

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 29, 2022
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

Present: Chairman, Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Alden Dill, Cynthia McHugh and Will Huebner, Selectmen.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice Chairman Pitman: If you'd like to go to the mic, we'll start with Howard Pearl, state senate, covering Deerfield and a number of other towns.

Howard Pearl: Good evening and thank you for having me in tonight. For the record, my is Howard Pearl. I am running for state senate in district seventeen which does include the town of Deerfield and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to come in and address you tonight. Many of you know me from the past when I ran for this seat. For those who don't I'll give a little bit of background. I have served three terms in the state legislature. I currently serve on the environment and agriculture committee as the chair and, uh, my day life, my day job is I am a farmer by trade. I have a produce farm in Loudon where I raise a lot of hay and vegetables and maple syrup. One of the things I wanted to come and talk to you tonight was the, you know, the things that we're seeing in our small towns is important and I want to, I run for this seat because I believe in the property rights and individual rights, it's real important to me to bring those things into the state senate. I've worked a lot on many bills, in fact I think I have thirty plus bills that I've sponsored or co-sponsored that have been signed into the law, into law. So, I've been affective in getting the things done that I needed to or wanted to. Probably one of the most important to me was the very first one I co-sponsored, was the constitutional carry bill. It was kind of a big one that allowed the personal liberties for people. I served many years on my own town offices and as a zoning board member for thirteen years. I was moderator for two years and I served as the trustee of trust funds for four years. I want to say thank you to all of you for what you do cause I know the time that you give. It takes a lot out of your personal time to serve on the selectboard. I haven't done that specific job but I'm familiar with the giving of the time for a town office and certainly appreciate what you do for your community and I think it gives me a really unique ability to understand what my community needs and I certainly look forward to working with all of you and certainly be a big part of my team. When I'm elected to the senate, I'll be leaning on you to know what your communities need cause it's very important. You know, I want to go to the senate and be your voice, give you a seat at the table for the things that are important to you and your community. We worked very hard in our last budget cycle to get monies back to the communities and help on tax relief, property tax relief. That was a big one we hear a lot on the campaign trail. People are really feeling this inflation. We were able to a hundred million dollars back into the, reduce the sweat portion of the property tax which was a direct reduction on property taxes to the citizens that own property and that was really important to us. We also were able to increase the amount of that came back to the communities through the rooms and meals tax. Hopefully you've seen some increase in your community from that. We've done well as a state in managing our funds and we've got eighty-four hundred plus million dollar surplus because we've done a good job in keeping our government small and keeping our tax policy so that we're able to increase our businesses and that's really benefitted us. Coming out of Covid I know there's been many issues, you know, with employees, I see that in my own business. We're working to keep our businesses healthy too and keep our tax payers healthy. So, there's many things I could talk about, but I know I only have three minutes. So, I'm going to wrap it up and what I'd like to do, if it's ok Mr. Chair, is talk a couple of questions from the board, if that would be alright?

Vice Chairman Pitman: You may.

Howard Pearl: All right. Well, I'd like to open it up if there's any questions you guys have or things you'd like, or message you want me to leave with.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Anything Alden?

Selectman Dill: I'm all set.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Will?

Selectman Huebner: What would you say is the, in your opinion, number one issue that Deerfield faces that you could help us with? Have you thought about that?

Howard Pearl: I haven't thought about Deerfield specifically on your issues. I guess I'm gonna kind of lean on you to tell me that, but I suspect your issues are pretty similar to many of the other small towns. Employee retention is a big one for all of us, especially in our police forces and fire departments. So, we see some issues with the retirement plans and funding that. I know that's a big cost to most communities. So, we're always looking at that. Property taxes are probably the biggest one that I hear for everybody, you know, how do you keep the folks in your community, that have been here a long time, in their homes. That's a major problem. As we look at that break down, better than seventy percent, in most communities, I haven't looked at Deerfield specifically, but better than seventy percent goes to funding education. So, that is one that we are always looking at and discussing and having that conversation and it's definitely something that's a major part of every community.

Selectman Dill: Actually, as a follow up on that, on the retirement specifically. What would you do, cause we've seen about a decade of down shifting on the state retirement system to local taxpayers?

Howard Pearl: So, we've worked on getting that program so that it's self-sufficient. Listen, I'm not a retirement plan expert, this is something I've been, six years in the legislature, trying to learn and understand what the issues were in the past and there were some things weren't done right. The state has pretty much funded the portion of it, that it needs to, to satisfy the promises that it made before. That's my understanding. It is a problem. It's an easy one to fix because we haven't had the funds in the past to do but as we have some funds coming out extra this year maybe it's something we need to look at again.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you. Thank you for coming out tonight, Howard.

Howard Pearl: Thank you Mr. Chair and the whole board and again, I appreciate what you do and the time you spend serving your community. Thank you.

Selectman Dill: What day is the primary?

Howard Pearl: The primary is September thirtieth.

Selectman Dill: Coming up soon.

Howard Pearl: It is coming up. Two weeks from tomorrow. Thank you for the time.

Selectwoman McHugh: Thanks for coming.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Next we have the pleasure of the Deerfield Fair Association with a proposal for the town. You want to go the mic, Don and Kim? Does Deb need to come up there also or just you two?

Don Wyman: Just us.

Selectman Dill: That's what we need more of mics.

Don Wyman: Don Wyman Deerfield Fair President. On our last meeting that we had with the two select members and Chief Fisher, we were asked to come up with a list of things we would like and the way we'd like to do these set forth. So, we created a list, (inaudible, papers being shuffled) ...fire department for two thousand twenty-two fair. On Tuesday nine twenty-seven we'd like to have zero apparatus on site. Zero fire fighters on site and two officers for the building inspections that are normally done on Tuesday. Wednesday, we'd like one apparatus on site, two fire fighters, and one officer for inspections on Tuesday. Wednesday, excuse, Thursday we'd like two apparatus on site, four fighters on detail, officer on duty would be one. That doesn't have to necessarily be the chief. It can be a captain. It can be a lieutenant. On Friday, we'd like to have again, two apparatus on site, four to six fire fighters, and again one officer. Saturday, two, 4 and six and also one. Sunday we'd like two, four and one. For the evenings we would like again, Tuesday we don't any zero across the board, Wednesday we'd like one apparatus on site, two fire fighter on detail and zero officers but reading the contract and thinking about it we should have an officer, so again that does not have to be the chief. It can be a captain or lieutenant again. Thursday, same thing, one apparatus, two fire fighters and it's the same thing with the officers. Friday it would be one, four and an officer and again same thing, two, four, and one. Sunday, overnight, we don't need any because there's nothing at that point and time that we need an overnight for. So, the daily hours on shift we would be Wednesday, eight am. to seven pm. Thursday, eight am to eight pm. Friday and Saturday, eight am to eleven pm. Sunday, eight am to eight pm. The pm overnight shifts will start at the end of the day shift so that would be from seven, on Wednesday, until again, eight am on Thursday and so on so forth. So, they start at eight, start at eleven, and start at eight and they would go off shift when the day crew arrived. We respectfully ask for the following, Tuesday, September twenty-seven, two fire officers with walk around for the fairgrounds, which is normally done anyway, to inspect the permanent buildings. All trailers, from what I've

been understanding, all trailers been inspected by the state and do not need further inspections from the town. The fire fighters scheduled will not be permitted to leave the grounds under any circumstances during the day shift or detail. The chief will not increase coverage or call back members for additional detail unless approved by the fair, by a person on the fair, excuse me. Changes (inaudible) ...wording is in the contract. During inclement weather it is up to the fair to release workers early from their shifts. If it's a rainy day and there's no patrons coming into the fair, we don't really need as much coverage as we normally would have. The next one would be non-active fire fighters to be ineligible to cover the shifts. As in the past we've had fire fighters we don't normally see in town but yet they show up at the fair. I don't think that's, quote on quote, fair. No pun intended. Fire fighters are required to walk the grounds during their daily shifts when possible. Congregation of multiple crews in front of the fire station with the cause is not permitted. You know, we know they do walk arounds, we let the kids see the trucks and they do that but to have all the crew shifts sitting there in the fire station does not need to be. Our EMTs walk around. Our officers walk around. So can the fire fighters. Parking will be available for all fire fighters that are on detail. We're going to be issuing wrist bands. Normally we would put out parking passes and wrist bands. It's going to be just as easy to do a wrist band. When they pull into the parking office or parking lot, they can show the wrist band and go park. What this does, it eliminates, you know, improprieties on all bases, all over the place. We always have problems with parking not just, I'm not saying with the fire department. So, we're trying to, you know, bring that into an easy realm. The fair is a non-profit organization and we want to continue to provide the town with the current services that we used to. We ask that the hourly wage currently in place and that the fire fighters be locked in for a minimum of five years. At the time the chief and the selectboard at the time the town select board, chief, and fair officers will meet to discuss and update terms and any changes that need to be made.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (inaudible) ...go ahead Alden.

Selectman Dill: I think the staffing levels when we met, those were determined by the fire chief so we can't agree to staffing levels and who's going to be there, shifts and times, those are down to the fire chief so we're going to have to hear from him on staffing levels.

Don Wyman: Depends on how you want to go about that, sir.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Don.

Don Wyman: We've touched base to many different fairs around, even some actual towns such as Durham, and found there staffing and the staffing requirements that we have far exceed the other areas, the other fairs. You look at some of these, some are county fairs, so yeah, they might have more. Town of Durham with the Whittemore Center and the college, six, six, okay.

Selectman Dill: And that's less people though.

Don Wyman: Excuse me, the town of Durham?

Selectman Dill: For the...

Don Wyman: The of Durham...

Selectman Dill: ...for the Whittemore Center, that's way lets people.

Don Wyman: Listen to me, don't block it in. The town of Durham, I said the town and the college and any event that goes on at the Whittemore Center, six. I've done my homework, six.

Selectman Huebner: Do you think that's equivalent to our fair and...

Don Wyman: The town of Durham and a college, UNH?

Selectman Huebner: ...do you think that's equivalent number of people and (inaudible, being spoken over)

Don Wyman: Sure. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Selectman Huebner: You don't have six.

Don Wyman: That's what I'm asking for, four to six, instead of ten. Alden, you don't like what's being said.

Selectman Dill: I don't because you and I, we sat down and we discussed this and first of all, we're going to have to hear from the fire chief. There's no other way around it.

Don Wyman: Oh, absolutely.

Selectman Dill: But, if I remember correctly, that discussion we agreed that the fire chief sets the staffing levels as per stature.

Don Wyman: We didn't agree on that. We didn't agree on anything that night, Alden, because I said anything that would be agreed would have to come back down through the fair. Nothing was agreed so we can remove that word.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: I'm just wondering, when Will, you were asking, how many people are at a football game at Durham, do we know?

Don Wyman: They didn't give us a break down of what goes on.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, but I mean the bleachers are usually pretty full... (inaudible, being spoken over)

Don Wyman: The Whittemore Center when they have a truck event, pretty full. Hockey games. I've been to several of them, pretty full.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. I was just curious.

Don Wyman: And that's not the extra college activities that go on after hours.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, have you gotten this information from your insurance company?

Don Wyman: Our insurance company says that we technically need, or what the insurance requires, is one apparatus and a crew to man that apparatus. So, if you pulled in an apparatus that had a two-seater, it would be two. Like I said at the meeting the other night, that's a little low. You know, I understand that. That's, you know, I don't want the fair sitting as a sitting duck either, but I also don't want to go extravagant either.

Vice Chairman Pitman: With these numbers, will that help manpower back at the station for the rest of the town?

Don Wyman: Oh, they would definitely help the manpower here in Deerfield as any calls.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Not shutting the town down cause of the fair.

Don Wyman: Correct. That's my opinion. That'd be up to the chief to say on that part but that's my opinion.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Chief, do want to say anything at this point?

Selectman Dill: I think we gotta here from ya, Matt.

(Inaudible talking from the audience)

Selectman Dill: Well, I think there's a couple different parts here that we're gonna have to...

Don Wyman: I'm sure it's gonna go back and forth. I'm sure we'll gonna speak again or asked to speak again.

Selectman Huebner: We have a draft contract with amounts chief has put in and I think you're now suggesting different numbers...

Don Wyman: With all due respect to that, we got that sitting back here. Is there an allotted time to go over that?

Selectman Huebner: No.

Don Wyman: So, if were to have gotten it, I asked the day after our meeting. I asked for that. All I wanted was a draft. Just give me a draft and that's what we have.

Selectman Huebner: Okay, so, both parties need to...

Don Wyman: So, if I had gotten a draft then we could have talked about it that Thursday night at the fair, you know, at our meeting and we could have gone over this.

Selectman Huebner: So, both parties need a chance to digest the others proposal. You made a proposal and reading into the record, I don't have it here with me, but we have it now on record and then you have our proposal so each side can consider what the other one is proposing.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: well, that's what I wanted to ask, I mean, I think, I didn't hear anything that went on at this little workshop thing you guys held, but what I did hear is, you, we wanted them to come back with what they needed or what they would request and seems to me what you are doing. So, now if we hear from the chief, see what he wants and then we can go from there. But I think they did exactly what you asked them to do, is that not what you told me?

Selectman Huebner: Alden and I were the ones at the meeting, and we definitely didn't say that the personnel and apparatus amounts were up for negotiation. We definitely recognize that the chief here has to decide what's safe for the fair and that he, basically, is the one that signs off on a permit essentially permitting the event. So, we're not really trying to negotiate something away from chief in that sense. If there are suggestions about stuff that's different from what the chief has proposed, I think it's ok to...

Selectwoman McHugh: You did not ask them, what they wanted, what they would want?

Selectman Dill: No...

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes. That's what Will told me.

Selectman Dill: ...we had a three-hour meeting. I don't remember this exact thing.

Selectwoman McHugh: (Inaudible, talking at the same time as Selectman Dill)

Selectman Huebner: I asked Don to prepare a list of the things that the fair does for the town (inaudible, someone talking over him) ...

Selectwoman McHugh: What does that have to do with the fair?

Selectman Huebner: ...proposing in the meeting that the fair does a lot of things for the town. I said, well, I'm not personally familiar with all those, he started to rattle off a few of them and there are some notable things that the fair...

Selectwoman McHugh: So, what does that have to do with covering this fair?

Selectman Huebner: Well, he felt we should be giving some discounts because of the benefits that the town receives from the fair.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Selectman Huebner: And so, Don correct me if I'm wrong, you said that you would prepare those things and recite them into the meeting so we could all what are the benefits (inaudible, someone talking over him) ...

Don Wyman: I do have them prepared.

Selectman Huebner: ...but we didn't ask him to tell us...

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, talking to you on the phone, that's what you had told me. You told you had asked them what they would like. Not that we were going to give it to them.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Somebody must have cause they've done this list.

Don Wyman: I wouldn't have wasted my time if somebody didn't ask me to give what I thought, don't sit there and shake your head that's rude.

Selectman Dill: Well, because every time I start talking Cindy was jumping on me. But I don't remember us discussing that at all.

Selectman Huebner: Right. In fact, we took the position that the chief has the final say to decide what's safe.

Don Wyman: So, basically, everything you asked me to do, and everything said that night at the meeting was a waste of my time cause no matter what the chief is going to have the ultimate say and we are going to get over charged just like we did last year. I'm going to use **Shawn ?** words, we're going to get taken advantage of again.

Selectman Dill: In the first fifteen minutes we came to an agreement, sorry, we discussed, by state statute that the fire chief has the ability to set staffing levels unless you came up with your own fire department which you said was not going to happen.

Don Wyman: Why did I say it's not going to happen?

Selectman Dill: Because it's not financially feasible.

Don Wyman: Why was it not financially feasible?

Selectman Dill: I cannot...

Don Wyman: Well, come one, you're sitting what I said.

Selectman Dill: We at no point to come up with you, to have the fair decide staffing levels, to decide...

Don Wyman: I really wish that meeting did not happen without a recorder because you're talking out of both sides of your mouth right now.

Selectman Huebner: I was sitting in the meeting myself and I didn't hear you say that.

Don Wyman: Okay. That's...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Don, can you make room for Debbie for a minute, or Kim?

Deb Wyman: Deb Wyman, Nottingham Road, one fourteen.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What's your title?

Deb Wyman: First Aide Super Intendant but that does not reference either way. Um, can you sight the RSA that qualifies him to say the staffing.

Selectman Dill: I guess we better bring the fire chief up. Probably sit over there and he can discuss it with you because we discussed that at that meeting and at no point did, we discuss what we just read into the record.

Selectman Huebner: In fact, we made it quite clear that the fire chief had the authority to do that and I believe Don agreed that he did and that he to get a permit and that the fire chief would have the say...

Deb Wyman: I know that he can say that. He can either say yea or nay the fair can go, so, I guess we can say, Deerfield fair is not gonna run if he chooses not to okay the contract as we written.

Selectman Huebner: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh, I don't want to rehash this meeting again that you guys had. I think that maybe we should hear form the chief now and then let's, I mean, that's just my opinion.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, it seems like the fair's done an awful lot of homework.

Deb Wyman: (inaudible) ...five minutes before this meeting. Nobody's had a moment to digest, I mean, I read through some of it, and he has ultimate say, not even my EMS personnel that I over see, he's got ultimate say over them. I mean, I've been dealing with the EMS personnel. He doesn't even know who I've talked to who I've even hired so he doesn't even know what I've done with EMS.

Selectman Huebner: So, what's your point? What are you trying to say?

Deb Wyman: I could have hired my whole EMS and he doesn't even know that.

Selectman Huebner: So, he's proposing, what we discussed in the meeting was EMS that is on the table, right? The numbers of things that we talked about in the meeting for EMS were discussed. It's a flow through, as I understand it, Matt, it's a flow through, we don't hire those that you hire those and it's a pass through?

Deb Wyman: That's partly correct. I could have hired a private contract and he doesn't know that.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Deb Wyman: Cause he never asked.

Selectman Huebner: I don't think Matt's suggesting that it has to be our EMS. I think he's suggesting it has to be an adequate number of EMS to safely cover the fair to some kind of a standard which is his prerogative to set based on standard.

Deb Wyman: Then say what RSA that is.

Selectman Dill: Dick, I think we need to hear from the chief.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Let Donny speak then the chief.

Don Wyman: Mr. Huebner, I respectfully say that's a false accusation, the state...

Selectman Huebner: I don't think I made an accusation.

Don Wyman: Well, a statement, excuse me, statement. The chief does not have total control over EMS. Only Fire. The state statute says he has control over fire not EMS, so not EMS. So, he does not have the right to take over the duties that have been done for past, I'm gonna say, thirty years of EMS has been done through the fair. We hire the ambulances. We hire the EMS staff. Granted, we hire some of them through Deerfield, but we also get them from other towns. If the Deerfield fair chose to hire them from someplace else, if we could get em, then we could do that. The chief has no authority over the rescue. He does over fire. But as of right now the statute does not say he has complete jurisdiction over EMS so that can be stricken from that. We're not dealing with EMS. We're dealing with Fire.

Selectman Dill: I completely agree, and we went in and said PD, EMS, and fire were the three things and we said PD was taken care of and EMS was taken care of. We discussed fire. You just said that the has complete control over fire.

Don Wyman: He has, yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: I think Donny's talking about that contract.

Don Wyman: I'm talking about the contract, Alden.

Selectwoman McHugh: It says EMS.

Don Wyman: you know, at the meeting you seemed pretty open to talking...

Selectman Dill: I am.

Don Wyman: ...this meeting you seem pretty locked on talking, that's fine, that's cool, everybody changes.

Selectman Dill: Because you came in, you came in with things that we...

Selectman Huebner: I haven't changed.

Don Wyman: Please, I was speaking.

Selectman Huebner: I haven't changed.

Selectman Dill: We haven't changed at all. Those are things we had not discussed. We did not discuss you coming in and laying out your staffing levels, which by the way, you didn't give the chief, so for the same complaint you're just giving him of not giving these before this meeting, you didn't give him either.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy, go ahead.

Selectwoman McHugh: I just think Alden is out of line. Can we just stick to the chief?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you Howard. Kim, you have something while you're there?

Don Wyman: So, you want me to step away so he can...?

Selectman Dill: No, we can give him a mic too and have a discussion with all parties involved here.

Selectwoman McHugh: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can't. we need the camera.

Don Wyman: I'll step back.

Selectman Dill: Why don't we put him right there?

Selectwoman McHugh: Case we need the camera.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Matt.

Matt Fisher: Donny, can I get a copy of the, your reference, your recommendation? Okay. I'll certainly review the recommendations.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Matt Fisher: So, one thing, I guess, right off the bat, for the timeliness, I guess, of this. I reached out to the two board of selectman members who joined us in our meeting and the response was for this evening to have the contract ready so that's why it was this evening. In the packet everybody got was a draft for this year, kinda, you see it's a little different based upon a combination of what we proposed in the past and the information that the administrator was able to get from Hopkinton for an example of what they use and some of the wording that's in their contract.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Chief, do you have a problem with what the fair's proposed?

Matt Fisher: I'll have to review it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Matt Fisher: Off the top of my head, one thing we discussed in our meeting was the current staffing levels are the, the number of ten is right out of the fair's EOP. That was adopted by the fair in two thousand nineteen.

Selectwoman McHugh: During the MCI?

Matt Fisher: I don't believe so.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Matt Fisher: I would have to really sit down and review.

Selectman Huebner: It seems that both parties need time to review.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Don, can this wait until next Tuesday when we meet?

Matt Fisher: I will not be here next Tuesday, just FYI, I am not available.

Vice Chairman Pitman: How about Wednesday?

Matt Fisher: I will be out of state that week.

Selectman Dill: Which doesn't leave enough time.

(Inaudible talking from the audience)

Matt Fisher: I could check their schedule, but no final decisions will be made without my approval.

Selectman Dill: When are you back, Matt?

Matt Fisher: Ideally, Saturday.

Selectman Dill: I understand they have a timeline.

Selectwoman McHugh: I think that's why they asked for it last week.

Matt Fisher: And there are emails going around back in June about meeting, so, here we are. We met in August...

Selectwoman McHugh: And they weren't available, and you weren't available and yep.

Matt Fisher: I get it.

Selectwoman McHugh: But EMS contracts are back in April.

Matt Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman: Or ambulances and stuff.

Matt Fisher: Sure. And we had, I believe we had discussed in that meeting, at the beginning, I had asked what the plans, what the fair had (inaudible, not facing the mic) ... I had heard had contracted with Great Brook EMS for ambulances and I believe, Mr. President, that you advised at the time, depending on price, you were looking at the town of Deerfield for EMS coverage. That was my understanding out of that meeting.

Someone in the audience speaking.

Matt Fisher: Understandable and this, obviously, the town does not have the staff to do all of this by ourselves so we always reach out to mutual partners for assistance.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Don, you'll have to come to the mic if you speak.

Don Wyman: I don't mind sitting next to Matt. To reiterate that, we always ask the town of Deerfield for their EMTs, and the fire and we always ask Nottingham, or the fire chief will ask Nottingham for fire and Candia for fire. We also ask Nottingham and Candia for EMT coverage. That's never changed so I don't solely say that we need Deerfield. We are the Deerfield fair so why wouldn't we. This isn't, in case you guys are trying to misconstrue anything, this is, isn't a war between us and the chief. This is something that we're trying to do to keep it safe and fair. That's all. Safe and fair. I think twenty-seven, twenty-six people like we had was much. I wanna go down, we're not cutting it back down to what our insurance company says but we're not putting it all the way up to what the chief is saying. So that's called a negotiation and that's how negotiations are done. So, he's saying ten, we're saying four to six when our insurance company says two, I think we kinda leaned more towards Matt when we said six.

Selectman Dill: What about the point that was part of your emergency operations plan.

Don Wyman: That was an emergency plan that was done by Mrs. Greig. She did that back in what, eighteen, nineteen. She started doing that. That's an emergency, an EMS, that was the very first year.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy, go ahead.

Selectwoman McHugh: Sorry Don, I just wanted to state that I was on that emergency plan board and the reason they were using those numbers is because that's what we had had in the past and it was a history. Not necessarily that was needed, or we could get by with it. It was just that she plugged those numbers in because that's what she'd seen in the past.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'm under the impression you're representing the nine directors that have sent you here.

Don Wyman: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: This is not something you...?

Don Wyman: No, I'm here with the direction of my directors, of the fair directors.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Correct.

Don Wyman: So, I have one director speaking with me. I have another one, another director that's a superintendent of first aid so she's also here. But I'm here directly for the fair. So, when we say that we had that emergency management plan that was done it was done at ten. Look at what we were paying back then. We could afford to do the ten. But then, when it goes up and your prices go up then you have to trim. Businessmen know that. You have to trim down. You trim down the amount of people. A precedent was set last year with raising the wage. Nobody, and I said it at the last meeting, nobody's gonna work for ten dollars, eleven dollars an hour get moved up to eighteen to twenty, twenty-six, twenty-seven and then go back down to ten just cause the Deerfield fair doesn't want to pay that. We're not disputing the amount of money being paid. We're disputing and trying to negotiate the amount of people. That's what we're trying to negotiate here.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Are we going to hear that list of what the fair does for the town?

Vice Chairman Pitman: the first thing it does is pay a hundred and fifty thousand in taxes.

Don Wyman: We are the second highest taxpayer in the town of Deerfield. This is a list that we come up with and not sure there's, there may be more I forgot, but the semiformal dance the eighth grade, we host that. The graduation for DCS, we host that. Tricky tray, we host that. Trunk or treat, we host that. Deerfield Police and haunted barn, we host that. Old Home Day fireworks. We give anywhere between two thousand and twenty-five hundred a year for those. Even the years that we didn't have a banner year we didn't cut that price. Town elections. Town Deliberative sessions. The 4-H barnagains, twice monthly they meet in our buildings. Scouts of America, twice monthly meetings and special events also being held there. Several charitable five k races are used on our whole grounds. The fairgrounds also stores fire apparatus in our fire building year-round. Provides water to the tanker trucks when we're doing just general testing and training. We roll the trucks in; we use our fire hydrants working off our pumps. Also, we are one of the highest, second highest taxpayer. So, with that you know some of these things like the Old Home Day has been going on since I can remember. The graduations and stuff like that, we took it over when the town or the school board deemed the school not be adequate for these functions. All of the buildings, they're used here. Probably four for the haunted, maybe two to four. Deliberative sessions, one of the bigger buildings that we have. Tricky tray is in one of the biggest buildings that we have. We charge fairly decent rate for those, and we don't charge the fair and we also, on a document, I could dig back into it, that is there's a mass issue with fire and barn or stable our barns are open to anybody that needs em. Your barn is destroyed by fire, and you have x number head of cattle or x number of horses our barns are open. We would never shut them down for that. In the wintertime we'd do something. Get power back on in there for you. We have never turned this town down. And like I said in the other meetings, when we purchased that land from the town it was upon what the town forefathers said, not the fair, so we took it and bought that land and it was because the selectboard and fair board, back in the day, were kinda same. They were, you know, they both wore two hats. We have two up here today that use two hats. But they wore two hats. They're agreement made on that piece of property was, you bought it for the price you bought it for, the town maintain the rights of all land on the fairgrounds for mineral rights for the town of Deerfield. So that was honored in exhaustion, the ledge. So now the town turned it over to the Deerfield fair as promised. But the other thing they did, or nobody really remembers is, or chooses to remember, excuse me, is, it was tax free. The Deerfield fair was not supposed to, in by-laws and written statement, were not supposed to pay a dime in taxes. The forefathers of the fair back then said we don't want anything for nothing. Nothings free in this world so we'll pay our fair share in taxes, so we've been paying our fair share in taxes and now prices are going up and up and up on things. We pay our fair share in building taxes. Our vendors pay on the buildings that they own the grounds. We own the grounds they own their buildings. They pay taxes. So, when I say we're the second highest taxpayer in the town of Deerfield I'm excluding every hard building that's a vendor in there. You, the town of Deerfield, gets review from every vendor that has a hard building that is not

moveable and when I say not moveable that means with ease because we do have a covenant at the fair, if you're not desirable, if you do things wrong, we can tell you to get your building out. So, everything is moveable but they are deemed as permanent, so they pay good taxes on that. I just had a discussion with one lady the other day. She pays very good taxes on a small building, probably more than we'd ever pay for a building on our property without griping about it. So, there's a lot of things that the fair does for the town over and above this list that we could go on with taxes on. So, I'm not questioning, again, the money, I'm questioning the amounts. So, it's like I'm putting my feet down solid and drawing a line in the sand and I want to negotiate this. I think it's too much. He may think it's too little. I want to negotiate this. He's a busy man. I'm a busy man. There's another person, a vice president who cannot speak here because he is wearing two hats. That's not fair to put him in that position. So, I do the speaking with the directors' approval. So, that's why this is I like this. But the day after the meeting that you and I had, the two of you, Matt, and Kim, I asked for a copy of this draft. The town administrator I asked, and he passed it on, but I didn't get it until today. It's not Matt's fault as far as I know. I don't know if Matt got that information and said, I'm not giving it to you until Monday. Don't know that. I won't throw stones that way. So that way there, I would have had it. Cause Matt's done his homework. I could have probably had a rough draft and I specifically said that a rough draft by Thursday so we could have gone over this as directors and spoken intelligently about this. We weren't given that opportunity. Similar to last year. Last year we got the last minute and like I said the document was not signed. We didn't complain. We didn't say, that's a bogus agreement we're not paying it. We paid it. We don't legally have to pay if we didn't sign the contract. But we did. Because you save face with every other town. It's not the town's fault that come in here work and not get paid because the contract wasn't signed.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you. Chief, how much time do you need? Not tonight, tomorrow night, Wednesday night?

Matt Fisher: I would say a few days. Hey Don, you mentioned twenty-seven, where did you get that number?

Don Wyman: Twenty-seven what?

Matt Fisher: When you were talking you mentioned twenty-seven people.

Don Wyman: That was from you. You said twenty-six or twenty-seven, is what we had.

Matt Fisher: Okay.

Don Wyman: I think that was (inaudible).

Matt Fisher: (Inaudible, side conversation on another mic)

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy, go ahead.

Selectwoman McHugh: I just want to ask Matt a question and I forgot what it was. Oh, if, what if, just say, what if the fair says no, we don't want to hire all your guys, what can happen? Are you gonna shut the fair down?

Matt Fisher: I think that's a far stretch. There would have to be some intervention between, the fair has to be safe and also the town has to be protected at the same time.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, negotiation.

Matt Fisher: Yep.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The fair has a meeting Thursday night, could you meet Wednesday night?

(Inaudible from the audience)

Selectman Dill: Wednesday.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Would you be able to meet Wednesday?

(Inaudible from the audience)

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Matt Fisher: I am not available.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Why not?

Matt Fisher: I am out of town next week, leaving tomorrow for a different job, so.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Selectman Dill: I was hoping we could get it done quicker.

Selectman Huebner: I suppose we could meet with the deputy and as Matt said he would have to review and approve the final decision of that. It seems like the only way out in terms of scheduling.

Selectman Dill: If he can get through that before he leaves.

Selectwoman McHugh: What we don't know is the deputy working nights?

Matt Fisher: Yeah, I'll have to check with their availability. I can't speak for them right now. Who's available when.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds to me like the fair is prepared to go with what they've got we just need to have a compromise here. Alden.

Selectman Dill: The other thing, we've got two issues going on here. One is immediately now and the other one is, we cannot lock the rate in for five years. I don't see how that would be fiscally responsible at all. That's the second half of this.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Don.

Don Wyman: That's called a contract. You do contracts all the time. We do contracts at the fair all the time. Give us a price for three years. Give us a price for five years. You want to build us a building you have that space for free for four years, three years, two years, the building is ours at that point in time. That's called a contract. You can do that so now I'm saying you can't. you don't want to, but you can.

Selectman Huebner: Well, that wasn't the basis of what we were contracting for. We were contracting for year by year. Now you're suggesting that we put it on a different basis, which we could do as a businessman I know that, but that's not the basis of this current draft is for. This is for this year...

Don Wyman: The reason we're doing that is to keep this price down. Keep it to a manageable level. So, if we lock it in for five years, Matt doesn't, Chief Fisher doesn't like five, he'll say hey, Deerfield fair you want to go three, we go three.

Selectman Huebner: Okay, but it might be three at an elevated price from what this contract says. If you... (inaudible, being interrupted) ...ask me to lock in for three years I'll have to take the risk of escalation for three years... (Inaudible, being interrupted).

Don Wyman: (inaudible, speaking over someone)

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Hey Don, I just want to throw something in here, I think that's said and I might be wrong, that the chief and the selectboard can come back together and renegotiate if need be.

Don Wyman: Correct.

(Inaudible, people talking over each other)

Selectwoman McHugh: It's not wrong, no.

Selectman Huebner: So, if we're not locked and we're going to negotiate every year the same as we've been doing.

Don Wyman: Read, please take time and think about what I said.

Selectman Huebner: Cindy's saying something different then what you're saying.

Don Wyman: No, she's not. Cindy is saying the exact same thing. We go for a five year and at the end of five years or in three years if he comes and says geez you know price of fuel is raised. Thank you. I'll read it again for you. The fair is a non-profit organization. We want to continue to provide the town with the current services that are used, that they are used to. We are asking an hourly rate, wage, excuse me, in place for officers and firefighters to be locked for a minimum, minimum of five years term. At this time, at that time, the chief, the selectboard, and the fair officers will meet to discuss updated terms before any changes will be made. So, if you came in in three years or the chief did and said, geez you know, really need to think about raising these. You think we'd not negotiate?

Selectman Dill: Well, if based on that contract you have it sounded like you wouldn't because you're locked in for five years.

Don Wyman (inaudible, talking at the same time as someone else) ...absolutely will.

Selectman Huebner: There's a lock but it's not a lock.

(Inaudible, people talking over each other)

Don Wyman: So, all right, sorry yeah, we'll put it three years and we'll lock it.

Selectman Huebner: Then it's locked.

Don Wyman: And it's locked. Which would you prefer?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy, go ahead.

Selectwoman McHugh: I also think that that's written, I mean correct me if I'm wrong because I just saw that tonight too, that it's written like that so the fair can also budget on what they need for fire coverage each year. I mean it was hard for us, it was, it was a catastrophe last year when we had thirteen thousand dollars to give to the fire department and we come up with a, whatever, thirty-thousand-dollar bill it was. So, we need to know what we need to budget for, for the following years.

Selectman Huebner: I totally agree with that. The town and the fair need to negotiate this early enough so that the fair can make its financial decisions about ticket sale prices and how to conduct itself in a way...

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's in December.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. That's when fairs do their budget.

Selectman Huebner: ...so, I think we all should agree that we're going to try to not be in this position again where we're right at the doorstep of the fair.

Selectman Dill: I was just going to say, they bid out their ambulance service every year, so you don't know what that is until you get those bids in.

Don Wyman: We budget for that.

Selectman dill: But still, you put it out to bid. You bid three different, three different. But I guess what I'm saying that is I fail to see the difference between bidding that out annually and having this contract annually. You can budget for both. What we had discussed was, rather than, I agree, last year was a huge jump from where it had been. It had been quite low for years and then it jumped. So, rather than dealing with a huge jump we were talking about having a small increase every year to stay on par rather than locking it in, it's going to have to have a huge jump but if you're already bidding for your other services every year, how is that different that doing this?

Don Wyman: (inaudible) ...in January.

Selectman Dill: But that's still bid out annually, correct?

Don Wyman: That is, but we our EMS is set up so that we know this is what we're going to spend, right?

Selectman Huebner: For that year.

Don Wyman: And we usually go high. If you pay less, you pay less, right? We shoot with a high because we know things are going to change. So, we went from, Matt, correct me if I'm wrong, twelve thousand, say twelve thousand five hundred as what we used to pay. From four up, four, six, eight, twelve. So, we're from twelve five we jumped up to thirty-three, no fire and EMS in twenty nineteen was the, last year...

Selectman Dill: Last year was thirty-one. It was thirty-one something.

Matt Fisher: Twenty-twenty was a good year.

Selectman Dill: It did go up in nineteen too.

Don Wyman: All right, so, just break it down, fifteen for fire, two thousand fifteen, eight thousand dollars, two thousand sixteen, eight thousand dollars, two thousand seventeen, eight thousand dollars, two thousand, excuse me, two thousand seventeen, eight thousand. Two thousand eighteen, eight thousand five hundred twenty-nine dollars ten cents. Two thousand nineteen, twelve thousand seven hundred forty-five twenty-two. Twenty-one, we had fifteen thousand two forty-seven fifty.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, that's climbing boy.

Selectman Dill: What was it again?

Don Wyman: Fifteen, excuse me, twenty-one is sixteen thousand two hundred forty-seven and also you increased the ambulance staff that was brought in, was brought up to seventeen thousand three hundred seventy-two. So, before when we were doing it ourselves it was eight and five, eight and five, eight and three. Then it went twelve and seven. So, you see we did increase the ambulance as we went along but then when the town took over setting up the ambulances and all that stuff it went up to seventeen thousand. So, we're going with that. That was our increases. It's not a gradual increase by any stretch of the imagination.

Selectman Dill: So, there was another thing we had asked you to check on, did you check with Hopkinton on their rates because we wanted to make sure we weren't way out of touch. It's going to take a while but it's going to take a while unfortunately.

Selectwoman McHugh: It's up to him.

Selectman Dill: No, no, no I meant the whole thing.

Selectwoman McHugh: (inaudible)

Don Wyman: Two thousand eighteen for Hopkinton fair, firefighters at twenty-seven fifty. EMT is twenty-seven seventy-five, (inaudible) ...it's thirty-eight twenty-five. Paramedics are forty-seven. Fire officers are fifty.

Selectman Dill: And then it's twenty-six, thirty, thirty-nine.

Don Wyman: You asked me a question and I'm going to answer it.

Selectman Dill: sorry, yep.

Don Wyman: Firefighter rate, like I said, so when I get a total breakdown of what it totally costs, because of the way they did it, they only gave that, but I also want to state that Hopkinton's fair is not a non-profit. They are for profit one hundred percent.

Selectman Dill: They're a 501c3 same as you.

Don Wyman: They're not.

Selectman Dill: I checked.

Don Wyman: Somebody's skimping on their paperwork.

Selectman Dill: They taxes to the town, they're as close as I can tell...

Don Wyman: Fire department charges to park all the cars. Fire department gets money from that as well. Hopkinton fair is nowhere near the size of Deerfield and it's, really kind of not a good fair to compare with us.

Selectman Dill: Okay. Their rates...

Don Wyman: I know, their rates are...

Selectman Dill: ...I just wanted to make sure we were in the ballpark.

Don Wyman: Well, where does Hopkinton fair stand with town of Hopkinton? Let me give you a little bit of background. 4-H has been basically kicked out of Hopkinton fair because there's another entity that charges to have little kids pet animals, so Hopkinton has kicked their people out. Fair kids, young kids. 4-H. Okay, every event put on at the Hopkinton fair, the demo derby, the race, the pulse, you pay. Once you get in the gate you pay another fifteen dollars per person to get into any one of their events. Everything they do derives, money. The Deerfield fair charges fifteen, twelve dollars to get in. We can cut our rates halfway up in the middle of the year, we cut our rates down. Why, to make it easier for people to bring their children to the fair. Why do we not want to raise our rates, because some people can't afford to bring five kids to the fair so when you start looking at Hopkinton fair, look at the money they, they pull in for revenue and extras during their fair that we do not. So, I don't want to pay the eighty dollars an hour. That is not an accurate number to apply to us.

Selectman Dill: Well, the high one was the sixty-five for the fire chief and fifty-five for an officer and I agree, I greatly prefer Deerfield fair. I'm not anti-fair. I spend a lot of time at a lot of fairs. I love Deerfield fair. It's my favorite fair that we go to, but I just wanted to make sure that we were in the same ballpark...

Don Wyman: We're not.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Let's work on the...

Selectman Dill: ...rate wise. We're charging twenty-six an hour, correct, for everybody.

Don Wyman: You cannot compare the...

Selectman Dill: No.

Don Wyman: ...to Hopkinton fair to Deerfield on their rates. It is not adequate.

Selectman Dill: We're actually charging way less.

Don Wyman: Yep, you're a, never mind.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, that's enough Don.

Don Wyman: I'll close my mouth.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: I just wanted to state too, Fryeburg fair that, that's, if not bigger than us, they have more campers then we do, um, they staff one fire, uh forestry at one gate with two to four people and another gate they have a tank or an engine with four to six people and that's all coverage that they have on that fairgrounds and they stay there until Ferris wheel shuts down. As far as their EMS people, they're volunteers or they work from town, the guys that are being hired to stay at the station from the town, they, they will work. But that's all-coverage Fryeburg has and they're bigger than we are. I just wanted to state that.

Selectman Dill: So, when is everybody back since we need another meeting (inaudible, someone talking over)?

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, Matt, I've got a question for you.

Matt Fisher: Yep.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Would you have a problem, I've never seen the fair do so much homework on this, trying what they are proposing for a year?

Matt Fisher: Yeah, without reviewing it, yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You might have to fine-tune it. We've got to wrap this up. It seems to me like they've done their homework.

Matt Fisher: Okay. On the face of it, I disagree with those numbers.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Can we remove the EMS, all EMS aspects out of that book? And, we have to keep in mind that if you hire somebody from out of town, the fair needs to pay that town, not Deerfield.

Matt Fisher: That is correct.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right, so, that's, that's putting a lot more work on the fair having to pay people that you're hiring from out of town.

Matt Fisher: Okay...

Selectwoman McHugh: Keep that in mind.

Matt Fisher: ...If the fair wants to manage the EMS completely without hiring anybody from Deerfield that is the fair's prerogative.

Selectwoman McHugh: Without hiring EMS people from Deerfield?

Matt Fisher: They won't be paid by, you, if the fair gives a direction of which way, they want to go we can certainly decide that. If the fair wants to hire private EMS, they can hire private EMS.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, you're saying Deerfield EMS people cannot work the fair if that's the way they go?

Matt Fisher: If Deerfield fire rescue, the town of Deerfield's not contracted with the fair to provide fire and EMS coverage, that the Deerfield members working for the fair would be working privately for the fair if they're not contracted through the town.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

Matt Fisher: Right? If there's not a contract between Deerfield and the fair for fire and EMS...

Selectwoman McHugh: I'm not saying no contract, I'm just saying that if you take out the EMS, to make your numbers look better first of all because Deb's already got her numbers for EMS, is what I'm saying. You've got EMS people in there, right, in your contract? I just say it so...

Matt Fisher: In the draft yes. To determine what it's scheduled so...

Selectwoman McHugh: I'm just saying if we take out your EMS people, to make the numbers jive. I'm not saying she can't send it, um, like we used to do. It's not any different that it was before.

Matt Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: I mean, if you want to sign her, if we have, if you have EMS people from Deerfield working there and you want to sign that timesheet that Deb gets and she can give it to you, you can sign it and give it to Pete. I'm just saying to make the fire side look better, take the EMS people out of there, because you guys are doing the same thing and it's doubled. No? Yes?

Matt Fisher: (inaudible, multiple people talking)

Vice Chairman Pitman: How does that sound to you, Don?

Selectwoman McHugh: Huh?

Matt Fisher: I'm trying to follow...

Selectwoman McHugh: Because if you've got this many Deerfield EMS people working. Deb's got people scheduled from Deerfield to work and now you've got it in yours, but she's got it in her contract too.

Matt Fisher: So, I guess, my understanding is for, from what I heard from Primex, right, if they're an employee of the town of Deerfield, a member of Deerfield fire rescue they need to be paid through the town, which would be through Deerfield fire rescue a contract from the town to the fair, right?

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. Yeah.

Matt Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, I'm just saying.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Hey, you're not scheduled.

Selectman Dill: I'm not following this.

Selectwoman McHugh: I'd hate to play poker with Alden.

Selectwoman McHugh: I'm just saying, if Matt takes the EMS out of his contract...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right,

Selectwoman McHugh: ...it'll show us that this is for firefighters. I'm not saying, we might have to go, you might have to do two contracts, one for EMS and one for firefighters but it's still going to be paid through the town for Deerfield people.

Selectman Dill: Actually, I think they run everything through the town just like they do the PD, now.

Selectwoman McHugh: No. No, they don't run everything.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No.

Selectman Dill: I thought we were.

Selectwoman McHugh: No. The PD is not paid, only Deerfield PD is paid, other PDs that work at the fair are not paid through Deerfield.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The fair pays them.

Selectwoman McHugh: The fair does.

Matt Fisher: Who submits the bill to the fair for the other police departments?

Selectwoman McHugh: Pardon?

Matt Fisher: Who submitted the bill to the fair for the police department details?

Selectman Dill: We get the exact opposite.

Selectwoman McHugh: Gary.

Matt Fisher: Gary submitted the bill for all the officers?

Selectwoman McHugh: Are you kidding, Pete would go crazy with all those other details that are there. He doesn't pay, like, Rockingham County or...

Matt Fisher: When the police department sends the bill to the town, sorry, the police department send the bill to the fair...

Selectwoman McHugh: Yep.

Matt Fisher: for the police officers...

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Matt Fisher: Is that for all the police officers and then paid out from the fair for Candia, Northwood...

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Matt Fisher: So, not each individual town doesn't, like, Northwood doesn't bill the fair for the Northwood officers, they just get the bill the police department for the police coverage we have...

Vice Chairman Pitman: We have a name and a w-9 or whatever it is.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Selectman Dill: Which is the same way you were doing the EMS I thought.

Matt Fisher: Which is how this is written, yes, for fire and EMS is written that way.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, that, his bill came into here, come into the town...

Selectman Huebner: The bill is broken out, I thought.

Selectwoman McHugh: ...and then we paid the towns, the town paid the towns.

Matt Fisher: Correct. That's not how this is.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: All right, lets wrap this up. Donny did you have anything else to close.

Don Wyman: I just want to close this with, there's been a hundred and forty-five years we've been running. It's the first time we've ever had to come in and deliberate against the town of Deerfield. It's a sad state. A hundred and forty-five years. So, anybody that isn't up to date or know enough about history of the fair should really educate yourselves on what the town and the fair do for one another. Not what the town does to the fair, not what the fair does to the town. The two entities have worked cohesively a hundred and forty-five years. That's gotta be looked at. That's gotta be taken into consideration so to shut down your doors and just not want to hear, is wrong. It's a hundred and forty-five years just. I keep saying it, let it sink in.

Selectwoman McHugh: Thank you Don.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you. Will, close it up.

Selectman Huebner: Oaky, so, first of all, I think I speak for all four of us when I say, we're, we are fair proponents. If anybody's trying to say that we're trying to shut down the fair that's not accurate.

Vice Chairman Pitman: They don't want to live in Deerfield.

Selectman Huebner: Secondly, we are also not trying to pressure somebody who has the important decision about what the minimum safety requirements for the fair for fire by public opinion or even our selectboard opinion. Matt Fisher is the fir chief of the town of Deerfield, and he has the sole authority to decide what is the minimum safety for that. I think, so that, there's a sense in which I disagree with Mr. Wyman who says we should negotiate that we, we're not negotiating Matt's decision, what we're trying to do is give Matt suggestions about other fairs, other possibilities, so that Matt can make the proper decision of what's safe for that fair in terms of fire coverage. He's the, he's the expert, in my opinion on Deerfield fire coverage. That's what we depend on him to do and what we pay him for. So, let's just remember that Matt has the final decision on this with numbers of people, which what Don is asking, he says he's not disputing the rates, he's just disputing the numbers of people for the proper coverage.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And that's why I asked Matt if he was good with what the fair proposed.

Selectman Huebner: Right, and he needs time to look at that because there was a lot of numbers that he spit out there. So, I don't want to pressure him and say, make a decision tonight Matt whether you agree with it or not. I think

we have to give him, for safety's sake, the time review that now, time is of the essence, we have put ourselves in a bad spot with the delay on this. So, I agree with what you're doing, Mr. Chairman, to speed up the process and make it expedient. It's unfortunate that there is an out-of-pocket time here. I suggest we use the deputy chief, and that the deputy then review what's discussed with the chief.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't think we've got a whole lot left to discuss, excuse me. Do we chief?

Matt Fisher: Yeah, no, I think we need to...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Review.

Matt Fisher: ...to meet and if I'm not around I'll see if John or Chris are so, yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay. Is the fair all set?

Selectman Dill: So, how soon can we do that, is the question because the...?

Matt Fisher: I'll ask them. I'll check with them.

Selectman Dill: I know you said you're out of town through next week.

Matt Fisher: Yep.

Selectman Dill: I mean I, I'm out, I'm here till Wednesday and then we're at fairs through all weekend.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy, go ahead.

Selectwoman McHugh: Are you on vacation Matt or are you working?

Matt Fisher: I am leaving tomorrow, be back Thursday night and then...

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't care if you're gonna be back, I mean, are you working or is this pleasure.

Mat Fisher: All work.

Selectwoman McHugh: Could we Zoom?

Matt Fisher: Possible.

Selectwoman McHugh: Could we Zoom with Matt?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I mean we've got it pretty well ironed out here. Just a matter of quantity.

Selectman Huebner: I think Zooming would be a good solution.

Selectman Dill: If it works, yeah. If, I'd like to, if we can nail this down this week. We got to give them time to get the fair going because we're, September's breathing down our necks here. It's the twenty-ninth. Yeah, that's breathing down our necks, so I understand there's a time crunch. We got to get it done.

Matt Fisher: How often is the fair board of directors meeting, every week?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yep. Every week.

(Inaudible, someone from audience talking.)

Matt Fisher: Yep.

Selectman Dill: So, if we can do it Wednesday and you can do it Thursday then we can theoretically have this done this week. Right? If Matt can Zoom in.

Matt Fisher: You'd have a better chance next week.

Selectman Dill: Next week, okay.

(Inaudible, someone from audience talking)

Selectman Dill: So, you think you can Zoom in next week Matt?

Matt Fisher: There'd be better chances, I guess.

Selectman Dill: Next week being an abbreviated week because of Labor Day of course. All right.

Selectman Huebner: So, we meet on Tuesday, right?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Try Tuesday. Check with John and Chris.

Matt Fisher: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Do we have a regularly scheduled meeting for Tuesday.

Selectman Huebner: Mmhm.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you Matt.

Matt Fisher: Yep.

Selectman Dill: Tuesday.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Day after Labor Day.

Matt Fisher: Yeah, well, let me check with schedules and we can go from there.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: Or we could even, we could probably have a special meeting on Wednesday of next week too that way we get them before the fair board meeting, if Tuesday doesn't work, I'm just...

Matt Fisher: Yep.

Selectman Dill: ...I want to make sure we have a backup plan here in case schedules don't work and we're not pushed back another week and a half. So, we have time to schedule a special meeting, if need be, we just have to post it by when, John? If we were to have a special meeting Wednesday just for this?

John Harrington: Twenty-four hours.

Selectman Dill: Twenty-four hours. So, we'd have to post that by Tuesday.

John Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Dill: Okay. Let's try to do that ahead of time just so, I mean, I'd be willing to come in next Wednesday if we need to and have a special meeting just for this to get that and before their meeting.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We should be able to do it Tuesday. Everybody all set? All right, we're going to go into non-public RSA 91-A: II c.

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh makes the motion for a non-public RSA 91-A: II c Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Second: Selectman Dill seconds the motion with the caveat this is not discussing what we were just, been discussing, just because we went in quick, and I don't feel like we've properly finished that off.

Discussion:

Roll Call:

Vice Chairman Pitman: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Richard, yes.

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you everybody for coming tonight from the fair.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I reckon nothing was decided in the non-public, can I get a motion.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to seal the minutes.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vice Chairman Pitman: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Richard, yes.

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

John Harrington: Can I make a request to; can I make a request to handle the two personal action requests that involve parks and rec since the director is here? This will enable him to...

Selectman Dill: I think they're on top of your folder there.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay, we'll need a motion for, is it Cassie Eddington, is that how you say it John?

Vice Chairman Pitman: For twenty hours a week at twelve fifty and hour for parks and rec.

Eric Menard: Yes. I'm Eric Medard, director of parks and rec and it's Cassidy Eddington.

Selectman Dill: This is for the afterschool program I assume.

Eric Menard: Correct.

Motion: Selectman Dill to have the chairman sign.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: The second one is Madison Brown, afterschool staff parks and recreation. Twelve fifty an hour for twenty hours.

Eric Menard: That's correct.

Motion: Selectman Dill
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:

Selectman Dill: I remember when they were in afterschool. Makes me feel a little old.

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

Selectwoman McHugh: How many staff do you have currently.

Eric Menard: So, as of right now we had to limit memberships due to staffing, as of right now there is one adult staff that's five days a week, one adult staff that's two days a week, myself and Deb who are stepping in and then we have two high school staff but they don't get there until three thirty, three forty-five because of the drive from Concord.

Selectman Dill: So, you definitely need more.

Eric Menard: Yes.

Selectman Dill: Will this help you alleviate a little bit of the or these the two that you're already counting?

Eric Menard: No, these two would be additional.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Eric Menard: Cause as of right now Deb and I are into the program just to alleviate some flexibility for us and some other priorities that we have.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, because school started today.

Eric Menard: Yep.

Selectman Dill: And I know you had to limit participation in the afterschool program because of that.

Eric Menard: Yep. So...

Selectman Dill: Okay. They are all set; they're approved from us so...

Eric Menard: Perfect. Just one other question. We've had some programs in the past like toddler-based events and parent night out. I know during Covid because of restrictions in the building those events stopped. So, I'd like to get permission from the board to open up opportunities to offer programming to different populations in our community.

Selectman Dill: Is that I thought we had reopened everything.

Selectwoman McHugh: Do we need a motion for that or just?

Eric Menard: I was just not sure because with the transition from the previous director to now, I just wanted to get your approval to be able to open different programs and events.

Selectman Huebner: I don't think we need to make a motion because I don't think we made a motion to stop, did we? We just...

Selectman Dill: I think we're; I think we were under the assumption we were doing those again.

Eric Menard: Okay.

John Harrington: I think what Eric's discussing is when Covid became the issue that it did it naturally restricted the programs and now that things have, we're at a different stage of this I think it's now time recognize we need to bring some of those back.

Eric Menard: yeah, and just with the transition again, me taking this role starting in July now just wanna make sure we're all set to go on that front.

Selectman Huebner: Well, but we are still in this in this pandemic, and we do need to be sensible about social distancing when we can. So, we're not suggesting no measures but measures appropriate to the level of pandemic that we're in now.

John Harrington: Parks and rec still follows the current guidelines.

Selectman Huebner: Right.

Selectman Dill: Yea.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Eric Menard: And your programs would never exceed capacity for numbers. We'd make sure that all that stuff's taken into consideration.

Selectman Dill: I heard good things about Old Home Day so that's a good way to start.

Eric Menard: Yeah, because I started last year the day before Old Home Day. I did a half day and then my first field day was Old Home Day so. It sounds like the community appreciated it.

Selectman Dill: Yeah. Good job.

Eric Menard: Tons of help from current commission members, past commission members, family members so I think it turned out to be a great event.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you very much.

Eric Menard: Thank you.

Selectman Dill: Have a great day.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Appreciate you coming in.

Eric Menard: Thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Review of outstanding minutes from August fifteenth and public hearing on the fifteenth, second set, and eight twenty-two.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion as written, all three.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you John.

Selectman Huebner: One quick comment is, it seems kind of wasteful of paper to me to be printing all of this paper up.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right, it's twenty-two pages.

Selectman Huebner: Can we review this electronically before the meeting to our own satisfaction and not have to print them in our folders just to save a lot of paper.

John Harrington: I can certainly do, this has always been the standard, if, I'm fine with changing it. It's really been the request of the board but if they're...

Selectman Dill: I got em in an email the other day. I don't know about Dick and Cindy.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah...

Selectwoman McHugh: It might have been the day after Alden got em but we got em.

Selectman Dill: That was just, that was a novel.

John Harrington: (Inaudible, a few people talking at once) ...wanted to send them out to you as soon as possible that I get them in my hands from the transcriptionist. if you want just one set here and bring in any notes that you'd like to make changes to, which page and line and a notation then I can stop making all these copies.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Beautiful. Thank you, John. Good idea Will. Accounts payable manifest of twelve two hundred and fifteen dollars and four cents.

Motion: Selectman Dill
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: We have a payroll manifest of four thousand six hundred and seventy dollars and seventy-four cents and a net payroll of three thousand one O nine dot thirteen.

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh
Second: Selectman Dill
Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: Next, a personal action request for government buildings of twenty-nine hours, twenty-four forty-six an hour.

Selectman Huebner: What is this?

Selectman Dill: Is that for...?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Ray Ellis. Facility Supervisor. taking it up to twenty-seven forty-six per hour.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, That's after the salary adjustment.

Vice Chairman Pitman: After the Highway.

Selectwoman McHugh: Didn't we finish that?

John Harrington: There's a notation at the bottom of the personal action request that this will only become effective once he steps down from being interim road agent.

Selectman Dill: Oh, okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Did we make a decision on that.

Selectman Dill: No, that, this is the decision.

Motion: Selectman Dill
Selectwoman McHugh: I'd like to look at his duties.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can put it off a week.

Selectwoman McHugh: He's being asked to do more than he was hired to do.

Selectman Huebner: But we have an open motion, do we have a second?

Selectman Dill: We can, without a second I can withdraw the motion. that's fine. I just thought we had to keep moving.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Motion: Selectman Huebner makes a motion to table the item for further investigation.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't know what the board the wants to do but I'd like to put the part-time employee policy off for another week. Everybody reviewed it?

Selectman Dill: I have. I can vote on it, but it doesn't mean everybody else will.

Selectwoman McHugh: Policy, vacation.

Selectman Huebner: It kind of goes together with the other part-time action.

John Harrington: Is there a motion and a second to table.

Selectwoman McHugh: Oh, is what this is here?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: There's been nothing yet.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'm just going through the signatures.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, lets table it, i say.

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: And we have a board of adjustment member. there's an alternate. James McDonald with a term until April thirtieth two thousand twenty-five.

Selectwoman McHugh: Board of adjustment?

Vice Chairman Pitman: ZBA.

Selectman Dill: Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vice Chairman Pitman: You have a question Will?

Selectman Huebner: I was a the last ZBA meeting, and they had to appoint two alternates just to fill the board and then they had another alternate in the audience who hadn't been the required three meetings minimum which also wants to join.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I believe we'll hear from her within a month because she needs to do two more meetings.

Selectman Huebner: That's right. So, is this one that we're doing, James, right?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Selectman Huebner: Is this one of the ones that was and alternate that got appointed by the board chairman in the ZBA last session.

Vice Chairman Pitman: yes.

Selectman Huebner: Yes, okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And then we have to sign it. So they've done their homework.

Selectman Huebner: So, this is just, they've already appointed him essentially and we're just doing the oath of office authorization.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right, until April thirtieth two thousand twenty-five.

Selectman Dill: I mean, technically we could say no.

Selectmen Huebner: Yeah, right. We could say there's some reason we know that we wouldn't do that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The other one that was there, and we can do it both, is Spencer Tate.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion for both

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Selectman Dill: And if I had made a previous motion, I would withdraw that and change it to both.

Selectwoman McHugh: And this fills the seats now?

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, I think so. I think they have five or six.

Selectman Dill: Now they still need one, Erroll?

Selectman Huebner: So, we're waiting on that third one, I guess. That's actually good in my opinion, that we're seeing some younger blood coming into that board, perhaps.

Selectman Dill: Definitely have some old folks. Solar?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yup, I'm looking (inaudible)... We have a solar tax cut of fifteen thousand six hundred. Joseph Doucet. Twelve Woodcrest Drive.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion that we accept the solar exemption

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Selectman Dill: Technically again I think technically we could refuse but it's, we'd have to come up with a reason and it was, the assessor says it qualifies we'd have to have a darn good reason, is my opinion.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We don't need a motion for this. We have an intent to cut. Map four eighteen lot three. Mountain Road. Quarter acre lot. Rosco Blaisdell.

Selectwoman McHugh: Where is that?

Selectman Dill: Mountain Road. That's forty-three, no wait...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Mountain Road.

Selectman Dill: Mountain Road. A quarter acre lot?

John Harrington: It's a very small triangular lot that is south of the power lines.

Selectwoman McHugh: South of the power of the lines? It's where he's been?

John Harrington: Yeah. He was north of the power lines...

Venice Chairman Pitman: (Inaudible)

Selectman Huebner: Three trees.

Selectman Dill: Maybe six.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The last one is a summary inventory evaluation which is the MS-1 for the town. Need a motion.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: You want to go next John before the correspondence?

John Harrington: I have nothing to report this evening.

Selectman Dill: Wow. oh, wait, I didn't sign that. I just passed it through you.

Selectman Huebner: Did we need to report on the interim road agent in public or no?

Selectman Dill: We had a public meeting the other day.

John Harrington: We had a public.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We have some good news. I'll have Cindy read it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Dear Board of Selectman, this is a letter to inquire about losing the space in the George B. White Building that was formerly occupied by Yanni's Pizza, Pizzeria. My intended purpose for this space would be to continue it. It's functional as a family restaurant serving a variety of foods ranging from Italian dishes to gourmet pizza. My experience in the food industry dates back well over twenty-five years. My position as a restaurant manager is a very successful establishment for over fifteen years. With this experience I am hoping to bring high quality food and service to our town of Deerfield, my family and I have lived in town for a little over ten years. We have developed wonderful relationships with people throughout our community and I believe I can fill some of the gaps our town has in this industry. Specifically, I would like to offer a food delivery service. I know the staffing issues in the town's geographic size has made this a challenge for other establishments but I do feel it's an important service to offer. From my relationship with several distributors working from a proven recipes I am confident the quality of food would be high and offer a greater variety. I appreciate that there are several steps in this process if you could consider my request, I would be happy to provide further supporting documentation to show my financial stability, letters of recommendation and any other proofs you may need. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Sincerely, Charles Hill.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you Cindy.

Selectman Huebner: I think they are just asking us to confirm that we're interested in possibly pursuing that and...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

Selectman Huebner: ...and take the next step.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think somebody need to make a motion that we're in favor.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion for John to start the negotiation process on this possible lease.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That we're unanimous so when we vote it'll say we're in favor of it.

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Selectman Dill: I do think we ought to look into the bathroom situation on that as well.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, there will be a lot of things.

Selectman Huebner: Right. There are a lot of things to make sure they're right this time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Electric meter and everything.

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Selectman Huebner: Well, I don't know about a meter but a proper assessment of electrical usage.

Selectman Dill: A meter.

Selectman Huebner: Well, a meter is kind of expensive as I understand it...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Any other business?

Selectman Huebner: ...the wiring has to be changed.

Selectwoman McHugh: Have we received any more applications for road agent?

John Harrington: Just the two that I mentioned the other night.

Selectman Dill: And I assume nothing for the labor?

Selectwoman McHugh: Have we put that one out there yet, the labor is out there?

John Harrington: It just got up today.

Selectman Dill: Okay. We're still online for paving?

John Harrington: Starting September thirtieth they'll be, I've drafted a public notice that Pike is reviewing to make sure the dates are what they understand, and he sends that back to me then I can verify what's in the public notice. I'll be posting that online and as many places as I can get it.

Selectman Dill: Probably outta let the roadside mowing guy know where we're paving so that they can start on the other side of town and not interfere with each other.

John Harrington: And we'll also be sending...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Get it done first.

Selectman Dill: Well, yeah.

John Harrington: ...a public notice to the fair association so they can alert their vendors who may be traveling on South Road at that time to get to the fair.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you John.

Selectman Dill: And we still need the state to cut their roadway back.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Anything else to include? Citizens comments, Mr. Rhodes. What did you bring your super with ya?

Erroll Rhodes: (inaudible, not at the mic yet) ...you may need a bigger deacon's bench in the back. Erroll Rhodes, Church Street. I was, you know, working on the heritage and I don't speak for the heritage commission when I say this but working on the heritage commission, one of the things that we've been struggling with for a while is the water at the town hall which I'm told is not potable and I guess there was a recent incident at the town hall where there was a leak coming out of the old, out of the old well which I guess is a dug well underneath the pavement someplace in front of the town hall. Am I wrong about that?

John Harrington: Yes.

Erroll Rhodes: Okay.

John Harrington: Unfortunately, though the leak was from the water line coming from the highway department which is where the town hall gets its water currently.

Erroll Rhodes: Okay and, but I guess somebody mentioned the other day that the well, the conduit from the well, was also capped off at some point.

John Harrington: There are older pipes coming through the foundation that the plumber discovered...

Erroll Rhodes: Right.

John Harrington: ...which he can only assume may have gone to an earlier well.

Erroll Rhodes: Gotcha. Okay, it wasn't clearly stated to me that way so, in any event am I mistaken in thinking the town hall is a, from a health and state...

Selectman Dill: It is a sheltered shelter but it's down the list, but it is on the list.

Erroll Rhodes: It's on the list so it's one of the shelter places. I'm thinking, and I mentioned this to town administrator the other day, that it would be awfully helpful, not only for those purposes but also the purposes of making that a town asset more utile. if we could put aside some, a modest amount of ARPA funds to give it a well so that the water would be potable and we could advertise that place when our other efforts to insulate it, you know, less costly to the town. We could actually offer real potable water. If we're going to rent it out for seven, eight hundred bucks a day, which I think is the number Mr. Ellis had come up before covid, we should be giving potable water to people who are going to pay that kind of money. I don't know, how much did it cost the town to put in a well at the transfer station?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Seven thousand.

Erroll Rhodes: Seven thousand. So, you know, it's a modest amount of money. I think it would bear dividends and have a secondary, if we're down on the list of shelters, secondary benefit to the town as well. As well as a primary benefit if we rent that place out.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Erroll Rhodes: Thank you.

Selectman Dill: Thank you.

Selectwoman McHugh: Thanks.

Selectman Dill: I don't see any other citizen comments.

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh motions to adjourn at seven fifty.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: September 6, 2022, at 5:30 pm

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Randi Long, Recording Secretary
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*