington: I'll have to get back to you, Dwight.

Selectman Dill: I think it's a three-year. It's a multi-year.

Mr. Harrington: I can't be certain.

Selectman Barnes: Do they do a lot of work outside of the reevaluation work that they do?

Mr. Harrington: The Board signed two contracts last year. One was for the revaluation that was separately done and then this is our ongoing support and maintenance for our assessing department because we have a part-time assessing clerk. They are our town preferred assessors by contract.

Selectman Barnes: Okay, All right, thanks.

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

Selectman Barnes: I also have some questions about the budget appropriation report. Is now a good time to talk about that or wait till later?

Chairman McGarry: Budget appropriation report?

You want to take, I guess you could take it up now as we're signing this.

Selectman Barnes: Okay.

This is one of the items that you sent out, John, ahead of the budget appropriation budgets for all the departments.

Mr. Harrington: Okay. Yes. Go ahead.

Selectman Barnes: Okay, I just had a few questions.

Under the Executive Trustee and Trust Funds, it was a \$100.00 budgeted and there's been \$8,500.00 expended this year. Just wondering what's up with that.

Mr. Harrington: In 2018, Bob Sullivan from the Trustees of the Trust Funds approached the Board of Selectmen and that the trust funds were not gaining sufficient interest income and to support the annual service maintenance fee charged to us by Cambridge Trust who manages our accounts.

At that time, the Board agreed to a five-year taking over of that service amount, service management amount through the budget. There was only one line in the budget for trustees of the trust fund. It was under the executive budget so you are correct in seeing \$100.00 in that line but \$8,500.00 or so is charged against that line every year which means anything over \$100.00 is coming from other areas in the budget to support that invoice.

Selectman Dill: Also, because it was a default budget since we've done that.

Mr. Harrington: We continue to put in \$10,000.00 which would be funded by taxes at some point when the budget passes.

That five-year moratorium from taking the interest expires in 2023 so we have two more years of agreed upon paying that fee.

Selectman Barnes: I see. Okay. Thanks.

General government buildings, G.B. contract. Overspent by \$8,500.00.

Mr. Harrington: Again, that's where the mowing comes from and it's a default budget. Mowing has gone up.

Selectman Barnes: Well, there's a line called mowing above that one.

Mr. Harrington: You're talking about the contracts?

Selectman Barnes: Yeah, there's a line that says, GB Contract. That's the one that's overspent by that much. It's a different line than the mowing.

Mr. Harrington: My apologies. I'll have to get the detail and I can tell you what that is exactly about.

Selectman Barnes: Okay. Property and Liability under Insurance? \$4,000.00 overspent.

Mr. Harrington: It could be due, I'd have to look again at the detail, Dwight.

Selectman Barnes: Just wondering, does the insurance company, don't they give a quote for the premium for the coming year?

Mr. Harrington: What you're seeing is actual expenditures from invoices that we get this year but due to a default budget, that line stays stagnant so if the insurance goes up every year, we have to pay it.

Selectman Barnes: Okay. Well, maybe that's the same with some of the rest of these things. Ambulance?

Mr. Harrington: That's a contract.

Selectman Barnes: Budgeted \$11,500.00. Spent \$15,000.00.

Selectwoman McHugh: That goes up too, every ...

Selectman Barnes: Default budget?

Mr. Harrington: It's a five-year contract and each year it increases an incremental amount.

Selectman Barnes: We're just not able to keep up with it.

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Barnes: Yeah. Okay.

Let's see. This is fire and rescue. Vehicle maintenance and repair. \$10,000.00 extra expended.

Mr. Harrington: That is because we have aging vehicles. They break down. We have a default line at a certain amount and that's where it has to be charged for accounting purposes but it comes from elsewhere in the budget.

Selectman Barnes: Same with the electronic equipment and maintenance?

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Barnes: Okay.

Probably the answer for all my questions.

Selectwoman McHugh: So how come we can't use that trust fund line that we have for the repairs? Why is that overdrawn if we have money in a trust fund to cover that?

Mr. Harrington: Because I believe the fire chief's theory is he has an over amount of funding in the equipment, not the equipment line but the protective equipment, PPE, thank you. He has, I believe, \$65,000.00 in there. He's not utilizing all of that for PPE so he's overcharging one line but utilizing the overage in the PPE line therefore it's maintaining within his own budget.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's why I don't like the bottom line.

Chairman McGarry: All right.

Selectman Barnes: Just one other quick one. Highway, under miscellaneous, \$300.00 budgeted, \$11,600.00 spent. Is that the same answer to that?

Mr. Harrington: I'd have to get the information in detail.

Selectman Barnes: It just seems like it might have been budgeted just for a small amount of something. A lot of money was spent.

All right. Thanks.

Chairman McGarry: All right.

Signatures/Correspondence:

We have a letter to Steve Rollins reminding him of the town's policy with regard to obtaining three bids for anything over \$1,000.00 and this has been circulated to the other Board members, correct?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to sign the letter to Steve Rollins regarding policy of obtaining bids
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectwoman McHugh: All the department heads get a handbook of policies and things, right John?

Mr. Harrington: There isn't a handbook of policies that is handed out. It's available to anyone who wants to require, if you're talking about the purchasing policy, I remind all department heads what that is.

Chairman McGarry: All right. We have a Right to Inter at the Old Center Cemetery for four lots for Anita L. Leighton at 31 Meetinghouse Hill Road.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the sale of four lots at Old Center Cemetery to Anita Leighton
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

All right, we have twelve applications for solar exemptions and if it's okay with the Board, what I'll do is just read these off with a name and address and the amount and have one motion at the end.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds good.

Chairman McGarry:

Mark Doperalski	279 Middle Road	\$14,400.00
Sean Labrie	76 Nottingham Road	\$30,000.00
Laframbois Family	129 Griffin Road	\$10,800.00
Kattell Family	Lake Sites Drive	\$13,200.00
Waldo Twombly	3 Perkins Road	\$ 9,600.00
James Splaine	16 Swamp Road	\$ 9,600.00
Benno Ijtsma	13 Nichols Road	\$18,000.00
Theodore Piwowarczyk	10 Cotton Road	\$14,400.00
Joyce Pelletier	Old Centre Road	\$14,400.00
David and Susan Wilkes	20 Pleasant Hill Road	\$18,000.00
Roy and Sarah Schendel	31 Coffetown Road	\$28,260.00
Tomilson Family Trust	30 Birch Road	\$ 9,600.00

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the solar exemptions per the list read above
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectman Dill: Now John, those are ones if people want that, they have to apply for it, correct?

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Dill: Okay. So, if there's anybody else out there who's got the solar equipment, they need to because we passed that in a warrant article.

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Dill: And this is the first batch we've done of these, isn't it?

Mr. Harrington: Right. She's going to give them to the Board as they come in. Otherwise, it would be too large of a pile so yeah, this is the first batch.

Selectwoman McHugh: First wave.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, it's going to give Fred a workout.

Just to remind people that suggest discounting the amount of the value of the actual solar equipment is the number we're reading off, correct?

Mr. Harrington: I would have to get clarification from the assessing clerk.

Selectman Dill: As I remember the warrant article, that's how it was working.

Chairman McGarry: Is it okay to continue with our agenda here?

All right, we have the project work agreement and operation maintenance agreement that we had discussed or came up before us last week with regard to the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association and the signature that's required on both documents on behalf of the town as being the property owner.

And, John had made a couple of changes and I had made a couple of changes as well and John, the change I thought was good that the property owner will make efforts within its ability to fulfill the maintenance requirements of this document but, and the whole intent there is to its ability, right?

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: And a couple of changes that I had made was, (I don't have the prior document) but with regard to watering and making it less instructive as to that it needs to be one inch of rainfall or a week and also for with regard to watering and for, if necessary, if we have dry conditions for an extended period of time and making the language a little bit less requiring and certainly anybody wants to take a look at this, they can.

Selectman Dill: The owner being us or the owner being the abutter?

Chairman McGarry: The owner being us is the owning...

Mr. Harrington: The property owner.

Selectman Dill: So, we're still maintaining that as a town-owned property? I guess my question is, it was a Class VI road that we, it's not a road anymore.

Chairman McGarry: No, it's, I think, it's a five.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: We maintain it but not that piece.

Selectman Dill: Not that piece and that's my hang up on this whole thing that the whole project was to make that side not a road anymore so I don't see the town having any maintenance on the piece that is no longer a road.

Chairman McGarry: Well, I think the issue here is that it's still within the right-of-way of the road, that piece.

Selectman Dill: If the piece has no use as a road ...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: Because we can't drive on it now because we tore up all the pavement ...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: We put down vegetation ...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: It's no longer a road. I don't see it having to be maintained by our highway department because we don't have any pieces, I can't think of any other pieces in town like that, that we maintain and that's, that's my hang up on this whole process is I'd like to see something permanently done with that piece of no longer road. Either revert to the abutter or ...

Mr. Harrington: This document doesn't pertain to the road itself. This pertains to the work that the highway department did to reclaim the road. Strictly that. Not the road itself.

Selectman Dill: Well, no, I'm not talking the road itself, I'm talking the piece that we just did that we removed all the pavement. That we've stopped vehicular traffic on. I don't see that piece that's now covered in grass or grass seed as a road because we don't want travel on that piece.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: So, I don't think we should be the, the town should have to maintain that piece that in my mind, no longer a road and that's, that's my whole hang up on this is it, that piece we just spent this money turning it into not a road.

Chairman McGarry: Right, but it's still, it's still within the right-of-way of the road.

Selectman Dill: But we don't maintain anything else in town to that same degree and I don't think it's fair to have to maintain this to that degree.

Mr. Harrington: This does not have teeth. There won't be anybody coming out and checking on it but it's the last piece to using state grant funding. This is part of their process. The language in there states that we will make our best attempt given our abilities to do the recommendations but they are recommendations only and because the project, we did not use our town funds, those will be reimbursed to us. They use grant funds. This is part of their process.

Selectwoman McHugh: And this is an agreement with the Pleasant Lake Association.

Mr. Harrington: One is and one is part of the operation and maintenance, it goes back to the state.

Selectman Barnes: What would the maintenance on this? Would you have to mow it?

Chairman McGarry: No, in fact they say that they would prefer that the grass gets knee-high by the fourth of July and doesn't get mowed because the higher it is, the more ends up inhibiting the flow of water through that area.

Selectwoman McHugh: What's it going to do for sight distance to pull out of there?

Chairman McGarry: I don't know if it would impact it at all. If there were trees growing there, yeah, I would imagine.

But specifically with regard to maintenance, other than possibly being in a situation to mow it, what it says is that if washes out then we would take and repair any washout that might occur.

Language on that is that planted area may periodically be mowed however the taller the grass or plants are, the great the capacity to filter and slow the transport of sediment and debris and uptake water. The plants should be maintained by filling patches in each year and watering during dry periods to ensure proper establishment and aesthetic appeal.

So, filling the patches, I guess, is the issue.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, why is this with the Pleasant Lake, why I'm just, if something goes awry here, the Pleasant Lake Association can come back on the town for that? I don't understand why we're signing something for the Pleasant Lake Association.

Selectman Dill: Well, the whole project has been for the Pleasant Lake Association.

I haven't been a big fan of this project but this is just literally, this, so what you're saying though John, is this is to get reimbursement back for the money we've already spent.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, I could see that if we're signing something for the state but we're not. We're signing something for Pleasant Lake agreeing to do stuff for Pleasant Lake.

Chairman McGarry: Well, this is going back to the state, correct?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

I believe his information is in the very bottom of the document.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It gave his name.

Chairman McGarry: Jeffrey Marcoux.

Selectwoman McHugh: The second page. What's the first page?

Chairman McGarry: And let's see. Property owner agrees to sign and mail any local state and federal permits completed by the Pleasant Lake Protective Association that are needed to install the stormwater controls under this agreement.

Install the stormwater controls as described in the design specifications which we've already done. Provide documentation to PLPA to substantiate the cost to install the stormwater controls. Properly operate and maintain the stormwater controls in the operation maintenance plan which is that second page.

And it doesn't specifically say this, let's see, provide property owner with the design of specifications, I already said that. The final design and specifications acceptable only upon approval by property owner and NH Department of Environmental Services.

And, the reimbursement process may take several months and shall not exceed \$2,700.00 and which is what the grant would end up being, up to that amount.

Selectman Dill: What did we spend on it? Was it above that grant amount or ...?

Mr. Harrington: I don't have that exact figure for you.

Chairman McGarry: So, regardless of what we spent; they would not reimburse anything over \$2,700.00.

So, what do you want to do? Do we want to just forget about the, that reimbursement or do we want to collect it?

Selectwoman McHugh: We don't know what we spent; I don't know.

Selectman Barnes: But that's all we'll get back to us.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Harrington: We did not spend \$2,700.00.

Selectman Barnes: So, less than \$2,700.00.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Shouldn't have.

Selectman Barnes: So, you don't feel that we're putting ourselves at risk here with some sort of future ...

Mr. Harrington: Not from the information I'm getting from the representative from DES or the PLPA person. Ann Schultz who I've been dealing with on this.

Selectman Dill: Well, why don't we just call a vote on its Fred and go from there.

Chairman McGarry: Somebody needs to make a motion.

Selectman Dill: Oh, I didn't realize we didn't even have a motion.

Motion: Selectman Barnes moves to sign the agreements as presented regarding Sweat Road and allow the chair to sign the documents

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 2, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion carries.

Chairman McGarry: And final item is, this is with a contract with Sanders Searches, LLC and this is the doing research on property for the town clerk's office, right?

Mr. Harrington: This is the same company that the town clerk has been using for several years. She highly recommends the work that she does and is in full favor of the Board approving this.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the contract for Sanders Searches, LLC

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: I know Kelly speaks highly of her.

Selectman Dill: We didn't even get to John yet.

Selectwoman McHugh: But we got almost all the budget stuff done.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, we got stuff done tonight.

Chairman McGarry: On correspondence, we have the agenda for the Planning Board for December 8th. Planning Board minutes for November 17th and we also have something from Ted Gatsas as to what transpired at the Executive Council.

Selectman Dill: If you pass the folder down, Ill do that at some point.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Town Administrator's Report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: Two updates for you. If you haven't noticed, they began the Phase Three of sprinkler tank repair today. When they opened up the tank, they found it dry and in good condition.

There was a repair person down there today where they ground down all of the main, all of that main seal and they found once they had gotten rid of the older fiberglass of the tank, the split was bigger than they originally thought after they cleaned it out so they will be putting in some specific type of putty to fill the gap before they put the fiberglass on to keep it from sinking in but they still feel very confident that this will be a good repair when they're done.

Chairman McGarry: Good.

Mr. Harrington: And also, the contractor for the salt shed edition roof started today as well.

Chairman McGarry: Good.

Any questions for John?

Unfinished Business:

Chairman McGarry: So, we've already taken up the Pleasant Lake Protective Association on Sweat Road.

New Business:

I talked to you last week about whether we should be looking at adopting a new mask policy or revisiting the mask policy and Denny put some information together for us.

Denny, do you want to address your numbers here?

Ms. Greig: Hi. I think all of you are pretty familiar with the fact that we're seeing a pretty major surge here in New Hampshire and to be honest, across the country now that we're closing windows and moving back inside, the virus moves more easily in the drier air.

So, it's going to be difficult especially post holidays given the amount of travel and interaction that we'll see in a variety of populations moving around.

So, I think, you have the language in front of you but given the circumstances, I would recommend that we move to masks for meetings inside the building and classes as well.

We're still at the point where we have a, I think the figure today is 57 percent fully vaccinated in Deerfield and 52 percent with one dose and we're also in

Chairman McGarry: You got that reversed.

Ms. Greig: First does, 57 percent sorry, then 52 and we still have kids are not yet covered given the fact that they just became available for five-to-eleven-year old's and it takes at least three weeks. They're only able to take Pfizer so that takes at least three weeks to get them immunized so.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What does it say, Fred?

Chairman McGarry: What's that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is it anything that goes on in the building?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, I guess that's the question, would be, John and had talked about it briefly but any meetings that we have would require both the participants and the audience to be masked.

Ms. Greig: Yes. Especially in circumstances, you know. Yes, for all meetings. Classes so that would mean anything in Parks and Rec.

You know again, the kids down there are not vaccinated yet. They may have had vaccinations but they're not fully vaccinated yet and we're in the situation where as I'm sure most of you know, the school has had a very significant surge.

Chairman McGarry: Any questions for Denny?

Selectman Dill: I think it's time.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, we want to have a motion to ...

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to adopt (it's a new mask policy, correct?) (Chairman McGarry: Yes) the new mask policy revisited periodically

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman:

Discussion:

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is there a timeframe or is it just until we remove it?

Mr. Harrington: Question was, is there a thought of a timeframe for this new mask policy, Denny?

Ms. Greig: My thought would be to revisit, let's see, we're at November 22nd, so probably the week after Christmas because we're going to see with the Thanksgiving numbers just as we had post Halloween. We had a significant surge after gatherings at Halloween. We're likely to see that and I don't think you want to rid ourselves of the mask mandate before Christmas.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Me neither. I think it's too soon.

Ms. Greig: So, I would say the first week in January.

Selectman Dill: Could we just say periodically and not put a timeframe on?

Ms. Greig: Sure.

Selectman Dill: Would that make more sense?

Ms. Greig: Sure. It's up to you all, I mean but I think at minimum you want to keep it in place until early January.

Selectwoman McHugh: How does it affect employees and people coming into the building?

Ms. Greig: Well, I think the, for employees, it's a discussion about meetings and interactions. I'm haven't, I don't know the language exactly but I think interactions longer than fifteen minutes so if you're sitting down with an assessor for fifteen minutes at their desk, yes, you should be masked.

If you're just walking through the building to pee, excuse me, but you know, then no.

So, it's the people who are having that prolonged contact and exposure and if you're in a classroom for an hour or if you're in a meeting for an hour, yes.

Selectman Dill: I'll modify my motion to say revisited periodically.

Chairman McGarry: And this wouldn't apply to people just coming into the town clerk's office to get something?

Ms. Greig: Well, they have a barrier. They have masks. If it's a prolonged ceremony there, yes but if it's just you know, five minutes, no. And we can revisit that part of it if we find that the town clerk would prefer, you know, then absolutely.

And again remember, we are, although we have some ventilation in the back of the building, we are still in the quandary that, you know, there's not ventilation in the front two parts of the building.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Barnes: This would be effective immediately?

Ms. Greig: I would highly recommend that.

Selectman Barnes: Do you have meetings occurring tomorrow in the building?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah.

Selectman Barnes: Those folks going to be notified?

Selectman Dill: Zoning tomorrow?

Mr. Harrington: ZBA, it's tomorrow night.

Selectman Dill: MBC's tomorrow too. I wonder if we're double booked?

Mr. Harrington: No. Municipal Budget Committee is going to be meeting in another room.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Selectman Barnes: So, someone will reach out to those two committees?

Vice Chairman Pitman: There's masks at the top of the stairs if they don't have one.

Chairman McGarry: And post some signs at the door?

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Mr. Harrington: Yes. My plan is to try to formalize this into a written policy from the discussion here and I can send it out to the Board electronically if everybody agrees that that is what the discussion encapsulated then I can post that policy.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Mr. Harrington: As approved by the Board of Selectmen on today's date and then I'll let the ZBA and MBC know of the new policy.

Chairman McGarry: That agreeable to the Board?

Selectman Dill: We have a motion so probably officially vote.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

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

Mr. Harrington: Thank you, Denny.

Chairman McGarry: Any other new business?

Seeing none, citizen's comments.

Citizen's Comments:

Erroll Rhodes – Church Street:

Going back to the beginning, the A/V upgrade, I really don't understand how, what's been proposed would work.

ZOOM is a platform. Doesn't work on YouTube. Doesn't, I don't know that it goes over Channel 24 or whatever.

If we're really going to go to the ZOOM platform, which I believe a lot of people in town expressed an interest in doing, then I think Mrs. McHugh's suggestion that we get three proposals and full-throated proposals actually addressing putting ZOOM in. Tablets cost 100 to 200 to 300 bucks. Put them around the table. I don't know if there's going to be a feedback issue to get not just the people who've worked on this for six months with one plan to try to modify their plan to something they weren't thinking about.

We just heard from somebody who is proposing a ZOOM proposal who doesn't know anything about ZOOM. Just doesn't make any sense.

I think the Board to be serving the citizens well to ask for a full-throated investigation into the possibilities using ZOOM and I would also recommend that you look at the record keeping benefits, particularly with Planning and Zoning. You would need you're getting documents on to a platform they are files that then can be managed and file management in that department, I believe, is a real issue.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, it is.

Mr. Rhodes: And there's a real benefit there which I don't know that is being addressed by a video here and a something there. I think there's a real upside to this just administratively, let alone letting citizens watch an event even as exciting as this evening's program.

So, that is my hope that you all would be able to do that.

Thanks.

Chairman McGarry: Thank you.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to adjourn at 7:17 pm

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, November 29, 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*

Edited final minutes, approved by BOS on 11.29.21 submitted by John Harrington