

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 14, 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, review of the outstanding minutes for November seventh.

John Harrington: (inaudible, sounds like mic is off) ...November ninth as well. One was just ready this morning.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, okay. November seventh and November ninth.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, vouchers and manifests. Um, manifest, payroll manifest. Gross payroll, ninety-seven thousand ninety-five dollars and twenty-six cents (\$97,095.26) with a net of sixty-six thousand one hundred and forty-seven dollars and seventy-three cents (\$66,147.73).

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Accounts payable manifest in the amount of fifty-three thousand five hundred and eleven dollars and thirty-six cents (\$53,511.36).

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Chairman McGarry: Cemetery lot application for Joyce and Richard Pelletier for a lot in the Old Centre Cemetery.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can we have the dollar amount, Fred, so it's in the minutes?

Chairman McGarry: What's that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: The dollar amount?

Chairman McGarry: Oh, uh, one thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100.00).

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: All right, intent to cut. This is on Nottingham Road, forest family partnership, thirty-six Mountain Road lot location.

Selectman Huebner: How many acres?

Chairman McGarry: (inaudible, others talking) ...take a vote, just sign it.

Selectman Huebner: How many acres is that?

Chairman McGarry: Um, two hundred twenty-nine point nine. Two hundred thirty acres. Report of wood or timber cut. Al Jaeger's property off Perry Road in the amount of one thousand nine-hundred eighty-one dollars ninety-nine cents (\$1,981.99).

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Selectman Huebner: Who does the computation of the tax based on an inspection based on the timber?

John Harrington: (inaudible, sounds like mic is off)

Selectman Huebner: So, the same guy who's the doing the property assessments?

John Harrington: Our assessing clerk does it.

Selectman Dill: They get a timber report and then they... off what the forestry reports and then they do the timber tax based on the timber report.

Selectman Huebner: And who does the report? How do we know the reports are done consistently? Is there one person doing it that's consistent?

John Harrington: I think she works with forestry. I'm not quite sure the exact process, Will. You'll have to check with her.

Selectman Dill: It's who... it's a self-report. So, it's the forester, the logger etcetera.

Chairman McGarry: (Inaudible, others talking)

Selectman: Self-report, so, we have to rely on their honesty.

Selectman Dill: Mhm.

Chairman McGarry: All right, disposition of abatement computer adjustment. Uh, this is for, uh, Mr. Devarney on seven Mountain Road in the amount of nineteen dollars.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Selectman Huebner: I'm sure I know what a computer abatement is.

Selectman Dill: Basically, there was an error when they inputted something.

Chairman McGarry: Another notice of intent to cut, um, on Nottingham Road ... (inaudible, mic fades out) ...Tripi. This is thirty-one point seven acres, again, off of Nottingham Road.

Selectman Dill: So, this is what the logger fills out, what they cut, and then the assessor is gonna figure out the tax after that.

Selectman Huebner: There's no check or balance.

Selectman Dill: The only check or balance would be the, uh, they have slips when they deliver everything to the mill.

Chairman McGarry: Winter contracts. All right, uh, what I'll do is, I'll read the various contracts and then have just one vote accepting all of them. (Inaudible, mic faded out) ...sign all of them as well.

John Harrington: Signature on the back of everyone.

Chairman McGarry: Yep. So, we have a D Town site work, Dodge thirty-five hundred. We have, uh, East Coast Signals ... (inaudible, mic faded out) ...three fifty. You want me to read the rates?

Someone from the audience: Yeah, read the rates.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Uh, D Town, a hundred and two dollars an hour. East Coast Signal, eighty-one dollars an hour. Steve Rollins for a one-ton Ford, seventy-seven dollars an hour. Steve Rollins, for a one-ton Ford, seventy-five dollars an hour. Steve Rollins for a Mack dump truck at a hundred and nine dollars an hour. Steve Rollins for another Mack dump truck at a hundred and nineteen dollars an hour. Waldo Twombly for a Mack dump truck at a hundred and nine dollars an hour. Jonathan Winslow for a Ford one-ton at eighty-four dollars an hour and Kevin Young a flatbed dump at ninety-three dollars an hour.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman make a motion to approve the list plowers that was just read.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Selectwoman McHugh: Why are they so different?

Chairman McGarry: Different vehicles.

Selectman Dill: Baes on the GBW... I had talked to Ray this afternoon, it's based on GBW and plow size and then don't forget we also put in a stipend for fuel.

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectman Dill: And, um, also, East Coast has a second truck. He just doesn't have a driver for it yet.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, okay.

Selectman Dill: So, they are waiting to hire a driver. That's another six-wheeler.

John Harrington: Cindy, the rate is also affected by whether they have a sander and a wing.

Selectwoman McHugh: I knew that and I thought that was the flat rate last year.

Chairman McGarry: Uh, let's see, D Town has a sander and a wing. East Coast does not have a sander or a wing.

Selectwoman McHugh: Just let me know what Rollins's got for a hundred and nineteen.

Selectman Dill: That's the last one with him.

Chairman McGarry: It's, uh, plow, wing, sander plus obviously the... (inaudible, others start talking over him).

(Inaudible, Selectman Dill and Selectman Huebner are talking at the same time)

Selectman Dill: That's a ten-wheeler. I think they have a six and a ten. I think one of Rollins' trucks is heavier than the other one.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: And we pay for weight.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: From what I understood.

John Harrington: A vote.

Chairman McGarry: Oh yeah, good idea. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

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

Selectman Dill: Pete went through all of the insurance, etcetera with everybody, right?

Selectman Huebner: Pete Schibbelhute?

Selectman Dill: No, uh, Pete Lemay.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Nothing in correspondence. Town administrators report.

John Harrington: Just a few items this evening. The first, based on questions from last week's meeting, I sent all of you information on intent to cuts. You all received that in your email.

Selectman Dill: Haven't read it yet but thank you for sending it.

John Harrington: Okay, uh, second, I did receive one estimate for road striping on South Road for a single yellow line, something to consider, uh, that wouldn't take place until next spring anyway, provided the second top coat of the paving work done this year is done. We'd want to stripe over that paving before we do that. That came in at just over thirty-eight hundred dollars for a single stripe.

Selectman Dill: Could they do it now just temperature wise or is it too late in the year?

John Harrington: They're booked for the rest of the year.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

John Harrington: He told me they would do it in the spring anyway.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

John Harrington: Um, now there's two ways to handle that. That could go out on a warrant article or depending on what is left in the budget as we near the end of the year you could encumber that and bring it forward, uh, and sign the contract this year for work done in the spring as soon as the weather clears and the paving's done. Something to consider. We'll have to see how the budget out near the end of the year.

Selectman Huebner: So, you'll keep a tickle file on that so that you can remind us toward the end of the year to do that.

John Harrington: I'll keep a note but I'm not sure...

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

John Harrington: ...what I'll call them.

Chairman McGarry: Gary's okay with a single stripe?

John Harrington: That's what he asked for.

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (inaudible, very soft spoken)

John Harrington: And, um, question for the board, last year we did close the town hall for the winter to save on fuel and electric. Uh, Ray's asking the board what they'd like to do this year. We have one booked event coming up this

weekend. It's the coffee house, uh, but as you can tell the weather's getting colder, now's the time to make the decision to shut it up if that's what you want to do.

Selectman Dill: I think we shut it up. We do need... we should have a procedure and a cost in place if we want to reopen it for an event, which we've discussed but I don't think we've ever made a procedure or a fee. But I know sitting there with the election I can't believe how much wind's blowing through those windows. It's crazy.

Selectman Huebner: But if we shut it up, we have to drain all the pipes and everything, right?

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectman Dill: Yep.

Selectman Huebner: So, then for advents you turn it on again and then you have to drain it all out again.

Selectman Dill: It's not too bad. He put a, uh, Ray put a fitting in that he can just blow all the water out so that the draining isn't too too bad.

Selectman Huebner: So, you just hook up a compressor and blow it out?

Selectman Dill: Yep. And they did update... that was the whole point with the sprinkler update too, right? That...

John Harrington: That it could go without heat.

Selectman Dill: That we can go without heat because now we're actually a dry system.

John Harrington: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Last year they figured it was a hundred dollars a day to heat it.

Selectman Dill: Oh yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: two hundred this year plus.

Chairman McGarry: So, yeah, the rates.

Selectman Huebner: So, it doesn't cost us anything to winterize it because we do it ourselves?

Selectman Dill: Yep. We do it in-house. I say after the coffee house, that next week, shut it down.

Selectman Huebner: No other scheduled events for the town hall?

John harrington: People are pending.

Selectwoman McHugh: What about the parade? The parks and rec parade after Thanksgiving. That Sunday, didn't they use that for...

Selectman Dill: Bathrooms?

Selectwoman McHugh: ...well, bathrooms and crafts and...? No?

John Harrington: I'm not sure.

Chairman McGarry: Can you check on that, and see?

Selectman Dill: Like I said, the only caveat I have is just as long as we have a procedure and a fee so that we have a method if we need to open it back up that we can do it.

Selectman Huebner: We did that last year, right?

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: And did we get takes on any events that paid that fee?

Selectman Dill: I don't think we had a fee.

Selectman Huebner: oh, no fee.

Selectman Dill: Last year was the first year we closed it over the winter.

John Harrington: There was no option put in place to open it.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: That was because there was some... some problem with the sprinklers and other things all...

John Harrington: The sprinklers were not functioning at that point anyway, I think.

Selectman Dill: Yep.

John Harrington: Oh, no, the sprinklers had a problem when it warmed up.

Selectman Dill: Yeah. And then we had to heat it after that.

Chairman McGarry: Do we want to have Ray put together what a cost would end up being to reopen it and...

Selectman Dill: Yeah, we just need a procedure and a fee.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: Something we can point people to if they want to open it.

Selectman Huebner: And who would write that procedure?

Chairman McGarry: I guess Ray would.

Selectman Dill: I would look for Ray to get a draft to us.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Pick it up next week.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: There is one other, while we're on the town hall, the heritage commission has somebody coming out from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to do a walk through, uh, Friday afternoon for a grant application etcetera. I'll ... I'm planning on going as a selectman's rep. I'll report at the next meeting.

Chairman McGarry: Good.

Selectman Dill: Because we have those windows. I couldn't believe them at the election how much it... felt like they were open.

John Harrington: That's it. Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Any unfinished business?

Selectman Dill: Uh, yeah. I went up tot eh White Farm today.

Chairman McGarry: Oh.

Selectman Dill: Um, they just had the auction in October so pickings are slim. However, um, fish and game, all of their patrol vehicles were on back order so they're coming in and getting put into the rotation now. So, they've got a couple half way decent looking three-quarter ton trucks up there that were conservation officers' vehicles and the guy said there's more coming in. They don't have a price on them yet because it's still in limbo but I got the info and John could look up that, you know, get in touch and find out what the price is. The only caveat being, I don't know where we're paying for it out of.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: So... They had some other really smashed ones but there were two or three that we could get away with using depending on the price. So, I'll get John the info and we'll go from there but the pickings were slim.

Chairman McGarry: Yep. Right. All right, new business. Default and warrant article.

John Harrington: (inaudible, sounds like mic is off)

Chairman McGarry: All right, property tax break.

John Harrington: (Inaudible, sounds like mic is off) ...twenty dollars twenty-five cents.

Chairman McGarry: A thousand and you had mentioned we have a couple of options.

John Harrington: (Inaudible, sounds like mic is off)

Chairman McGarry: Overlay and also the retainage amount. You, uh... John?

John Harrington: First area the board of selectman has an option to affect taxes is page two. The top section which is the fund balance to reduce taxes. If you look to the very last page, three O four, excuse me, uh, four O four, you'll see a twenty twenty-two fund balance guideline for the town of Deerfield. Where we currently are and your different options of where you might like to be or where you want to leave it after you've made an adjustment. I did have one recommendation from the finance director. She's recommending, given the current economics and the past history of default budgets, she would caution against, uh, lowering that too much.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: Because that is the money you would go into if the budget were to run down to zero.

(Inaudible talking form someone)

John Harrington: Uh, right now you're at sixteen-point six four percent.

Selectman Dill: Could you explain the actual overlay used because I've been trying to make that...

John Harrington: Are we done with the fund balance, first? That's where we are right now. Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Go to.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Every year I go... do this.

Selectman Huebner: So, Dick, you're suggesting ten? Is that what I heard you say?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Eight.

Selectman Dill: Eight.

Selectman Huebner: So, right now we're essentially at maximum.

Selectman Dill: Pretty close.

Selectman Huebner: Essentially at the maximum.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We got three million dollars sitting here doing nothing. You can get half of that ... (Inaudible, very soft spoken).

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, I think I'm with Dick.

Chairman McGarry: I prefer ten percent, I think.

Selectman Dill: I was about to say that. Eight's a pretty drastic cut to me, I mean, it's half of what we've been doing. It's four hundred-thousand-dollar difference.

Selectman Huebner: Well, if we cut it in half that's about one point seven or eight million, right, roughly? That or a magnitude and so that would lower the total tax burden of fifteen six by... bring it down to about fourteen if I do the math right. No?

John Harrington: Are you talking about what is retained in the fund balance?

Selectman Huebner: If we don't retain as much and we use that money for the budget.

John Harrington: I have a calculation here depending on what you choose to do and I give you the exact figures if...

Selectman Huebner: Oh, okay.

Selectman Dill: Could you give us eight and ten?

John Harrington: Excuse me?

Selectman Dill: Dick's saying eight. Fred... Dick and Will are saying eight. Fred and I are saying ten so if you can give us eight and ten that would be better than guessing.

Selectman Huebner: While he's doing that, on page one at the top just the showing of the four categories of the budget the municipal, the county, the local education and the state education that works out to about eighteen and half percent municipal, four percent county, seventy-two percent for the local education, which is DCS, and about five and half percent for the state and education. And the assessing value, which last year was six hundred and ninety-one million in two thousand twenty-one, this year it's going to seven hundred and seventy-six million. So, just by the fact that the valuation is going up I believe that means that taxes are going up because of course there's more thousands to tax. So...

Selectman Dill: No, because...

Selectman Huebner: No?

Selectman Dill: No.

Selectman Huebner: All right, enlighten me then.

Chairman McGarry: The valuation of the taxes?

Selectman Huebner: Well, they should go down, right, because you have more thousands to tax? So, the fact that we have twenty but two percent increase in the mill rate at a twelve percent, uh, increase in the valuation means a huge increase in taxes because you now have twelve percent more bills to collect. More thousands to tax against and you're collecting it at an increased rate of twenty instead of eighteen.

Selectman Dill: But...

Selectman Huebner: So, that's...

Selectman Dill: ...last year you're also looking at extra... last year we had a million dollars turned in by the school. So, there's...

John Harrington: I have an answer for you if you'd like it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Selectman Dill: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: That's true.

John Harrington: Using one point six million of the, um, fund balance leaving a balance of one point two nine, that's just under one point three, the eight percent. That brings the tax rate to eighteen dollars and nineteen cents.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Beautiful.

Chairman McGarry: What is it for ten percent?

Selectman Dill: For ten percent? This is why it's not just a straight number. Because this year we're getting zero from the school board.

Selectman Huebner: You know that?

Selectman Dill: Yes. So, it's not an easy calculation on that and then you have the percentage of valuation etcetera. So, it's not quite as straight...

Selectman Huebner: What is straight forward is the taxes...

John Harrington: Fund balance left at one point seven percent that's utilizing...

Chairman McGarry: (inaudible, sounds like mic is off)

John Harrington: Excuse me, one point seven million that's using one point one five million dollars for the fund balance that brings a tax rate of eighteen dollars and seventy-seven cents.

Selectman Dill: What was it last year?

Selectman Huebner: Eighteen thirty-six, I think was the number, or eighteen eighty.

John Harrington: That was last year, yes. Now you still have some additional, uh, movement if you want to change the overlay. Not that amount of money but you still have money that you can move from there.

Selectman Dill: Do you want to explain that because I...

John Harrington: Overlay is the amount of money you use for abatements. So, every time you issue an abatement...

Selectman Dill: Okay.

John Harrington: ...vote, it comes out of that money.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We don't need a lot in that.

John Harrington: Right now, you carry, we've carried two hundred and fifty thousand a year.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: And two hundred and forty-seven of that is war service credits.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, so I interpreted that to mean, those are the discounts we're giving to Veterans.

Selectman Dill: Yes, but I'm just saying, if we only carry two fifty a year, is that including that two forty-seven?

John Harrington: There's a... on page two in the top section you can see the actual overlay used. There's two hundred thirty-nine thousand seven hundred thirty-two dollars.

Selectman Dill: Yes, but then above that it's got two forty-seven.

John Harrington: I do not know if that calculates into that, Alden.

Selectman Dill: Oh, okay. That was what I was confused on because I couldn't figure out how it was two forty-seven and two thirty-nine all at the same time.

John Harrington: So, with the fund balance that was just ten-point zero two percent. That's what you'd be carrying, uh, (inaudible) ... one point one five million of the overlay leaving one point seven four million getting a tax rate of eighteen seventy-seven with an overlay of two hundred fifty thousand.

Chairman McGarry: So, at eighteen seventy-seven we're actually lower than last year's tax rate.

Selectman Dill: Right. By three cents.

Selectman Huebner: But the tax...

John Harrington: But you drop your fund balance to ten percent.

Chairman McGarry: Ten percent, right.

Selectman Huebner: So, by doing that though, essentially, the mill rate stays unchanged...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: ...but the valuation is going up twelve percent so the actual taxes collected are going to be twelve percent higher than they were last year.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: And even at eighteen nineteen which is a savings over last year, it's not a twelve percent savings.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: So, the taxes are going to go up either way whether we go to eight percent or ten percent. We're still collecting more money than we did last year.

Selectman Dill: But it's less than a twenty twenty-five cent...

Chairman McGarry: Oh, yeah. Right.

Selectman Dill: ...per thousand.

Selectman Huebner: True.

Selectman Dill: All right.

Selectman Huebner: That's why I would be...

Selectman Dill: Did you make a motion, Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah, I did the eight percent.

Chairman McGarry: Need a second to the eight percent.

Selectwoman McHugh: Second.

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded to the eight percent. I guess we've already discussed that...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Or eighteen nineteen as a rate, whatever easiest.

Chairman McGarry: All right: All those in...

Selectman Dill: Well...

John Harrington: Calculate back to eight percent please, before you do that.

Chairman McGarry: That's eighteen nineteen.

Selectman Dill: We fully discussed that?

John Harrington: No, I need that figure to put in there so...

Selectman Dill: I don't know if I'm comfortable having our amount retained.

Chairman McGarry: I'm not.

Selectman Dill: I think ten percent would keep us below last year's tax rate and we keep an extra four hundred thousand dollars in there.

Selectman Huebner: I feel that people need as much tax relief as we can afford to give them.

Selectman Dill: I remember we used to go up to DRE for this.

Selectman Huebner: Won't this tax rate change depending on what happens in the deliberative sessions and at the polls?

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectman Huebner: Cause warrant articles that we put in that have more spending would just add on to this tax rate.

Selectman Dill: Correct.

Selectman Huebner: And it's likely that we're going to see some warrant articles with some expenses above and beyond what we're talking about here.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It can only go up.

Selectman Huebner: So, that's gonna make the tax rate go up from even the eight nineteen, right?

Selectman Dill: Mhm.

Selectman Huebner: I'm just not sure myself that I understand why the taxes don't seem to come down when the valuation goes up. Where are we spending all this extra money because we have a flat budget, at least we have for several years. Except for the, I suppose, the COLAs and other guaranteed increases that are in. so, I'm a little unsure that I can answer a question from a tax payer as to...

Selectman Dill: Well...

Selectman Huebner: ...why it keeps going up.

Selectman Dill: You also have the percent of the evaluation that kicks in too.

Selectman Huebner: What's that, Alden?

Selectman Dill: I said, you also the percent of the evaluation too.

John Harrington: (inaudible, others talking in front of their mics) ...

Selectman Dill: Yeah so...

John Harrington: ...that's what we're looking for correct?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: I don't know if we're on a hundred percent of the eval or... Fred do you know? I don't want to...

Selectman Huebner: oh, you mean the, what percent of the valuation versus real value?

Selectman Dill: Yeah. I don't know if we were at a hundred percent in that last one.

John Harrington: Okay, uh, leaving eight-point zero one percent, which is the closest I get, that's using a fund balance to reduce taxes of one point five million. Leaving one point three nine two million in the fund balance.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Almost a million four we're leaving.

John Harrington: Yes, and that gives a tax rate of eighteen thirty-two.

Chairman McGarry: Eighteen thirty-two.

Selectman Dill: I thought you were at eighteen nineteen a second ago.

John Harrington: That was a different number.

Selectman Huebner: Oh. So, eighteen thirty-two.

Selectman Dill: If we pass eight percent.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Dick you made a motion to and would I be able to get a second on, uh, we do have a second, Cindy...

Selectman Dill: I think you got a second twice.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to go to eight percent retainage on the fund balance.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

John Harrington: Three, two?

Chairman McGarry: Three, two.

John Harrington: And you're not touching the overlay?

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

John Harrington: So that... you're using one point five million dollars out of the fund balance...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

John Harrington: ...leaving one point three nine two zero eight zero.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: And then Alden had a question about the percent evaluation while you were calculating he was asking a percent.

Selectman Dill: We at a hundred percent of the eval right now.

John Harrington: That came out several weeks ago. I think it was at seventy...

Chairman McGarry: Seventy percent.

John Harrington: ...or seventy-three...

Vice Chairman Pitman: It was really low.

John Harrington: ...I think.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Vice Chairman Pitman: These places around the lake that have been selling ... (inaudible, others talking)

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The new construction.

Selectman Dill: That must have the meeting I missed the second the half of.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Seventy something, I don't remember what.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Seventy-point two o three.

Chairman McGarry: Seventy point two.

Selectman Dill: So, it's not, unfortunately, it's not apples to apples on that one.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. All right...

Selectman Dill: Municipal accounting.

Chairman McGarry: ...the default budget.

Selectman Huebner: I can report that the MBC is working its way through the budget that we submitted on the third of November and we're probably about half way through. Making good progress on many of the bigger items but it's not changing much at all, so...

Selectman Dill: I was concerned about the move to move the municipal association to zero. Um, I'm glad that was not changed to zero but I'm very concerned that the MBC keeps trying to zero out that line. I think the municipal association more than pays for itself through our due's money.

Selectman Huebner: If you read the minutes, you'll see that it's a concern that the association is using lobbyists. paying lobbyists to lobby for, um, what they consider to be liberal causes in fiscal responsibility in government and so one of our, several of our members on that board are state representatives, just by coincidence, and they're reporting that they get approached by these lobbyists and they find out they're being paid by the New Hampshire Municipal Association to do what they consider to be political lobbying. So, that was a concern. That was the reason for not wanting to be a member of that, but the committee in the end, decided to maintain a dollar so that if the board chooses to continue that they can, but the money was actually stricken. Excuse me, that's not true. It was actually stricken and then it was put back in again so that...

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Selectman Huebner ...we're now back at the full amount.

Vice Chairman Pitman: All right, so under default... (inaudible, very soft spoken)

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, the, uh... we have the default budget in front of us here. Four million two hundred sixty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-two which is the first number here.

Selectman Dill: Do we have to move that and vote on it?

John Harrington: You should.

Selectman Dill: We should.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to for the default amount of four million two hundred and sixty-seven thousand four hundred twenty-two dollars (\$4,267,422.00).

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Selectman Huebner: So, this new increase in the default budget reflects the contractual and COLA items that we've done this year for salary for next year?

John Harrington: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: Are there any other items that in the default besides those?

John Harrington: Um...

Selectman Dill: You get a, uh...

John Harrington: Um, it's all mostly related to payroll, um...

Selectman Dill: Isn't there a small percentage it goes up as well? I thought we could increase some amounts like eight percent or something?

John Harrington: Not unless it's contractual and we have very few contracts and it has to be a contract voted in a warrant article.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

John Harrington: A contract signed by the board of selectmen does not qualify to go on a default budget.

Selectman Huebner: So, when we give a town employee a raise in pay that's not a contract or a warrant article, correct?

John Harrington: That does not go on the default budget.

Selectman Huebner: Does not?

John Harrington: No.

Selectman Huebner: So, it has to come out, if we get a default again, it'll have to come out of other parts of the budget.

John Harrington: Right.

Selectman Dill: Mhm.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

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

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do we need... (inaudible, very soft spoken).

John Harrington: You can take these warrant articles and we can bring it up next week. I just wanted to get them out to you. Just as a reminder to all the board members these are just place holders. The numbers are not real and the warrant articles are just from last year to give you something to look at and consider. I've attached to the back, you'll see additional documents, one has to do with a potential COLA if that is what you were looking to put in the warrant articles again. The different percentages that are open. Uh, the second is a draft warrant article for the highway vehicles that you asked me to prepare if you want to use that and the last are two possible warrant articles that the Conservation Commission passed along to me that they are considering. They have not told me definitively whether or not they're going to move those forward.

Selectman Dill: And we'll probably start seeing more of those coming in from other boards etcetera.

John Harrington: But I'll put it on next week's agenda.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right, uh, we have a motion to go into non-public under B and D?

Vice Chairman Pitman: You want them separate, John?

John Harrington: No, they can go together.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to go into non-public under RSA 91A:3 II letter (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Second: Selectman Dill

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, no votes were taken in the non-public session.

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

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, um, citizen's comments.

Motion: Selectman Dill sees no citizen's comments so he makes a motion to adjourn at seven thirty.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: November 21, 2022 at 5:30 pm

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