

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 28, 2022
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 – Chairman McGarry called the meeting to order

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

Matt Fisher – Fire/Rescue Department

Chairman McGarry: Matt Fisher. Chief Fisher.

(Technical difficulties with video and meeting will have audio only)

Chairman McGarry: Thank you for coming Chief Fisher and the intent of this meeting is to discuss with regards, I guess, with the fees that had been worked out with the Fair Association.

Chief Fisher: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: And, where do we go from here?

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can call on the president of the fair.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, might as well. Don?

Mr. Wyman: I didn't come prepared with any of my notes that I had before as I didn't know which way you were going to go with it.

Chairman McGarry: Don had come before us previously with regard to concerns with regard to the amounts, the fees that were assessed to the fair association during the fair and one of the questions, I guess the Board had been "how did you arrive at those fees and what was the justification for those".

Chief Fisher: Okay, so I guess the main expense for last year's fair if I remember correctly was in June, I believe it was, the Board of Selectmen adopted the pay scale which in the past, the department didn't have a pay scale for our hourly, part time employees and that is what I used for the calculations for the fair this year as well as there was, and if I get the days correct; Thursday, Friday and Sunday, not Care-Plus, Great Brook provided ambulance coverage to the fairgrounds and Saturday, we utilized our mutual aid partners for ambulance coverage as well as we were asked to look into Raymond Ambulance providing a third ambulance to the fairgrounds for fair and town coverage.

They were unable to fill that need so those four days, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday were staffed by Northwood Ambulance. So those additional aspects of our contract were not previously included.

Chairman McGarry: So, the Northwood Ambulance was there onsite or was on standby?

Chief Fisher: They were at the fairgrounds.

Chairman McGarry: They were there. Okay.

Selectman Dill: So, previously they had not been?

Chief Fisher: Correct.

Selectman Dill: So previously, how did it work out? What was the difference between the arrangement this year for how ...?

Chief Fisher: In the past, I would say, I'm going to get the years wrong, five or six fairs, Care-Plus had been contracted for fair coverage and before that, it was Raymond Ambulance.

Mr. Wyman: Raymond Ambulance.

In years past, the Deerfield Fair hired the ambulances so we contracted ... My wife is the superintendent. She's the one that brought those in. That fell under ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Speak up, Don.

Mr. Wyman: I said in years past the Deerfield Fair has always brought the ambulances. That went through us. That didn't go through the town or anything like that. That was just a contract that we put out. We put out three bids and we took the bid that we needed whether it was the highest, mid-range or whatever. Whoever could do the work for us. That's how it always went. It never went through the town before so of course, going through the town raised, you know, if you go with the pay scale that is there now that the select board put forth, that would be one of the reasons that would be so high rather than just the contract price.

Selectman Dill: I assume that there was a reason you changed?

Chief Fisher: What's that?

Selectman Dill: I assumed that there was a reason the town changed?

Chief Fisher: We never had a set forth pay scale before so I went with the pay scale that the Board put in place.

Selectman Barnes: Which caused the amount you charged the fair to go way up?

Chief Fisher: Correct. I think at the end of the day including, we had Thursday, Friday and Sunday with one ambulance, Saturday with three ambulances so let's say, six days of ambulance coverage along with the increased pay scale, that caused the increase in pay, increase in cost for the fair.

So, if we're looking at cost for the ambulance, we're talking about two, Advanced EMT's at \$21.00 an hour and it's \$42.00 an hour for the ambulance staff which I believe was less than I believe, Care-Plusses' hourly rate which was in the \$70.00's so it was still a substantial savings.

Where Raymond Ambulance wanted right around \$5,000.00 for the four days, paying the mutual aid ambulance was substantially less.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think one of the things that has come up, Matt, since that is who decides how many people and the amount of staff that was there? We've had this conversation in the past as far as them staying there, the call to make sure the rest of the town is covered.

Chief Fisher: The fire chief.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, the fair doesn't have any say in how many trucks, how many men, how many hours?

Chief Fisher: I certainly up, we can sit down and have a conversation but at the end of the day, the minimum staffing protecting the fairgrounds and the Town of Deerfield falls underneath the fire department and that's something that I have to make sure it happens for both the fair and the town.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think that's ... right.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Chief Fisher: We're able to respond, we unfortunately had a gentleman that passed away but we had a CPR in progress call and we were able to send four people from the fair to that at the same time we had one of the booths catch on fire so by having ample staffing, we were both able to take care of our needs to the community and the fair.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Did you have any questions?

Selectwoman McHugh: Not yet.

Selectman Dill: I assume you talked to other towns with fairs? I mean, there's a few more in the state than just us. Are we in line, out of line on what we're charging compared to, say, Hopkinton Fair?

Chief Fisher: We're substantially less than what Hopkinton Fair is charged from the fire department on an hourly rate basis.

Selectman Dill: And for coverage, we're sending a comparative amount or keeping the same amount of guys at the fair as most of the other places?

Chief Fisher: I've had a few conversations with the Hopkinton fire chief about what they do and they do a little different set up than we do. They also have full-time coverage in town. We do not.

I've only been to their fair a couple of times. I would say that their fair is substantially smaller than Deerfield, but I don't know so in relationship to the quantity of people that come, our hazards, our buildings and that forth, we're probably on par. I would want to say their average, their bill is right around \$21,000.00, \$22,000.00 from Hopkinton. Ours I think ended up around \$33,000.00 so if we're a third bigger let's say, that would be on par.

I know the lowest paid member for the Hopkinton department is \$26.00 an hour and then it goes up from there.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, we're considerably bigger than that fair is.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: Deerfield Fair is considerably bigger than Hopkinton is now with both vendors and gate traffic.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: I think the concern here Matt, that was brought up to me, we had an ambulance there that the first aid superintendent wanted to release because she didn't feel we needed that one still there.

Chief Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: You refused to let it go.

Chief Fisher: When was that?

Selectwoman McHugh: Pardon?

Chief Fisher: When was that?

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't remember which night it was but it was an ambulance that we were paying for that we could've released and saved some money. It was the Northwood Ambulance. We had Great Brook there.

Chief Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: And they stayed until close and we've never, I mean, I worked in First Aid before and we've never done that. We release them as we see ...

And another thing that was brought up was the fact that you guys came in and did inspections before the fair started and the fair was charged for the inspections.

Chief Fisher: Correct.

Selectwoman McHugh: Why?

Chief Fisher: We are there to ensure life safety so we were going through booths and vendors and doing inspections.

Selectwoman McHugh: The example I was given was if we built a house and you guys come out to inspect it, you don't charge us. Deerfield is one of the highest taxpayers in Deerfield. The fair is.

Chief Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: And I would think that would be included in the taxes.

Chief Fisher: So, I would say at some point, these conversations would need to be, sit down between the fire chief, a representative of the Board and the president of the fair ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Exactly except for ...

Chief Fisher: This is ...

Selectwoman McHugh: You did not respond to them.

Chief Fisher: Excuse me?

Selectwoman McHugh: You did not respond to them until the week before the fair and the fair got their contract.

Chief Fisher: I believe that I had passed the contract in earlier. The Board of Selectmen had to cancel the meeting due to a COVID issue between two members of the Board so I had tried to get the contract in early.

Selectwoman McHugh: But there was no negotiating. The fair didn't, I mean, as a selectman, I see that contract as null and void. It wasn't signed by the fair. We signed it but the fair didn't put their name on it so how can that contract be legit, I guess?

There was no negotiations, you say that we should sit down and do it. Yes, we absolutely should of but we didn't have the time to ...

Chief Fisher: Okay.

Selectman Dill: I will say on the other hand, we have a fire chief. This falls under the purview of the fire chief and Board of Selectmen but I'm not going to second guess the fire chief on how many people he thinks the fair have because that falls under his purview.

The same thing with the inspections.

Selectwoman McHugh: I didn't second guess how

Selectman Dill: No, I'm just saying that ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Although I will second guess the inspections, yes.

Selectman Dill: This is, this is fire department purview in my mind.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay, then you should charge everybody to do inspections.

Chairman McGarry: Don.

Mr. Wyman: I have a question with that one directly, Matt.

For years, probably eleven or twelve years, I've been life safety at the fair. I've been president for the last four years. Been a director for the past eighteen before that. We have never, ever been billed for inspections. There has never been a bill that came across the tables while I was there for inspections. Not once.

It was never brought up that it was going to happen. As I stated in the last meeting I was at, the state shows up with four, maybe six gentlemen. They didn't bill us. And like select member Wyman, or McHugh, excuse me, its, we're second highest tax payer. If that doesn't give us something as maybe a courtesy to that, then I don't know what is.

You sitting there and saying that it's up to the chief to bills us for that, that's fine and then the chief has to come tell us, "hey, we're changing all scheme around with we're taking control of the ambulance, we're going to start billing you for your inspections from now on, you know that's the kind of thing and you know, yes, the COVID did screw up one meeting and we did get that one cancelled but still the night that we sat down to have the discussion with the chief, we sat there with the Board, the whole Board was there. He was there. We looked at things. There were things in

there that we didn't agree with and maybe we could negotiate and if I can quote you, you said, "it's not negotiable". Is that ...

Chief Fisher: I don't believe that's accurate. You asked me to review things and I believe that I did review some concerns.

Mr. Wyman: But we never got any reports back. We never got anything back. I never got the contract to (couldn't understand). I never got the contract back to sign to make it a legal document which I stated in the meeting before I did not have any interest in not signing the document. That's our duty. That's what we do. I would never refuse to do that. That's what has to happen.

But I don't like the way that things turned out last year and I hope they won't turn out like that this year. We did contact our insurance company to the amount that they would require or I should say, minimal they would require for fire coverage. And again, I've stated that over and over, that it is the authority that has jurisdiction. I'm well versed in the state laws in regards to electrical go and I'll stand by that 100 percent. I've defending the departments. I've defended other groups because of that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, it sounds like the fair has to sit down with the chief sooner than later with what you found out from the insurance company.

Mr. Wyman: Yes, we can do that.

Selectman Barnes: Matt, can I ask you about those inspection costs?

Chief Fisher: Sure.

Selectman Barnes: Is it true that when you do those inspections in town for residents that they're not charged but the fair was charged?

Chief Fisher: So, as a rule of thumb, the department does not charge for a place of assembly permits which we do, plus or minus, twenty of them a year so it takes Assistant Chief Dubiansky, hit or miss, a day, a day and a half to walk around the fairgrounds with their maintenance supervisor. The fair is not charged for those twenty places of assembly permits just like we do not charge for our oil furnace inspections, foster home inspections and propane and all those other things. Things done under the regular course of duties; we do not charge for them.

It is my opinion that the Deerfield Fair is a special event. Under that, they bring extreme hazard to the community with everything at the fair, all the cooking appliances and that what we saw, is one caught fire on Saturday night. It can happen so we go through, perform all the inspections that we can under applicable NFPA and state laws. We bring in the state as guidance for us. They get an eye on everything and we get their expertise.

This falls in line with past practice. When I was assistant chief the last year of Mark's tenure, we were both paid that Wednesday before Deerfield Fair for inspections and I believe before that, Mark was paid for those days so this is not a new practice. This is in line with Hopkinton Fair.

The Hopkinton Fair has two fire fighters and the chief go around and perform inspections so I don't believe we're doing anything out of the norm or realm in our area.

Selectman Barnes: Thank you.

Selectman Dill: How much are we talking about on the inspections, cost-wise?

Chief Fisher: I don't believe, we did approximately 79 inspections between Tuesday and Wednesday and did a hand full of booths that weren't open to be inspected. I believe it was seven or eight hours a day would be a fair estimate. At \$27.00 and \$25.00 an hour, that's \$42.00 an hour; \$550.00, \$575.00 rough estimate for two days.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, I'll wait.

I was going to say, for \$170,000.00 tax bill, the directors, I'm speaking for the fair, not as a selectman. No trash, no kids going to school, they figure that it ought to get covered and you could have your fees come from that. Not billing them direct.

Chief Fisher: That is certainly an option of the Board of Selectmen. If the Board of Selectmen wants to compensate the fire chief and the assistant fire chief for performing those inspections because I, myself, have a volunteer position and my time is worth something to me.

Chairman McGarry and Vice Chairman Pitman: Definitely.

Chief Fisher: So, if there are going to be more conversations, they should be the fire chief, representative of the Board and the president of the fair grounds. We're going to sit down and have any more discussions.

Selectman Dill: Sooner rather than right before the fair.

Chief Fisher: Yes.

Selectman Dill: And I agree with you on that. This is a good time to be working on it now than summer.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Matt, can you tell us what the \$500.00 was for the fire department?

Chief Fisher: It went into the equipment fund to offset; we don't charge for the four pieces of apparatus that are dedicated to the fair grounds except if town emergencies come up over those four or five days. It is also a practice that has gone on for a number of years just like the department and the town pays for all of the EMS supplies ...

Selectwoman McHugh: That's right. And that's why that donation is to the EMS side for that. I realize that but I didn't know what the \$500.00 for fire was.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Say they got it figured out.

Chairman McGarry: Yes, so I guess prior to the next fair, we have a sit down between the fair and you, Matt, and somebody from the Board to iron out how we approach this?

Chief Fisher: Sure.

Chairman McGarry: Sound okay?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Anything else, Don?

Mr. Wyman: Nope.

Selectman Dill: That makes more sense.

Chairman McGarry: Work together.

Thank you, Chief.

Selectman Dill: Well, we haven't seen Matt in a while. Is there anything else going on that we need to talk about besides this?

Chairman McGarry: Good point.

Selectman Dill: Is there anything you need? We haven't had a sit down with you for a few months now. What's going on?

Chief Fisher: Just got a bid listing to keep an eye on. We have not finished February yet. I think we have six hours and six minutes left.

So, at the end of 2021, we ended February with 59 calls. To date, we are at 97 so we are seeing a substantial increase in emergency calls this year.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's just 22?

Chief Fisher: Yes, that's just January and February so it's about plus or minus 40 call increase in just two months so we have been substantially busier and I hope that the trend doesn't continue.

Chairman McGarry: What are all these related to?

Chief Fisher: Medical calls, a few mutual aid calls. Nothing that would think fire alarm activation at 6 Loon Ledge for four times in a month, that sort of thing. Just increase in calls.

Selectwoman McHugh: COVID.

Chief Fisher: We had a run last year going to a facility in town that had a bunch, had a COVID outbreak. We haven't had that in the last couple of months, just days with five or six calls.

Selectman Dill: Weather related or just ...?

Chief Fisher: Not really. Knock on wood, the snowstorms we haven't had four or five car accidents on Tibbett's hill.

Selectman Dill: Equipment issues? Anything like that, too? I know you probably haven't used a pump because it has been cold but ...

Chief Fisher: No, they went out, for the last fire training, they went out, actually pump training up on Wild Turkey. They cut a hole in the ice and did that simulation because it's that time of the year.

We are still kind of, I would say, pretty hesitant of the electrical issues on Rescue 1 so I think Assistant Chief Dubiansky has plans to put that in service in the next couple of weeks and see if we resolved the "non starting" issue. It really hasn't shown us why it is intermittently starting. Kind of leery to put that back in service (couldn't hear due to items being moved around next to recording device).

Selectman Dill: How are we doing for coverage? Are you able to fill shifts?

Chief Fisher: For the day shifts, yeah. We're just about at full staff for the past few months so during the day, we've had one or two people on. Like nights and weekends, we've had a few more people sign up for evening shifts but really, we've love to see more sign up on "I Am Responding" as I am available to come out for more calls.

Selectman Dill: How's the ancient "command rig" holding up? Not that we're voting on one this year.

Chief Fisher: No, it's, the past couple of times I've been driving it, I've noticed that it doesn't like to get out of third gear so I have a call into Banks to figure out why. The last time it was there it had an antifreeze leak so they put some dye in the tank to try to figure out where it's going. It's there. Passed the last inspection.

Chairman McGarry: Were we lucky on that passing inspection?

Chief Fisher: Depends on your opinion.

Chairman McGarry: Any other questions for the Chief?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thanks for coming in, Matt.

Selectman Dill: Thanks for coming in, Matt.

Chairman McGarry: Thanks, Matt.

Selectman Dill: And let us know when you want to set that up, and we can get one of us to do that.

Chief Fisher: Sure.

Nick Lawrence – Parks and Recreation Programs

Chairman McGarry: Nick.

Mr. Lawrence: I guess it doesn't matter if I go over to the microphone, does it?

Mr. Harrington: Just pretend.

Mr. Lawrence: Okay, in a nutshell, since the masks have been made optional in the building, I guess it feels like an appropriate time to ask if we can start or resume, I guess, indoor programming across the board?

Currently, we only have four programs that are running in the recreation department. After School Clubhouse, Summer Camp ran last summer, senior fitness and line dancing.

So, we have a number of other things we'd like to do to start serving the rest of the community as well so I just wanted to come to you guys first before we proceed.

Selectman Dill: I think it makes sense.

Chairman McGarry: Has the school eliminated masks? Made them optional?

Selectman Dill: They went optional a week before we did.

Yeah, I think if there's interest, why the heck not.

Chairman McGarry: Do we need a vote on that or what?

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to continue indoor programming for Parks and Rec

Second: Selectman Barnes

Discussion:

Selectman Dill: Just the same caveat we did with masks. If something changes, we'll have to change.

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Mr. Lawrence: Excellent.

Selectman Dill: Generally, I would say it would be good time to get advertising to the town but we're not live right now but you have the Hoop Classic coming up when?

Mr. Lawrence: March 11th. A couple of weekends coming up. Strictly the weekends we had a reduced number of teams registered this year but we expect it to be big and fun for everyone.

Selectman Dill: How many teams did you guys get?

Mr. Lawrence: 25. That's a little over half what we normally get.

Selectman Dill: Still, not bad though.

Mr. Lawrence: Not bad. Looking forward to it.

Selectman Dill: Good luck on your new vehicle next Tuesday.

Mr. Lawrence: Thanks. Appreciate it. We need all the luck we can get.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Back in session. No votes were taken with regard to the non-public and a motion to seal the minutes.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session
Second: Vice Chairman Pitman
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of 2/14/2022 for a public hearing and business and 2/21/2022.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve all three sets of minutes as presented
Second: Selectman Barnes
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

Accounts Payable Manifest – March 1st, 2022 - \$40,370.49

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the accounts payable manifest as presented
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Mr. Harrington: There's accounts payable and payroll that you might want to bring into the minutes just because you've already signed them.

Chairman McGarry: I have the Accounts Payable Manifest for February 21st, 2022 in the amount of \$74,712.11 and the Board has already approved those. We don't need to take a vote tonight, do we?

Mr. Harrington: No.

Chairman McGarry: And we have a Payroll Manifest for February 21st, 2022 in the amount of gross payroll is \$75,289.05 with a net payroll of \$47,636.83.

Signatures/Correspondence:

Chairman McGarry: We have a recommendation from Avitar Associates for Map 409, Lot 61 – Land Use Change Tax – Schlichte Family Holdings, LLC, 73 Nottingham Road in the amount of \$92.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to collect the LUCT in the amount of \$92.00 from the Schlichte Family Holdings, LLC
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

We have a certification of yield taxes assessed for Brian Judd, 96A Mount Delight Road, \$287.72

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to accept the certification of yield taxes assessed for Brian Judd
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:
Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Veteran's Tax Credit – Scott Thomas, 8 Wild Turkey Road - \$750.00

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the Veteran's Tax credit for Scott Thomas in the amount of \$750.00

Second: Selectman Barnes

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

We have another Veteran's Credit – Haig Family Trust, William Haig, in the amount of \$750.00.

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh moves to approve the Veteran's Credit in the amount of \$750.00 for William Haig

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – Dow Road

Vice Chairman Pitman: Where is that, Alden?

Selectman Dill: I was about to ask you the same thing.

Chairman McGarry: Dow Road is a discontinued and is right on the Epsom/Deerfield town line, apparently.

Mr. Harrington: You don't need a motion.

Chairman McGarry: Just sign it.

Selectman Dill: It's kind of weird that we get an old pile of these. The names are all screwed up.

Mr. Harrington: It depends on where people get the forms and when.

Selectman Dill: They're old.

Mr. Harrington: They hold on to them. I don't know where they come from because Chris uses all the up-to-date forms.

Chairman McGarry: And we have a Preservation Easement for Mr. Rhodes property at 70 Church Street.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Preservation Easement for 70 Church Street

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you, Mr. Rhodes.

Mr. Rhodes: One lot at a time.

Chairman McGarry: We have some solar exemptions.

Daniel Maynard, Maynard Family Revocable Trust	170 South Road	\$42,000.00
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Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for Maynard Family Revocable Trust

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Selectman Dill: Question on those, John. Do holders on those easements get notice when the ten years are up, do we know?

Mr. Harrington: I do not know.

Selectman Dill: Okay. I just realized my ten years is going to be up.

Chairman McGarry: We have another solar exemption for

Monica Lynn Draught	209 South Road	\$21,420.00
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Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for Monica Lynn Draught

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

We have another solar for Haig Family Trust	160 North Road	\$12,000.00
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Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for the Haig Family Trust

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

We have a Personnel Action Request for the part-time Library Director.

Mr. Harrington: She's going to full-time.

Chairman McGarry: Oh. To full-time, okay.

Mr. Harrington: She has been part-time since the beginning of the year. This is for Ann Myers. This is the personnel action request for her going to full-time.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the personnel action request for Ann Myers going from part-time to full-time for a salary of \$52,000.00 per year.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is this replacing someone, John?

Mr. Harrington: No. She was hired on as the library director but couldn't start full-time until March.

Selectman Dill: Because remember we lost the other one last fall.

Second: Selectman Barnes

Discussion:

Mr. Harrington: That would be for the chair to sign.

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

Correspondence we have the agenda for the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment minutes and Planning Board minutes and a memorandum from Ted Gatsas with regard with what's been happening at the state house.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: A few items this evening. One is getting back to the Board the question regarding plowing at the fairgrounds for voting. I believe you asked or someone asked.

I talked to John Tobey. He said that he preferred to do the plowing. He just needs us to do the sanding if there's weather for voting day.

Selectman Dill: Right now it looks like we're good but it could change.

Mr. Harrington: Town moderator is asking what you would like the mask status to be for voting day?

Selectman Dill: I would say make it the same as here and make them optional.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, I guess it's optional.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

You also asked when the loader rental agreement would run out. That goes until March of 2022.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, we have another month?

Selectman Dill: It goes through March.

Chairman McGarry: Through March?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

And last note. I heard from David Scott. He's from New Hampshire DOT. He's involved in the Freese's Pond bridge project that was slated to start this year.

They're pushing it out a year. They've run into some postponements of notifying different land owners about easements and also said that they will likely be approaching the town for additional easements.

Some of the utilities said that they don't have enough room to do what they need to do and we'll be getting more documentation sent to us sometime this year ahead of the project but he said definitely won't begin until 2023.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: And that's all I have for this evening.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I see in the paper the Estrella land sold for \$307,00.00. Is that all pieces?

Mr. Harrington: My recollection is that is the exact amount for all three parcels from the original purchase and sales. That was offered over two years ago at this point.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, the question is, did we get all our money?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, we did.

Vice Chairman Pitman: All fees plus ...

Mr. Harrington: Yes, we did. That money has already been received. I put it in escrow because we are still dealing with court issues with the estate. They're now looking into getting back some of the fees charged.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that because it went to Roscoe?

Mr. Harrington: No, it has nothing to do with it. They are questioning the amount of money that was charged which included back taxes, interest, penalties, fees, and attorney's fees. They are trying to claim back some of those monies.

So, rather than deposit it into our general account, it's being held in escrow until it's finalized.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Dwight?

Selectman Barnes: What is the expectation of the Board relative to the elections?

Selectman Dill: For coverage?

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

Selectwoman McHugh: You get to hang out with us all day.

Mr. Harrington: I believe as many people as can be available. You need a quorum at all times so no less than three.

I know in past years; some people have swapped in and out if they had something to do or needed to take care of business. As long as there are three members of the Board are there, is what's required.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You can have someone cover for you.

Selectman Barnes: You like to have people right there at 7?

Chairman McGarry and Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We have to have three there at 7.

Selectman Dill: I won't be there at 7. I'll get there at 9.

Chairman McGarry: I'll be there at 7.

Selectman Barnes: I'll be there at 7. I'll probably stay all day.

Selectman Dill: It's an exciting day.

Selectman Barnes: That's what I've heard.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's going to be different without Andy there.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, I know.

Selectwoman McHugh: Are we going to have food this time?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, downstairs.

Selectman Dill: Oh, okay.

Mr. Harrington: Are they going downstairs?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Selectman Dill: That's an important consideration.

Selectwoman McHugh: I missed it the last time.

Unfinished Business:

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Do you have any unfinished business?

None

New Business:

Chairman McGarry: This is for ...

Mr. Harrington: Yes, if you could make that public announcement. I asked Matt, I mean Paul if he would like to be here. He wasn't able to be here so I'll give it to him this week.

Chairman McGarry: All right. We have a longevity award for Paul Kimball for fifteen years of service to the town and it says, presented to him on this twentieth day of December, of December?

What is that?

Selectwoman McHugh: We're a little late.

Chairman McGarry: of 2021.

Mr. Harrington: That's a typo. I will fix that and put the correct one in there.

Chairman McGarry: They'll be a revised one for Paul Kimball for his fifteen years of service. All right.

Building Inspector Position? Do you want to discuss that now or do you want to hold off on that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'd like to wait on it. Do the road agent first.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Any other business?

Seeing none, citizen's comments.

Citizen's Comments:

Ms. Greig: I just would like to say thanks to Dwight for taking and jumping in.

Chairman McGarry: Yes.

(Multiple members of the Board talking)

Selectman Barnes: Appreciate the opportunity. I appreciate what you all do every day for this town.

Selectwoman McHugh: You can come back any time.

Chairman McGarry: Just in case.

Selectman Barnes: I appreciate that. Thank you. Leave the door open and the light on.

Mr. Harrington: That's what that was.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:47 pm

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: March 2, 2022 at 2:00 pm

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