

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 18, 2022
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

Chairman McGarry: All right. Do you want to take up Rick first?

Mr. Harrington: Yeah, please.

Quotes for Transfer Station Septic:

Chairman McGarry: All right. We have quotes for the transfer station septic system and the building inspector, Mr. Pelletier is here.

Mr. Harrington: So, we have three quotes to open this evening.

Chairman McGarry: The first quote is from Abbey Run Construction.

It must be on the back side.

Total amount of \$17,000.00 even.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Rick, did they all bid on the same plan?

Mr. Pelletier: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, they were all enviro-fab?

Mr. Pelletier: Yeah.

Some of them sent revised plans.

Chairman McGarry: The next bid we have is from Mark Young Trucking and Excavating for a total of \$20,000.00, \$20,000.00 even.

And finally, third one is John Taylor and Sons Excavating Contractors-Septic Specialists and have a quote of \$16,100.00.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Fred, I just noticed that on Mark's that any and all ledge work is extra. Did any of the others?

Selectman Dill: Abbey Run has a note any issues with ledge in the excavation area not included and they have a hammer rate of \$1,000.00 for transport and \$190.00 per hour thereafter.

Chairman McGarry: There's no mention on this one with regard to ledge.

Selectwoman McHugh: How much did you say that one was?

Chairman McGarry: \$16,100.00.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We'll have to have Rick find out.

Chairman McGarry: So that's the apparent, apparent low bidder is John Taylor and Sons.

Selectman Dill: I like Mark Young's exclamation points after the ledge work. I think he's worked in here, in town a couple of times.

Chairman McGarry: So, have Mr. Pelletier take a look at these three bids and look at all the fine print that they have on each of them and come back with a recommendation to us.

Mr. Pelletier: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: That sound reasonable?

Mr. Pelletier: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Any comments on it?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, these, I'm sorry.

Mr. Pelletier: All the bidders were by invitation and they; I went with bidders who we know their work; have done work in town. We've had no problems in the past. We've never had complaints about them.

Some of the bidders didn't want, weren't interested but those were the ones that were interested.

Selectman Dill: In that case should we just go ahead and assign it tonight?

Mr. Pelletier: I'll double check the wording on there ...

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Another thing too, is the 30 days but they're not going to be able to start in 30 days, are they?

Mr. Pelletier: We're going to have to open that discussion because I did not, I thought we'd have had this started by now and with the last two weeks of weather and the rain, I don't know how much frost is in there. I mean there might be so much frost that we have to use a hammer in which case I'd rather avoid that so I may have to talk to Pete to see how we handle the situation so that we use the impact fee money still.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds good.

Selectwoman McHugh: Quotes are only good for 30 days, too. Not only is the impact fee but it's their quote.

Mr. Pelletier: Well, I will, if we delay the start of the project, I will check with them to make sure that the quotes will still be good, if they will honor the quotes given good weather.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'm all set.

Chairman McGarry: Well, thank you Mr. Pelletier.

Dan Holdridge – 2022 Warrant Review:

Chairman McGarry: All right. Next, we have Dan Holdridge with regard to the 2022 Warrant Article review.

Mr. Holdridge: Good evening. Nice to see you all again. I look forward to doing our town deliberative sessions coming up on February 5th at the fairgrounds again at 9:00 am on February 5th.

So, the purpose of my visit tonight is to go over the warrant articles briefly and find, just find out who from our Board of Selectmen will be representing the warrants that are presented here and so when I call after I read the warrant article to the community, that we would have one of your folks be the sponsor, if you will.

In the past, you folks would have Andy do a significant amount of them but we'd need somebody to stand up and just explain it out or be able to ask, answer questions that the community may have.

So, with that, we'll go onto the first one here so ...

So, the first article would be the town budget so ...

"1. Shall the Town of Deerfield raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately in the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$4,664,277.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,122,731.00 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by the previous action of the Town of Deerfield or by law or where the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 4013xxvi and take up the issue of the revised operating budget only."

So, with regard to the budget, would there be one of you folks that'd be willing to be the sponsor or discuss the budget?

Selectman Dill: Yeah, I can.

Chairman McGarry: You want to do that?

Selectman Dill: Sure.

Mr. Holdridge: Alden? Okay, thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Dan?

Mr. Holdridge: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Since we don't have copies, can you in the midst of time, tell us the number and the dollar amount?

Mr. Holdridge: Okay.

Sure. So, Article 2 or do you need Article 1? Are you all set, Dick?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. So, Article 2 is the "Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00 for the purposes, for the purpose of repair or reconstruction of existing roads and associated drainage improvements."

So, who would like to talk on that?

Chairman McGarry: I can, I can speak to that one.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Thank you.

Okay, Article 3 is "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$95,000.00 to place in the previously established Police Department Building Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of having engineering and architectural plans prepared for a new police department building."

So, who would ...?

Selectman Dill: That's a Fred one.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Mr. Holdridge: Fred. Okay.

Okay, thanks Fred.

Okay number four, Article 4 "To see if the town will vote to establish a Dowst-Cate Cemetery Expansion Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31 19a for the purpose of expanding the existing Dowst-Cate, (I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing that right, Katie?)

Chairman McGarry: Cate.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay, cemetery to accommodate the town's future burial needs and to raise and appropriate \$80,000.00 to put in that fund. Cemetery trustees to be named as agents."

Mr. Holdridge: So, who would be wanting to speak?

Selectman Dill: What would work better there Dan? Us or on the cemetery ones to have somebody from the trustees speak?

Mr. Holdridge: In my opinion, I think the trustee would probably be better because they know more about it and they would want, they could talk, you know, intelligently to the questions that might be asked but with that in mind, I mean, it's something that you folks put in as the warrant article.

Selectman Dill: Because they have four of them. I mean, I think, I can reach out to them and see. If not, I can talk about anything but I think it would make a lot more sense to have the cemetery trustees speak to that and the other cemetery articles.

Mr. Holdridge: So, what I'll do is I'll go ahead and I'll introduce you as our Board of Selectmen sponsor and then you introduce whoever it is from the cemetery trust to present on your behalf.

Does that make sense?

Selectman Dill: Yeah, that's fine. I'll reach out to him.

Mr. Holdridge: That way if somebody changes their mind, you know, I'll just have somebody certainly that's going to be there. Okay. Great. I appreciate that.

Article 5. "To see if the town will vote to establish a Municipal Cemetery Restoration Expendable Trust Fund which is another \$80,000.00 to be put into a fund."

So, same on that one?

Selectman Dill: Yeah. We might as well. It'll just be easier.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Sounds good.

Article 6 is "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00, uh \$77,000.00 which includes additional wages and required benefits for the purpose of writing cost of living raises to town employees in amount of three and a half percent."

So, who would want to speak on that behalf?

Chairman McGarry: I guess I can speak to that one.

Mr. Holdridge: All right. Okay. Great. Thanks, Fred.

Article 7. "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be placed in the previously established fire apparatus and equipment capital reserve fund."

Vice Chairman Pitman: Usually we'd ask the chief.

Mr. Holdridge: Correct. I was just going to say in the, in the past, I would introduce it to Andy and then Andy would introduce it to the chief but if I can bypass that formality, I'd just have the chief, if you want?

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Mr. Holdridge: We just need to make sure he's there or representative. Okay.

Article 8. "To see if the town will vote and raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 to establish the Cemetery General Maintenance Expendable Reserve Fund."

So, we'll do the same with that one as well? Sponsor. Alden. Okay.

Article 9. "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$25,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Municipal Government Buildings Infrastructure Expendable Trust Funds."

So, who would want to speak on that behalf?

Chairman McGarry: I guess I can speak to that one.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Is that something that Ray wants to talk about? No? Okay.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay.

Article 10. "To see if the town will vote to establish a Recreational Facility Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31-19a for the purpose of executing general town field, court maintenance upkeep and the like."

So, who would be the speaker on that?

Selectman Dill: Want that, Dwight?

Selectman Barnes: I could take that.

Mr. Holdridge: Dwight. Okay, great.

Selectman Barnes: What was that, 10?

Mr. Holdridge: Yep, Article 10. Okay. Terrific.

And then see, there's some information there.

And, Dwight, if you see the need, if you want to have one of the guys from the Parks and Rec be there to provide additional information, I always really enjoy having more information for folks to visit with and to discuss if they're available and if they want to be a part of that.

Selectman Barnes: Yes, I'll speak with Nick. Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Holdridge: Article 11. "To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,318.00 which represents an equity pay adjustment for the town clerk and deputy town clerk."

So, Article 11, who wants to sponsor that one?

Chairman McGarry: I guess the chair should on that one.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Thanks.

Article 12. "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Vehicle."

So, who do we want to do that, Matt Fisher again on that one?

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Mr. Holdridge: Chief Fisher.

Article 13. "To see if the town will vote to raise, appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be used to purchase a mil, a utility vehicle for the Deerfield Parks and Rec Program."

So, would that be you, Dwight?

Mr. Holdridge: Okay.

Selectman Barnes: Do the same thing there.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Great.

All right.

Article 14. "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Capital Fund."

Chief Fisher?

All right.

Article 15. "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 to be used by the Northwood Lake Watershed Association ..."

Who would want to sponsor that one?

Chairman McGarry: Do you want to do that one, Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'll see if I can get some facts and figures.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Appreciate it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What number is that, Dan?

Mr. Holdridge: That's number 15.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And 16, is that Pleasant Lake?

Mr. Holdridge: Yup, 16 is Pleasant Lake. All right so we'll have you do that one as well? Okay. Perfect.

17 "To see, so this is a petition warrant article. Have we had those reviewed by the counsel? Okay. Great.

So, Article 17 is "To see if the town will vote to discontinue the appointed office of highway agent and authorize the town to elect the highway agent. The current, elected highway agent shall continue to hold the office until 2023 municipal election at which time the town will elect a highway agent. If adopted, the authority of the town to elect highway agent shall continue in effect until changed by a majority vote at an annual or special meeting."

So, did the attorney give any feedback on that as of yet or is it advisory only?

Mr. Harrington: At this point, it's going forward as it is. It's been

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Very good. Okay.

All right and if you can just get me the name and contact of whoever put that in so I can reach out to them. Thanks.

Okay. Okay, so we'll find out who that sponsor is; who petitioned that and we'll ...

Chairman McGarry: That was Mr. Verville.

Mr. Holdridge: Was it Kevin?

Chairman McGarry: Kevin.

Selectman Dill: Kevin was the one that brought it into us.

Mr. Holdridge: So, he submitted the documentation?

Mr. Harrington: I'll get you his contact information.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Very good.

And then Article 18 was the zoning one that you had indicated was not going to happen so we can cross that one out?

Selectman Dill: What happened with that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Handed it in too late.

Mr. Holdridge: And that was, that was ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: That was the one with the 25 signatures that you were worried about?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Mr. Holdridge: That was to increase the dwelling unit form three acres to five acres.

Okay, so then the new Article 18, formerly 19 is "Shall we allow the operation of Keno games within the Town of Deerfield."

Is that legit?

Okay, so we got that and do we know who petitioned that one.

Mr. Harrington: I'll get you those names.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay.

(Conversation between board members not able to be transcribed)

Mr. Holdridge: Okay, so that's all the warrant articles as I have them so I guess just after that is logistics.

So, we're going to have it at the fairgrounds again so we'll definitely need to discuss with the safety measures that we'll need to take into place for when we're going to set the hall up.

Masks mandates? How are you guys going to handle that or do you need to discuss it?

Selectman Dill: I think we need to discuss it and figure out how that actually works.

Mr. Holdridge: Because we won't have the downstairs available this year so it's just upstairs so there's that.

So, we just want to make sure that we do everything and as the safest way that Denny indicates and then we'll and whatever you folks let me know and I'm going to be going with Eric Gross and John to the fairgrounds Thursday at 4, 5 o'clock? 4:30. At 4:30 to go, just do a quick walk through of the building and go over particular setups and such that we may need so anyone's welcome to join us to that if you'd like and just so we know how to set the hall up and be ready to go.

My ability to set up a hall right now is going to be limited but I'll be able to point things out. Be a good supervisor. So that would just be the other thing we just need to make sure we figured out.

Is there anything that you folks want to make sure we do this year at the deliberative sessions that we can add to or make better.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah. Did you book a porta potty yet?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's all set.

Selectman Dill: Are we having the Women's Club coming into Deliberative or only to the election?

Mr. Harrington: As far as I know, the deliberative and that was a question for you this evening later on during my report.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: They've already made the offer.

Selectman Dill: To deliberative or ...

Mr. Harrington: To deliberative.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Mr. Holdridge: And election too, I believe.

Selectman Dill: Okay. That would just be a logistics thing to make sure ...

Mr. Holdridge: So, we would have to set them up in the back somewhere where there's you know, I mean, obviously it's too cold for them to set up outside but if they, we would just need to figure out the logistics of the hall and how, where would be the best spot for them to set up but they do raise a lot of funds for the high schoolers in town and it's a really good cause so if we can make it work with, sure enough to make it happen.

So, ...

Selectman Dill: And Matt said he's good with doing those.

Mr. Holdridge: Okay. Perfect.

Chairman McGarry: We going to do masks or optional required or optional ...

Selectman Dill: I would sure as heck lean towards required.

Chairman McGarry: How does the rest of the Board feel on that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Same.

Mr. Holdridge: So, if you make masks required, then we need to come up with alternatives to the folks that either medically can't wear them or choose not to and that's, we went through the moderator training recently and it's not, it's not easy. It's not cut and dry.

And so, we just got to be mindful that if there's, if we do mask required then there's got to be a similar accommodation, if you will, for folks that are unable to.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Say we had them on the north end?

Mr. Holdridge: Sorry?

Vice Chairman Pitman: On voting day, last year, we had them on the north end.

Mr. Holdridge: So, we had, we had them separated. We had the hall separated so we had an unmasked voting area and we had a masked voting area.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Holdridge: We're not going to do that again. That took me months to put together and I just don't, I don't have the capacity to do it so we're going to need to figure that out at some point how we're going to handle that.

Selectman Dill: Do you have any suggestions?

Mr. Holdridge: Right now, I don't have a lot to offer especially since we don't have access to the, I mean for the deliberative session, we don't have access to downstairs and not for nothing but just so everyone's clear, last year we had one person, one person goes downstairs and they offered to wear a mask to go upstairs after we spent thousands of dollars to make that accommodation so just let that sit for a moment.

Selectwoman McHugh: Could you just have different seating?

Mr. Holdridge: No.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, I said can we this year?

Mr. Holdridge: We can work the seating out. We can do the distance, the social distancing however we want to do. There are ways that we can make it work, I think but we've really got to work with Denny and figure out what's the, our safest way to do it and, but I think we can make that work.

I mean, you got to think, what do they do at Home Depot? What do they do, you know, I mean, we're going into all these same areas every day with the masks and folks without masks every day now and we've got to be mindful though that those that may want to come to this, may have a health concern so how do we make sure that they feel safe there, too?

So, that's kind a, it's, there's a lot of balancing and unfortunately the, politics unfortunately gets introduced a lot of times where it shouldn't be.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Would it help you if it was just worded, "encouraged"?

Mr. Holdridge: I think whatever we do, its, people are going to do what they're going to do. I just think the Deerfield community is very proud of wherever they stand on the mask issue no matter what it is and they will ...

If we say that it's required, people are going to show up for the sake of not having them. If we say that it's highly suggested, I think that people will respect that but again, a lot of this, what I feel and think probably doesn't matter as much as whatever Denny says that we have to do to be safe. That's kind of, that's where I stand. Is that whatever she says that she's our safety person for our town and she's done a fabulous job the last few years helping us navigate through these crazy waters. So, that's kind of how I viewed it. If she says that it's going to be safe doing it this way or that way then we should follow her advice.

Chairman McGarry: Denny.

Ms. Greig: I think the critical point becomes with respect to deliberative session, first of all, we're closer to a massive surge of cases and that is not going to diminish. It's going to be diminishing about the time of the deliberative session so I do think that extremely strong encouragement of masks is a priority. I think that social distancing will be key.

The really hard part about the deliberative session is we're talking about as long as potentially two hours of people sitting in a room with each other. It's not the same as just walking by people or being kind of just a glancing blow. It's a far different situation.

So, the hard part for us is yep, ventilation, air purifiers. There are things we can do. I think Dan's right. I think there's going to be a minimal number of people that challenge this hopefully but I think there are steps that we can take to just make it masks strongly encouraged for the deliberative session with maximum social distancing.

Air purifiers over there. We kind of garner what we have in town and take them over there and do what we can for the deliberative session.

The election's harder for you all, I'll be honest. You're twelve hours in the same space. It's going to be a little bit warmer because it's March 8th but it's a difficult situation and I'll be honest, I foresee more people not wearing masks at the election than at the deliberative session simply because you're going to see a far greater number of people and if you know, I think you know, clearly from the unvaccinated level in our town, not wearing masks and not being vaccinated is still a major concern.

We're 60 maybe unvaccinated so it's a challenge for the election. I would love to see the same setup we had last year. I understand what Dan says about it's a little more difficult in terms of assigned personnel but that's really

where, you know, when you're talking 12 hours in the same space for town employees and our boards and our workers, you know that's where it gets to be a little more challenging.

Selectman Dill: So, are you thinking windows open like we did last time?

Ms. Greig: Well, if you're using the air purifiers, that actually, if we have everyone that we own in that space, then I would go with the air purifiers, leaving the windows closed at the deliberative session because it's a shorter period of time. It gets more challenging for March. There's no question.

Selectman Dill: It's a shorter period of time but like you said, everybody's in one spot for that short period of time and everybody's there for the whole time. Not just with the election when there's forty of us there that are there for the whole time and then everyone else in there for five minutes.

Ms. Greig: Yep. I mean, we have ten air purifiers. We can set them up. They're HEPA filters. They clear the air you know so there's things, steps we can take and we can maximize social distancing.

I understand about the Women's Club and I might make myself very unpopular here but wow, it's a little more dangerous to ask people to come in, drink coffee and eat food when now you're having people taking on and off masks who may be masked and we're looking at a more elderly population.

So, I love the idea of "to go" stuff rather than having people eat and drink in that room because that does raise the risk.

Selectman Dill: How fast, what do you figure time frame on this, Dan?

Mr. Holdridge: Well, it's hard to say because it really depends on the amount of conversation folks have. We've gotten the deliberative sessions down to under two hours so I'm, again, when I start this one, I will say that we are in the pandemic still. My goal is to get through this as quickly and with everyone still being, having their honest comments available and what have you, you know, everyone can feel comfortable to share but that I will move through it quickly and I mean, the thing is, there's not a lot of items there that are, this. The school boards got more challenging conversations, I think, than what the town does.

None of these hear scream like there's going to be a lot of conversation. Maybe the highway agent one but other than that, I don't think there will be a lot of conversations on these so I would say less than two hours for this.

Selectman Dill: I think you skipped one, too. I think you skipped the Rec utility vehicle.

Mr. Holdridge: No, I got it.

Selectman Dill: You did, oh I'm sorry.

Selectman Barnes: I'm just going to talk.

Mr. Holdridge: Yep, Dwight's going to.

Selectman Dill: That must have been when I was texting Matt. I apologize.

Mr. Holdridge: No worries.

So, that's kind of where we are. We have a little time to think about it, I think. A little time. Like I said, we're going to be there at the Arts and Crafts Building on Thursday at 4:30 so if folks want to come by and say hello and kind of look at what we have in front of us, you know, just see what we have for the areas. What we all think might be good social distance setups and see how we can best keep everyone safe as much as we can but I'll do my best to get right through it as quickly as we can and get the town's business in order.

Are there any other concerns, questions, things that we can do to make the deliberative session better for this year?

Chairman McGarry: On the non-masked people, again, based on what happened last year, we only had one person, I would assume we would probably have fewer than 10 that would, would be putting them off to, in the corner or something with their own mic...?

Mr. Holdridge: So, we can have things socially distanced and have a separate microphone. There's nothing wrong with that. I just want to make sure we're clear that we don't present it as we're giving less of an experience for them. You know what I mean? I want them to feel like it's the same opportunity to speak. The same, just because we don't have a mask, we're not anything less of a person. We're just choosing to do something differently.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Holdridge: So, as long as we have the microphone and the ability for them to be recognized and talk on any of the warrants, I think we're in great shape.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Mr. Holdridge: And I'll make sure they feel welcome.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's room plenty big enough so you can set aside ...

Mr. Holdridge: I'm sorry...

Vice Chairman Pitman: That room's plenty big enough to set aside an area.

Mr. Holdridge: It is, it is. That's a huge room and on average, I mean, I'm going to guess we'll probably have 40 people there.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Mr. Holdridge: You know, it's a cold Saturday morning.

Selectman Dill: You know, and I think I might be with Denny on the Women's Club and I love having the Women's Club there. It's the highlight of my Election Day as well but especially if we're not using downstairs and it's a short meeting... You know, I think the school board, the school meeting kind of makes more sense. It's a bigger area. There's, I think that might be worth ...

Mr. Holdridge: So, how do we get creative? So, perhaps there's another building there that's right nearby, maybe the Administration Building, I don't know, maybe there's another building there that they could put heat in there and they could sell it at another building there. I know they want to listen to everything and get it, as an option, you know.

Vice Chairman Pitman: A good idea.

Mr. Holdridge: You know, people would enjoy it outside. People would take it outside and just keep it outside so they're not enjoying indoors but I don't know how well ...

Selectman Dill: Either that or like you said, the "to go" packets of cookies and what have you.

Mr. Holdridge: Stuff to go, perhaps. I don't know. I think that he's right that we probably should ask them not to do it this time...

Selectman Dill: Or for them not to do it traditionally the way we always do it.

Mr. Holdridge: Or come up with a different game plan or something but yeah, we just got to, we want to keep them safe. They're, you know, they're in support of our community. We want to make sure they're safe as well.

Anything else I can do for you guys that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you, Dan.

Chairman McGarry: I guess that's it.

Mr. Holdridge: Sure. Okay. All right. Thanks.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Don.

Don Smith – South Road:

Chairman McGarry: Go up to the mic.

Mr. Smith: Okay. This will be kind of quick.

So, as some of you know, I drive school bus. I do the high school route. My first pickup is at 6:05 in the morning.

Our route is, my route is 107, out through South Road, out to Bear Brook and over to Concord.

I've been driving these roads for 40 years, on Deerfield roads for 40 years. I cannot believe the amount of traffic that we have on these roads now.

Holy smokes.

What I've run into on the bus and what I seem to find. Which is really a real safety issue being there's no lines on the roads.

The days of having to have no lines so that you can pass the tractor or the hay rig or whatever it takes, those days have got to be gone.

This is a real safety issue. The amount of traffic that's on just South Road alone. I get passed all the time because they can. There's nothing that says you can't pass someone without a line. Legally they can do it. If they speed, well, it is what it is.

It's a real safety issue and I really think it's something that the town really, really should think about. I would really appreciate it if they could do something by putting in safety lines. Just put a yellow line down the middle of the road. It's, it really is stunning, the amount of traffic out there now.

Like I said, I've been driving these roads for 40 years and I can't believe it, the amount of traffic there but a lot of developments. A lot of housing and like I said, it's not like it used to be and it really is a real safety issue.

I can't tell you how many times you have cars that just zip past you in places that they shouldn't. It's not just at the Dodge Farm. We get a nice long stretch, now you can see someone getting away with it. They're places that they shouldn't be passing and they do and it's not like it can't be done.

I mean as soon as you get to Allenstown, there's a line in the road so it really looks pretty bad for us not have something in there for our residents to try to keep them just a little safer on our roads but I just, I had to say something.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight?

Selectman Barnes: So, is it just South Road that you're speaking?

Mr. Smith: That's my route so I can't speak to other roads. I don't drive them as much but I do drive that route every day. Amazing.

Like I said, it's the traffic is just unbelievable especially if you've been driving these roads for 40 years. You'd know what I'm talking about, that you were lucky to see two cars. Not anymore.

Selectman Barnes: So, what are you looking for? You looking for a single line or a double line?

Mr. Smith: Just something. It doesn't matter to me but there needs to be some type of a line so that people can't pass.

Selectman Dill: Are there specific spots you're being passed more often than others?

Mr. Smith: I'm sorry, say that again.

Selectman Dill: Sorry, are they're specific spots that you're having more trouble with people passing you?

Mr. Smith: No. It's random.

Selectman Dill: Okay because I was hoping, you know ...

Mr. Smith: Completely random.

Selectman Dill: The other thing we could do is pass a message to the police chief to say if you could sit, you know, put somebody in the ...

Mr. Smith: The odds of having someone sitting in the right place at the right time is slim to none. It's, it really is a safety issue. You have people that, it's dark, it's rainy, the roads are covered with leaves or whatever, they're in your lane because you know, you want to stay to the center because you're not really sure.

It's not just the passing. It's the visibility. It's just splitting this up, splitting the road so that the right people are on the right side of the road and not on your side of the road. Trust me, I can't cut that bus real quick and they don't do well off-road.

So, I'm just looking for safety issues you know. I have to take responsibility for these kids and I take it pretty serious so that's the only reason I'm here. I'm just thinking it's something that the town really needs to do.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Have you spoke with the police chief yet, as far as if he recommends the line?

Mr. Smith: Nope.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Would that be a good place to start?

Mr. Smith: I think here's a good place to start.

Selectman Dill: Or for us, too.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's, I mean, somebody here.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You know, that's brought to our attention.

Mr. Harrington: I believe it comes down to enforcement. If there's no line, they can't enforce no passing.

Selectman Dill: Really?

Selectwoman McHugh: Is there any specification as to how wide a road has to be before we put ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's what I was wondering ...

Selectman Dill: John's done the research.

Mr. Harrington: I anticipated that question. So, I had Ray Ellis contact a state utility engineer in District 6, James Hewitt who informed him of the following though this is, these are state requirements.

State requirements are 24-foot road with travel lanes of 12 foot each from the center to the fog line. Local roads do not have minimum widths. Lines must be in the center of the road.

Selectman Dill: Just in the center.

Mr. Harrington: And the width of South Road, I asked a general question to Steve Rollins and Ray, that width varies in different sections.

They do have the technology. Professional road painters to follow the width and stay in the middle but those travel lanes would vary in different sections.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Don, you've been here many years, do we see any reason why we need to leave a place for passing or could it just be solid right through?

I mean, if you get seven cars behind you

Mr. Smith: Personally, I've been that person behind someone that's really slow, you know that is just out enjoying for a nice little leisurely drive, I'm not saying that they need to race and do a hundred but there's times when I think, it's, I think there's times when it's appropriate to pass and there are places to pass and I think people should have the option to. If they don't like to follow a dump truck, if they don't like to follow a logging truck or something that happens to be on that road.

If you're behind something that makes you uncomfortable to be behind, you should have the opportunity where it's safe to be able to pass. That's just my opinion of that.

Selectman Dill: John, how narrow does South Road get?

Mr. Harrington: That I don't have information.

Selectman Dill: There's a couple spots that get pretty narrow and ...

Selectwoman McHugh: And there's trees in the way.

Selectman Dill: Yeah. That would be, I mean, it's not that I don't disagree that there's a ton of traffic down that road. I don't go down there often and I'm always blown away with how much traffic there is but that would be my only concern is it narrowing.

Mr. Smith: There's only a few spots really that are fairly narrow. The rest of it has opened up, amazing how much it's gotten wider over the years.

Selectwoman McHugh: The lines might be a good idea but I'm just concerned that if we put lines up wherever and it's not, what's the liability if we don't have the 12 feet on each lane?

Mr. Harrington: That's a state requirement. There is no minimum.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, so there's going to be some type of, I don't know, you can't put a line up and have six feet and expect a truck to get through there. I'm just wondering what the liability for that would be.

Selectman Dill: Actually, I was going to say, we did that whole road study with Southern NH Planning so they kind of know where the roads are at and I know they do traffic mitigation work and everything else, could this be something you could bounce off them and just say we've had a request, how would this affect travel on this road? I mean, they have the whole thing mapped out and I think they'd be able to tell us if it's feasible or not.

And I think we have a; do we have a budget line for road striping?

Chairman McGarry: I think we do on the ...

Selectman Dill: John's saying no.

Mr. Harrington: No, I think it's, I'd have to look.

Selectman Dill: I know we have parking lot striping; we don't have road painting so we'd have to figure out how to pay for it as well.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Does the state still have some kind of help with South Road because of Bear Brook?

Chairman McGarry: No.

Selectman Dill: No, that went away years ago.

Mr. Smith: They have lines already out there to Bear Brook.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. Out that way but ...

Mr. Smith: No, it's already ...

Selectman Dill: No, what Cindy's saying is years ago every town road that connected to a state park, there was state money and that's not there anymore.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. The situation of my understanding and you can correct me if I'm wrong, John, that the road, South Road, has to be constructed to state standards, state specifications and once that occurs then they would be in a position to take it over as a state highway.

Selectman Dill: Now, that is something I'm 100 percent in, fine with. Let's do that.

Chairman McGarry: But we've had situation in the past with the road agent, not the current road agent, but a previous one, had, didn't want to bother with meeting the state requirements and constructed it according to what he felt was the way to go and consequently, at least that section of the road was not meeting state specifications.

Selectman Dill: I wish it was not too late for petition warrant articles because I'd petition one right now for that.

Mr. Harrington: That's a good summation.

Selectman Dill: So, I think the next move, if John can talk to Southern NH Planning, they have the whole traffic, they have our whole road layout and I think can tell us if they think that's a good idea for traffic mitigation or not.

Chairman McGarry: Certainly, I think we should include the chief as well and what his comments might end up being on it, too.

Selectman Dill: And the road agent.

Chairman McGarry: Yes.

Selectman Dill: Well, thanks for bringing it to our attention.

Mr. Smith: Thank you for listening.

Selectwoman McHugh: See what we can do.

Mr. Smith: Students will be happy.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of December 29, 2021, January 3, 2022 and January 11, 2022.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve as written all submitted

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

Accounts Payable Manifest/2021 funds - \$7,244.29

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the Accounts Payable of 2021 funds as presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: We have Aerial Solutions, Avitar, Baker and Taylor, Putin Law, Clean Rentals, CMA Engineers, Demco, HCR Truck and Equipment, HealthTrust, TransUnion Risk and Alternative and Upton and Hatfield

And again, these are all that occurred in 2021.

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Does that wrap up the year, John?

Mr. Harrington: Unless there are some straggler invoices that come in. That's what the problem is, they keep coming in.

Accounts Payable for 2022 - \$73,181.55

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the 2022 Accounts Payable as presented

Second: Selectman Barnes

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

There's no payroll?

Mr. Harrington: No payroll.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Signatures/Correspondence:

Accounts Payable Manifest, January 10, 2022 for 2021 and January 10, 2022

Payroll Manifest, week ending January 5, 2022 with a check date of January 11, 2022.

These have all been signed by the Board previously.

Mr. Harrington: You may want to read in the amounts.

Chairman McGarry: The amount for 2021 funds of \$50,556.73. The 2022 funds, \$1,012,254.69 of which \$900,000.00 is for the school.

Payroll Manifest, gross payroll of \$87,396.29 with a net payroll of \$55,971.76.

All right. We have more solar exemptions?

Mr. Harrington: Yes. There are three sets. There's a veteran's credit, an abatement and solar exemptions.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: I never thought we had this much solar in town. It's quite impressive.

Chairman McGarry: We have a listing of all the solar exemptions for 2022 and we've got two full pages and one partial page.

Okay, so we have, is this the solar exemption here?

Mr. Harrington: No, if you look in the middle-shaded box, you'll see what's checked. I believe that's a vet credit.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, veteran's credits.

Veteran's Credit – Wendy Lee Hood at 79 Ridge Road, veteran's credit of \$750.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the veteran's credit for Wendy Lee Hood

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

And we have a second one for David Backstrom at 217 South Road, veteran's tax credit in the amount of \$750.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the veteran's credit for David Backstrom of \$750.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

And solar tax credits.

William Hutchinson at 15 Cole Road.

Mr. Harrington: I believe that may be a veteran's credit.

Chairman McGarry: It is. Sorry about that. Fooled by the green.

Another veteran's tax credit, again William Hutchinson, 15 Cole Road. Mr. Hutchinson was in the Army. Army National Guard. Do we have a motion to approve?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do we have a dollar amount there first?

(There was no motion from the Board on this tax credit for William Hutchinson)

Chairman McGarry: Where is it?

Mr. Harrington: Should be right on the back of the green sheet.

Chairman McGarry: There's nothing marked.

Mr. Harrington: Okay, I will send this back.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We shouldn't sign it without an amount.

Selectman Dill: I'll withdraw my motion.

Chairman McGarry: Does the second agree?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. And we have another veteran's credit for Sean Dooley at 30 Church Street for \$750.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the veteran's credit for Sean Dooley in the amount of \$750.00

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

All right, have an abatement application for James Spillane. The amount of abatement is \$584.68. John, do you have any background on this one?

Mr. Harrington: There's an attached letter.

Chairman McGarry: We have a letter from Avitar. Attached is his recommendation recommending abatement. These changes reduce the assessment from \$441,100.00 to \$410,000.00 and I recommend abatement on the \$31,100.00.

So, the actual dollar value of the abatement is \$584.68?

Mr. Harrington: That's correct and 68 cents.

Chairman McGarry: So, it's a recommendation from Avitar for the abatement for James Spillane on 19 Swamp Road.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the abatement for James Spillane in the amount of \$584.68

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Selectwoman McHugh: So, what is the abatement for?

Vice Chairman Pitman: The assessed value of this was \$30,000.00 less.

Chairman McGarry: If you want, I can read the ...

Selectwoman McHugh: That's okay.

Chairman McGarry: So again, the summary that Avitar has is "these changes reduced the assessment from \$441,100.00 to \$410,000.00 and they recommend that abatement on the \$31,100.00 value difference which results in an actual reduction, abatement in taxes of \$584.68.

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Now we have the solar energy ones.

70 Church Street, LLC	70 Church Street	\$15,000.00
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Vice Chairman Pitman: You want to read them all Fred, and then we'll do that again?

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Amy Dearborn Murphy	52 South Road	\$21,000.00
Meghan H. Kate Revocable Trust	11 Nichols Road	\$20,400.00

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the three solar credits as read

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Okay, we have a cemetery lot application for Bonnie S. Christian at 15 Mountain Road for the Old Center Cemetery. Lots are 7, 8 and 9.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that a price per lot, Fred?

Chairman McGarry: Don't show a price on here. Oh, excuse me, you do. A total of \$1,650.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the purchase of cemetery lots

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

And we have the default budget in the amount of \$4,122,731.00 and it requires us, the Board, to sign?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that \$13.00?

Chairman McGarry: It is \$4,122,731.00. Do I have a motion to approve?

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the default budget in the amount presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

And we have three, four, five copies of the proposed warrant and all have to be signed by the Board. Do we need a motion on this?

Mr. Harrington: No.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: We've already accepted them a few times.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Are we posting these without the recommended action by the Budget Committee?

Mr. Harrington: I'll bring them back at the next meeting.

Selectman Dill: We did note on those the other night.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, okay. Yeah, there's no, doesn't show up on those.

Mr. Harrington: Printed the wrong copy.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Correspondence:

There's Planning Board minutes, Planning Board agenda. We have a request for naming of roads and I think this is something that we need to take action on, right?

Mr. Harrington: I'm not sure whether, I believe that's part of the Planning Board agenda for their next meeting?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, but they, it comes to us.

Mr. Harrington: That was just a copy. I didn't get the original, but yes, it does come to the Board of Selectmen to approve the name.

Chairman McGarry: This is a, what's referred to as a "Smith Ordinance" road off of Mt. Delight Road, 96A Mt. Delight and their creating this road to which, basically to serve two properties. One newly created lot and this would be a private road and what they're proposing is "Wildflower Way" or "Wildflower Lane".

Selectwoman McHugh: I think it has to be a "Way".

Vice Chairman Pitman: Lane is saved for the lake.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, lanes on the lake and ways ...

Chairman McGarry: So, Wildflower Way, how's that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is this the Judd's?

Chairman McGarry: This is Judd, yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't have a problem with it.

Chairman McGarry: We don't have any road names that are similar to that, do we?

Selectwoman McHugh: Not that I know of.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, do we go first or does the Planning Board go first?

Chairman McGarry: Basically, the Planning Board has the position that comes to the Board of Selectmen first and then they can put that on the plan and then the Planning Board can then take action on it.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve Wildflower Way for the Judd family

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Mr. Harrington: So, it's Wildflower Way?

Chairman McGarry: Wildflower Way.

Selectman Dill: So that's the deal. Roads, ways and lanes are private. Lanes are private on the lake.

(Numerous members of the Board answered yes)

Selectman Dill: Okay, so this will be a red ...

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, right.

Selectwoman McHugh: This is way.

Selectman Dill: Now there's some organization.

Selectwoman McHugh: It's a lot easier when 9-1-1 sends us to a lane, we know it's by the lake.

Selectman Dill: Yeah. Since some of our other roads don't really make sense.

Chairman McGarry: And we have a letter from Attorney Scarano with regard to the Estrella property off of Reservation Road.

I also have a letter from Dianne Kimball expressing opinion with regard to the relocation of the highway department.

All right. Town Administrator's report.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: First thing I'd like to bring the Board's attention to is there is a draft public hearing notice in your packet.

Because of the petition warrant article for Keno, we have to hold a public hearing at least 15 days but not more than 30 days before the question is to be voted on.

I have offered Monday, February 14th, 5:30. It would be on a meeting day. We'd have the public hearing first and start the business meeting of the Board after that.

If the Board approves, I will post this.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds good.

Chairman McGarry: Does anybody have any objection to that date and time?

Selectwoman McHugh: How long, how many years ago was it when we went through this before?

Chairman McGarry: Last year, didn't we?

Mr. Harrington: Two years ago, it all came up.

Selectman Dill: Is there anything else that we need to know about the Keno like where they're proposing or is this just if it passes, it's for the whole town?

Mr. Harrington: This is to bring the operation of Keno to the Town of Deerfield.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: So, we're good with that Date?

Chairman McGarry: We're good with that date and time.

Mr. Harrington: Thank you.

Selectman Barnes: Who's bring that forward?

Mr. Harrington: I would have to check the petition.

Selectman Barnes: Oh.

Mr. Harrington: Next you have in your packets, and I sent it out earlier, was a draft Class VI road policy waiver and release. I don't know if the Board wanted to discuss any of that this evening.

Selectman Dill: It's no different than what we're doing, it's just spelled out, correct?

Mr. Harrington: That's correct.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Does the Board want to, have we, have everyone looked at these or do you want to wait until next meeting before we take action on it?

Selectman Dill: Well, I read them. That was my only question was just is this something, is this basically the same policy we've had right along, just spelled out into one document and if so, then I'm fine with approving it.

Chairman McGarry: Any other comments?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Which one is it, Fred?

Chairman McGarry: Basically, it's all three of them, right?

Mr. Harrington: There's a policy, a waiver form and a release.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Now they come on ...

Chairman McGarry: The release and then the building permit authorization.

So, the release would be recorded at the Registry of Deeds. The authorization would basically go to the building inspector, basically authorizing him to issue the building permit for construction on a Class VI road.

And then the policy is just the policy that we'd be adopting.

And again, this was something that we've been following but it hasn't been written down and surprisingly we've been gone this long without having it written down but ...

Selectman Dill: It's time to write it down.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. What action do we want to take?

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to accept the three draft policies for policy release and building permit

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, how does this play into the Ridge/Range intersection?

Chairman McGarry: Oh, that's a good question.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't think we've done enough homework.

Chairman McGarry: The building permit has already been issued and the house is under construction.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, if they had frontage on Range, they are supposed to use...

Chairman McGarry: But they chose to use Ridge Road Extension for their actual access which this would have jurisdiction over that but the fact that the permit has already been issued, we really don't have a lot of leverage on this.

Selectman Dill: But this could help us going forward for anybody else so we're not in the same situation.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: But does it allow someone to build on a Class VI road?

Selectman Dill: Under certain stipulation, yes.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Plus releasing that and things like that.

Chairman McGarry: Right. Correct.

And gives the Board authorization to make them, whoever is proposing to build on the Class VI road, make them build to a particular, build the road to a particular standard that's established by the Board.

Selectman Dill: It's just a miracle we don't have more subdivisions trying to go into Class VI roads in my opinion so ...

Chairman McGarry: Not at this point, no.

Selectman Dill: I just think this is something we ought to do sooner than later.

Chairman McGarry: And with regard to the Ridge Road Extension, I don't know what any town counsel or whatever would give recommendations as to how we would end up proceeding with having Mr. Cross sign off on the agreement and release.

Mr. Harrington: The only thing you would be able to ask is that any planned maintenance would have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen or any changes to the road.

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

Chairman McGarry: So, we have 4 yeas and one nay. Motion Carries

Mr. Harrington: I can have the documents finalized for next meeting to sign.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Okay, unfinished business. Anything else, John?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Some of you may or may not be aware that on January 5th, the ice storm, the forestry truck out of the fire department was in an accident. I have filed a claim with Primex on that.

Also, Rescue 2, out of the fire department had some minor damage on the external carriage. It struck a granite post responding to a residence and I've also filed a claim with Primex on that as well.

Chairman McGarry: On the first accident, was everybody okay?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, there were no injuries that I'm aware of. It was mostly vehicle.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Have we got an estimate for F1 yet?

Mr. Harrington: I have not heard anything on that yet.

And that's what I have for this evening. Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Oh, draft.

Chairman McGarry: Well, that comes under new business, I guess, right?

Selectman Dill: Okay.

It's under the status of road policy and waiver form discussion. I wanted to make sure we didn't miss it.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion of PD design-build RFQ Interview:

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't think we should waste their time at the deliberative session.

Chairman McGarry: Do you think we can,

Vice Chairman Pitman: It seems like the more we get into this, the deeper it's getting as far as it not going to be where we thought across the street and if it's going to involve moving other buildings or anything to that effect, we need to approve the money so we can do our design and that. Keep moving forward but I don't know we need Hutter here to tell it.

Selectman Dill: Do we have to make a motion to go with ...

Chairman McGarry: I think you probably should.

Selectman Dill: But why don't you think, I didn't make out everything you said. I'm sorry, Dick, but you were saying you don't think they ought to come to the deliberate session?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, I don't think we're that far enough along that, for them to answer questions. It's more of us raising the money. We're no where's near design phase or anything like that.

Selectwoman McHugh: They may be asked questions that they don't have the answers to because ...

Selectman Dill: Because we don't have, I mean the school, when they had their presentation to the MBC the other night, they've got a plan and conceptual drawing and everything and you're right, we don't even have a location.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, we don't have that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We need funds to start that process.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight.

Selectman Barnes: Do we have a plan scheduled to determine where this building, where we want this building to go? What's the plan?

Chairman McGarry: No, that was, that's part of the overall process here and that was one of the questions I had asked if they'd be willing to do a conceptual look at least another couple of locations besides what we have across the street and of course they said that they'd be willing to do that but obviously we can't be giving him a list of ten possible locations and expect them to do all that for free.

Selectman Barnes: Understood.

So, do we have a plan as a Board to come up with a secondary or a third beyond across the street so we can...?

Chairman McGarry: I think that would probably be a good idea and maybe even have that, decide on that before the deliberative session if we have any other specific locations that we're thinking about.

Selectman Barnes: I think that might be nice to have that for the session for sure.

Selectman Dill: Or at least a top three plan.

Selectwoman McHugh: Do we send that back to the police committee and have them come up with a couple more?

Chairman McGarry: Dwight, what's your thought?

Selectman Barnes: Well, that, I mean the committee that I was on really hasn't had it, hasn't gotten together for quite some time.

I suppose we could try to include some of those folks. I just do think it's important to try to come up with a short list so people understand where this money is going to be spent.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Barnes: As far as what we're looking at for a site.

Selectwoman McHugh: Maybe we can contact Andy and ask him. I just don't want them to feel like we've taken it away from them either. They've done a lot of work on this.

Mr. Harrington: Did you want to make a motion to choose a builder at this point?

Selectman Dill: I think you have to do that.

Mr. Harrington: Step one.

Selectman Dill: So, I think as step one.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to accept Hutter/Warren Street Architects design-build team.

Second: Selectman Barnes

Discussion:

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, that's just them as going forward. Nothing, no commitment as far as ...

Mr. Harrington: What this does is you're accepting their design portion of the bid that you opened.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: In that 95 or whatever's on that warrant?

Mr. Harrington: That will combine with the 35 that's already in the trust fund and come up with the full amount of their bid.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Beautiful.

Mr. Harrington: That will enable me to get back to them.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectman Dill: Now we can discuss the rest of it.

Chairman McGarry: Right. So, we can send a letter off to them. Also send one to Eckman saying thank you for your time and effort in putting the proposal together and unfortunately you were not chosen.

All right. Potential locations.

Selectman Dill: Well, one thing, I got a call the other day from a couple members of the school board and it's too bad that their, the school and the Board of Selectmen are going, is really late in the game for planning together but one proposal for the new school addition is to; there's two warrant articles. One for the main school edition, of renovation of the school and the second warrant article is to put a community space on the other side of the school including a gymnasium, etc. and there's talk about possibly moving the Parks and Rec program down to there which would actually open up the rest of the back of this building. I know it's not ideal but that was just one suggestion somebody called me with the other day that I thought I'd throw out there.

I know John's not a hug fan.

Mr. Harrington: You know, my understanding is the entire Parks and Rec Department was not moving. They were just going to run the after-school program down there. Parks and Rec would remain here.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Now there is space in, if I knew we were going to be talking about that I could have made up some maps but there is space down in back of the basically, from the tennis court in back, there's I think, there's probably two to three hundred feet before we get to the property line but John had said that the topography, it kind of falls off and I don't know if we'll end up having, biting off a big bullet and with regard to trying to construct something there.

Selectman Dill: There's not a whole lot of traffic access out back there either.

Mr. Harrington: That was a concern when that option was brought before the chief. They would need a separate driveway to get back there if that were an option.

Chairman McGarry: Rather than using ...

Mr. Harrington: They couldn't use the main thoroughfare to get all the way back there.

Chairman McGarry: So that being the case, would probably be prohibitively expensive just trying to get a separate access way back there.

Mr. Harrington: You'd have to put a drive on the other side of the property line just for the police department.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Not good.

Chairman McGarry: So, that kind of kills that one.

Selectman Dill: I mean that, other than that, it's not a bad spot. Centrally located and everything else but I think the traffic access is going ...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

The next one, the least I thought of is basically on the lot that the fire department and the rescue squad owns next to the fire station.

It's fairly flat and, but I don't know if the, well the footprint for the building that had been designed for across the street would fit on there but because we had some space down in the basement.

I would assume we'd have to take and expand that building out and whether that expanded building would fit on that parcel is questionable.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What's your take, Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: It's not going to fit. It's only as far as you see at the stone wall. I don't think...

Vice Chairman Pitman: What about going into the Gazebo Field if you needed some more?

Selectwoman McHugh: That you could do.

Selectman Dill: I'd rather not use the field.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: The problem I see over there, well, we don't know, the town doesn't own it. We'd have to figure out how to buy it from the fire department but on such a tiny lot, where the heck are we going to put the septic and everything else unless we tie into the existing fire department system.

Selectwoman McHugh: Isn't that one.

Chairman McGarry: Forget about that one. Forget the fire department one.

Selectman Dill: I just, the problem I see down there is I think it's just too small.

Chairman McGarry: And then there is space down by where the big cistern is. Down in back of the highway department. I forget how much space there is to the property line but there is space there and that would, could conceivably could be constructed without having to tear down the fire department, I mean tear down the highway department or ...

Selectman Dill: Or we tear down the highway department.

Chairman McGarry: Tear down the highway department and take that space.

Selectman Dill: Now I know Dianne called me and sent a letter in stating opposition but I have had a number of calls saying that makes sense.

The thing I wanted to mention on that is we've been hesitant to say yes to that idea because we're worried about having two warrant articles and losing one ...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: Getting one and not the other so I asked John the other day, why couldn't we just do one warrant article?

Yeah, it's a complete hit or miss but it would take out the getting one and not the other if we put a warrant article to say we build police station for x amount and move, build a highway department for x amount at the Brown Road location.

Chairman McGarry: So, the only drawback to that would be that we would need to hire an architect or design-build team to do the building for the highway department and because we don't have that in the budget at all.

Selectwoman McHugh: I just think putting more of that traffic on Brown Road is going to be a mistake.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yep.

Selectman Dill: We're already hauling trash out of there. That was ...

Selectwoman McHugh: But you're talking about a snowstorm that how many trucks do we hire during a snow storm that's going to be going up and down that road?

And how many trucks would have come down Brown Road Saturday morning, frontwards?

Vice Chairman Pitman: True story.

Selectman Dill: Well, it's way less of a hill than they're going down into Church Street.

Selectwoman McHugh: They went by my house on the straightaway backwards sanding so they could make it.

Selectman Dill: I know but what I'm saying is you pull down into Church Street, you get... Church Street is not an ideal location anyway because you've got to turn off of, through that intersection.

Selectwoman McHugh: I just

Selectman Dill: Intersection we've been trying to fix for years.

Selectwoman McHugh: I just don't think Brown Road's a good place to put it just because of the traffic and that residents, we have to think of the residents that live on that road, too.

I mean, they already don't like the transfer traffic because I just think brining big trucks and ...

Selectman Dill: We're already hauling tractor trailer loads of trash or compressed containers out of that road so I don't the plow trucks are going to cause a huge issue.

I think from a long-term planning perspective, to have the transfer station and the highway department, like so many towns do, right next to each other so maybe we can have one person run both of them.

Selectwoman McHugh: We're not so many other towns and I just think that's a poor road to put all those trucks on. Let's find a piece of property on 107 then. I ...

Chairman McGarry: Of course, I end up raising the question of what about across the street for the highway department?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I like your idea down by the cistern, Fred.

Chairman McGarry: We could, I could probably pull out a, develop a map of, have John pull the tax map for that particular lot out and see what we have there for space and we can take a look at that as a possibility.

Selectman Dill: And I have to say, Cindy, I take a little bit of umbrage to the "we're not other towns". Deerfield is a different town but however if we're seeing all these other towns in this area making long-term plans consolidating departments like that, I think it's time that we start looking at this works in other towns.

Selectwoman McHugh: If the location is correct, I agree with you. If the location is correct. I don't believe that location is correct.

If we had the transfer station down on a main road then absolutely but it's not. It's up there, what, two miles on a back road. It just. I agree with you.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight, did you have something?

Selectman Barnes: Yeah. A couple things. I agree it's forward thinking to look at putting those two entities together, the transfer station and the highway department.

I thought Dianne's letter was good. It definitely raised some flags that some things I hadn't thought about.

What do people think about the fact that that is so far into one corner of the town? I mean, it's, I guess I hadn't thought, really thought about that but you look at the map and that's, you know, way down there by Raymond and it's really not central.

Vice Chairman Pitman: True story.

Selectman Barnes: And the concerns about getting around, you know, could be real.

Traffic on Brown Road. The fact that something bad happens on Brown Road and your entire department could be stuck at the station. That's a concern.

Another question I did have relative to the space between the fire department and the town hall. Is that space between the driveway for the town hall and the driveway for the fire station, is that the entire, that's it in its entirety? It expands that whole area?

Selectwoman McHugh: Back to the stone wall.

Selectman Barnes: So, you don't think that's enough space there, is that what you're saying?

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, I don't think that's enough space. I mean it was a small space for a farmhouse. I don't know if it'll be a big enough space for the fire department (I believe she meant police department)?

Selectman Barnes: Is that something that we could see on a map next time. Get that plot out and take a look at it and see what it could hold because I really like the idea of having it downtown and you know, it sure would be nice if it could fit there and you know, the details could be worked out as far as, you know, the town being able to use that piece.

I guess that, for me, that would be my first, my top choice if it's doable.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Dwight, I agree.

So, we got two plans coming back at us.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

So, we can look at those as a possibility and in addition, well in addition to across the street, too. It, the big drawback to across the street is the site work which the previous estimate was like \$450,000.00.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Somebody's crazy.

Selectman Dill: It's probably going to be significantly higher now.

Chairman McGarry: But, certainly we can at the deliberative session, we can mention those possibilities and if people are interested.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is that lot across the street big enough to do something at the bottom level of it without making it a two level?

Vice Chairman Pitman: You walked that.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah. But I know it's pretty flat once you get past this point.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You could come in by that phone building off Candia Road.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. It was pretty flat in there. Could that be housed in there where there could be two levels?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: And not costing a bunch of money for site work?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, it's, because it depends on how flat that is in there.

You got the Conservation Commission coming in?

(Someone from back of room) Heritage Commission.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We're almost done.

Chairman McGarry: We're almost done.

All right. So, we can look at those as the possibilities for next meeting to kick around.

New Business:

All right.

The mask policy review:

Do we want to get into that as new business?

Mr. Harrington: I can put that on next week.

Chairman McGarry: Probably, yeah.

Road Agent Job Description:

Vice Chairman Pitman: That needs a lot of work. There's a lot of assumptions in there that it's going to be combined with a transfer station.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We need to work on one or the other at this point.

Chairman McGarry: Well, you certainly can end up having the road agent cover that.

Selectman Dill: I think it makes a lot of sense to have the road agent cover that.

Chairman McGarry: That'd be my reaction as well.

Selectman Dill: And I'm okay with the obtain certification, you know and we could push that out a little bit, I think but I would greatly urge us to have those two positions combined.

Chairman McGarry: Because it certainly is going to have to be somebody.

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And certainly, having the road agent or highway agent, whatever term we want to use, would make some sense.

Selectman Dill: But I do think we're going to have to start advertising soon.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

And we have to talk about the salary range as well.

Selectman Dill: I think it's going to have to be higher than Chester's.

Chairman McGarry: What do we have there?

Selectman Dill: \$10,000.00

Chairman McGarry: \$10,000.00, yeah, I would say so.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's probably, it for part time, right?

Or Danville.

Chairman McGarry: Do we want to discuss that at the next meeting?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, well, if this needs work, we need to ...

Yes.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Well let's do that then.

Any other business?

Selectwoman McHugh: We're talking about the mask policy thing; do we have a policy of employees returning to work from COVID?

Mr. Harrington: We're following the state health, public health guidelines.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. Do we have a policy written somewhere that states ...?

Mr. Harrington: We as a town do not. We're following the state public health guidelines.

Ms. Greig was talking from the audience but could not be transcribed.

Selectman Dill: John, when you were ... oh sorry.

Chairman McGarry: Anything else?

Selectman Dill: Back to the salary guide you gave us, could you just find out if any of them cover the solid waste?

Mr. Harrington: It would say in there, the codes that, other than that, it doesn't list.

Selectman Dill: Okay, TS, okay.

Mr. Harrington: Correct. That was the only one that did.

Selectman Dill: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, any other business?

Citizen's Comments:

None

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 7:05 pm

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, January 31, 2022 at 5:30 pm

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*