

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
October 3, 2022  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

5:30 – Chairman McGarry called the meeting to order

**Present:** Fred McGarry, Chairman, Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Cynthia McHugh and Will Huebner, Selectmen.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

Chairman McGarry: All right, the budgets. We have revaluation of property page eleven.

Vice Chairman Pitman: They want ninety-four thousand seven hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$94,754.00).

Selectman Huebner: That's the revaluation of properties?

Chairman McGarry: Right. Ninety-four thousand seven hundred and fifty-four dollars. Do we have a motion?

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Chairman McGarry: Okay. We're showing a nine-point two percent increase. Any comments, John?

John Harrington: No. This budget is fairly standard with our costs mainly due to the appraiser which is in a contract that we sent out back in twenty eighteen, I believe.

Selectman Huebner: And who is the contractor?

John Harrington: Avatar.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah. So, this is not a change from...

John Harrington: This is the third of a five-year contract. Third year of a five-year contract.

Chairman McGarry: All right, any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion to approve the revaluation of property in the amount of ninety-four thousand seven hundred and fifty-four dollars signify by saying aye.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, next item is personnel administration page fifteen. We have a proposed budget of a hundred and eight thousand six hundred dollars (\$108,600.00). We have a motion?

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman makes the motion so they can discuss it.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Chairman McGarry: There's FICA and, uh MEDI.

John Harrington: This is all based on salaries and wages.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And we have no say.

John Harrington: It's a percentage of whatever people are making.

Selectman Huebner: Is it an increase over last year?

John Harrington: Eleven-point five three percent.

Selectman Huebner: So, I wouldn't say we have no say but yet if we end up with a default budget, we have to fund it from other things, right?

John Harrington: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: Yep. Any further discussion?

Selectman Huebner: Why is it so much of an increase, eleven percent? Any idea, John?

John Harrington: Because we're in the fifth year of a default budget and salaries have increased steadily for five years and this has to keep up with it.

Selectman Huebner: Right.

Chairman McGarry: Any further discussion? Hearing non, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

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

Chairman McGarry: Next is insurance. Page twenty-six.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman makes the motion in the amount of four hundred and seventy-one thousand one hundred and twenty-four dollars which is down five percent from last year.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Selectwoman McHugh: I just have a question. How come it went down? I would think that...

John Harrington: Actually, this budget has not been changed. This is from last year. I won't get insurance numbers until the beginning of November. So, the board can approve this but it is going to change.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

John Harrington: Because, you'll need to look at all the healthcare options and the pricing as you have in past years.

Selectman Huebner: So, why did it go down then in the estimate? It seems like it would have been the same.

John Harrington: Well, the budget is a default budget of four ninety-five and that has not changed. Each year we adjust it accordingly but if the budget fails it goes back to the default number which is, for lack of a better term, stuck in a high amount, more than we are budgeting that we need.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, okay.

John Harrington: But these are last years or this year's numbers. There not projected twenty twenty-three numbers.

Selectman Huebner: So, presumably, even last year, we were looking at less than the full...

John Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Huebner: ... because default happens to be a higher number.

John Harrington: But when the operational budget fails you get the same default number.

Selectman Huebner: This is the... part of the issue of operating under a default budget is, numbers don't make sense.

John Harrington: Sometimes. Right.

Chairman McGarry: All right, any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

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

John Harrington: I will bring back numbers when I get them and we'll have to revisit this.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. We have Veasy Park on the agenda but John said that we'll be taking that up next week.

John Harrington: Yes. Just a reminder to the board, you closed the public hearing but the board will still need to vote to accept the funds.

Chairman McGarry: Right. We'll do that right after review of the outstanding minutes.

John Harrington: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Minutes for nine twenty-six and nine twenty-eight.

**Motion:** Selectwoman McHugh makes a motion to approve the minutes for both nine twenty-six and nine twenty-eight.

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, with regard to the grant for the purchase of a replacement fire truck, what's the board's feeling?

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to accept the proposed grant in the amount of seven hundred fourteen thousand two hundred eighty-five dollars and seventy-one cents (\$714,285.71).

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, payroll manifest. Gross payroll of seventy-one thousand five hundred and twelve dollars and fifty-nine cents (\$71,512.51) for the week ending nine twenty-eight and the net payroll of forty-five thousand two hundred and ninety-eight dollars and sixteen cents (\$45,298.16). Motion to approve?

**Motion:** Selectman Huebner makes a motion to approve in the amount stated.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman McGarry: Accounts payable manifest in the amount of seven hundred and eighty-three thousand nine hundred and eighteen dollars and eleven cents (\$783,918.11) of which seven hundred and fifteen, uh, seven hundred and fifty thousand would be going to the school.

**Motion:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have a notice of abatement. This is from Kelly and an abatement of ten thousand five hundred dollars. (Inaudible, loud sound from background making it hard to hear) ... to abate the following taxes on property described as, map two oh nine lot forty (M209-L40) as follows, um, for two thousand thirteen it's two thousand eight hundred and seventy-two dollars and seventy-four cents (\$2,872.74), two thousand fourteen, it's five thousand eighteen dollars and thirty-six cents (\$5,018.36), fifteen it's two thousand six hundred and eight dollars eighty-nine cents for a total of ten thousand five hundred (2,608.89), for a total of ten thousand five hundred.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman  
**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh  
**Discussion:**

John Harrington: Just to clarify, this is interest.

Chairman McGarry: Interest. That's correct.

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

Chairman McGarry: Correspondence. My name is Chris Roberge. I have lived in town since July two thousand and one. My children attend DCS and Concord Highschool and played little league baseball intown. I also served on the budget committee several years ago... (inaudible, loud sound in the background making it hard to hear) ...there was a nasty accident here on South Road on September twenty-seventh within a mile of my house in which a young woman was walking with her children and dog and was severely injured when struck by a car. Hope she and her family are doing well. The accident led to a lot of grumbling on one of the town Facebook pages about the number of cars that seem to think the speed limit on South Road is akin to that of route 101. I agree, we get a lot of speeding on this road and I am sure on many others as well and many people walk, run, bike, dog walk in this town. I know the police can't be everywhere at once and the budget here is often tight. I wondered if the board would please consider either a warrant article or other budgetary method to invest in some portal automated speed enforcement technology. It could be moved around town to some of our more notorious spots in an effort to slow these folks down. I say these folks recognizing that some case and motorcycles are going... tearing by my house over and over. I am by no means a safety expert but some quick internet search indicates that the use of such solar powered, environmentally friendly technology can reduce the number of property damage, injuring causing, and otherwise expensive accidents by as much as fifty percent. I do not think in New Hampshire speed can be enforced using these devices. In other words, tickets cannot be issued based on any photos that they are able to take but it may serve as an effective deterrent. Just a suggestion from a concerned walking, running, biking, dog walking citizen. Thank you for your time. Signed Christopher Roberge. I think we, uh, briefly mentioned to John about the possibility of doing striping on South Road and, uh, it had come in on a request previously and, uh, we may, uh, end up putting forward a warrant article to cover the cost of that striping and this is another suggestion for, us, basically, uh, a device which would show the speed of the vehicle that are approaching it. Of course, we have some people that think they should increase they're speed just to show how much faster they are going. Will.

Selectman Huebner: I want to comment on this which is, I'm not apposed necessarily to electronic devices, I think that's something we should look at, but our... my understanding is that our police department only gives one ticket out of ten times that pull somebody over for some kind of moving violation and while I'm happy to know that when I get pulled over, I'm not likely to get a ticket I think that it behooves the town to encourage the police department... I don't know... I think we have the authority to do that... is to ask the town to give more tickets to people and not to be so easy about speeders and people that crossing the yellow lines and whatever reason they're getting pulled over for. I think, um, another way of abating accidents in town and the safety of the roads is to have our police department get tougher on people and, you know, not just out of towners or out of state license plates but on all of us, you know. I'll suffer the ticket if I violate a little more. So, I don't know if we can make a... I don't know... need to make a motion but we need to maybe perhaps give an instruction to the police department that we'd like to see, uh, a little tougher ... more tickets being given out to give more teeth to the issue.

Chairman McGarry: Has Gary been in for his budget yet?

John Harrington: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: He already has. Okay. Kinda thought he had, just wanted to make sure. Yeah, I think, um, do we want to have Gary come in and meet with us?

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, or maybe the first move is to have John meet with Gary or mention to Gary or us to mention it to Gary to see if Gary's amenable to instructing his officers to try to increase the percentage, you know, I don't have we have actual records that say this is actual amount and whether we want to try to set a guidance to the police department about how tough we want them to be on speeding and other violations.

Chairman McGarry: So, you want John to check with, uh, talk to Gary?

Selectman Huebner: Is that appropriate, John? Or is it better for one of us to, uh...

John Harrington: I really don't oversee the police department. The board of selectman does. Probably me appropriate for one of you.

Selectman Huebner: One of us.

John Harrington: Or as a group.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's true, maybe we should... can we ask Gary what he thinks the best to handle it? Maybe he has some ideas how to handle this and I don't disagree... And where did you get the one of ten people get a ticket?

Selectman Huebner: Gary told me that himself.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay. No. I was just curious.

John Harrington: Want me to ask him or invite to the next meeting?

Chairman McGarry: Dos that sounds all right, board members?

Selectwoman McHugh: If he wants to come in, I guess.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Yeah.

John Harrington: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Town administrators report.

John Harrington: Just one item this evening. I received an email from Anne Schultz. She' part of the pleasant lake preservation association. She requesting, um, to the board, if they support adding a new sign, which would be a no outlet sign, to the entrance of Gulf Road.

Chairman McGarry: Oh.

John Harrington: there's currently a no parking sign there now. She's asking if you would support a no outlet sign.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, there isn't one.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

John Harrington: So, I'm seeing a consensus that would, yes?

Chairman McGarry: Yes. I believe so. Will?

Selectman Huebner: I should probably just abstain since it's part of my association.

John Harrington: At least are in support of that?

Chairman McGarry: Right.

John Harrington: Okay. I can get back to her on that.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: That's it for me this evening.

Chairman McGarry: That's it. Wow. Any unfinished business? Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Are we gonna to invite a public hearing for Swamp Road?

Chairman McGarry: Oh, for the renaming it?

John Harrington: Oh, I guess I did have two items. In your packet I included some information on the process to rename a road. One is an excerpt from the New Hampshire Municipal Association and on the back is the actual statute that dictates the process to do that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I just think we should give the people that live on that road a chance, where he said everyone on it wanted it, let's hear it from them.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, so, it looks like we want to have a public hearing?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: To that affect.

John Harrington: So, that wouldn't be until, not next meeting, the one following.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: So, this requires a public hearing?

John Harrington: It does not. It's entirely up to the board of selectman. You are not required to do one but you can.

Selectman Huebner: I would question whether a public hearing is warranted for that. If the residents on the street want it and it's a confusion that we already have established.

Vice Chairman Pitman: How many have spoke to you about it?

Selectman Huebner: Not to me. Personally, no.

Vice Chairman Pitman: None of us. This gives them a chance. No one shows then, you know...

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: So, we're in consensus that we'll have a public hearing.

Vice Chairman Pitman: October seventeenth?

John Harrington: Yes. That would be seventeenth of October.

Selectman Huebner: I expect the input might not be so much about whether to change the name but what to change the name to.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Might be different opinions.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Any other business? None. Okay. Citizens comments. Rhodes.

Erroll Rhodes: Erroll Rhodes, Church Street. I Hadn't planned on making a comment this evening but, um, given Mr. Roberge's letter, which I think is, um, it's helpful and given Mr. Huebner's comments, which I think are appropriate. I'm sort of surprised by the lack of outrage at... on this board over that incident. This is a woman and two children and a dog, got struck by somebody. I don't know what the circumstances are but it seems to me that we've known as a town for a long time that people are speeding on South Road. I remember the bus driver that came in to talk about that and ask for striping. I'm not sure I know what striping would do. If it increases the enforcement capability on that, uh, road. I have no idea. Um, but, um, it seems to me that something like that, I mean, whether it was texting or speeding or whatever it was that caused that, uh, one in ten and I've seen that. I've writing that... I've actually seen that written someplace, the one in ten number. Um, it's, uh, kindly but not to that family certainly. Not to any other family that, uh, walks, rides, does any of that stuff. Um, you know, I'm certainly not a, not a, not inclined to be getting tickets because I'm sure I go over thirty-five miles or, you know, twenty-five on a twenty-five but um, but that's a small price to pay for keeping people safe and health and safety, it seems to me, is one of the primary goals of this board. So, I, I'd, um, now I'm not, I don't know whether the chief would be amendable but I... you know, frankly, the chief

reports to you guys. I'd, I'd tell him he has to do it whether he's amendable to it or not he ought to be instructing his people to be doing stuff that keeps us safer. Uh, I don't know if you all get statistics from the fire chief or the police chief on what they, you know, what their calls care. What their, I mean, uh, what their statistic... operating statistics are but this is a good opportunity to sort of think about how those departments are managed. Um, so that you get an idea of, of, how the town is actually day to day being run rather than, you know, the police chief hasn't and I don't know if the fire chief has, I looked, but I know we haven't had statistics on the, in the police department for about four or five years. Both this chief and prior chief actually did give statistics for a number of years in the town report. Those sort of disappeared and I don't know if this board has, you know, asked for that to be reinstated so that you know what's going on but that's the kind of thing, you know, that would be obvious to folks if you had those statistics, what was really being done to keep this town safe. So, I hope you all act on that. Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Mrs. Shigo.

Kathy Shigo: Now that the fair is over, we went through that, uh, a lot of discussion about that, uh, policy between the fair and the fire chief. I like to ask if it's gonna be something in writing, policy wise, since there isn't anything so in the future, we won't have to have two or three meetings talking about how many people should be at the fair as far as the fire chiefs concerned. Um, knowing he has supposedly, quote on quote, the last word but bringing in the state fire marshal and all that caused a lot of, I don't want to say bad feelings, but it caused a lot of feelings about what is right and what's wrong and who's right and who's wrong and I think we could avoid that in the future if we can get together with the fire chief and the, and the president of the fair. I've been a member for a long, long time and if you just discuss these things, you know, we can avoid that hassle we had and uh, and I believe it needs to be in writing of a policy. How many should be there guarding the fire, you know, station and maybe how many should be down here covering us. But it'd be great if you would please follow up on that. I'd really think that for next year it's be a lot easier to put something in writing. Thank you.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman Makes a motion to adjourn at 6:03pm.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

**Next Meeting: October 11, 2022 at 5:30 pm**

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