

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 19, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman McGarry: All right. We're continuing with the twenty twenty-three budget review. First item would be the Planning Board budget and the...

Selectman Huebner: John I think they need to agree to allow me to participate in the meeting via Zoom.

John Harrington: Yes, you do.

Chairman McGarry: Will the...

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to allow Selectman Huebner to join in the meeting tonight and vote via Zoom.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right. So, we're onto the Planning Board budget and what I'm showing here is forty-three thousand and five dollars (\$43,005.00).

John Harrington: That's correct.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Shows a five percent decrease for twenty twenty-three over the previous budget.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to the approve the Planning Boar budget.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, next item is the Board of Adjustment, the Zoning Board. They are showing a proposed budget of four thousand four hundred and forty-six dollars (\$4,446.00) which represents a twenty-eight-point two percent increase all of which is in the part-time employee line.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to the ZBA budget.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

John Harrington: I spoke with the chair, he wanted me to represent, to present the board. to the budget as is.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: Government buildings, page twenty. Proposed budget of a hundred and twenty-six thousand five hundred and thirty-six dollars (\$126,536.00) which represents a twenty-five-point five eight percent increase. One of the major items is the milage and increase in the contract line, propane line, service calls line, and a decrease in the rubbish collection line and then an increase in safety compliance. Ray?

Ray Ellis: Basically, the only thing that I um, we had to add to was beyond our control was as far as when we're dealing with um, contractors and suppliers, um, everything has gone up, as you know, this year. So, as far as, like, electricity and propane and heating oil, things of that nature has gone up. Other than that, I pretty much kept things as it was.

Selectman Dill: What's the contracted service line, Ray?

Ray Ellis: Service line.

Selectman Dill: The three nine nine. Under Mowing

Ray Ellis: Under what?

Selectman Dill: The one below mowing.

John Harrington: If you look in your back up, you'll see the breakout of what that line is. First page, Alden.

Selectman Dill: Off the top of your head do you know but the increase there was, Ray?

Ray Ellis: On the maintenance lines?

Selectman Dill: Yeah. On the contract line.

Ray Ellis: On the contract line. Basically, the service calls on contract lines wasn't on there before. I'm trying to add that because it is part of the budget. It comes out of it. (Inaudible, little glitch on the recording).

Selectman Dill: Have we made a motion on this one?

Chairman McGarry: No. Not yet.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to approve hundred and twenty-six thousand five hundred and thirty-six dollars and zero cents.

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Selectman Huebner: I have a question. I think it might be on the next item, but I know in the default budget we've had, something in the order of thirty-five thousand, thirty-four thousand dollars for repairs to the George B. White building and that has stayed in the default budgets, you know, year after year after we've had default budgets. So, my questions is, is that in this budget or that in the next one, the George B. White building.

John Harrington: That's in George B. White, we're in government buildings.

Selectman Huebner: So, it's a similar situation that we had in the year we actually had the budget passed that we had a certain amount in for government building repairs and that's stayed on as a default for many years in a row, is that the case?

Selectman Dill: Mm hm.

Selectman Huebner: And so, if that's the case are the amounts that are in there for the different building repairs appropriate at this year, you know, they were probably set six, seven, or eight years ago?

Ray Ellis: Well, the one on government buildings are basically are, RB Lewis Fire Control and they do George B. White, central, south fire station, town hall, town shed, garage, library, pump houses added, fire extinguisher annual inspections and the cleaning lady is also on that one line.

John Harrington: Uh, Ray, he's talking about maintenance and repair.

Ray Ellis: Under government building?

John Harrington: Yes. You were doing contracts.

Ray Ellis: Contracts, well he asked me (inaudible).

Selectman Dill: Four thirty.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: So, if you look at what buildings we've budgeted to do repairs on, it's been the same default for, I don't know how many years, seven years or something.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, but we're asking for nineteen five this year which is what we asked for...

Ray Ellis: Yeah, that's what it was last year.

Selectman Huebner: Right, but then it's been nineteen five forever right, because of the default so, have we looked at the buildings now and said, yeah, we have the right amounts for the right buildings allocated? I know, I guess this is a bottom-line budget town that we can just move it around if we need to, I suppose.

John Harrington: This particular budget, Will, covers all of the government buildings. The only building that has any maintenance funding of substance is George B. White. Other than that, every other public building comes out of this budget if there is a repair or maintenance needed.

Selectman Huebner: Right. Okay. I'm just asking if it's appropriate based on the fact that it was set so many years ago for the needs at that time.

John Harrington: It's hard to tell. It depends year to year what we have for repairs.

Selectman Huebner: Right.

John Harrington: There's no way to forecast that.

Ray Ellis: It does mostly the filters in the maintenance systems as far as cleaning for most of our furnaces and what not, library as well, all of them.

Selectman Huebner: Okay, so it's different every year for what needs to be done at different buildings but at least we have nineteen thousand dollars in there as kind of a standby amount that we estimate per year.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Ray Ellis: Correct. We have never really needed more than that, yet. So, hopefully it doesn't go over.

Selectman Huebner: Okay, I have no further questions.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: The, um, go back to the contract, if we could. Three ninety-nine. Mine that, that includes the George B. White building in here.

Ray Ellis: Yep. Everything on here as far as contracting.

Selectwoman McHugh: Why isn't that contract under the George B. White building maintenance.

John Harrington: Are you talking maintenance or are you talking contract?

Selectwoman McHugh: Contract.

John Harrington: Contract is for...

Ray Ellis: So, under the mowing contract the next one is, is government buildings contract. You're talking about that one, correct?

Selectwoman McHugh: Mmmhmm.

Ray Ellis: Yeah, RB Lewis fire control is basically, rather than break up each and every individual one I put it on this one line because I was paying out of that line under contracts.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Makes sense.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, we don't have a contracts line on the GBW subsection.

Selectwoman McHugh: But GBW has its own budget.

Selectman Dill: Yes, but if you flip to it there's no contract line under there.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. Sorry, I was just wondering.

Selectman Dill: I've got a question too, Fred, if you don't mind.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, Alden.

Selectman Dill: When we were there for the election, I noticed the windows. We really got to do something about the windows this year. Would that come out of repairs, or would that be a separate warrant article?

Ray Ellis: Basically, when I got estimates to repair the windows, we had gotten three estimates, and they were all over my maintenance line. I mean, you have a seven-thousand-dollar maintenance line, and the windows are around fifteen thousand to repair so I haven't been able to figure out how to pay for them yet.

Selectman Dill: Okay. I just, we opened one and when I went to close it, it, the whole window is just floating, I mean, there's something...

Ray Ellis: (inaudible, some else talking) ...so they moved back and forth and most of the ropes that went up for the counterweights to help the assist to the lifting it, because they're a nine-foot window...

Selectman Dill: They're huge.

Ray Ellis: ...they're old glass and what happens is, why a couple of them were broken, people tried to open them before, found out they're too heavy, drop them and they crack and break, um, so.

Selectman Dill: Could you, I just don't want to put that off much longer. I think we probably ought to do that as a warrant article then.

Chairman McGarry: Probably, yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: Could we pick a couple windows and do the work. Prioritize the windows and do a few this year and maybe a few next year?

Ray Ellis: I can try to get you prices for doing a few at a time. This is a contract to do the whole building and get it done, but.

Selectwoman McHugh: I know, but if we're not gonna...

Ray Ellis: Right.

Selectman Dill: I just don't want to let it sit.

Ray Ellis: (inaudible, someone else talking) ...spend, like, ten thousand dollars in painting and it eats up my budget every when we only have seven thousand in it for maintenance. So, I have to try to pick and choose what we can do with that seven thousand because we've been under a default budget.

Selectwoman McHugh: That window he was playing with is going to kill someone.

Selectman Dill: It really scared me when I closed because the whole thing was just swinging. All right, well, I guess if you could get us a warrant article on that I'd definitely support a warrant article. I just, I want to make sure we're making progress on that.

Ray Ellis: Yep.

Selectwoman McHugh: In the meantime, could we get a sign on there that says, don't touch?

Selectman Dill: Do not open.

Ray Ellis: Yep.

Selectman Dill: We definitely needed ventilation during the election but it was...

Ray Ellis: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: Right, yeah, we need to fix those windows.

Chairman McGarry: Ready for the vote? Okay. We have a motion and a second to approve the general government buildings budget line of one twenty-six five thirty-six. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, next is the GB White building

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded to approve the budget of a hundred and eleven thousand and eighteen dollars. That's an increase of twenty-point one three percent. Major increases are for water testing and for heating oil. Ray, do you want to mention anything about...

Discussion:

Ray Ellis: Yeah. I was looking forward to maybe doing some work on the parking lot this year and I went and got an estimate from Manchester Paving to see what it would do to help us out as far as sealing the parking lot and getting all the lines painted and everything and we also have a problem with the sidewalk down by parks and rec. The cement sidewalks cracked and dropped and people have been tripping over it and I got a quote from him for thirteen thousand five hundred and that's what I was planning on doing with some of the maintenance money for the George B. White for next year. So, that's why I didn't touch that line. I left that at thirty-seven.

Chairman McGarry: And the heating oil, that, what do we have previously? Remember what that was?

John Harrington: For a budget?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. For last year or whatever...

John Harrington: Twenty thousand.

Chairman McGarry: ...cost per gallon?

John Harrington: Oh, I don't know what it was last year.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (inaudible) ...this year, right?

Chairman McGarry: What did you use this year, Ray, for heating oil?

John Harrington: The quote is what the bid was.

Chairman McGarry: Oh yeah, okay.

John Harrington: We've already gotten our heating oil bid so that is included in the budget.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Which was three seventy-nine I want to say.

John Harrington: Three point five one three.

Selectman Dill: Even better.

Chairman McGarry: Oaky. Any further, Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Electricity is not going to go up?

Ray Ellis: Well, I imagine it will. I don't know exact numbers and before I tried to raise on an estimated and everybody said, well we aren't paying that yet so, we can't vote on it. So, I didn't change it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Ray Ellis: It's supposed to go up, they're saying a hundred twelve percent, so, but you don't want to put that in the budget because we don't know what's going to happen.

Chairman McGarry: Right. Any other questions? Ready for the vote?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Uh, Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right. Town Hall.

Selectman Dill: I just remembered, the historic, not the historic, the heritage commission came back to me. They're looking for grants for that stuff, which I'm guessing is why Erroll put his hand up when we were discussing windows, so...

(Inaudible, someone from the audience talking)

Selectman Dill: So, what I was hoping was that we could maybe, I did remember there was some discussion about going for grants on window restoration. So, maybe we'll get something there.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion for thirty-eight seven sixty-seven

Chairman McGarry: Is there a second?

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Chairman McGarry: Second to approve the town hall budget of thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven dollars which represents a twenty-point three one percent increase. Sprinklers are a major increase and heating oil.

Discussion:

Ray Ellis: There was a drop on the rubbish because we went from Pinard to, I mean, Waste Management to Pinard.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Okay.

John Harrington: Now, while we're on the town hall budget, is the board considering whether or not you're going to close the town hall for the winter season again given the increased prices of electricity and heating oil this year.

Selectman Dill: I just assumed we were.

Chairman McGarry: that's what I thought too.

John Harrington: That was the reason I thought we put in the extra costly sprinkler heads so we could do that. Well, Ray was just looking for direction.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, okay.

Selectman Dill: I think we were all under that assumption.

Ray Ellis: So, do you think...

Selectman Huebner: I have to say I was not.

Selectman Dill: Oaky.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What do you think, December first?

John Harrington: Well, the last event that we have is, Ray?

Ray Ellis: Coffee House.

John Harrington: The Coffee House, which is...?

Ray Ellis: November fifteenth, I think.

John Harrington: So, we were considering after that event, closing up the town hall.

Selectman Dill: And then you were going to come up with a cost to reopen it if anybody had an event. Correct?

Ray Ellis: Well, we'd have to figure that in if you want to go that route, yes.

Selectman Dill: That would, kind of, be the route that I think would make sense if we shut it down but tell people for x amount, we can reopen it and this is and then come up with a daily use rate that reflects use of oil and electricity and everything.

John Harrington: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: Will, do you want to address that?

Selectman Huebner: Yeah. That was, that's going in the direction that I was going to go in. I don't want to just close it and just say it's not usable until next late summer, late spring or something. I'd like to have it available if people are willing to uh, you know, pay the price to heat and it and electric and I don't see why we can't, just can't turn on the lights and turn on the furnace and do that. So, I, I think the townspeople, you

know, the citizens would like to see the town hall, you know, quote-on-quote, open and available to use but we certainly don't want to waste heat and light in times when it's not in use.

John Harrington: Well, we just have to consider if you're bringing a very cold building up to temperature it's going to take additional heat and electric to bring that building up then maintain it for whatever event. You can't turn it on the day of the event and expect it to be at temperature.

Selectman Dill: It doesn't hold much heat either.

John Harrington: It does not.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, we can talk about that.

Chairman McGarry: So, would that be possible for you to, Ray, to come up with any numbers with regard to...

Ray Ellis: Yeah, I'll come up with a number that seems fair and then, you know, it'll be in addition to our rental fees.

Chairman McGarry: Right. Any other questions or comments?

Ray Ellis: I have a couple of questions for you. One is the garage. We've talked about putting in the fuel... (inaudible, someone else talking)

John Harrington: You want to take a vote on town hall budget before you move on?

Chairman McGarry: Oh, yeah, good idea.

Ray Ellis: Sorry.

Chairman McGarry: All right, seeing no further discussion we'll call for the vote. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: Okay Ray.

Ray Ellis: Okay. So, we was talking about putting the fuel fob in over there at the highway garage. I got a quote from Mark Langevin electrician and, I don't know if you give them copies but, he came thirty-four to thirty-nine hundred. The reason for the five hundred difference is, not exactly sure what he's gonna find once he gets into the feed of the building and for materials and everything there has to be explosion fittings and they're costly. So, I don't know what your feelings are on that. If you want to get that up and running or you want to wait or, I just want to be able to present it to you because he finally got back to me with a number.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: That would fix the, also the, the exposed wire that, or not exposed wire, but unburied wire.

Ray Ellis: Right. So, it'd be done correctly.

Selectman Dill: Because we have a bit of electrical situation there with that.

Chairman McGarry: Right. Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is this the only bid we have, is Mark?

Ray Ellis: Yeah. I had another electrician from get wired. He chose not to do it. He doesn't like playing with fuel and electricity and he just didn't want to give a bid.

John Harrington: It has been extremely difficult getting vendors in here to look at our jobs to get a bid.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion that they go with the bid.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Selectman Dill: I think we need to do it just as much to fix the wiring situation going to that fuel pump as we do for the fuel fobs.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Any further discussion?

Selectman Huebner: So, the total is thirty-nine hundred?

Ray Ellis: Yeah. He says between thirty-four to thirty-nine hundred and there's a five hundred difference because that includes the explosion fittings he has to put in and not knowing how much work that wires gonna be.

John Harrington: Alden, would you be willing to amend your motion to, up to thirty-nine hundred.

Selectman Dill: Yes. Up to thirty-nine hundred.

Chairman McGarry: Okay with you Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Yep. Any further discussion? All right...

Selectwoman McHugh: Is this gonna get the fuel fobs up and going? This is what it's gonna be?

Ray Ellis: Yes. Yeah.

John Harrington: That is what we attempted to do. Just hat alone before we found everything else. That was the whole purpose of getting that.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. All right. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Ray Ellis: So, the other thing I'd like to bring to the board was the diesel stipend for the contractors. Winters around the corner. I've been talking to a lot of the contractors. They want to come back but they're asking if we're gonna pay any stipend for fuel.

Chairman McGarry: And are, what are, what's the state or other towns doing?

Ray Ellis: I've talked, a lot of the towns are doing them themselves. They're hiring fireman and stuff like that to plow for them with their trucks so they're not hiring contractors. I called the state. They're paying twelve dollars an hour for winter stipend.

Chairman McGarry: For the stipend, twelve bucks and hour?

Ray Ellis: Yep.

Chairman McGarry: And we don't, we're not, we don't have any stipend at this point, correct?

Ray Ellis: Correct. But they're asking for it. So, I don't know if it's something you want to look into or you want to discuss but before winter contracts can be filled, I got to find out if we're going to offer anything.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Ray Ellis: What you think a fair number would be.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: What do they get now, ninety-nine dollars an hour for certain trucks?

Ray Ellis: It depends on the gvw's of the truck but yeah, most of the six wheelers are around ninety-nine dollars an hour or more.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, who would the stipend go to, the diesel trucks? The gas trucks? Anybody... (inaudible, someone else talking)

Ray Ellis: Diesels.

Selectwoman McHugh: Diesel.

Selectman Dill: But not the gas trucks?

Ray Ellis: Right.

Chairman McGarry: What's the diesel price currently at?

Selectman Dill: It just dropped to four fifty-nine here in town after I filled up.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't know how you can do diesel and not do something for gas trucks.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, because we do have gas trucks.

Ray Ellis: There's a few of the one tons that are gas.

Selectman Huebner: So, I'm understanding that's going from nine dollars an hour to twelve dollars an hour in other towns or other suggestions.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, they don't get any now.

Ray Ellis: No. Right now, we don't pay for stipend at all but, and that's what they're asking for, is, is, because of the rising price of fuel. Are we going to pay a stipend this year?

Selectman Huebner: So. How much does the stipend amount to, per hour?

Selectman Dill: Twelve.

Chairman McGarry: Twelve. Twelve dollars an hour.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, on top of what we pay then already.

Ray Ellis: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: All right.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, we're going to need a motion then for diesel and gas, dollar amount?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. I guess we don't know what the gas would end up being. Maybe you could get back to us.

Ray Ellis: At this point I don't know what the diesel is gonna be by the time winter gets here.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And you're expecting to bid, right?

Ray Ellis: So, basically, I don't know if you want to go twelve. I'm going to try to go a little lower and see how that goes. I can offer it but I know that a lot of them are going to the state because they're twelve dollars.

John Harrington: Dick, are you referring to the winter contracts?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

John Harrington: I believe Ray has heard from all of the previous year's drivers. They're all willing to come back but the question Ray is being asked, is the town going to offer a stipend? That's why he's coming to you tonight. If you could make a decision one way or another then he can get back and start signing those folks up. But he can't answer their question until you folks make a decision.

Selectman Dill: And you said the state's low on guys so they're looking to hire?

Ray Ellis: Yeah, yeah. The state's got a lot of promotional things...

Selectman Dill: We got to do something. We got to something for both of them if we do something for one of them. Do ten and seven?

Chairman McGarry: What's your though on gas, gasoline?

Ray Ellis: I don't know where the market's going to end up on gasoline. I know right now we're about a dollar a gallon, a dollar or more a gallon than last year at this time. So, if it holds true to that, you know, maybe another dollar on top of that, I don't know.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: But like Ray said, if we put it out there at a lower amount, see if we get bites but it's something we're gonna have to revisit pretty quick.

Ray Ellis: Give me something to barter with anyway.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Ray Ellis: Right now, I'm bartering with nothing.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion that we offer ten dollars an hour for diesel and seven dollars and hour for gas trucks.

Second:

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Okay, no second, so...

Selectman Huebner: It's a little hard to know what the right number is without knowing how much fuel a truck uses in an hour, you know. You have to do a calculation and I don't, I don't think we have that at our fingertips to make the decision but is ten or twelve or seven, I don't know Alden, what the right number is.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: How many contractors are asking?

Ray Ellis: So far almost everybody's asked if we're going to do anything because everybody else is. So, I mean, they'll do to the state, most of our six wheelers.

Selectman Huebner: Do we postpone this for a week to just get some more information about what a good number would be and then vote on it next time? I mean winter's not here yet so I don't think we're pressed to make that decision tonight, right?

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think it would be safe for Ray to say we're working on it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Ray Ellis: Okay. I'll tell them.

Vice Chairman Pitman: There will be one we just don't have the numbers yet.

Ray Ellis: Yeah, absolutely. I just didn't not want to bring it up tonight because, you know, I'm always thinking ahead for winter, so...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Ray Ellis: ...and it is around the corner. It comes fast, so.

Chairman McGarry: Maybe come back to us next week with a recommendation on gas. So, what you thought that might be for stipends.

Ray Ellis: Yep. And then the other thing I had was Haynes Road, you know, I'm gonna do a change order. It's thirteen dollars, like, fifty cents a ton difference but it was, Pike had said that Haynes Road would be, what, forty-five thousand seventy-six dollars and twenty-five cents.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Ray Ellis: Is that something you wanna visit tonight or get the six-ton road limit lifted. Get that road fixed or...?

John Harrington: I called Pike because the asphalt price came down slightly but after doing the calculations, he said it would be about thirteen dollars less per ton than he was offering in his original quote and he stood by his original quote of forty-five.

Selectman Dill: This isn't...

John Harrington: Would request that it be a change order to the original bid.

Selectman Dill: This isn't for all of Haynes Road. This is just for the bad section of Haynes Road?

Ray Ellis: three hundred and fifty tons.

John Harrington: Right, it would be about six hundred fifty feet, give or take.

Selectman Dill: I just wanted to get that out there so people don't think we're doing the whole road.

Chairman McGarry: That's that section just after coming onto Haynes Road from Ridge Road?

John Harrington: And then just passed.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

John Harrington: Down by the waterhole.

Chairman McGarry: Yes. Right.

Selectman Dill: But this doesn't include the culvert et cetera and so forth.

Chairman McGarry: No.

Ray Ellis: No.

Selectman Dill: But it should be enough, in your opinion, that we could reopen the road if we do, I mean, pull the weight limit if we do this?

Ray Ellis: I think that we could, yes, as long as we don't have any problems with the pipes collapsing or whatever.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion that they accept, that we do the change order in the amount of, I'm not looking...

Chairman McGarry: For twenty-five thousand seventy-six dollars and twenty-five cents?

John Harrington: Correct.

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman
Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, so I'll sign this...

John Harrington: And then I'll create a change order.

Chairman McGarry: And this will be created by that change order.

Ray Ellis: Thank you all.

Chairman McGarry: Alden.

Selectman Dill: As long as we got Ray up here, I'd like to bring a proposal forward. I don't want to vote on it tonight but if, um, I've been talking to Ray and he's been working with John about changing Highway to a Public Works Director. John has some organizational charts that he can give out.

John Harrington: You have hard copies in your folders.

Selectman Dill: I do. Yep.

Selectman Huebner: John, I can display this on the screen if you'd like to, if you let me share a screen.

Selectman Dill: That would be way too technologically advanced for us.

Selectman Huebner: You just have to go to your share screen and say allow...

John Harrington: I've got it here, Will.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Well, I figured we'd bring it up when Ray was sitting here.

Selectwoman McHugh: we got people waiting to do their budgets.

Selectman Dill: Well, I do realize that.

Chairman McGarry: So, how long do you think it will take, Ray?

Ray Ellis: What's that? This?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Ray Ellis: Basically, it's just showing you the idea set forth and see how you want to move forward with that or if you don't want to move forward.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

(Inaudible talking)

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: What do we got?

Selectman Dill: So, I don't know if you can see it behind you there, oh, you can see it there too. Basically, moving highway to oversee highway, transfer station, government buildings including the G.B.W. and town hall.

John Harrington: Alden, you have paper copies for all...

Selectman Dill: Oh, sorry. I didn't realize that's how you wanted it to hand out. I thought you had... I'm sorry. So, basically, we're changing highway to a public works director, move. The thought being that then we could use public works to do some of the contracts, some of the jobs we're currently putting out for contract bid is the major cost savings that I'm seeing on this and we're also rolling the facility supervisor into this position as well, so we're using the same number or using less people to get the same job done.

Selectwoman McHugh: Does this have to be... oh, sorry.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Does this have to go out as a warrant article to the townspeople? That's making a new position.

Selectman Dill: I wouldn't think so.

John Harrington: The Town, the position is currently an appointed position. The board has...

Selectwoman McHugh: We don't have a public works director.

John Harrington: You could reclassify the road agent as public works director.

Selectman Dill: The other change in here would be to move the currently vacant position of labor at highway to a foreman position. So, we'd have to change that and re-advertise for that.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

Ray Ellis: The money would come out of the facility supervisor pay scale because that's not going to be used.

Selectman Dill: So...

Chairman McGarry: We previously had...

Selectman Dill: We did have a foreman position in there before.

Chairman McGarry: Right and we're going to be saving money by hiring, based on Fred's recommendation...

Selectman Dill: Yep.

Chairman McGarry: ...laborer.

Selectman Dill: Yeah. So, we'd be going back to a foreman in that position.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: Obviously getting direction from Ray's the public works director and then minute by minute on the foreman. Is there anything you wanted to add on it, Ray?

Ray Ellis: No. Basically, I can see moving forward that with the transfer station involved as well even on off hours we could probably take up some of the mowing in town that we're currently contracting out. There's a lot of things like when we're doing big projects on the road that's flaggers, you know, moving forward. Just changing the way, we do everything based on the same way that's going on now. We're having budget woes year after year with the default budget. This would just kind of alleviate a lot of those problems and what we're trying to do is use the same amount of money and just reclassify people. So, the salary that's already there for Fred would still be there but the salary that was there for facility supervisor would not because you're not going to give them two paychecks.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Ray Ellis: So, that balance right there would also help you get a foreman and maybe another laborer in the highway department moving forward. So, we wouldn't be spending more money. We're just reusing the same amount of money and reclassifying a couple of different people in that position.

Chairman McGarry: Mmmhmm.

Ray Ellis: Basically, it was designed to try to help save the town some money moving forward without going out and trying to get somebody new come in and then go with the salaries all over again and also where winter is knocking on our door, it's gonna be hard to bring a new person in and get used to the roads and the way we do things and what we have in the budget for money. I'm already there, so...

Chairman McGarry: Alden.

Selectman Dill: The two things that popped into me, in my head when we were doing this the other day was, cemeteries is gonna cost us a ton of money to maintain cemeteries, if we can get some town employees out there mowing or even doing cleanup, that's gonna save us a significant amount of money on contracted services. The other thing is, if everybody's public works and divided so strictly into highway and transfer station, we could have a person who's currently working at the transfer station come down and load trucks with a loader that they're used to running.

That keeps a highway maintainer in a truck plowing which means we're using town employee plowing and not a contracted employee for whatever we're paying an hourly for the contractor employee.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: So, those were two of the advantages I saw there.

Chairman McGarry: Will, did you want to add anything that?

Selectman Huebner: Yeah. I've been presented this, you know, idea and I, John explained a little bit about it and he sent me these charts you're looking at on the wall and I have to say I'm in favor at the moment of this but I think we need to study it more. I feel like it is going to be a cost-neutral change or and possibly cost savings change as Alden has said. At least initially it'll be kind of cost-neutral and then it, eventually, will, I think we could end up saving the town some money so I'm for it in that regard. It does seem to lend more of a flexibility to the way we use the town employees that we have now and the equipment that we have instead of having everybody pigeonholed into, kind of a, you know, I do this job and you do that job and we don't help each other kind of thing. I think it's healthy that we have one overseer over both departments that can then assign resources as needed to give more flexibility and to save the town some money that way as well. So, I think Alden is onto something there with the idea. I do think, though, that we should study this more carefully and perhaps in the next meeting make a decision after pondering, you know, giving it some thought, plan to vote on this in the next meeting. It does have to be decided right away. We do need to hire a road agent if we don't go in this direction and so, I would suggest that we plan to vote on it in the next meeting.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's the problem that I'm seeing. We have road agents scheduled to come in for interviews and now we want to change the game plan. This is the first I've been presented with it so I would like to have some time to check it out and...

Selectman Dill: Yeah. The only thing I, if we could push the interviews back till after Monday's meeting because I don't want to interview people and then change this. So, that would be what I'd suggest there.

Chairman McGarry: Is that something we could do?

John Harrington: That's...

Selectwoman McHugh: We're going to take a chance on losing people.

Selectman Dill: We are.

John Harrington: I'd have to call them, tell them to postpone and then we'd have to find a new date to meet.

Chairman McGarry: Mhm.

Selectman Dill: But that would give you time to look at it.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: I think we're only talking about a few days of delay, not weeks. Is that right, John?

John Harrington: Well, if the board can make a decision next Monday, then the possibility of scheduling interviews by the end of the week might be a way to go.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: But the people that have already applied have applied for the road agent job not a public works director.

John Harrington: No, we wouldn't be hiring a public works director. Ray would assume the position as a public works director, if that's the way you want to go. That's what's being presented tonight.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, we'd still hire a road agent?

John Harrington: No.

Selectman Dill: No.

John Harrington: The choice is, if you go with this proposal...

Selectwoman McHugh: That's why I want to look at it.

Ray Ellis: you'd hire a foreman.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I need some time. I appreciate all the homework but I need some time.

Selectman Dill: No, that's why and it, Will suggested that we present it tonight and then give a week.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

John Harrington: I'll call all of the and tell them we'll reschedule.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right.

Ray Ellis: Okay. Very good.

Selectman Dill: Thanks Ray.

Ray Ellis: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: All right, Police Department and we're showing a proposed budget of nine hundred and thirty-two thousand two hundred and ten dollars (\$932,210.00) which is a ten-point four percent increase.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve it so they can discuss it.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Gary Duquette: So, a couple of changes in the budget as you go down through the lines, obviously the first one is, hourly wage adjustments for the full-time officers, the admin assistant and our one part-time officer which basically accounts for seventy-five percent of this increase and, of course, this also results in an increase to the median rate which affects shift differential, Holiday pay and overtime rates. Other than that, as you go down through everything, kind of, stays the same until you get to the gas line which shows a significant increase of sixteen thousand five hundred dollars. The town set the rate at five dollars per gallon for this budget where it was previously set at two twenty-five a gallon in the current operating budget.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do you use ... (inaudible, coughing)

Gary Duquette: That's what the town administrator set it at for the town. Other than that, the only other increase is I added, maybe, seven hundred dollars to the cruiser line simply because there's just not enough money in there to buy a car and set it up. We're working on ten, twelve-year-old one that's here. Other than that, everything stayed the same.

Selectman Dill: So, forty-five should get you a car?

Gary Duquette: Yes, and to set it up, yes.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: So, what's the overall percentage increase in the police department budget?

Chairman McGarry: Ten point four, Will.

Selectman Huebner: Ten-point four percent?

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectman Dill: And I assume if we order a car then we have to wait quite a while for...?

Gary Duquette: I've been waiting a year for the last one I've ordered come this October.

Selectman Dill: Still not in?

Gary Duquette: No.

Selectman Dill: Wow.

Selectman Huebner: So, last year we spent about eighty, eight hundred twenty thousand, if I calculate right, and this year it's nine hundred thousand.

Gary Duquette: I'm not sure, all I know is my budget, had it done at the end of the year it was at a hundred and three percent. So, I was over and yes, the biggest part of that, Will, is figuring in the hourly wages for the officers. They go up based on a pay scale that was voted in twenty seventeen contingent upon a successful or an acceptable evaluation, performance evaluation.

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectman Huebner: So, we are staying on course from the twenty seventeen commitment to the officers.

Chairman McGarry: Correct.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: I guess one question I would have is the, we think that five bucks a gallon is a realistic number, whether we should be looking at a lower number?

Selectman Dill: We don't bid gas though.

John Harrington: We don't.

Selectman Dill: So, that is completely market fluctuation.

John Harrington: I, at the time I was putting this together to send out to department heads that's what the gas was. Whether it goes back up again, I have no idea. Whether it goes lower, I have no idea.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We don't want to park so...

Selectman Dill: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: ...let's keep it there.

John Harrington: I just know that this year we're at two dollars and we're spending, at one point, we were spending over five so we've already chewed into quite a bit of the gas budget this year.

Chairman McGarry: And was the default budget at two bucks a gallon?

John Harrington: Correct. You can see from the data here, the budget, the default budget for gas is thirteen thousand five hundred. Year-to-date we've spent seventeen thousand six hundred and seventy-six. We're already overspent.

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

John Harrington: So, I would just caution on...

Selectman Dill: Like Dick said, it's not that we can park them.

Chairman McGarry: All right, any other questions for Gary?

Selectman Dill: Well, since it will come up at the budget commission, committee on the gas, you're running a V6 now to save some fuel money in those, right?

Gary Duquette: Yeah. They're all V6 engines in the new ones.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'm all set.

Selectman Dill: Yep.

Chairman McGarry: Will, you have any other questions?

Selectman Huebner: No further questions.

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion by roll call, Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Gary Duquette: Highway safety. No change. We just kept a dollar in there.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded to approve the highway safety budget in the amount of five dollars. Further discussion? All right, roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, anything else, Chief?

John Harrington: Animal Control.

Chairman McGarry: Animal Control. Okay.

John Harrington: Page 62.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion in amount of eight thousand seven hundred and two dollars

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Gary Duquette: So, I'll tell you there's an increase in this of about thirty-seven percent, my math is somewhat correct. Budget itself stayed the same, I think, since I've been here, however the police department gave a decommissioned cruiser to the ACO so she didn't have to use her personal vehicle anymore to do the job so at that point we added in some money for gas, repairs, tires, that type of thing which accounts for the increase in that particular budget of about twenty-five hundred, I think.

Chairman McGarry: Right. Yep.

Gary Duquette: And then everything else remained the same.

Selectman Huebner: So, when the person was using their personal vehicle weren't we also getting an expense report with milage for milage used for that purpose of animal control?

Gary Duquette: No. She was graciously doing it on her own dime.

Selectman Huebner: Oh. Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Fred... (inaudible)

Chairman McGarry: WE shouldn't have been doing that but...

Selectman Dill: No. The vet services line, is that going to be high enough? Veterinary services line at seventeen hundred?

Gary Duquette: That includes, twelve hundred of that is for an annual contract that covers a lot of things and then the rest of it is for any additional services above and beyond whatever the contract calls for.

Selectman Dill: Oh okay. So that's why we spent twelve hundred already?

Gary Duquette: Correct.

Selectman Dill: Okay. That makes more sense.

John Harrington: That's level from last year as well.

Chairman McGarry: All right, any further discussion? Seeing none, I'll call for the vote. Roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Abstain.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

John Harrington: And revisiting Welfare that you tabled last week. Page sixty-six.

Chairman McGarry: All right, the...

John Harrington: And I included data in your folder that you had asked for last week. I included data going back to twenty twelve showing what was paid out annually by that department for government assistance.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion in amount of seventy thousand five sixty-eight so we can discuss.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, so, I got a sticky wicket in my belly with here on this one. I look at those figures and I see over years of time, probably, a hundred thousand dollars has been spent on the administration of Welfare, safety officer and emergency disaster planning. I think are the three things and in terms of welfare we've only given away something like eight thousand dollars if you total up the amount that was actually given to families. It's only about eight thousand dollars, eighty-five hundred, something like that. So, it's begging me to say, you know, the money's coming in, we're spending money, taxpayer dollars but very little of it actually gets dispersed to people in need. It's mostly just administrative costs for paying the salary or stipend, however you want to say it, paying the person who's administering it. So, it begs me to ask the question, can we do this some other way and not spend again over five years' time another hundred thousand administering such a small program? So, I know that we're interviewing or not interviewing yet but, I mean, we are out looking for job solicitation for a new welfare director but I wonder if we could follow a parallel path and explore how this could be done through volunteer welfare director. From someone in the community who's got, you know, enough qualifications to be able to make those decisions or from somebody from one of the churches for instance who might be already administering a benevolence program for that church and has the qualifications both social skills to be able to make those kinds of decisions. If we're only distributing between a thousand and two thousand dollars a year from the town, it seems we could allow that to be done through some qualified person in the community by a volunteer.

Chairman McGarry: Do we know if there are any other sources of funding that the welfare director was using besides this budget.

John Harrington: I think the previous welfare director attempted to use social programs that we were already contributing to. To utilize their resources before we used local resources.

Chairman McGarry: So, it would depend on those sources...

John Harrington: Right.

Chairman McGarry: ...so that anybody that comes into that position would have to be familiar with those...

John Harrington: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: ...sources of assistance.

Selectman Dill: Fred?

Chairman McGarry: Alden.

Selectman Dill: I was going to motion that we move, that we change line eight ten twenty thousand from forty-three.

Chairman McGarry: Is there a second?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I was going to make a motion to put it to fifteen thousand because the most big, any year, in the last ten is twenty-four hundred dollars.

Chairman McGarry: So, you have a motion to make that line, drop it from forty-three thousand to fifteen thousand. Is there a second.

Selectman Dill: I'll second Dick's motion.

Chairman McGarry: Second by Alden. Discussion?

Selectman Huebner: Why fifteen? Why not five?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, we figure this year it could be with heating oil and electric in that this could be the year that it gets used.

Selectman Huebner: Let's remember we want to make sure we put something in front of voters that they're gonna pass this time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Taking off twenty-eight off is a good chunk. Third of the budget.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That would make the budget proposal forty-two thousand five sixty-eight.

Selectman Huebner: Well, if we could get a volunteer, we could make the budget fifteen thousand.

Selectman Dill: My concern with that is that we have a person who is, or we had a person in there who was finding every resource before, and using town money as a last resort.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: So, I don't think just seeing that we weren't, that we were only distributing for two or three or four thousand dollars a year I don't think adequately shows the work that went into that.

Selectman Huebner: Well, presumably the volunteer would also know about the other sources of help and would use the town money as a last resort. Continuing the good tradition that we had before.

Selectman Dill: I don't think we can just change an employee line to a volunteer without having solicited said volunteer.

Selectman Huebner: Right. So, what I'm suggesting is we continue to look for welfare candidates, I mean, welfare officer candidates and that we approve in a parallel path that one of us or all of us seek volunteers out of the community or the local churches to see if there are qualified volunteers who would be willing to administer this small amount of money for the town as well as for their churches or for their organizations.

Chairman McGarry: So, to anticipate that to be more than, more than a couple of hours a week might be involved in this. So, I don't know if, I don't if we could expect a volunteer to be working part-time on this without any kind of compensation.

Vice Chairman Pitman: They do a lot more than a couple of hours a week if you look at the pages. (Inaudible, pages being shuffled and other noises) ...and things like that. It's nice to think like that, Will, but we're talking about a couple years ago.

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have a motion to reduce line eight ten for appropriation from the town from forty-three thousand to fifteen thousand. Any further discussion? Hearing none, call for the vote by rollcall. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

John Harrington: And I have a new bottom line of forty-two thousand five hundred and sixty-eight?

Chairman McGarry: Correct. Forty-two thousand five hundred and sixty-eight.

Selectman Dill: So, I'll amend my original motion for that number.

John Harrington: Reduction of twenty-eight thousand.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. All right, and who made the second?

John Harrington: I had Dick and Alden.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. You okay with that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: All right, any further discussion on the bottom line of forty-two thousand five hundred and sixty-eight? Hearing none, roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right. Parks and rec. Page sixty-nine, sixty-eight or page sixty-eight.

Selectman Dill: Stupid question, do we just miss transfer station?

John Harrington: Transfer station will come up at the very last meeting. That would, that was hold over...

Selectman Dill: Oh, okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (inaudible, papers being shuffled)

John Harrington: Yes, that will come back to you.

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have a proposed budget of ninety-nine thousand eight hundred and four dollars (\$99,804.00) which is, represents a thirty-five-point seven eight percent increase. We have a motion?

Motion: Selectman Dill moves in the amount ninety-nine thousand eight hundred and four dollars.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Eric Menard: Yeah, so...

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, I have a problem, oop...

Chairman McGarry: Not your turn Will. Go ahead.

Eric Menard: This is the same budget that we used last year. Right now, the assistant director, half of the salary is funded through the town budget and half of it's through our revolving fund. So, this proposal would have the assistant director full salary supported by the town budget and then two thousand dollars for just helping offset costs for gazebo field and the playground. On the playground over at the field is showing some wear and tear, so some of that money towards that and going back to the summer entertainment series. We haven't had that since twenty nineteen. Just hat line as well as the old home day event, it's just money to help offset the costs that our department faces with those. For Old Home Day, for example, our fireworks increased to seventy-two hundred this year compared to four thousand last year. So, again, these proposed numbers aren't covering full cost. It's just to help offset them.

Chairman McGarry: I see you're; you dropped the, any money for the bicentennial field.

Eric Minard: Yeah. We have a line in our revolving budget that's field maintenance wise so we're all set on that.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Will.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, so, I'm having a hard time believing that is the voters would vote on this single issue that they would approve this large increase to the parks and rec budget. Thirty, what's the percentage?

Chairman McGarry: Thirty-five point seven eight.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah. I think that's something the voters would not go for so representing them I think we need to question if this is even wise putting in if it's going to result in another default budget.

Selectman Dill: I would argue that there's a lot of things that go into our budget and that this was not just put in for the part-time employee. This has been a long, John you might can speak to that of...?

John Harrington: Are you talking about the full-time line?

Selectman Dill: Yes, the full-time line.

John Harrington: As eric previously explained, the current funding scheme is, half of the assistant director is paid for out of the budget. The other half comes out of the eighty fund. Two years ago, we lost our assistant director when the programs closed down due to the pandemic and there was no money coming into the program and we could not pay a full-time salary past what was in the budget so he ended up moving on. This year there's a new configuration of just a director and an assistant director but again part of that person's salary is paid for out of the eighty fund, part of it is paid for out of the budget and that program is already saving money because they're not hiring a third person right now. It's gone from a three-person department down to a two, administratively.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Ninety-four five covers it?

John Harrington: The ninety-four five covers the full-time salaries of both the director and the assistant director right now.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Basically, the budget.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, it really is.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

John Harrington: That's all they have and then the five thousand for assistance in some of the summer activities that they put on.

Selectwoman McHugh: But the town is supposed to only pay half of the assistant.

John Harrington: That's what we're asking to change. That, that ran into, we ran into a problem losing a person two years ago because of that and my personal feeling is if you hire a full-time person with benefits, you should have funding to back that up and with the half of their salary coming out of the programs that we're reliant on program participation, that is not a secure funding source.

Selectwoman McHugh: But it was only voted for half and the warrant article was, didn't that go to a warrant article?

John Harrington: I don't recall. That was, that's the way it's been since I've been here. I don't know how that was created.

Chairman McGarry: Alden.

Selectman Dill: I just wanted to say on the, the Old Home, the other part of the budget, which Dick's right, it's fifty-three hundred dollars but on the Old Home Day I think having that in the budget line rather than just in the revolving fund is much fairer to the town because the problem with revolving fund, is basically, the after school is the biggest program so they end up basically subsidizing the rest of the rec programs.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: I think Old Home Day coming out of the budget is a fairer way to do that.

Chairman McGarry: Any further discussion?

John Harrington: Right now, Old Home Day, all of the costs come out of the revolving fund.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, that's what it was, that's how it was set up to work.

John Harrington: The revolving fund, as I understand it, from the warrant article it was meant that monies coming in for programs would be spent on programs not public activities. So, in other words, soccer fees supported soccer programs. That's the way the warrant article was written.

Chairman McGarry: So, the eighty fund was covering...

John Harrington: Has been.

Chairman McGarry: Has been covering expenses that...

John Harrington: Public activities outside of rec programs...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

John Harrington: ...even though the rec program puts on Old Home Day, there is no supporting income coming in other than the fees collected for the day but that's doesn't cover the fireworks and the band the food that they purchase.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: Now, that comes from donations too but okay.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, we do get quite a bit of donations. I know the fair donates...

(Inaudible, lots of people talking at once)

Eric Minard: Firework donations this year, we had the fair donate twenty-five hundred dollars, focus donated a thousand and Eversource donated three hundred dollars but again, fireworks increased from four thousand last year to seventy-two hundred this year.

Selectman Huebner: So, that's the kind of thing, Eric, that I question is I don't know if the voters would want to spend seventy-two on fireworks next year than four thousand last year. All the things they would, I guess he said...

Selectman Dill: I said I think they would.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Any further discussion? All right, call for the vote by roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Nay.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: No.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

John Harrington: So, three two.

Chairman McGarry: Three two. Thank you.

Selectman Dill: Thank you.

Eric Menard: Thank you.

John Harrington: That's it for budgets tonight.

Selectman Dill: I was just getting geared up for the transfer station.

Chairman McGarry: Take the outside detail contract up. This is with, between the Police Department and the fair association. Charger per hour will be fifty per hour plus eight ninety-five for full-time. Five seventy-three for Glenda...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: ...and then three twenty-two for part-time for the administrative costs. All right and anyway, have a motion to approve?

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh makes a motion to approve it.

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Selectman Dill: So, when we had talked about this previously it was forty.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: So, the fair approved an extra...

Chairman McGarry: An extra ten.

Selectman Dill: They're okay with an extra ten for police?

Chairman McGarry: They've already signed off on it, yeah.

Selectman Dill: Interesting.

Chairman McGarry: All right, all those in favor of the motion, wait, we haven't got a motion.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, we do.

John Harrington: A motion and a second.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, yes. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, by roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Selectwoman McHugh: I probably shouldn't vote. I abstain.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right. Review of outstanding minutes.

Selectman Huebner: Fred, do we have the memo about understanding from the fire chief for the contract for the fair for the fire coverage?

Chairman McGarry: I guess we could take that up. Matt, MOU with fair?

Selectman Dill: Stuff we gotta get done before the fair starts.

Chairman McGarry: All right. MOU with the fair. Just made it cost, well, we're showing. I'll read it. Whereas the annual Deerfield fair will take place on September twenty ninth to October first and second, whereas for safety the fair requires the detail fire, EMS, and inspection services whereas the town can provide the required fire, EMS, and inspection services now therefore the parties agree to the following, the town will provide fire and EMS personnel as outlined in the attached coverage schedule. Our hourly rates charged to the fair for personnel performing EMS, fire and life safety duties shall be as follows, f is full-time fire?

Selectman Dill: Firefighter.

Matt Fisher: Non-certified firefighter.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Sixteen dollars an hour. Ff17, which is level one, level ff2 eighteen an hour which is level two. EMT, nineteen dollars an hour. EMTA is...

Selectwoman McHugh: Advanced.

Chairman McGarry: ...advanced. Twenty-one dollars an hour and medic twenty-three dollars an hour. Initial compensation will be provided to members holding additional certificate, certifications and rank structure per ton of Deerfield Fire and Rescue Pay scale additional standard fees apply. And we have lieutenant at extra dollar, captain two. EMR...

Selectwoman McHugh: Emergency Medical Response.

Chairman McGarry: ...at fifty cents. EMT, one dollar. Ff2 slash EMT nineteen an hour.

Selectwoman McHugh: I believe you have two different contracts there. The first aid had sent their MOU in also, which is, that's duplicating it. But we were asked just firefighters. The fair was hiring their EMS personnel which they made the MOU to the, for the EMS people. So, I think this is kind of duplicating it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Threw me for a loop. I didn't think they were part of it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Chairman McGarry: Matt.

Matt Fisher: So, from my standpoint the fire rescue is one department so, if we're entering an agreement with the fair, it's one agreement, everybody's covered underneath it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, that's what, the fair already did MOU so...

Matt Fisher: Not with the Town of Deerfield.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Matt Fisher: I don't believe it's been signed. I know...

Selectwoman McHugh: It's been signed by the fair and it's here in the folder waiting to be signed by the select board. So, I'm just saying, there's confusion, that's...

Matt Fisher: Sure.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, I don't know, I thought...

Matt Fisher: The original MOU that I proposed to the board of selectman in the win, and the fair, we had some conversations about it, included both as one. If the...

Selectwoman McHugh: I. If.

Chairman McGarry: So, this would just take and wrap the two of them together and...

Matt Fisher: Which has been the same since twenty eighteen.

Selectman Huebner: Is there any material difference between the two if you wrap the together or not? Same amount of money, isn't it?

Selectwoman McHugh: No, the money is the same, same, scheduling may be different and releasing people may be different.

Chairman McGarry: And then, with respect to payment, with respect to the fire protection billing following the completion of the twenty-two Deerfield fair and upon final billing to the town of Deerfield the town of Deerfield will incur the cost of fifteen percent of the fire protection billing. This fire protection billing will reflect only hours worked for members providing coverage for the fair and town of Deerfield. The fair agrees to pay the town within thirty days the of the invoice for services rendered at the Deerfield fair. I think those are the major items here.

Selectman Dill: One quick question. This doesn't supersede the fair hiring their own EMT, their private ambulance or anything like that, correct?

Selectwoman McHugh: (Inaudible) ...Deerfield people.

Selectman Dill: Okay. That's what I was checking on between the two. Deerfield people are...

Matt Fisher: If that sounds wordy for the fifteen percent, I wasn't sure what the term or language to use or the agreement or the...

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, I believe...

Matt Fisher: ...proposal to the board of selectman for the fair.

Selectman Dill: Holy cow is it raining all of a sudden.

Selectwoman McHugh: And Fred, who is in charge of... Chief, who is in charge of releasing people? Because I know there was an issue last year to release EMTs and you refused to let those people go home and that was adding cost to the fair.

Matt Fisher: I don't remember that instant. I'm not going to say it didn't happen. I don't remember that...

Selectwoman McHugh: Nottingham ambulance was released.

Matt Fisher: Nottingham didn't have an ambulance.

Selectwoman McHugh: not, Northwood, sorry.

Matt Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: And they went, they said they could go home because we didn't need them. We had two Great Brook ambulances there. They went to you and you told them no, they had to stay. So, the fair got that extra cost for that ambulance. For those people, not the ambulance because that was donated but the hourly people that were there.

Matt Fisher: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: so, that's, this is when I'm wondering, who...

Matt Fisher: Like I said, I don't remember that instant and I don't believe the first aid director came over and talked to me about that so I can't speak to it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. Who's in charge this year of releasing EMS people?

Matt Fisher: I believe the, I got a copy of the MOU that was proposed from the Deerfield fair to the town. There was language in there by the superintendent of the first aid, the EMS captain, and the fire chief would have a discussion about that.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. But what is, yeah, what if, that's why I'm asking this...

Matt Fisher: The language is in there.

Selectwoman McHugh: It's confusing because there's two different MOUs here.

Matt Fisher: Correct. So, I took the language that I had originally proposed a few weeks ago, the language that I received from the superintendent of first aid, and tried to blend everything together in that MOU.

Selectman Huebner: So, the decision...

Matt Fisher: We're one department, the members that are going to work EMS are licensed underneath the town of Deerfield with the fire rescue department. I'm the fire chief, that is my proposal.

Selectwoman McHugh: But you. Yeah. Okay.

Chairman McGarry: All right.

Selectwoman McHugh: It has been, she has tried to get in with you to get the schedule together.

Matt Fisher: Excuse me?

Selectwoman McHugh: Debbie has tried to get with you to get the schedule together, like we did the first year you were chief but we haven't been able to do that so now there's two different conflicting things.

Matt Fisher: When did this take place?

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't know. Sorry, Matt. You're gonna get what you want, don't worry.

Selectman Huebner: So, would we entertain motion to approve the MOU as written and submitted to the board of selectman?

Chairman McGarry: Is that a motion, Will?

Motion: Selectman Huebner makes a motion to approve the MOU as written and submitted to the board of selectman for the chair to sign on behalf of the town.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Selectman Dill: Dick, you had your hand up.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, it's too confusing.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I was under the impression, when you and Will met privately, it was strictly fire. Now all of a sudden EMS is involved.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And that wasn't in your right up at all.

Selectman Dill: No, we just discussed fire but this is...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Now all of a sudden, with no, you know, I know, I made the motion up fifteen percent for the fire but that's the idea but there's nothing about EMS.

Selectman Dill: No, we just discussed fire because we were under the impression that the EMS and the PD were not the issue we were discussing. However, ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: If Fred signs this, they are involved even though we didn't approve...

Selectman Dill: Well, I don't think there's any difference on the EM, the only difference is rather than, as far as I understand, the only difference is, rather than having a separate EMS and a separate fire one, it's fire rescue so it's one MOU. It doesn't change anything materially as far as I understood it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, is the fifteen percent just the fire or is it...

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Yes.

Matt Fisher: Yes, cause the EMTs are assigned to first aid. They're not leaving the fairgrounds to cover EMS calls in Deerfield.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, and it's spelled out in there that the fire, that fifteen percent is separate and only for fire. It's just rather than having two different ones for fire and rescue, since it's one department, fire rescue, there's one.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Claus, paragraph three, I'll re-read it. With respect to the fire protection billing following the completion of the twenty twenty-two Deerfield fair and upon final billing town of Deerfield will incur the cost of fifteen percent of the fire protection billing. This fire protection billing will reflect only hours worked for members providing coverage for the fair and town of Deerfield. And then under paragraph thirteen, with regard to estimated costs, fire coverage and inspection services to be determined per

schedule, and it says, town of Deerfield to absorb fifteen percent of fire coverage costs. So, it's specifically with regard to fire.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: So, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is it just you signing, Fred?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: But that is what I said, is pretty much what the point here is. Right, it's the same...

Matt Fisher: (inaudible, someone else talking) ...coming out of the meetings the past several weeks that it was the fire coverage that was the sticking point for folks and it was the fifteen percent that the board of selectmen had worked towards with the fair. That was my understanding.

Chairman McGarry: And that's mine as well. Any further discussion? All right, seeing none, I'll call the roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Unfortunately, I have to abstain.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 1, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries

John Harrington: So, three, one and one?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, Fred, can you pull out the MOU from the fair and that's going to be thrown away?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. This is covering that. I don't have the MOU in here.

John Harrington: (inaudible, doesn't sound like the mic is on)

Selectwoman McHugh: You didn't put it back where?

John Harrington: I didn't put it in the folder.

Selectwoman McHugh: Why not? IT was signed and it was supposed to be signed here tonight. So, what if Matt didn't bring that here tonight.

John Harrington: I would have gone up and gotten a copy.

Selectwoman McHugh: That should, that needs to be something we all need to look at.

John Harrington: I can send it to you tomorrow. The MOU for the EMS?

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, that's the information we needed tonight.

John Harrington: What information, Cindy, sorry?

Selectwoman McHugh: The MOU should have been here in our folder to be looked at.

John Harrington: That was given to me this afternoon.

Selectwoman McHugh: No. No.

John Harrington: Well, that's when I got it.

Selectwoman McHugh: It was given to you last week.

John Harrington: Oh, are talking, I'm talking this, you're talking about the EMS.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

John Harrington: You did receive copies of those but it's not here. We were supposed to sign it tonight. So, now I need to know that fair MOU, is that junk, are we going to throw that away now?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, we already have one agreement with the town. Town and the fair covering both the EMS and...

Selectwoman McHugh: The fair hasn't signed that yet.

Chairman McGarry: Well, I've signed it. Okay. Thank you, Matt.

Matt Fisher: So, on a liter note, I believe everybody received notification and I'll make it public here that the towns and awarded a seven hundred and fifty thousand grant from FEMA for assistance to firefighters funding a program that started a little over twenty years ago. A few steps moving forward, there's obviously a lot of parts and pieces to it. It's a ninety-five percent federal share. Five percent town. So, the federal government's seven hundred and fourteen thousand and some change and thirty-five thousand for the town. Immediate next steps would be the, holding a public hearing, which I think the town administrator already posted, and if the town chooses to receive the grant we can move forward.

Chairman McGarry: Now what can that be, I assume it's for fire apparatus.

Matt Fisher: Yeah. So, the grant was written for our pumper tanker to replace our nineteen eighty engine three and out nineteen eighty-seven tank too.

Chairman McGarry: Oh.

Matt Fisher: So, the big-ticket items, were with the federal government when you receive a grant for vehicle acquisition. Those vehicles being replaced cannot be used as fire vehicles, fire apparatus in the United States again. So, however we determine to...

Selectman Dill: Dispose.

Matt Fisher: ...sell, auction what have you. It'll have to be some sort of clause or language that specifies that.

Selectman Dill: So, we're gonna get two new vehicles or one?

Matt Fisher: One, replacing two.

Selectman Dill: Okay. And I guess the only other...

Matt Fisher: (inaudible, someone else talking) ...year old and a thirty-seven-year-old.

Selectman Dill: The other question would be, could we use this for the ambulance rather than a pump truck?

Matt Fisher: It cannot be done.

Selectman Dill: Okay. That's fine. I figured that questions gonna come up at some point soon.

Chairman McGarry: So, the five percent match come out of...?

Matt Fisher: My thoughts would be our capital reserve fund.

Chairman McGarry: Oaky.

Matt Fisher: Which has three hundred and sixty plus in it.

Selectman Dill: I'm guessing the ordering of a new truck is going to be ridiculously out like ordering of everything right now.

Matt Fisher: About two years.

Selectman Dill: Two years. So, we probably ought to get on, what's your move? Committee to design?

Matt Fisher: So, we started reviewing and drafting basic concepts and putting an apparatus committee together a couple years ago and have a fundamental, kind of, picture of what we're looking for looking at for that pumper tanker that's gonna have a, basically, it's, you know, a larger amount of water than normal on a regular engine. So, like engine four has a thousand gallons. We're looking at that twenty-two fifty, twenty-five-hundred-gallon range which would be, basically, equivalent to engine one and tank two.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Ten-wheeler?

Matt Fisher: Yes. Yeah, it would be, we'd be right around pushing two thousand to get on a single axle.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Too much.

Matt Fisher: Yeah. So, the grant was written twenty-five hundred gallons plus or minus for that pumper tanker design. So, if, you know, depending on what we have, size limitations, we had about five different manufacturers reps come into the station past couple years ago. None of which seemed overly concerned that they couldn't design something to fit at central. Might be a little more money to customize it. Might not have all the parts and pieces we would have if we had, you know, a larger bay to put it in but I think there's a fairly good chance we'll have a, we'll be able to design the truck to fit at central station.

Selectman Dill: So, are we going out to bid soon or...

Matt Fisher: Once the grants approved, our region one for FEMA has been putting on every week two or three Zoom classes or Zoom sessions to go over, you know, now that you've received a grant these are the steps moving forward. So, that's gonna kind of give us all of the insight. You know, what steps we have to have in place for, you know, procurement and, you know, we have to follow the town's purchasing policy and termination clause and that sort of thing. There's gonna be a lot of information to try to digest.

Selectman Dill: That's great news.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. For sure.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, that's next Monday?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Matt Fisher: Would be when the public hearing is.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, everybody knows?

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectman Dill: Have we got any bids back on the ambulance?

Matt Fisher: John, Chris, and I are going to be meeting Wednesday, so, John had found a bunch of, handful of sample RFPs that other towns in New Hampshire have used for going out to bid. So, we're going to be looking at what that looks like for Deerfield coming up with a mesh.

Selectman Dill: So, you could have those for Monday too? That'd be nice, yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thanks, Matt.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Accounts payable manifest. In the amount of fifty thousand two hundred twenty-one dollars and twenty-nine cents.

Motion: Selectman Dill
Second: Selectman Huebner
Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Any discussion? Hearing none, excuse me, all right, roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: No.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Abstain.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 1, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries

Chairman McGarry: And payroll manifest for week ending nine fourteen in the amount of, gross payroll, of eighty-three two hundred and ninety-seven and fifty-four cents and a net payroll of fifty-three thousand two eleven sixteen

Motion: Selectman Dill
Second: Vice Chairman Pitman
Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Seconded by Dick. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion signify, well, will signify by saying aye by roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: We take a vote on the minutes?

John Harrington: No.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: They should be in there.

Chairman McGarry: Right. All right. Review of outstanding minutes for nine twelve twenty-two. A motion to approve.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

John Harrington: I have a question. I'm wondering is Dick or Cindy could answer this? Randi could not understand the last name of Kim who attended last week.

Chairman McGarry: Good luck.

Selectman Dill: I thought that was the reason.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I can't spell it.

Selectwoman McHugh: Cinque Grana, I don't know how to spell it.

John Harrington: Yeah, she looked on the web page but she wasn't listed

Selectwoman McHugh: Here, I'll tell ya, hold on.

John Harrington: She tried listening to it several times. She couldn't understand it.

Chairman McGarry: Mhm.

Selectman Huebner: I would like to say one thing about the minutes. As I read through them there's obvious errors, you know, in spelling, you know, in context you can see that some words didn't get transcribed properly but the gist of what's being said is still preserved so I don't know if there's anyway we can approve on how the transcriptionist does that. I presume there's some technology that they're using for voice to text transcriptionists but...

John Harrington: I believe Randi is transcribing what she hears so, if the grammatical transcription is not making sense that is what is being said. She's not correcting the grammar.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You speak (inaudible, laughs)

Selectman Huebner: Right.

John Harrington: And that would be, that's not her job to correct the grammar. She's writing what she's hearing.

Selectman Huebner: Right. Okay. Like I said, it doesn't seem to materially change. I think you can get the gist. The public can get the gist of what the minutes are and we have but there quite a lot of errors, we can read through it but they're not worth chasing after a meeting like this but let's go ahead and vote.

John Harrington: Do you have a name?

Selectwoman McHugh: c-i-n-q-u-e g-r-a-n-a. Say it.

Selectman Dill: That could be why none of us figured it out.

John Harrington: Cinque Grana. Cinque Grana.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's close, I guess.

John Harrington: Thank you. I'll make he change.

Chairman McGarry: All right. So, with that change, Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, signature. We have a nomination of Jennifer Lee to the Municipal Budget Committee and which the term would, there's a vacancy on the budget committee in the term, her term would end March twenty twenty-three.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion for the chair to sign.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: We'll all have to sign. Can't get out of this one, Dick. All right, we have a letter from Fort Mountain Companies and this is with regard to an earth excavation permit which has yet to be approved by the planning board but it reads; we're looking to construct some road improvements on Dow Road and under RSA two thirty-nine nine. We are required to contact the town and ask for permission to do so. These improvements would start at the beginning of Swamp Road right at the tri-town corner lines of Epson, Allenstown and Deerfield. We would extend the improvements for the new proposed Partridge pit entrance. Fort Mountain Trucking will be paying for all the costs of the improvements and feel free to contact me. Signed Jeffrey Eames. So, we would need to give him approval to do this, the only thing, the only stipulation I think we would have is that he would have to propose what his improvements would end up consisting of so that Ray Ellis could take a look at it and...

Selectman Dill: Approve it.

Chairman McGarry: ...approve those improvements.

Selectman Dill: And it's still a town-owned road even after the improvements.

Chairman McGarry: A town-owned road that's a class six.

Selectman Dill: Yes. I will, so moved, I guess I will say on...

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: So, a letter to Mr. Eames asking what types of improvements he's looking to do and then you would give permission after that?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Either that or... (Inaudible, others start talking)

Vice Chairman Pitman: (inaudible, others talking)

Selectman Dill: (inaudible, others talking) ...well in a road agent.

Chairman McGarry: A road agent, yeah. So, it'd have to go to the road agent to what is proposed in improvements. What are they going to consist of and then he would end up going to the planning board with the earth excavation permit.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (inaudible)

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

John Harrington: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: So, it would be voting, Will, as to whether or not we're in favor of allowing the improvements to be taken care of on Dow Road but for Ray Ellis to approve of those proposed improvements.

Selectman Huebner: Yes, I understand.

Chairman McGarry: And, we have a motion and a second.

Selectman Dill: I made a motion; I don't know if there's a second.

Chairman McGarry: Second by Dick. Okay. All right, all those in favor of the motion by roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: No.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Selectwoman McHugh: I just have a question.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Ray is interim road agent. Is he qualified to make these decisions.

John Harrington: I would say yes.

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

John Harrington: I would rely on Ray to take himself out of that decision if he didn't feel qualified. He's never represented himself in any other way. I think if he did not feel qualified, he would say no.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: And I guess, if need be, we could refer it to Keech and Nordstrom for the improvements.

Selectman Dill: This wasn't a huge, long piece of road, from what I remember, was it?

Chairman McGarry: No, it's not. Probably three or four hundred feet.

Selectman Dill: Oh, okay. So even shorter than I thought.

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have multiple refund requests for first half of twenty twenty-two tax bill coming from the town clerk tax collector. And we have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven. Eleven refunds and what I'll do is I'll read who it is and the amount of the refund and then we can take a vote on all of them. Does that sound okay.

Selectman Dill: Yep.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Brokers Title and Closing for seventeen dollars and fifty-one cents. Roscoe Blaisdell for eight dollars and twenty cents. Shellpoint Mortgage Services, two thousand nine hundred and sixteen dollars. Carrington Mortgage Services LLC for two thousand four hundred and thirty-six dollars. Home Point Financial Corporation for two thousand three hundred and ninety dollars. Round Point Mortgage Servicing Corporation for four thousand seven hundred and eight dollars. Nation Star Mortgage LLC for five thousand three hundred and sixty-one dollars. Granite State Credit Union for three thousand five hundred and forty-nine dollars. Community Investment Properties for eight thousand nine hundred and nineteen dollars, Bangor Savings Bank for six thousand four, excuse me, Six hundred and forty-four dollars and fifty-one cents. And BNY, Bank of New York I guess for one hundred and twenty-eight dollars and twenty-four cents.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes amotion to approve the list Fred just read.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Selectwoman McHugh: How come so many?

Chairman McGarry: I don't know.

Selectman Dill: It could be a whole lot of things in that too because I know some of them are closing, if they close at a certain date they can come back. I'd have, we'd have to ask Kelly on the rest of them. I don't know. But I know that the closings screw them up.

John Harrington: Kelly is indicating she'd like to talk. She's on. All right Kelly.

Chairman McGarry: Kelly, go ahead.

Kelly Roberts: Can you hear me?

Selectman Dill Yep.

Kelly Roberts: Okay, so this is just housekeeping. We're required by law to refund over payments that are not prepayments. This is just in preparation of the second half bill that we will be working on soon. So, we gotta get this done.

Chairman McGarry: Thank you.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. Thanks.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right. Have a motion and a second, any further discussion? Hearing none I'll call for the vote by roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: And a special payroll manifest for the week ending in nine eight twenty twenty-two. Gross payroll of one thousand eight hundred ninety-two dollars and fifty-eight cents for a net payroll of one thousand four hundred forty-two dollars and forty-nine cents.

John Harrington: (inaudible, sounds like mic is not on)

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Any further discussion? Hearing none I'll call roll call. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Correspondence. We have a letter from DES to Eversource. This is just a copy. With regard to proposed activity by Eversource by the powerlines, I believe. This is basically, it's an approval of their vehicle and we also have a letter from Harmen Law Offices with regard to sixteen Pinecrest Road. This is informing you that the foreclosure sale of the above referenced property has been postponed until December fifteenth at twelve pm. That takes care of correspondence. Town administrators report.

John Harrington: I have nothing to report tonight.

Chairman McGarry: Unfinished business. New business. This is a new business item. All five of us are individual members of this board and none of us individually speaks for the board unless the board authorizes that action and I want to remind all board members that they are not to be telling town employees how to do their job unless they have approval from the board to do so and if any individual board member is unhappy with work by town employees they are to come back to the board and discuss it with the board and then take action following that. But we can't have individual board members telling employees how to do the work and without full authorization from the board to do so. I just want to make that as a reminder. All right, do we have a non-public?

John Harrington: No.

Chairman McGarry: No non-public. Citizens comments. Mrs. Cady.

Harriet Cady: Discussions in the meeting of the charges by Matt and his assistant to do an inspection of the fair and various things that are coming up, I realized that we have detailed job descriptions for police, welfare, and so on and so forth but there is none in the policy book for the fire department. When they may charge, as the stipend we pay the fire chief so that servicing the town is a part of the cost of his job that it comes from that stipend and I would like to see that there's a policy or a job description for the firemen, especially the chief, and assistant chief so that we have something on record for how things are worked within that department too.

Erroll Rhodes: Erroll Rhodes, Church Street. I too have a comment or two to make regarding the chief's recent ambulance proposal. I actually agree with Mr. Dill that it'd be terrific if a grant were sought for that ambulance and I wouldn't be sitting here if that had been the process that the fire department selected. Wouldn't be an issue at all. Write a grant. Get an ambulance, done deal. This proposal is a total head scratcher for me. A total head scratcher. I didn't understand it at all. Why? Not because I disagree, as I've indicated with the underlying issue of an ambulance. That's, you now, not my concern. My concern is that the proposal needs just a huge amount of work. Okay. I've been in finance for thirty-five plus years. This proposal came across my desk, that's what I would do with it. Okay. With. It's just not a real proposal. There's no statement of an issue. There's no alternatives. No options. From the cheap seats, quite frankly, it looks like it's the allocation of the funds of the ARPA funds in it and seventy percent of the seventy-one percent of the ARPA funds being allocated to that purpose based on that proposal just doesn't make any sense. It looks like a decision made in the dark to spend a large amount of money on a non-infrastructure issue instead of funding actual current town infrastructure needs. I've asked the town administrator about a list of, a prioritized list of needs the town has. Apparently, one doesn't exist and this proposal is being put together and agreed apparently without public comment or even a public decision. A lot of towns in New Hampshire make ARPA funds a warrant article issue. They ask the people about the money they have received. I haven't seen that in this case. So, I guess, my basic question in this case is, have you asked yourselves the question whether this a fiduciarily responsible decision to set aside three hundred and thirty-eight thousand plus dollars for a, based on that proposal. Okay. I have two concerns. The proposal itself. I think when the presentation was made here, one of the presenters characterized the ambulance as being fancy. If you look back at the tape, you'll see that. Well, that sort of rung a bell in my mind. I think earlier this year we had a school board that proposed a fancy school to the town and you know what happened to that. At least they put more presentation together. More numbers. More scenarios. More options or whatever than this proposal but the town rejected that four to one. You know, there's a lot of missing pieces. I'm sure a lot of work could be done on that proposal to make it more reasonable or passable as a financial decision but there's no cost benefit analysis. There's no cost running, running cost analysis. There's no options. There's no statement of why it's really needed and there are no alternatives non how to, you know, set out how to build the ambulance. I get why the town wants to do it though. Okay. You want to get into the billing and transport business. Okay. That's where the vigorous is in the ambulance business. That's a new venture. So, I guess the question, one question I ask is, why are we using ARPA money to, for venture capital and there's no discussion of how you're going to do the billing. How you're going to be running that new business which we have never done in the past. Okay. I mean, this is all just simple rational and there haven't, you know, and as I watch the video, you know, everybody's sort of on board, oh this is great. This is wonderful. What color is it gonna be, you know, that kind of stuff. I just, the impression that came through my mind, which is not an impression I get normally in this room, is the emperor's clothes. Everybody just thought it was so fantastic that they were sort of stepping back and saying whoa, you know, what's, how do you, how should we really be doing this from a process perspective, you know? And that's the second point I guess, the process prospective...

Chairman McGarry: We're at five minutes.

Erroll Roads: ...No public hearing. No warrant article. This is the kind of thing that erodes public trust and so I would urge you to rethink that in light of, because I think you're taking on a liability when you make a decision based on that presentation. There's no meat in it. So, that's all I've got tonight.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Dick.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to adjourn at seven twenty.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

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

Next Meeting: September 26, 2022 at 5:30 pm

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