

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 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 Will Huebner, Selectmen.

Tim Pappas – R.B. Lewis – Town Hall Sprinkler System: (present via ZOOM)

Chairman McGarry: We have Tim Pappas from R.B. Lewis to discuss the town hall sprinkler system.

Mr. Harrington: Tim, can you hear us?

Mr. Pappas: I can. Can you hear me?

(Multiple Board members answered, yes)

Mr. Pappas: Perfect.

Mr. Harrington: So, the Board has both proposals in front of them.

The first proposal is to bring the system back up to its current condition and the second would be the upgraded.

If you just want to go over both of them in a general level for the Board, that would be helpful.

Mr. Pappas:

Sure. So, the original sprinkler design for the town hall was an unheated area above the second floor which I'm going to call the attic space and then the area between the first and second floor would be the heated space.

So, they utilized "dry pendants" on the, within the attic to come through the ceiling to protect the second level with what we call "goosenecks" on the first level. That is only permitted by code in a heated area.

So, if indeed you choose to not heat that building for an elongated period of time, I would recommend to remove those goosenecks and replace them with "dry pendants" and that was the nature of proposal number two.

The reason is, is because small amounts of moisture can enter those drops, freeze against the sprinkler head and heave the seal which will cause a slight drip over time. I don't believe things will let go but it will be a non-stop issue with leaking of sprinklers. This one's dripping over here and just the overall collection of moisture long-term rotting the interior of the pipe.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Which one do you recommend?

Mr. Pappas: Well, it depends on what the building's future is. If you are going to heat the building, that will work indefinitely.

You know, if you do not want to heat the building in cold weather, the obvious is to upgrade it to be able to "weather that" and that is totally up your use and your ideas.

Selectman Dill: So, if we, oh, sorry Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, I'd like to ask Ray a question. Is the town hall on the generator? Because with no power, we'd have the same problem.

Mr. Ellis: The town hall is not on a generator. It's a portable generator in the pump house that the fire department gave me so that when we had meetings there or the elections there, in case of a power failure, we could hook the generator up outside; run a cord in through the window and get through the election. That's the only thing we have.

Vice Chairman Pitman: With the price of fuel oil, and it's not going to go down right off, we're better off to make it so that we can have our train of thought of keeping it unheated.

Mr. Ellis: Correct.

And that's what started this. Once we started looking at what had to happen and when we found out how the goosenecks were coming down from the main line, and it was actually catching moisture in there, there is no way for either Tim or his guys to drain that without pulling that whole thing down.

So, we figured if we could find out if there was a way that we could do that, we figured that we could save around \$10,000.00 a year or maybe even more if we shut it down during the winter months.

So, obviously, we wanted to see what our options were as far as maybe we could even retrofit this so that we can shut it down during the winter time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, when fuel oil was \$2.50, we thought it was a \$100.00 a day to heat it.

Mr. Ellis: Correct. I know it took \$197.00 in fuel in seven days to bring it back up to temperature after that happened.

Selectman Dill: And that was fuel that we already had.

Are there any downsides to changing it? Do we have to worry about sprinkler time response or anything like that?

Mr. Pappas: Not response but lifespan. A dry pendant head is listed for fifteen years from date of install. After that, we have to send a representative sample, no less than three sprinklers out to a laboratory for testing.

So, the average lifespan on these is twenty years so if we figure on a \$130.00 to \$150.00 a sprinkler head, every fifteen years to twenty years, we'll be replacing those in perpetuity until a better mouse trap is designed but right now ...

Selectman Dill: How many sprinkler heads do we have?

Mr. Pappas: I'm going to guess you're looking at existing sixteen on the upper level which we're already locked into and we're going to be adding twenty-four additional. Twenty in the main room and two in the pantry, I'm sorry, one in the bathroom hall and two at the top of the stairs so that's twenty-five, so I apologize.

Selectman Dill: So, you would be replacing about 40 every twenty years.

Mr. Pappas: Fifteen, twenty years depending on how the test goes.

Selectman Dill: So, there's no other downside to changing over? We don't have to worry about freeze ups before the water gets to town hall or anything like that?

Mr. Pappas: No, fire protection-wise, they'll be no change.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Mr. Ellis: Any the system was put in in 2007 so from there till now ...

Selectman Dill: We're around the fifteen mark anyway.

Mr. Pappas: Yeah, we encroaching on that time of inspection of sending three percent of that sample out for testing.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy, do you have a question?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes. It is possible to use the town hall, if need be, in the wintertime if we had to?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Like, if it was drained.

Selectwoman McHugh: Like if we needed it for an emergency or something like that during the winter?

Mr. Ellis: During the winter we shut the water off to the town hall so as it is right now, there's no water in the town hall.

Selectwoman McHugh: But I know when you shut it down before, you said that it wouldn't be anything to turn it back on.

Mr. Ellis: I could turn it back on and then you would have to drain it again if you go back.

Selectwoman McHugh: But if this system is in there, what are we looking at there?

Mr. Ellis: You mean, their system? The new system.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Mr. Ellis: I don't think, Tim, that would affect that at all if we turned it on for a couple of days and then shut it back off again?

Mr. Pappas: No, if done right, this building won't care on, off, or indifferent. That's kind of the goal with proposal number two.

Proposal number one will really kind of force you to maintain a minimum of 48 degrees Fahrenheit at all times.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do we have these funds anywhere?

Mr. Harrington: The plan was to use ARPA funds. I think the answer is yes.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to go with the upgraded install of the sprinkler system at the town hall at a cost of \$8,140.00 to come from ARPA funds

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: It's a vote unanimous.

Selectman Dill: Thanks for working with us on this, Tim.

Mr. Pappas: Thank you very much. Have a great evening.

(Multiple members thanked Mr. Ellis)

Chairman McGarry: Kaitlin.

Kaitlin Deyo – Bear-Paw Regional Greenways; Conservation Easement:

Ms. Deyo: Hello. So, I'm Kaitlin Deyo. I'm the land project manager with Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. I might be a new face to some of you. I started back in August so I'm still fairly new to the organization but I'm here this evening because we are looking to move to the closing process of the Adam I. Cote Conservation Easement which Deerfield is putting some funding towards.

So, we sent the deed along, the conservation easement deed ahead so you could take a look at that ahead of time.

And, basically because Deerfield is putting funds towards the project, the town of Deerfield holds an executory interest in that easement so we'll be looking for your signatures from that.

Just to give you a little review of what the project is, a little reminder.

So, this is Bruce Adami and Bob, Robert Cote property. It's on Mountain Road. It's about 600 undeveloped road frontage feet. It lands within the Pawtuckaway State Park unfragmented forest. It ranks very highly on the habitat tier two which is the highest in the buyer region and its very highly ranked Blanding turtle habitat. The landowners actually witnessed two females laying their eggs there last summer which is really cool.

So, we're looking to move forward with the closing process on this so we'd be looking for the Board's approval on that.

I think I covered everything but if you have any questions, I'm happy to answer those.

Chairman McGarry: How large is the area?

Ms. Deyo: It's about 25 acres. It's just under it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What road is that on?

Ms. Deyo: Mountain Road.

Selectman Dill: Does it abut the one that we just did?

Ms. Deyo: It abuts the Menard Easement and Berglund.

Selectman Dill: Do, not too far up on Mountain Road.

Ms. Deyo: And Bear-paw actually just acquired some other property on Mountain Road through the Smith family.

Selectman Dill: That's the one I ...

Ms. Deyo: It doesn't abut it but it's just down the road from it.

Selectman Dill: Are we looking for a motion to sign today or what point are we at?

Ms. Deyo: I haven't gone through this process yet so I'm not sure how best to move forward with that but we are looking to gain the signatures from you so we can get to closing it.

Selectman Huebner: Isn't it true that there's a balance between these kinds of easements for conservation lands versus tax base for the town in terms of business for the town?

We keep putting more and more into these conservations which I'm not saying I'm opposed to but there is a balance between that and using land for taxable reasons.

Selectman Dill: Well, we're still getting, we're still going to get taxes from any land in conservation. I mean, my farm's conserved. It's been conserved since 1986 and there's taxes the whole time. The difference is it's taxed at a rate. At a lower, current use but slightly lower because it can't be split up and sold so its ultimate use is as one piece for agriculture so it's not that there isn't taxes coming in.

Selectman Huebner: Right but it certainly does lower the tax potential for that piece.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Maybe not if it's already in current use.

Selectman Huebner: True. That's true.

Selectman Dill: And it's just it ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Which it probably is.

Ms. Deyo: I believe so.

Vice Chairman Pitman: 25 acres.

Selectman Huebner: Again, I'm not opposed. I'm just trying to think about it from a town business standpoint.

Chairman McGarry: I've got 55 acres of my property in Bear-paw easement, too.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Does that come out to 107, Fred?

Chairman McGarry: No. No, it's landlocked.

Selectman Huebner: So, what's our next step then on this?

Ms. Deyo: I think we need a motion for approval.

Chairman McGarry: We need the full board to sign or ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: How many ...

Ms. Deyo: I believe I have five.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves that the Board approve the easement closing

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: It's a vote unanimous.

Ms. Deyo: Thank you.

Selectman Dill: Thank you.

We're going to sign counter clockwise.

Mr. Harrington: Would you like to amend your motion for the chair to sign the sprinkler agreement?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the sprinkler contract and having the chairman sign for the Board

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Chairman McGarry: Mr. Rhodes.

Erroll Rhodes – Newsletter:

Mr. Rhodes: Good evening. Mr. Rhodes. Church Street.

During the campaign leading up to the March 8th elections, several issues were on the minds of the voters. Several issues on the minds of the voters kept coming up.

One of those was that of private interests conflicting with public duties and that was the subject of the presentation I made here a couple of weeks ago.

I working to follow up on that proposal. Will be doing that shortly.

But just this past week, I faced, I was faced with an example of that phenomenon so I'm going to be giving you right after this a summary of that situation for your consideration.

Out of respect, I don't want to go into and this will be, I don't, just don't want to go into particular, let you figure out how you want to handle it as it came up.

In working through that issue, an underlying question of the rules of the road, if you will, for volunteer members of boards and commissions came up and so I'm also going to be giving you something to look at on that front as well.

The main reason I asked to join you this evening was something I hope you will consider to be positive, constructive move for Deerfield worthy of your formal support.

I'm here to proposal a public-private collaboration with the town to produce a quarterly, fact-based print newsletter strictly for the citizens of Deerfield to be delivered to every mailbox in town packed with information and data that will give folks in Deerfield a fuller idea of the people and organizations that make this town work, the resources and

opportunities available here and to provide a reliable backdrop against which citizens can make informed decisions when called on to do so.

A sub-theme of the publication will be to encourage more direct communication between and among members of the community by having one place where all the various disparate groups in town can discover what the others are doing or have done.

They will attempt in short to connect folks to the richness, achievements and heritage of Deerfield.

From a financial perspective, the publication would be produced by a 501(c)3 and be supported by advertisers and contributions, not by taxpayers. We're aiming for a first edition in July.

Independence would be fundamental to the publication so it will not carry opinion pieces but will serve as a platform for confirmed data, history and analysis. It is expected that information sources would include municipal and independent bodies, organizations and entities in and about Deerfield.

My hope is that you, the select board, will move this evening to support this publication tentatively called the "Deerfield Dooryard Gazette" and encourage the town's departments, boards and commissions to do likewise providing relevant information, schedules and guidance and permitting the use of official emblems or insignias where and as appropriate.

So, if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Chairman McGarry: So, the information for the newsletter would be coming from the individual departments?

Mr. Rhodes: Fire chief, police chief, rescue, you know, data on what they do. Calls, what kinds of calls, the new road agent and transfer station head would contribute and they could do blurbs on sort of what they do and how it works.

I mean, the idea is to get people to understand really what the town, how the town works, to get a sense of what's available, what's not available and to sort of appreciate what a lot of them probably take for granted.

I was here for five or six years before I learned about how, about the distribution of domestic calls on the police department. I was surprised. There are a lot of new people in town.

It's sort of, will give context to people to sort of figure out where they are and how it works in that sense.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Erroll, will this be a private deal or will it say Deerfield on it somewhere?

Mr. Rhodes: Well, ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: It says Deerfield news but ...

Mr. Rhodes: Deerfield Dooryard Gazette.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, does it make it look like it's coming as a town ...

Mr. Rhodes: Well, so I'm thinking that it could include things from the town, the school, the fair, other organizations, the PTO which is sort of nowhere, you know, in terms of officialdom but for those items that come from the town, it would have a, they would have the logo or insignia, the confirmation that it is, you know, factual information because that's something that people sort of struggle with in terms of other ways, they get information.

Chairman McGarry: Will.

Selectman Huebner: Sorry, Erroll explained this to me this morning and I was, I do have some concerns that I think do warrant our consideration.

One is the content, of course. You know, who's going to write the content, who's going to control it, who approves it. There seems to be a conflict in my mind between public and private so we have here a private citizen who wants to help to get a word out in a gazette, basically almost like a newspaper to the town and it seems to me that without us

having control of the content or control of the editing or what it says or what kind of data or numbers might be in there.

All things these days, you know, seem to wax political eventually and it could be construed as kind of an image of the town's communication when it really is perhaps some private communication.

So, I'm really kind of conflicted in my mind about, on the one hand I agree with Erroll that the need for communication is there but on the other hand, it's, should it be coming from the town or not. He says he wants to use the town logo and the, he's apparently here to get the approval of the town to basically give him an endorsement to do this which would definitely say to the town that it's from the town and that we, this is information from the town.

However, I think it's really coming from a private citizen's group although noble in its cause, I don't think that the town should get involved in endorsing a private newsletter unless we want to do our own newsletter as a public newsletter from the town.

Now I know there's been a publication in the past. I can't remember the name of that.

Selectman Dill: The Communicator.

Selectman Huebner: The Communicator and it kind of comes and goes because you know the citizenry, you know, gets excited about it and somebody puts volunteerism into it and it gets done a few times but then I think the volunteer's kind of dry up and it eventually phases out again.

The advertisers, I'm not sure if they start to wane as well on spending the money on the advertising.

The other thing I think I'm concerned about is it might cause some confusion to have the town saying one thing on their website and then this newsletter might have maybe different information or maybe something gets postponed and there's a difference between what the newsletter is saying out in the mailbox versus what's on the town website.

We have RSA obligations to announce things with dates and certain times for citizens and if there was some confusion between two different records showing the same thing, that could be a problem and I think that all the information, I was asking Kelly this morning and she was telling me that all the information that is available to the town is available on the town's website.

John, of course, has been in charge of putting together a website that has the different pages for each of the departments with all of their announcements and information.

So, I think the information is there and available and that I would recommend that we don't endorse as a town. I would encourage Erroll if he wants to as a private newsletter to do this with the advertising kind of like you would have in a diner when you sit down at your place mat, you know but I don't think we as a town should get involved in endorsing a private effort as such of this.

Chairman McGarry: Alden.

Selectman Dill: So, before I get yelled at, I'll move the mic closer.

So, I've been talking to Erroll about this for a while and I've gone back and forth.

Two things that hit me. One, when Dwight and I were standing there taking vote, talking ballots at the elections, I'd say at least 80 percent if not more were holding the Voter's Guide so people do read information and use it to base the way they're voting.

The second thing that occurred to me. I grew up in Lee and Lee sent out a quarterly newsletter called the "Lee Town Crier" that was almost set up this way. It was a community organization that put it out with town information on it so there was the group that put, that wrote everything and they got the information from town hall and that's kind of what I'm foreseeing this as and it had a blurb from the police chief, this is what the road agent's working on this month and these are our projects and at the time I didn't really think it was that great because I'd always lived in a town that had that but, and then I was thinking, well everybody is just on Facebook or whatever but people, you know, middle-aged guys like me are on Facebook but the very old and the very young are not and there's a lot of people that don't use social media now that need some sort of connection to what's going on and I think it's a good idea.

The Communicator was more of a school-based one from what I remember than a town-based one and there's a lot of school information that goes out. Unfortunately goes out to parents of kids in school.

There's a lot of town information that goes out but only if you're tied in with somebody who's doing something with the town.

So, I think if we can send out information like that, like you said on, based on police calls and this is the budget and this is why we're having issues with it, etc. then I think it's a good move.

Chairman McGarry: I guess I'd ask the, when I previously asked whether the articles would be coming from the town, various town departments and boards or whatever, is that, would be the intent, correct?

Mr. Rhodes: Oh, absolutely and I guess, as I said, this is, I've always been an independent. I don't have a political axe to grind, period, end of story.

The content would be from the town's departments. I'm not going to change it. I'm not going to skew it. The point is to inform people of what's going on.

Actually, when talking to people around town, advertisers, readers have been very enthusiastic. In fact, when Mr. Huebner and I were in the town clerk's office this morning somebody came in and the idea was just floated past her. She thought it was a terrific idea. She was very enthusiastic.

I think people pine for information. Eighty percent of the people had what, the newsletter in their hand. A lot of people who, you know, I ran into this campaign season wanted something in their mailbox. They wanted to hear from the town. They want to feel included and there will be other things in the document. There'll be historical pieces, interviews with Junior Gardner maybe or with Joanne Wasson or snippets or pieces of history.

Those aren't things that I'm inclined to, have no business doing anything with but just putting them in.

It's really, I view it as a public service that is guided by what the town wants to put in or doesn't want to put in. I'm not changing anything. I'm putting it in the way that it is and the way that the people need to hear it.

Schedules, conflicts in terms of what's on the website or what's not on the website, I would have two comments about that for Mr. Huebner one of which is that not everything on the website's accurate and out of date.

I looked at the ZBA webpage the other day and I think there are people on there from two sessions ago, I mean two generations ago of members.

So, of course, every effort will be made to make sure, to ensure that everything that goes out is accurate and obviously, if we're in a, if we're going to put out something that is going to need to be good for three months, it's a quarterly, we'll make sure we don't put out stuff that'll change.

We also will have a lot of information in it that people can, you know, almost directory like. You could be able to put it up on your refrigerator so that if you need to call somebody or go find a place online to double check it, it would be there.

Trades people, okay, that's another sort of, if you look online, how often do you see somebody saying, geez, I need a plumber or I need a well guy or I need somebody like that? Try to list every well guy, every plumber, every electrician in town, at least in one issue so that you have it there, okay. It becomes a useful tool. Just the facts. No politics, no slant and it would actually be important both for the school and for the town to make sure that the information from the town is in fact approved by the people putting it in.

So, if the building inspector wants to put something in, make sure it comes from the building inspector but to do that, I think it makes sense for the people to be able to say, yeah, this is town approved.

Chairman McGarry: Will.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, so I think you see the content you asked yourself about whether it would be simply content from the department heads which truly would be like a town newsletter but then he has historical articles and other articles of interest and now commercial information about plumbers that we would recommend. Are we going to recommend as a town certain plumber and have some on the list and ...?

Mr. Rhodes: It would be a list.

Chairman McGarry: I think you were saying it would be a list.

Selectman Huebner: Well, or saying, yeah, here's the, here's a partial list or a complete list. I just don't think the town should be in the business of this.

If Mr. Rhodes as a private citizen wants to have a newsletter, I'm not wanting to suppress that in any way. I think that he has every right under the Constitution to do that and he could do that with the advertising money that he does under a 501(c) but I don't think that the town, since we have an alternate website that Mr. Harrington is responsible for keeping accurate and having all the information on it and we have an office with Kelly who has all the information that's in one place without any conflict of some information being incorrect or inconsistent.

I don't think the town should be involved with it.

Chairman McGarry: I share Mr. Rhodes position with regard to having something in the mail and people being able to get.

I know I have access to the website but if they had something I had in my hand to be able to look at, I'd probably be more willing to do so.

Mr. Rhodes: One of the first things I did when I got here, was I went, I needed to find a place to find plumbers or you know, craftsmen to tradesmen to help me out.

Everybody I talked to said, oh, go to the town offices. Everybody's got their card up on the bulletin board and that's what I did and that's where I got my trades people from the town offices on the bulletin board. This is no different than that. It's been, we've been doing it for at least a couple dozen years and I suggest we actually be a little more proactive and get it out into people's news, into people's hands so that they have that.

Somebody wants to get their name in who operates in town, I would have no problem with that but it's all, I've also had the policy when I'm doing construction work that I try to find people in town to do the work before going out of town and it does help build community.

It's the opposite of being divisive and actually, you know, forcing people onto the internet is something that I heard vociferously against as I talked to various people, you know, during the campaign. Don't make me go on the internet. Put it in my mailbox.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, excuse me, will you have a cost per newsletter and raise that much money per through advertising?

Mr. Rhodes: I haven't gotten to the dollars and cents of it in terms of what the advertising cost would be per advertiser but the intent would be to figure out how much space we need for the information that we would get and then I think a 501(c)3 is allowed up to 50 percent space for advertisers and I've heard from a number of people in town that they'd be interested in advertising in it so I don't know what the actual numbers would be but the idea would be that, would try to make sure it doesn't cost the town a penny to get its information out.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, you basically could have a list of plumbers and then turn around and have John Brown Plumbing take an ad.

Mr. Rhodes: I'm not sure that's a problem.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, I just, no I don't, that's what you're thinking.

Mr. Rhodes: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, you could have, you'd have both.

Mr. Rhodes: Yeah, we could but ask, you know, I certainly asked the plumber to advertise in it. You know, you go to Ma's, you see the placemat. People advertise there.

So, I'm not sure, am I missing something, Mr. Pitman?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No. No, I just didn't know. You're free in this column and charging them over here.

Mr. Rhodes: Well, you know, interestingly, people who wouldn't necessarily advertise in it are still interested in supporting it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Mr. Rhodes: Because they're in town. Okay, that's, it's, I've been surprised by the enthusiasm I've heard from people in town, you know, would want to support it because it's something they miss that they used.

Chairman McGarry: Alden.

Selectman Dill: Well, what I was going to say that the problem here is if we run it as a strictly town-based, out of town hall, we're going to have to get somebody, one of our employees to do it and then we're going to have to pay to mail it out.

So, rather than burdening a town employee again with oversight and editorial and everything else, I think this is a good way to start.

If it doesn't work with us, what's the worst we can do? We can say the town is not involved in that anymore.

But it takes the cost and the employee cost out of it for us which I think is a pretty good opportunity to give us a shot here.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't, I like the idea. I think it's a good road to go down.

Are you planning on doing this yourself or a committee put together or ...?

Mr. Rhodes: I'm trying to reach into my inner Yankee and to get as many people to help along as I can.

Selectwoman McHugh: Because I kind of see where Will's coming from being, having the town back it and being responsible for some of the information that could be in it.

I mean, I don't see it, myself, being an issue but it could be. I'm just wondering ...

Mr. Rhodes: Oh yes, I want to make sure that everything that gets put in is factual. There's no political slant. I'm not interested in that stuff. I want a respite from the political and I think a lot of people want a respite from the toxicity of loud, sharp voices.

They want something they can rely on so factuality is what this will be all about.

Selectwoman McHugh: I was just going to ask if there was some type of release saying this is not official town somewhere on the page?

Mr. Rhodes: It'll be clearly, published by a non-town entity, okay, so, but I think that the fact that the information can/should be relied on by the people, should have the town's blessing.

I mean, that's, it's, I understand the, you know, public, private sort of issue but I think a lot of places in this world, it works just fine. People of goodwill work together and makes sure that it is accurate, honest and productive.

It's a sort of community building exercise. Not a community providing exercise. That's the intent.

Selectwoman McHugh: Have you talked to any of the department heads? Have you talked to anyone of the chiefs or ...?

Mr. Rhodes: I have. Come on down.

This is, you know, one of the things that happens a lot in this town is people talk in the door yard. That's why it's called the "Dooryard Gazette".

Selectwoman McHugh: I think it's ...

Mr. Rhodes: The more conversations like that, the better this town will be.

Ms. Greig: So, as a department head who has worked with many different outlets over the years, I guess I reach back to several items.

Number One: As a department head, I would have no problem submitting items to any newsletter assuming it's legit, i.e., if it's a non-profit in town with the idea that we are here for a factual purpose, I would have no problem submitting items to them as an Emergency Management Director; as a Welfare Director. I would love to have another outlet to spread information to townspeople.

When the Communicator passed, one of its many lapses, it was a very, as Cindy knows, it was a very common refrain that we heard from elderly in town and from seniors who are not and I am not on social media, from folks in town saying we need a way to get information from people in town.

So, in a newsletter, fantastic idea.

However, I will say, I have no problem with submitting items to school newsletter, which I do; to the Communicator, which I used to; to the Forum. All of those are different outlets that have come up and come down in terms of their ability to reach out to folks.

Having survived the Forum, I will also say, it's going to be difficult. Good luck in terms of providing volunteers over the long term but amen to any effort to get information out to the townspeople, especially folks who are not on social media.

Websites are great for people. We have a real chunk of people here in town who don't have that level of security, comfort with computers so I do think any avenue that we can get out, not only information, about events in town and programs in town.

From an emergency management standpoint, the ability to reach out to people with preparedness messages. For the town and its budget, I think this would be a fantastic way to say, "hey, here's our fire department and rescue vehicle situation. Here's our highway vehicle situation. We're working with things that are this old. This is why we keep coming to you for asking for funds for different items."

I think it's a great way to do outreach to the town and get a budget passed.

I will say it, to me, it's a non-profit situation. I would have no trouble submitting to it. That's my viewpoint. Thank you.

Selectman Huebner: I have a thought.

Mr. Rhodes: I want to finish.

(Audio was breaking up and couldn't transcribe from 42:46 to 43:30 – speaker wasn't speaking into microphone)

Selectman Huebner: From the lady with Erroll, that there's going to actually electioneering going on in this newsletter. We're going to try to influence the voters whether they should vote one way or another on passing a warrant article. That's electioneering.

Are we as a town going to have a newsletter that even goes into those areas? That's what my whole worry I here is that if it's just information, everybody thinks information is wonderful and it is. It was just a newsletter from the town and we could afford as Alden said an employee to do it for us and get better dissemination of information, we should address that. Maybe we do need to send out a newsletter of our own as a town. Maybe John's website needs to be upgraded to be better with information.

But when we turn this into the hands of a private situation, does the Forum come to us and ask for an endorsement from the town to speak for us?

No, right? It's recognized as a private publication. It's a business of its own. It's a private organization and it does its private business. We don't endorse it as a town but it does have good, important town information so I encourage Erroll to have a newsletter but I discourage us as a town from endorsing it as it's speaking for the town. It should be a private newsletter as was the previous newsletter, the Communicator.

It was a private organization. It just, say right on there, this is a private publication of ...

(Someone from the audience interrupted)

Selectman Huebner: I'm not done yet!

So, I really think that it's a mistake for us to do this because we'll regret it in the end because it'll get out, we don't have control of the content of who writes it or who it ...

Chairman McGarry: Alden, did you have a motion?

Selectman Dill: I was going to make a motion. I'm not quite sure what we're making a motion for. I think we're going to make a motion to encourage department heads to interact with our new non-profit newsletter in town and to feel free to write information as to what those departments are engaged in.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to make a motion as stated above regarding submissions to the new non-profit newsletter

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Selectman Huebner: Would that include the use of the town logo for instance and any use of other indication that it's a town-based newsletter or would it be required to be private?

Selectman Dill: I believe how it was explained that there's going to be a notice on the back of this as with any other mailing as to who is paying for it so the town logo I don't if we can control to that extent anyway?

We do?

Selectman Huebner: We have a policy that says it's only for to be used for town business.

(Mr. Rhodes was not able to be heard, bad audio) at 46:21

(Selectmen could not be heard through bad audio from 46:34 to 47:17)

Selectman Dill: Well, the reason I made the motion the way I did, we can't compel town employees to share information but I think we would as a Board, encourage that.

Chairman McGarry: All right. We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

Selectman Huebner: I don't think it's clear what the motion is going to allow him to do or not because there's some other aspects of, for instance, the town seal, would we allow that or would we not.

Selectman Dill: I don't think we're asking for the town seal.

Selectman Huebner: No, I think he is. He did say that.

Selectman Dill: Did you want the town seal in it?

Mr. Rhodes: **(Bad audio, couldn't hear)** 47:50

Selectwoman McHugh: Departments.

Selectman Dill: That's department use not; I think they have a different logo for the top.

Mr. Rhodes: **(Bad audio, couldn't hear)** 48:00 to 48:25

Chairman McGarry: If Mr. Wallace ends up deciding he's going to put something into talking about the cost of road salt and how the cost of diesel is affecting his operation, maybe put the town logo next to him, his headline for the highway department.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sure, a good way to differentiate.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Rhodes: **(Bad audio, couldn't hear)**

Selectwoman McHugh: You're just not going to use town logo on the front page.

Mr. Rhodes: If the selectboard wants to put something in there (bad audio) ...

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

Chairman McGarry: Four to One. Motion carries.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of March 14, 2022

Next on the agenda is the review of outstanding minutes.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022 as written

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

Accounts Payable - \$26,099.75 for March 28th

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$26,099.75 for March 28, 2022

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectman Dill: John's looking at you, Fred.

Mr. Harrington: Fred, Fred Wallace is here to see the Board. He wasn't on the agenda but he'd like to speak if you could interrupt that line in the agenda.

Chairman McGarry: We'll pass that one and Mr. Wallace, go ahead.

Selectwoman McHugh: Seeing we just made you an example.

Fred Wallace – Highway Department:

Chairman McGarry: Thank you for coming in tonight.

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, thank you for having me.

Just like to talk to you guys about how the highway's been going for the last couple of weeks.

The tempo in the garage seems to be great. Everything seems to be working out between all the guys for the new guy on board such as myself.

I guess I'd like to ask the Board if there's any particular projects that they're looking forward to that they need to get on to but is this the place for that or the time?

Selectman Dill: No, this is exactly the place and time.

Mr. Wallace: So, what I've noticed is any decent-sized projects that we do with any traffic control involved, two different pieces of equipment and stuff like that, that we can't really do it with what we have with two guys and myself.

You know you got two guys in a piece of equipment, a guy hauling, you're going to need somebody for traffic control and stuff like that and I understand there's an open position now that is a foreman position.

What I would like to suggest to the Board and ask you, you know at this point, I'm here every day, 40 to 50 hours a week. I just kind of need a laborer/truck driver/snow plower to work on the highway department, where I'm here all week long. I think we can get a lot more done because I've got plenty to do from what I see.

I mean, I have plans on once we get into the paving aspect of things, the stuff I got to do and I think I got a lot of it and I think I got a lot of it to do as far as cutting shoulders, ditching and stuff like that and with two guys and myself, it's pretty tough.

And at this point, I'm here every day. I think I could probably use a truck driver or something like that, get a lot more done.

Especially when I get on the main heavier volume roads such as South Road and stuff like that because I can't go out there and cut shoulders on that road without any traffic control.

Chairman McGarry: You'd be looking to fill that foreman position?

Mr. Wallace: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, with a laborer.

Mr. Wallace: I would like to get the Board's approval to do that as soon as we can because, I mean, the way it is to finding somebody today, you start today and could be awhile.

Chairman McGarry: So, would that be, would it be an actual foreman or what were you looking for.

Mr. Wallace: No, I don't feel as if at this point, I need a foreman because I'm here every day because I'm here 40, 50 hours a week. I'd like to try to do it without a foreman position. Just get somebody that can drive a truck, two guys run a piece of equipment.

When you're cutting shoulders, you know, you got to sweep it after what, you know, there's a lot involved and if I can't get the water off the road, we just going to keep destroying the roads.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Mr. Wallace: So, I have that secondary berm, we got to get rid of that before we even pave. If we can do that, it's going to extend the life of our roads if you can get the water off the roads.

Selectman Dill: So, John, we already have a job description for laborer, correct?

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Selectman Dill: Because that's who we have currently

Mr. Harrington: Yes.

Selectman Dill: Because that's who we have currently tow under so we could, without major disruption, hire a third laborer without having to redo job descriptions or anything like that.

Mr. Harrington: We have an open position. If you want to redefine it, you can.

Selectman Dill: I mean, I think if that what the road agent is telling us he needs, I think that makes sense to do it that way. We've traditionally had the two laborers and the foreman and the road agent but you know, if we're making changes to this department, so I am willing to go along with your recommendation on that.

Mr. Wallace: It just seems like it, two guys, you can't really get anything major done. One guy's putting a fire out over here so now you're down to two, you can't cut shoulders, you can't do what you need to prepare for the pavers to come in.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't want to be crude but we don't need the commercial, we've just been waiting for a leader to get in here and tell us which one. I agree, I would much rather see a laborer than to have somebody come in and be the boss of two guys that have been here for 20 years.

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, two guys that have been here for 20 years need to hear it from one guy which should be me than somebody else.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Correct.

Mr. Wallace: I don't think that it's fair to them guys. We've got a pretty dedicated crew over there with what you guys got and ...

Chairman McGarry: Will.

Selectman Huebner: Well, is it in the budget, this laborer is already in the budget?

Selectman Dill: Well, we have a foreman position.

Selectman Huebner: Foreman position. So, we're just going to redefine the job description and it won't affect the budget. In fact, it will be under the budget, I suppose because we're going to have a lower position.

Selectman Dill: More than likely.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to proceed with finding a laborer to work for the highway department

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectman Dill: So, back to road agent reporting, so we got that out of the way but so what have you been working on and you were asking us what we think our priorities are so what are you, what have your priorities been so far? What have you been working on?

Mr. Wallace: My priorities so far have been getting the holes filled with, it's kind of been a tough winter with rain, warm, cold. With rain, cold, rain, cold and it's tough on the roads.

You know, they flex, the roads flex, they expand, they contract, you know so I've been working on just trying to put a band-aid on them for right now until we can get into paving. I can do different things. I can shim some of the roads that we can't overlay to try to hold them together a lot better than throwing patch at them. Five ton of patch is \$1,500.00. Go through five ton of patch in a week and a half.

So, we're coming into the season but I'm going to have a lot to do but of course, nobody knows what the price of any asphalt or anything's going to be so the cost could be so astronomical that we don't get half done what we need to get done which you know, that's the big question.

So, I hate to even speak on any of that but I think April 4th, somewhere around there, we'll know what hot top is going to cost.

Selectman Dill: So, I agree with you on, I think we've got to work on drainage. I mean, it seems like we've been ditching really hard on when we build a road and then ...

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, you know what you don't want me to come in there when it's 80 degrees out with the grader to cut shoulders after it's been paved.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Mr. Wallace: I need to get in there, cut them shoulders to get that water to sheen off that road and not channelize.

Selectman Dill: Is there any area in town you think you ought to, that you want to start doing the shoulders on?

Mr. Wallace: I think the ones we should start on so I can get ahead of the pavers is the ones that are definitely on the list, you know?

I mean, I have my own list but I think you guys had that study done and I don't think my list is too far from that list.

But there's a lot here and I don't know how far it's going to go so we should try to stretch it as best we can with doing some of our own shimming and I mean shimming is just filling in voids and rolling it out rather than putting patching something. If you're patching, you've already failed.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think we're all good with that, Fred. I think you're on the right page.

Mr. Wallace: Okay, great.

And I'm still assessing some of the equipment. I'd like to get back to you guys a little bit later, in a few weeks or something and tell you about the stuff that's active and the stuff that's inactive out back. Try to go through that and see what we can do with the stuff that is of no use to the town any longer.

Chairman McGarry: Do we have enough sand?

Mr. Wallace: Yes, we have enough sand.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't know if John has told you about the lining they wanted to do on South Road? Have you, no.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's early.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, I know but I just wanted to throw that in the back of your mind while you're looking at South Road. They want to put lines on it.

Selectman Dill: Well, we've discussed it. We haven't voted on it.

Chairman McGarry: Center line.

Mr. Wallace: Just a center line?

Multiple members of the Board: Yeah.

Mr. Wallace: Double center line?

Vice Chairman Pitman: One.

Selectman Huebner: Well, we're not saying there's one, right we're saying that there was a request by a school bus driver to prevent passing in the morning.

Selectman Dill: So, we've discussed it but we haven't voted on it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right, I just ...

Selectman Huebner: We're not asking...

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, no that's good information. I'll say ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Just so you'd be aware of it and maybe give us some info on it later.

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, so am I under the correct understanding that every road in Deerfield is a 35 mile an hour road?

Chairman McGarry: Right unless it's marked otherwise.

Mr. Wallace: Unless it's... right.

Okay, yeah, no I'll look into that.

Selectman Dill: Which is the only complaint you're going to have. Some people on South Road want you to fix that road real nice and some people would rather have holes left in front of their houses.

Mr. Wallace: I've seen both sides of this sort so you know you get these roads in decent shape and you're going to have cars driving a lot faster than they already do but at some point, you have to look at your roads and say we better do something just so we still have a road.

Selectman Dill: Right. The other thing that I think is a priority besides the roads is the tree issues and that's going to just keep... I mean anywhere you can, if you, we've been chasing down every Asplundh guy we see in town trying to get something going on some of these dead ash trees and I don't know if you've been able to contact the state forester yet?

Mr. Wallace: I haven't reached out to him yet.

Selectman Dill: If you could, I mean anything we can get on help on that because that's just going to be a continuing item.

But I think, I, we've had some kind of issues with communication with the road agents so if you want to come in here and regularly give us updates, I think that would be an excellent move, too.

Mr. Wallace: I think it's a good way to communicate but I mean, I got a town cell phone number that I can be reached at. If you guys see something, too, you know? I'm looking at so much right now that but I mean, I think we're getting there. We'll get there, you know what I mean? It will just take a little bit.

But as far as the ash trees, I just need to reach out to the forester as far as, you know, how do we handle them after they're down?

Selectman Dill: Well, that and it was actually from an MBC meeting from one of our state reps, Terry Roy, was the one that got us in touch with the state forester because he thinks there may be some mitigation money as well. If we can get some state money on removing these things, that would go a long way to helping us too.

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, so ...

Selectman Dill: Because we're going to kill our budget if we hire a tree company and start knocking these things down ourselves.

Mr. Wallace: No, I think the current budget has \$3,000.00 in it for trees.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, that would be a tree.

Mr. Wallace: That's one decent tree, right.

The only thing that I really noticed that's really stepped out to me is a real serious hazard that we probably shouldn't be using down at the highway garage is a current pipe spreader hanger when we take the spreaders out of the trucks. That thing's a little substandard. It's not on a solid ground. It's not on a solid base. It's got a piece of cutting edge welded across pipe.

It's functional. It works.

When I first saw it, I said, wow, is that where you guys hand your spreaders? I mean, I think we're better off to put them on jersey barriers than to hang them on that.

Some of the uprights are bent. I think this, I just didn't like the looks of it the second I saw it and I realized what it was.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: If it's not safe, I don't recommend you don't use it.

Multiple members stated to not use it.

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, I think I should not use it immediately, don't, you know, stop but I've looked around the yard but I haven't had a chance yet to pick the jersey barriers out with the stuff that's sitting on them now to, because I can't set them on the ground with the tail piece, you know. I don't really want to use that thing.

Selectman Dill: If you're telling us it's not safe, we're going to trust your judgment.

Mr. Wallace: It doesn't look good, you now, I'm not a structural engineer or anything but I mean, it served its purpose, I think. Some of the, you know, the six, the three-to-five-ton trucks, their spreaders are stainless steel so they're pretty heavy.

Chairman McGarry: Ray just gave it a thumbs down.

Mr. Wallace: You know, so I don't know if money has to be allocated but I think immediately, we should try to get some jersey barriers. See what we got there to get them off of that thing.

Chairman McGarry: I guess maybe you come back to us with a recommendation and we go from there.

Selectman Dill: Some prices.

Mr. Wallace: Because you know, it's not a problem when they're in the trucks all winter but you have to take them out to clean and wash them and just to look at, I don't know if any of you guys have seen it but ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Mr. Wallace: When I first started, I said, whoa, that isn't what I think it is but that's the only thing that's immediate hazard. I mean I'm working on stuff in the barn right now.

Chairman McGarry: You can come back to us with a recommendation and a cost estimate as to what it would cost to replace that, please do.

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, I can do that.

Chairman McGarry: Good.

Mr. Wallace: And the only other thing, I'm going to be sitting down with John in the near future to go over the current road conditions. I've laid my eyes on them for two weeks. I think I've seen most of them. Some of them definitely, you know the roads that have a lot of truck traffic on it such as Brown Road, you know, there's a lot of trucks hauling out of there. There are a couple bad areas in that road that, you know, there's some weight running over that road and then, I can't think of the name, I get always hung up on that, Griffin Road, with the nursery up there...

Selectman Dill: There's one really bad section.

Mr. Wallace: Well, you know, there's a couple areas that those trucks are going over basically a wetland and its wallowed out and that's from the weight so that pushes all that material to the side of that road ...

Selectman Dill: And like Will just said, Haynes Road.

Mr. Wallace: So, I've been pretty hesitant to lift the weight restrictions because I don't want to make the roads any worse than what they are.

You know, some of the dirt is coming out good but then you get a pimple and then, so I want to do it at the right time because I don't want to lift it and then not be able to keep up with the damage if it does happen.

But I think we're well on our way to being able to lift it.

Selectman Huebner: Well, how do we prioritize which roads and I thought we had a list that was developed, right?

Mr. Wallace: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: So, are we going to follow that list or that or are we ...

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, I'm going to be sitting down with John and go over that list but of course any recommendations from you guys, you know, that list is pretty spot on from what I've seen.

Selectman Dill: And the other thing is, I don't think we've really made a priority of bonding roads. You know if people want to run heavy trucks over it, I'm fine with requiring a road bond. We did quite a bit of that in Northwood and I haven't signed one here in the entire time I've been here.

Mr. Wallace: You want to run over that wetland with a 130,000-pound load, give us a \$50,000.00 bond.

Selectman Dill: Yeah. I mean, I think that ...

Mr. Wallace: When you're done.

Selectman Dill: I think that protects the town quite a bit more than we've been doing, too.

Mr. Wallace: Because it seems like there's a lot of developing starting to go on in this area from the two weeks that I've been here and they want to come in with these heavy (couldn't get) monsters and stuff, you know. They're eager. It's nice out at times and they want to get to work but we can't have them destroy the roads in the meantime.

Chairman McGarry: Exactly.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Don't give in.

Mr. Wallace: Yeah, you know, so it's been a tough thing for me in two weeks.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Mr. Wallace: As far as that goes but I think we're on the good side of it now, getting there.

Selectman Dill: I wouldn't rush it.

Mr. Wallace: No, no because I can't put it back up probably after I take it down so I'm just ...

Selectman Dill: No, we can't. That's, that is one thing.

Mr. Wallace: The other problem with lifting is you, you know, it's not just, okay, your roads start, some of them start out as pavement but then they turn into dirt and somebody's got a heavy delivery or bringing in heavy equipment through the dirt section, just makes a lot of work.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: I think we're looking for you to lead here.

Mr. Wallace: I am very happy to be here, to be able to do it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thanks for coming in.

Chairman McGarry: Very good, Fred.

Mr. Wallace: Thank you, guys.

Selectwoman McHugh: Thank you, Fred.

Signatures/Correspondence:

Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – Shannon Boyle – 193 North Road

Selectman Dill: Perfect! State road. We don't have to worry about it.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, we have an application for property tax credit exemption. This is a veteran's exemption for Sean T. Gorman at 117 Mt. Delight and is for \$750.00 and a tax credit for a service-connected total disability of \$4,000.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the veteran's property tax credit exemption in the total amount of \$4,750.00

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: The vote is unanimous.

We have a property tax credit exemption for solar systems for Jerry and Amy Liptak – 47 South Road in the amount of \$18,600.00

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar systems tax credit exemption for Jerry and Amy Liptak

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: The vote is unanimous.

Another solar exemption for the Vesci Family Revocable Trust of 2021 – 110 Old Centre Road - \$13,800.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for the Vesci Family Revocable Trust of 2021

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Another solar exemption for Shane H. Carter Revocable Trust – 3 Parade Road - \$40,800.00

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for Shane H. Carter Revocable Trust in the amount of \$40,800.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectman Huebner: Parade Road.

Selectman Dill: that's a big setup.

Selectman Huebner: So that is just because they have a lot of house?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes. It's on his barn.

Selectman Dill: It's whatever the value of the solar system is. That's a big one.

Selectman Huebner: So, in the future, his assessment has not increased by the value of the solar system.

Selectman Dill: Exactly. It's not exactly. It's not waiving ...

Selectman Huebner: It's not taxed forever.

Selectman Dill: Exactly.

Chairman McGarry: We have another solar tax exemption for the Williams Family Trust – 8 Perkins Road - \$12,000.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar tax exemption for the Williams Family Trust in the amount of \$12,000.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectman Dill: It was a petition warrant article so they all have to be but they have to be individual.

Chairman McGarry: We have another solar exemption – John Haig - 156 North Road in the amount of \$12,000.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for John Haig in the amount of \$12,000.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

And there is another solar exemption for Melissa Graykin – 12 Old Coffeetown Road in the amount of \$12,000.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for Melissa Graykin in the amount of \$12,000.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Selectman Huebner: (Couldn't hear) \$12,000.00.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Is that because that's a standard package?

Chairman McGarry: I think so.

Selectman Dill: Yes. That system works much better.

Another solar exemption for Al Jaeger Trust – 12 Perry Road in the amount of \$5,400.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for Al Jaeger Trust in the amount of \$5,400.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous.

Another solar exemption – Susan Frizzell – 155 Nottingham Road in the amount of \$14,400.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for Susan Frizzell in the amount of \$14,400.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous in favor.

Selectman Dill: So, you know that there are a lot of them when we get a special sticker.

Chairman McGarry: Another solar exemption for DiMaggio Family Revocable Trust at 219 Raymond Road in the amount of \$23,400.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for DiMaggio Family Revocable Trust in the amount of \$23,400.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous in favor.

Last one. We have another solar exemption for Peter and Elise Mahoney at 50 Blake's Hill Road in the amount of \$6,030.00.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the solar exemption for Peter and Elise Mahoney in the amount of \$6,030.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous in favor.

We have a personnel action request for Suzanne Krohn. She is currently part-time, hourly and what are we doing here, John?

Mr. Harrington: She was the temporary library director. She's now reverting back to her tech assistant or tech librarian position.

Chairman McGarry: So, she'll be going from 25 hours a week and \$25.00 an hour to 20 at \$16.14.

Mr. Harrington: That's correct.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to approve the personnel change request from the library and have the chairman sign

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous in favor.

Is there a place for me to sign?

Mr. Harrington: They may have cut that off. I would sign it at the bottom for chair and date it, please.

Chairman McGarry: All right.

Correspondence.

We have a payroll manifest for March 16, 2022 signed by the Board on March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$92,031.42 (gross), \$58,827.16 (net).

We also have an accounts payable manifest for March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$94,332.47 which was all signed by the Board.

We also have the agenda for the Planning Board for April 12th, Planning Board minutes and Notice of a Decision by the Zoning Board of Adjustment which I think I'll address that in Other Business and also a newsletter from Mr. Gatsas with regard to what has transpired at the Executive Council.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: I have two items.

The first is regarding Ray Ellis. Ray Ellis uses his own personal vehicle for all of his town duties including transporting materials back and forth from vendors, buying equipment that we need and also hauling a town trailer which we used just recently a couple of weeks ago to move all of the voting equipment from the Arts and Crafts Building back to the town hall.

During that day of using the trailer, he suffered damage to his personal vehicle when turning around with the trailer.

Estimated damage to his vehicle was \$2,659.31. Of that, Primex will cover \$500.00 and only \$500.00 because it wasn't a town vehicle.

My recommendation to the Board since Ray uses his personal vehicle every day for all of our town business and we do not have a vehicle for him, would be for the town to cover the remaining part of that damage which totals \$2,159.31 and my recommendation further is to use the Community Partnership grant fund so that it does not affect the current default budget.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the expenditure of \$2,159.31 from the Community Partnership Fund to cover the damage to Ray Ellis' vehicle

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous in favor.

Mr. Harrington: Thank you.

The second item I have for you this evening, the Heritage has contacted me inquiring as to whether the Board is going to offer a representative to sit on their commission?

Andy Robertson formally held that position. I don't know if anybody on the Board is interested in taking that on.

Selectman Dill: Well, I was approached by them and I told them I would.

Mr. Harrington: Okay. So, is the Board recommending Alden Dill step forward as the Heritage Commission representative?

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh moves to recommend Alden Dill as the Board's representative to the Heritage Commission

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

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

Mr. Harrington: Thank you, Alden.

Selectman Dill: No problem.

Chairman McGarry: Vote is unanimous in favor.

Mr. Harrington: That's it for my updates. I would request a brief non-public just to update the Board on legal matters.

Selectman Huebner: Is that before the new business in the agenda?

Mr. Harrington: It's whatever the Board would like to take that out.

Chairman McGarry: When do we want to do that?

Selectman Dill: It's up to you guys.

Mr. Harrington: You have unfinished business, new business, other business and citizen's comments.

New Business:

Chairman McGarry: Just do this under new business.

The Board of Adjustment took a vote and provided a variance to Mr. Cross for what he was proposing to do and basically was to eliminate the two roads that were going to be going into his subdivision and allow driveways instead and the only problem with that was and we pointed that out as the Planning Board pointed that out to Mr. Cross was that it appears that it's creating five back lots with no frontage whatsoever.

Selectman Dill: Which are not following Planning Board procedure, I'm guessing or ordinances.

Chairman McGarry: With the zoning ordinance.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: I'd like the Board take a look at the information Mr. Rhodes provided, I believe that aspect.

(Someone talking from the audience not at the mic and couldn't hear to transcribe)

Selectman Dill: Well, I've just been sitting here reading the minutes and trying to make sense of this decision and it's really not making a whole whale of a lot of sense to me.

Chairman McGarry: Under the statute, anybody with direct interest in the variance can appeal the decision by the Board of Adjustment and also the Board of Selectmen is unique in being able to file an appeal.

I think I'd like, we have thirty days to file that appeal and the decision was on the 22nd, I guess it was, so that we have another meeting to decide whether we wish to file an appeal to that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: John, can you put that on the agenda.

Chairman McGarry: So, I would like to have us take a look at that information and then make a decision at our next meeting whether or not we should file an appeal or not and then that would go before the Board of Adjustment and go from there.

Selectman Dill: So, it would have to come from the Board vote.

Chairman McGarry: Yes, that's correct.

All right.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A3, II(I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: All right.

Selectman Dill: Where are we headed?

Chairman McGarry: Back in session. No decisions were made. Can I have a motion to seal the minutes in the executive session.

Motion: Selectman Dill moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: All right. Citizen's comments.

Selectman Dill: Well, new and unfinished business first.

Chairman McGarry: Oh. Unfinished business. That's correct.

Unfinished Business:

Chairman McGarry: Okay. What else do we got this evening.

Selectman Huebner: I have one item which is, as you know, Pfizer manufactures vaccine for the COVID and their plant in Ireland uses our equipment that my company provides so they're going down for maintenance kind of like NASCAR where they go in for a pit stop as fast as possible and then try to bring it back up.

They've asked me to attend that because I, to help support that startup.

It will preclude me from being in the 11th meeting, the next meeting of the selectmen so I'd like to participate.

I talked with John and he says we're all set to allow me to participate from Ireland in that meeting so I just wanted to inform you of that and make sure that's going to happen.

Selectman Dill: We have to vote on that, right John?

Mr. Harrington: The night of.

Selectman Dill: The night of, okay, not that I have a problem with it but just.

Selectman Huebner: So, I will probably be zooming in.

Chairman McGarry: Be sure to bring a leprechaun with you.

Mr. Harrington: The Board votes to allow that to happen and that needs to pass. There needs to be a quorum present here and then if it's approved and Will participates remotely, every vote for the rest of the evening has to be roll call.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: That's the rules.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Anything else? Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, I have some. I asked John about the social media guidelines that we have for our personnel. Maybe we should review this and make sure this is what we want and that we should be adhering to it also.

Chairman McGarry: So, would everyone take a look at that.

Selectman Huebner: You are referring to ...

Selectwoman McHugh: The social media part of it, you know Facebook

Selectman Huebner: Where is that?

Oh, social media, on page two.

Selectman Dill: The one thing I caught real quick on this, John under shoes and footwear, flashy athletic shoes and tongs? I'm guessing we probably mean throngs and probably should change it to flip-flops.

Selectman Huebner: Leave it to Alden to come up with that.

Selectman Dill: So, you might want to just update that real quick.

It has tongs.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Any other business or other business?

All right. Move on to citizen's comments. Mrs. Cady.

Citizen's Comments:

Mrs. Cady – Old Centre Road:

I would like the Board to speak more into their microphones. I'm not hearing many of your comments tonight.

As far as the newsletter goes for town, I think it's a great idea. I don't think it should be the town's purview to approve or disapprove. It's a non-public organization.

I've asked the Board this many times. I have gotten no answer.

Do we receive more aid for South Road because it's partly the way to a state park? We used to receive more money for it.

Selectman Dill: Not any more.

Mrs. Cady: But I want to know why because the law was not changed to say that towns that have a road that leads to a public park would receive more town road aid and the law is still in place so I think the state should be giving us more aid as they used to, to take care of the road. IN the summer, pave it and so forth and I noticed it's not being taken care of the way it used to be.

And then I would like to ask the Board to consider a raise in Pete Lemay's salary. When I look at the financial people in other towns, he's about \$20,000.00 below and Pete handles many other things besides the bookkeeping.

Questions that come in, the people coming in and asking him as employees. I'm there. I hear it just one day a week but I know it's happening every day so I think you need to look at him as a valued employee that we wouldn't want to lose.

Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Thank you.

Anybody else?

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 7:20 pm

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, April 11, 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*