

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 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: Is, uh, Mr. Josh Kohler from Eversource here? I guess not. All right, uh, am I recognizing Don?

John Harrington: After we get Alden in?

Chairman McGarry: Okay, yeah. All right, we have, uh, Selectman Alden Dill on by Zoom. We need a vote to... what to authorize?

John Harrington: To allow him to join the meeting.

Chairman McGarry: Allow him to join the meeting.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: All right, I guess that will be a roll call too. Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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 0 – Motion Carries

Selectman Dill: Thanks, guys.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. And let's see... all right, Don.

Don Wyman: Good evening, Don Wyman. Deerfield fair. Um, we just... we're just going over the hours that Matt Fisher has given us, um, on the hourly rate for the town of Deerfield, um, and we noticed quite a few mistakes. Um, he's got himself down as fifteen hours, we looked at it, it's actually thirteen hours. So, if we break that down, you have to forgive me I don't have this printed off, it's twenty-seven times seventy-six hours... twenty-seven dollars times seventy-six hours is two thousand fifty-two. He has down two thousand two fourteen. Uh, we have a similar situation with Chris Gallant, who's one of the other firefighters, uh, deputy chief, so we need him to go back over his figures because his figures are wrong and as I stated before, um, if the figures are wrong to us then we're paying more then so are the taxpayers of Deerfield with the percentage the selectman have agreed to pay extra.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Don Wyman: So, it's not just us that's gonna be, you know, having to look for the extra, it's the town too so...

Chairman McGarry: Are those the only two, uh, discrepancies you found?

Don Wyman: Uh, no, there's, there's a couple of them but I can email this over to John.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Don Wyman: And, uh, we can straighten this out but, you know, we haven't paid Deerfield yet. We paid all the other surrounding towns, um, supposedly we're off by... one of the other discrepancies, twelve dollars and fifty cents for a gentleman in Northwood, um, and I think that's because our FICA tax but that's something that Matt needs to include in the paperwork, he gives us. This is one of the reasons we wanted a contract up front, um, they negated to give us, um, with that we could have straightened it out, you know, and I know it was short, he keeps saying it was short but we could have done this back in August even if it was short time. Uh, because he didn't have all his guys. He didn't have all his players in line even up to the fair. We were... he was scrambling, what I understand, trying to pull people from the EMT section as close as the week before the fair, two weeks before the fair. So, you know, it's, yeah, there was a discrepancy in time, we didn't get together when we should have but, you know, a little more diligence should have been done on the time and the paperwork, uh, because these people, you know, got nine people here that are waiting for their money and, you know, it's coming on holiday season where money'd be, you know, handy.

Chairman McGarry: Nice to have, right.

Don Wyman: So, um, like I said, twelve dollars fifty cents to Northwood isn't a lot of money but, you start breaking it down to the point where we start looking at it and it's substantial in the long run. So, we need to get all that straightened out, so...

Chairman McGarry: Any board members have any questions for Don? Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: And Northwood was paid, right, just?

Don Wyman: Northwood was paid it's just we're short twelve dollars... I think it was twelve dollars fifty-two cents.

Selectwoman McHugh: It wasn't calculated in the first round?

Don Wyman: Correct. The tax portion of it. That's where we're thinking the breakdown was. That the FICA tax wasn't added into a person so, like I said, if we'd gotten a contract earlier, our bookkeeper could have caught that.

Chairman McGarry: Yup.

Don Wyman: And fixed and resolved it so nobody's waiting for twelve dollars.

Chairman McGarry: Will.

Selectman Huebner: I think I speak for the board, if not speak up, that in two thousand twenty-three we certainly want to set some milestone dates to meet... (inaudible, someone starts talking over).

Don Wyman: I'm, I'm looking to get the pulmonarias and so the board, we've already discussed this, as early as late February, mid-February... we want to get this straightened out. I do not want to go through this again.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Don Wyman: You know, it's just been a lot, back and forth with the town and like I said before, we've had a good repour with the town. I don't want to lose that.

Chairman McGarry: Yup.

Don Wyman: You know, that's where we stand.

Chairman McGarry: So, if you could forward the, uh, discrepancies that you found to John and he'll...

Don Wyman: Yup.

Chairman McGarry: ... pass them...

Don Wyman: Sure can.

Chairman McGarry: ...on to chief Fisher.

Don Wyman: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: And we apologize for the inconvenience.

Don Wyman: Okay. It's an error to us. I'm more worried about the people in town not getting paid. That's where it lays.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Don Wyman: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Thank you.

Don Wyman: Thank you for your time.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thanks, Don.

Chairman McGarry: All right, um, parks and rec.

John Harrington: Don't see him here yet.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right, review of outstanding minutes for December twelfth.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded to approve the minutes of, uh, January, uh, of December twelfth will call to have a roll call. Will... Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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, uh, accounts payable. We have fifty-six thousand seven hundred and two dollars and forty-nine cents (\$56,702.49). Motion to approve?

Motion: Selectman Huebner

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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: No payroll?

John Harrington: No.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right, we have, uh, multiple refund request, second half of twenty twenty-two tax bill caused by over payments. Um...

Vice Chairman Pitman: You gonna read them, Fred, and then get one motion?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. We have, uh, Service Credit Union for five thousand one hundred and four dollars (\$5,104.00). Kathleen Shigo for five hundred and seven dollars (\$507.00). Uh, Corelogic Centralized Refunds for seventeen dollars (\$17.00). Corelogic Centralized Refunds for two thousand two hundred sixty-nine dollars (\$2,269.00). Jennifer Parker for forty-seven dollars and ninety-seven cents (\$47.974). Michael Cox for thirty-five dollars and eighty-three cents (\$35.83). Zachary Desrosiers for fifty dollars (\$50.00). AC Title LLC for two hundred forty dollars and thirty-three cents (\$240.33) and, finally, EOR Reality Development LLC for thirty-three dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$33.28).

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve the refunds.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Selectman Huebner: Any discussion?

Chairman McGarry: Oh, yeah, discussion.

Selectman Huebner: I have a question.

Chairman McGarry: Sure.

Selectman Huebner: Are these all simply the taxpayer making the error and overpaying and then discovering that they've overpaid or Kelly discovering it?

Chairman McGarry: I believe that's the case. Is that correct, John?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Mostly banks and credit unions.

John Harrington: Kelly is on Facebook if she wants to answer.

Chairman McGarry: Kelly, we had a question from Will with regard to these refunds.

Kelly Roberts: Yes. Can you hear me?

Chairman McGarry: Yup.

Kelly Roberts: Okay, so, um, these refunds are the first wave of refunds for this second half bill. Um, they're a result of over payments and they're through banks, refinance, or private owners and by law we have to refund them if they don't want them to go toward repayment.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Thank you, Kelly.

Kelly Roberts: You're welcome.

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have a motion and a second, uh, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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, and we have, uh, highway winter contract agreement for SCI Excavating providing a one-ton Ford F350 for the amount of eighty-one dollars (\$81.00) an hour. Motion to approve?

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded by Alden. Any discussion?

Selectman Huebner: What's the purpose of that vehicle?

Chairman McGarry: Snow plowing.

Selectman Huebner: Okay. So, another contractor in addition to the ones we have.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Okay. Thank you.

Selectman Dill: Just... if Pete's in the audience, are we... is he providing a driver for that or is he driving at the same time? I just...

Chairman McGarry: Question, Pete, was, are you providing a driver or are you driving or... what's the story?

Pete Schibbelhute: So, what happened during the storm was... I have my truck and I have my plow on and as I'm driving around the town or whatever checking on stuff, if there's a spot that needs to be fixed, I'm gonna do it as opposed to just drive through it and call somebody to go back up there.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Pete Schibbelhute: So, like on Saturday, uh, Friday I had to kind of use the truck for like three hours and then on Saturday I used it for two hours. I don't want to use my truck for plowing but if I have to, I can have my son in it, but at this particular time I was the one in the truck, using the truck, so we'll work it out one way or another. It's not my plan to be in the truck plowing but if I'm driving around and there's something that needs to be cleaned up, I'm not gonna drive through it and just let it stay. That's why I used the truck to do it.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Any other questions for Pete.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think it's great he's doing it.

Pete Schibbelhute: what's that?

Chairman McGarry: Dick said it was great you did it.

Pete Schibbelhute: Oh, well, it's just common sense, you know. I'm not going to drive through something that needs to be cleaned up.

Chairman McGarry: Any other questions? All right, uh, roll call. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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, we have a, uh, an appointment form for, uh, for Kendra Cohen through, uh, to the board of adjustment.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded, any, uh, discussion?

Selectman Huebner: Just one, one concern I have is Kendra's taking on a lot of positions. I think she's got four, maybe, now. Four or five.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can you name them, Will?

Selectman Huebner: What's that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can you name them?

Selectman Huebner: I think there's the planning board, there's the school board...

Chairman McGarry: Not on the planning board.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, excuse, it's the zoning board.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Oh, this is what this is.

Chairman McGarry: This is what this is.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, this is for the zoning board?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Well, okay. She's, she has then, I guess, three positions I know of. I thought this was a fourth.

Chairman McGarry: No.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: The zoning board and board of adjustment are the same thing.

Selectman Huebner: I have nothing against the lady, I just, uh, was concerned that we're giving too many positions to one person.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: And this is for a term of three years ending in April thirtieth twenty twenty-five. Uh, any further discussion? All right, uh, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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 have another appointment for James McDonald to the board of adjustment.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded, any discussion? Hearing none... Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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

Harriet Cady from the audience: Fred, was that also three years?

Chairman McGarry: Um, yes.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: All right, I have a proposal from Granite State Glass and this is for... John?

John Harrington: Retrofitting the two doors down in the lease space.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: For emergency access handles.

Chairman McGarry: And this is in the amount of five thousand three hundred and ten dollars...

John Harrington: No, that's for the door replacement. This would be the second option.

Chairman McGarry: option two, which is, eighteen hundred bucks?

John Harrington: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, um, all those in, uh, yeah...

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: ...Could authorize the chair to sign on behalf the board.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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, we received a petition, voter petitioned article to amend the zoning ordinance, um, to increase the lot size from three acres to five acres and, uh, has, um, the town clerk reviewed the signatures, John?

John Harrington: Yeah, the, uh, supervisor of the checklist signed off on the front page.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, okay. Good. Oh, Yeah, Joanna Waring. Okay, very good, so all that's taken care of, it was... Twenty-five signatures are required and there were thirty provided and procedurally what we end up doing is, uh, forwarding this to the planning board so they can schedule the first public hearing for, uh, this proposed zoning amendment. We need a vote on this or just pass it along?

John Harrington: I think you just acknowledge that you received it and you'll be passing it along.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. All right, and, uh, in the Deerfield special one-time Bridge payment. This is the payment we talked about previously?

John Harrington: That's the confirmation from DOT. We should be receiving that sometime this month.

Chairman McGarry: And that's in the amount of ninety-six thousand five hundred and eighteen dollars and ninety-four cents (\$96,518.94).

John Harrington: That's correct.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Ninety-six what Fred?

Chairman McGarry: Ninety-six five eighteen ninety-four (\$96,518.94).

Selectman Huebner: That's for the Freeses Pond bridge?

Chairman McGarry: No.

John Harrington: This is a one-time payment that, uh, from overpayment of highway funds for municipal bridges repair. So, the board had thought to put it aside for Blake's Hill Road bridge if... when that comes around.

Selectman Huebner: So, the DOT was at the Freeses Pond bridge, uh, I want to say yesterday or the day before and was that for clearing the culvert?

John Harrington: They were performing additional work to try to increase the flow.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Uh, Pete, do you want to address that?

Pete Schibbelhute: Yeah. Um, they... last Wednesday, they were there trying to do some work on it and they were unsuccessful in getting much accomplished on last Wednesday so they were back there again on Thursday morning and I did talk to them and I went over about four o'clock today to look at it and it looks like they were able to get some of the material that was blocking the culvert out. Um, it's not completely out but the space from where the existing culvert is and what had caved in is a larger space and looks like the water is flowing. I was unable to shoot a grade today but I will be shooting a grade on the water, probably, tomorrow so that we have some sort of reference before this weather that's coming in. Um, the space in there is larger so there is more water flowing through and there's a rock missing on one on the west side outlet to the north and that was... when I did my first shot of elevations, uh, roughly a week and half ago, the water was above that rock that's missing and it's now at least two inches below it. So, that's roughly twelve inches lower than when the first grade that I shot. Um, you know, it's gonna depend on what kind of weather we get. Right now, obviously, you know, the snow didn't run into the pond as quick as it would if it were rain. Um, if the storm coming up is a rain event, I would imagine we're going to get a lot of melt, um, I don't know how well the culvert's going to perform so we'll just have to monitor it though the rain and, um, I'm sure that the people that live up on Freeses Pond are gonna let us know exactly what's going on.

Chairman McGarry: I drove by there tonight and the... it's that level on the east side is noticeably higher than on the west side.

Pete Schibbelhute: Yeah. You can tell. I mean, it's, it's still, it's not a clear channel anymore.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Pete Schibbelhute: You know, there's debris in it. That clay arch gave away and, um, barring them just, you know, making a decision to do something, you know, it's probably, you know, they did get some, uh, geo-fabric underneath. Um, the first that they had was reinforced poly to help alleviate water, um, piping behind the walls which would take gravel away from the head walls which would potentially have the rest of the thing collapse so their goal was to stop the water from getting behind those walls and taking the fill away so, you know, right now it seems to be working, you know, with what their plan is. Um, like I said, we're just gonna have to keep watching it.

Selectman Huebner: So, do you think the little fix that they made on Thursday, uh...

Pete Schibbelhute: It's better than it was. It's not ideal.

Selectman Huebner: But are we making progress over the next several days if it doesn't rain would we expect to see some lowering?

Pete Schibbelhute: I'm hoping that... I'll, like I said, I'll have a grade tomorrow so that we can compare it, you know, we probably have to take a look at it on Friday cause I think it's supposed to start raining Thursday night.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

Pete Schibbelhute: Give or take.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Pete Schibbelhute: Um, and, you know, who knows, that weather is subject to change from rain to snow so, you know, snow won't impact water level right away but future water level will be there.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Pete Schibbelhute: So, that's where we're at with that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Thank you.

Selectman Huebner: One more question about that.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, Will.

Selectman Huebner: Um, it... once the pond freezes, right, so, I mean, all the pond is already frozen, I think, right?

Pete Schibbelhute: Yeah, well...

Selectman Huebner: So, it's frozen...

Pete Schibbelhute: ...water's still flowing under the ice.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Right, but if the two sides are not equilibrated and the freeze happens evenly then that's...

Pete Schibbelhute: It won't be even because right now the water on the west side is already lower.

Selectman Huebner: So, no it's going to freeze uneven but the culvert will still flow. Do we run the risk of having a void under the ice on the high side, current high side, I guess the west side, I think it is...

Chairman McGarry: On the east side.

Selectman Huebner: On the east side.

Pete Schibbelhute: On the east side.

Selectman Huebner: You know, with that, could we drain water under the ice and cause an air gap which then if people go on the ice, it would perhaps collapse.

Pete Schibbelhute: I think, I think the way the water will work under the ice, the ice will drop to the level of the water...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Pete Schibbelhute: ...because it's too heavy to just say...

Selectman McHugh: It would break, right? Crack?

Pete Schibbelhute: It won't stay suspended above it. It could, like, in small places up along the edge, like, you know, on any pond that would do that. You know, that's where you hear all that cracking and then the ice settles but, like, per se out in the middle the ice is, you know, it needs the water to help suspend it.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: I suppose though if we had a four- or six-inch layer of ice that was self-sustaining you could probably drain water from underneath that.

Pete Schibbelhute: Well, the water's going to be constantly draining no matter what so as far as it being suspended...

Selectman Huebner: Okay. Thanks for the...

Pete Schibbelhute: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: ...extra info.

Chairman McGarry: Thanks Pete. All right, uh, how about Mr. Josh Kohler?

John Harrington: We have parks and rec here now.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. We'll do parks and rec first.

Eric Menard: Hi. Good evening.

Chairman McGarry: Good evening.

Eric Menard: I'm, uh, talking about the proposed warrant article for the twenty twenty-three budget. You have something to say?

John Harrington: It's number eleven in your copy, it's in your folder.

Chairman McGarry: Number eleven. Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I don't think so. Mine's cemetery.

Chairman McGarry: Uh...

Selectwoman McHugh: Mine's eleven.

Chairman McGarry: Recreational facility maintenance expendable trust fund.

John Harrington: You need the new one in your packet. I think you pulled the old one. You should have a new copy.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thanks, John.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, and we're showing, uh, twenty-five thousand. Is that correct?

Eric Menard: Yep. That's correct.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Any, want to comment on the twenty-five thousand.

Eric Menard: Yeah. Um, so it's the same number that we, um, put out in last year's warrant article., um, with the change of the director position, um, with the previous director leaving in April, um, some of the bigger projects that we could definitely, um, work on weren't scheduled at that point so I need to go ahead and plan that for twenty twenty-three. Um, biggest project is resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts outside of George B White. Um, I'm expecting that to be eight thousand dollars alone, um, and then other things, mowing, uh, tick spray at the four ball fields. Roundup infield mix. Playground mulch replacement at all three playgrounds in town. Um, some tree trimming projects. It's George BW, Bicentennial. Um, fence work at Bicentennial. The list goes on.

Chairman McGarry: Any questions?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Looks good.

Selectwoman McHugh: What's in the balance now? What do you, just, to...

Eric Menard: Yeah, eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,5000.00) is in the balance now.

Selectman Huebner: So, I have a comment that I think is not going to be very popular in general but, um, I just want to bring it up which is, I've just been through the MBC. We've moved the bottom line of the budget. It's, um, quite a bit higher than the default budget similar to previous years and it's going to be hard to get that budget passed. I think based on the recent history, uh, I had planned, myself, to, uh, campaign hard to get it passed because we need it and I think you all are in the same boat as that wanting to see that new budget passed but when I talk to people they tell me, uh, three things seem to come up, um, there's a lot of things come up but three things seem to come up more often. One is this parks and rec and the reason it comes up is because, uh, people feel like the parks and rec ought to be able to sustain the funds out of fees charged to participants in those programs and they feel like there's, um, you know, money to be saved by not being giving supplies and giving things to people in those programs and they should be offsetting that. Now, I know that we have half of the salary of the, uh, I think it's the assistant, uh, half of the salary of that is earmarked by funds that are collected, is that correct Eric?

Eric Menard; Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: So, I would think some of those people who are complaining and I don't know if it's a subset or a majority, I don't know, but, um, they would probably say, why doesn't parks and rec collect more fees and not charge the town for the half salary of the assistant director of the parks and rec program. What am I suggesting... we've already moved the budget, uh, the MBC would have to, um, bring it back out for consideration and they would only do that, I think, on a recommendation from the board of selectmen that we would do that. I believe what we'd be talking about is maybe thirty thousand dollars. The half salary of the current director. How much money is that, John? Do you know?

John Harrington: I don't have that off the top. I think you're talking about the figure for welfare not...

Selectman Huebner: well, I, I, was trying to guess the salary, maybe, maybe Eric knows.

Eric Minard: Um, somewhere, twenty... twenty thousand...

Selectman Huebner: Is half?

Eric Menard: Or a little bit more, yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, so, it's about forty thousand total so that's twenty thousand dollars that's coming from that. And then there are two other things that come up quite often to me which is, um, the libraries. People question whether we can afford to, um, have such a vibrant library program for the size of the town, not that we don't like the library program...

Chairman McGarry: Will, why don't we just hold off on that stuff and let's take care of parks and rec.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: And then we can pick that up later.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Um, so we need a vote on this.

Selectman Dill: You need a motion.

Chairman McGarry: Have a motion to, uh, to approve article eleven as, uh, as presented to us

Selectman Dill: Do we have a motion?

Chairman McGarry: We don't have a motion.

Motion: Selectman Dill

Second: Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Any further discussion? Alden.

Selectman Dill: It's a maintenance trust fund and I think the reason we have the maintenance trust fund is because we haven't had a budget to keep up with the maintenance cost increases, I believe is the entire premise behind this maintenance trust fund. So, it gives people a chance to vote it up and down if they want to continue maintenance or not.

Chairman McGarry: That's, basically, my thought as well. The voters don't want it, they'll just vote it down. Uh, any further discussion? All right, I'll call for the vote. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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: Thank you.

Eric Menard: Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: All right, uh, Josh Kohler from Eversource. Josh, why don't you go over to the table there. Josh appeared before the planning board and, uh, we told him to come see the board of selectmen.

Josh Kohler: Thanks for squeezing me in here tonight. I was just talking here today to talk about two, uh, trees, um, that we'd like... Eversource would like to remove during our twenty twenty-three maintenance cycle and so, um...

Chairman McGarry: Sit down.

Selectwoman McHugh: Have a seat Josh.

Josh Kohler: uh, if you click the space bar you can go to the next slide, um, you'll see the location of these two trees in question. Uh, these two plots are town of Deerfield land. Uh, plot twenty-six and twenty-seven, uh, the more northern plot being the town transfer station and the plot below that, again, just, uh, town land. At the moment, all forests. Nothing on it. Um, so...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is this on Brown Road?

Josh Kohler: Yep. In between Brown Road and Raymond Road. Uh, both will be on the... both trees will be on the east side of the right of way.

Chairman McGarry: Right up at the top.

Josh Kohler: All righty.

Chairman McGarry: And both of these are on town owned property.

Josh Kohler: Correct. They are off our easement so it would require just, uh, you know, an approval for us to take them down in our twenty twenty-three maintenance cycle but if you go ahead and click the space bar again it'll look at our first tree. It's a white pine. This is the one that's on the town of Raymond transfer station land. So, this white pine was observed to have a lean towards the line, which was a product of it being front heavy, uh, a majority of the branches were on that front side so you can kind of see it leaning in towards the line. Uh, at the moment that tree is sitting on a, uh, sort of an eroding bank and is mostly comprised of mostly sandy soils. My worry is that, uh, moving forward we visit these lines every four years, my worries that moving forward, um, uh, it won't necessarily receive the nutrients from that soil to grow properly. I'm afraid it'll essentially... the stand will remain, uh, skinny and as it continues to grow taller, they can get, you know, one to two feet per year, um, I'm simply worried it's just not an ideal location for the tree to grow. Nothing particularly, outwardly damaged at the moment right now on this white pine, um, but if you go ahead and hit the space bar, the second tree in question.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Eastern Hemlock.

Josh Kohler: Eastern Hemlock, that one, um....

Chairman McGarry: Cindy's in charge of the computer.

Josh Kohler: So that one, as you see in the bottom right photo, a majority of the needles are missing on the tree and that's a product of the woolly adelgids. That is just a stock photo but they were present on this tree. Essentially, they strip the nutrients from the needles that can extend down to the shoots, the branches, uh, and then to the whole tree itself. Um, so this one is, uh, more decaying as opposed to the white pine and so that would be another reason why we want to take this one down. This one would be a strike on the lines, uh, if it were to fall.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Josh Kohler: And as you can see from some of the photos, that back stand on that hemlock has already fallen as well. I'm afraid that if the rest of... that stand falls it basically leaves that front stand exposed. Uh, pretty decayed and rotted out at the base, um, and that's one I'm more worried about falling as opposed to the white pine is just a positional, uh, aware of it being positionally, you know, hazard in the future. That's, particularly, all I have for you, um, didn't want to take too much of your time. I know some of us had already heard it before but that's all I have for ya.

Chairman McGarry: Any questions for Mr. Kohler?

Selectwoman McHugh: You just need our permission to take them down?

Josh Kohler: Absolutely and if you'd like to discuss what to do with the tree after and sort of removal or if you're worried about any sort of the soil or the land, um, being sort of dug into from any machinery, if you had any questions about, uh, what we would do with the trees after I'm more than happy to answer.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to allow Eversource to remove the two trees.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded to allow Eversource to remove the two trees. Any discussion? All right, I'll call for the vote. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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 set. Thank you.

Josh Kohler: Wonderful.

Selectwoman McHugh: Thanks.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Keep the power on.

Chairman McGarry: All right, um...

John Harrington: Fred, did you want to make a recommendations this evening on the warrant articles? We haven't done that yet.

Chairman McGarry: Oh, yeah. Okay. Good idea. Which ones do we have remaining?

John Harrington: You've covered them all. You just haven't made any recommendations on any of them so I would start at number one and go through.

Chairman McGarry: Go through, right. So, the first one is the budget...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Through a show of hands, Fred, for it or something?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. We could end up doing that. Gonna have a show of hands.

John Harrington: Has to be a roll call.

Chairman McGarry: A roll call, all right. So, article one is the budget for four million eight hundred and thirteen thousand five hundred and forty-three dollars (\$4,813,543.00) with, if that's voted down the default budget would be four million two hundred and sixty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-two dollars (\$4,267,422.00). Do we have a motion to approve...

John Harrington: It's not, it's just a recommendation or not recommended.

Vice Chairman Pitman; How many yeses and noes.

John Harrington: Correct.

Chairman McGarry That's right, Okay. All right, so, recommendations, yes or no, um, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Is there any discussion.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Yeah. All right. We'll have a discussion.

Selectman Huebner: This is where my discussion to talk about the budget, right?

Chairman McGarry: Yes. Go ahead.

Selectman Huebner: So, you can see that four point eight million versus four point two million or almost look like four point three million is still. I don't know, sixteen or seventeen percent increase and I just really feel like we're putting this out the voters to be voted down again. I might be wrong, I hope I'm wrong but... so, is there anything we can do, now that we see the results of this, before we put this warrant article in front of the voters and end up back at default again and starved for money to do the things the town really wants. I know that we have warrant articles in this packet that are going to try to address the fact that if we end up in default we can still earmark funds that people have priority for which is a good thing I think but I, I, wonder tonight the appetite of the board to think about lowering this four point eight million dollar number by trying to recognize some of the things that might be construed by voters as being the reason that they vote nay on the matter. It's a little late, for sure, in the process, I probably should have been bringing this up earlier in the... when we were putting our budget together and challenging the department heads, uh, at that time, um, but I didn't do that so here we are. I think, as I said, as I started to say before, you know, parks and recs charging fees and lowering the budget for that reason, uh, the library program being a little too big for the town to be able to handle, uh, although a nice program, and then the third area is, um, charitable contributions that the town makes to various organizations. It amounts to about twenty-nine thousand dollars in total is another thing some of the voters feel like they can be charitable themselves and they don't need the town to take their tax dollars and, and spend it on charitable, uh, endeavors.

Chairman McGarry: We get services from some of those agencies providing it to the town because of the donations that we make.

Selectman Huebner: So, that's part of the, the give and take is if we didn't give those donations as charitable donations would we... are we actually paying for services or are we making a donation and then they give us services, you know, I guess it's six or one half a dozen or the other but anyway those are three areas that I hear complaints about that are hindering voters from approving the budget and I, I worry that we're just running into another default budget here. I just bring it up for your discussion, if there is any discussion or appetite for it. Then we can move on.

Selectman Dill: We can't change the number anyway at this point.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, we can, uh, it can be brought back up in the MBC. We've moved it to the bottom line but anybody who voted for it can bring it back out for consideration and we can go back in and change it so there is one more opportunity to change it.

Chairman McGarry: Any discussion by other board members?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think it's really late to get into it now.

Selectwoman McHugh: Is it worth the change?

Selectman Huebner: Well, I think we could trim, uh, twenty, twenty-nine and what we can trim out of the library. Maybe a hundred thousand and bring it down to four point seven.

Chairman McGarry: So, we're looking at cutting sixty thousand from the library?

Selectman Huebner: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Where would we...

Selectman Huebner: What does... John, do you happen to remember the total of the library program?

John Harrington: I don't have that... (inaudible, someone starts talking)

Selectman Huebner: It's a fairly sizable amount of money. It's hundreds of thousands of dollars, right? I don't have the budget in front of me either, but it three hundred and eighty-two thousand... I can't remember the number.

Vice Chairman Pitman: (Inaudible, soft spoken and someone else starts talking at the same time)

Selectman Dill: I thought we were voting on recommendations here.

Selectman Huebner: it's primarily salaries and benefits so the number of librarians is in question.

Chairman McGarry: So, with the negating the vote that was taken last year, year before.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Um, yeah. I agree with Dick. We're too far down the road here and, uh, and I just certainly would want to have the library trustees here to defend their position.

Selectman Huebner: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I think if you spent your time, Will, promoting the good of what we have it goes far.

Selectman Huebner: All right, I'll take that under advisement. Thank you for the discussion.

Chairman McGarry: All right, so, article one, uh, we need a yes or no with regard to recommendation. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: All right, article two. Three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) for, uh, repair and reconstruction of existing roads. Any, uh, any discussion on that?

Selectman Huebner: This is, uh, an addition whether the budget passes or not?

Chairman McGarry: Correct. Correct. And we do have a default budget that which includes some work for the, uh, for the highway but, uh, highways, but this would be in addition to whatever we're carrying in even in the default budget.

Selectman Huebner: Right.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: Next one is, uh, two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000.00) for, uh, support of, by way of maintenance and repair of equipment purchasing and, uh, and of supplies and overall operational support to the highway department for road upkeep and repair. Uh, these funds will not be used for personnel support should these article pass. It would only be funded in the event the twenty twenty-three operating budget fails to pass. This funding would be effective January first twenty twenty-three.

Selectman Huebner: So, recognize that the board of selectman put in, I believe it was three hundred thousand, three hundred thousand dollars in addition to the two fifty, I think that's in there as default or is three hundred? So, we have a standard amount that's in our budget...

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

Selectman Huebner: ...and then we, we added three hundred thousand more but if the budget fails to pass that three hundred thousand will go you.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: And so this is saying that we think that the town... this is a recommendation of MBC to the board of selectmen to have this article in case the budget fails they believe that the people would want to still be able to vote on extra money for the highway.

Chairman McGarry: Okay and...

Selectman Huebner: This is not personnel related. It's only paving or supplies or repairs of equipment. Not for people or salaries.

John Harrington: (inaudible, multiple people start talking at once)

Selectman Huebner: I'm sorry, not paving.

Selectman Dill: How is this...

Selectman Huebner: But it's for highway department, uh, expenses.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: I'm a bit confused on this, um, for a couple reasons. One, I wasn't aware the MBC could add, um, warrant articles like this and two, I don't think this jives well with the, um, the trust fund that we're to put through.

Selectwoman McHugh: Can't hear him.

Sorry, Cindy, I'll try to speak up. You hear me now?

Chairman McGarry: Not well.

Selectman Dill: Okay. Well, we're trying to put a trust fund through. I don't believe this jives with the trust fund at all and I, I question the ability for the MBC to add warrant articles. I don't believe they have that power.

Selectman Huebner: because the MBC recommending through me to have such a provision in case the article fails, excuse me, the budget fails.

Selectman Dill: So, we never voted to put this...

Selectman Huebner: I to write up, uh, some wording for it and that's why...

Selectman Dill: We've never voted to...

John Harrington: Alden.

Selectman Dill: We never voted to add this to the warrant either so this is a brand new, just in tonight, type thing. I don't know if we can make recommendations to it that way.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, this should be brought up first as a vote to have it or not.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: Not a recommendation yet.

Chairman McGarry: Any other board members have any comments?

Selectwoman McHugh: First one was, um, paving.

Chairman McGarry: Yes. Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, that's the difference between two and three? Is, two is paving, but it doesn't say just paving.

John Harrington: It's for repair or reconstruction of roads. Number three is for...

Selectwoman McHugh: Oh, it's for equipment and... gotcha. Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: this is six in a row greater now.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah. Yep. Got it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Pete gave us that list.

Selectman Huebner: So, there were members of the MBC that were quite concerned about the budget not passing and then not having this money in that they feel the voters wanted and so they asked for us to consider adding this warrant article to make that provision in case the budget fails that the voters may vote to keep this money in. that's the spirit of it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, what do we need to do Fred?

Chairman McGarry: Uh, I guess first off, get a vote to have this...

John Harrington: Make a motion, second, vote on it and then do a recommendation.

Chairman McGarry: Then do a recommendation.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman
Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded to insert this article three as we discussed. Uh, I'll call the roll. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Aye.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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: Um, one possibility I thought, with regard to the, uh, the final sentence, uh, should it be switched around so if the operating budget passes, uh, this would not take effect?

Selectman Huebner: That's what it says. It says, um, these funds would not be used, oh, excuse me, should the article... should this article pass, it would only be funded if the operating budget failed.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. I guess it's just a matter of semantics, I guess.

Selectman Huebner: Well, we can reword it.

Chairman McGarry: What are your thoughts, John? Generally, in the past we've had it so that if...

John Harrington: This is the way they have been written in the past.

Chairman McGarry: I thought in the past it was, should the budget pass then this would not be funded.

John Harrington: Preference.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, just... we'll leave as it is.

John Harrington: Either way, it accomplishes the same thing.

Chairman McGarry: Sam thing, right.

John Harrington: So, now we're looking for recommendations.

Chairman McGarry: Recommendations, uh, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: All right, the next one. Let's see if the town will vote, in article four, to raise and appropriate ninety-five thousand dollars (\$95,000.00) to be placed in a previously established police department building expendable trust fund for the purpose of having engineering architectural plans prepared for a new police department building and for the dissemination of information relative to the planning and design of such a building. I think we have an issue with regard to the amount of the money that's here. Should be more than ninety-five thousand. Um, I tried to get a revision, uh, in the quote that we received from Warrenstreet Architects and, uh, I didn't check my email last, uh, just before I came so, let me...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do this next week or...?

Chairman McGarry: Can we do it next week or...?

John Harrington: Yeah, you have one more...

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: ...meeting and we can do it.

Selectman Dill: The MBC doesn't meet until the twenty-ninth so I guess we have...

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: I didn't have a question on the article like this and I know if the people vote this down and we can't ask...we can't pay for it again. So, is that including the ARPA money? If the town votes this down, can we not use ARPA money towards... (inaudible, someone starts talking)

John Harrington: Then it, then the colloquial term of no means no comes into play. If the public has said, no we don't want you spending on that then it doesn't matter where the money comes from, you can't spend it on that topic.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, I had that thought too. I guess the question ends up being, do we want to consider using ARPA money for funding on this because we're talking... we have somewheres around thirty thousand or something still...

John Harrington: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: ...in the account.

John Harrington: Thirty, thirty-five.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. And I saw this quote that Dick had here if I can steal yours. Uh, yeah, I totaled this up before but now I... it was a hundred and twelve, hundred and twelve, hundred and thirty, twenty-seven, hundred and forty-seven, um, another twenty thousand, hundred and forty-seven, hundred and sixty-seven and another twenty-nine hundred and...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Two hundred.

Chairman McGarry: Close to two hundred but, um there were, uh, three of the prices are... three of the costs included in here were construction administration and, uh, for TF Moran Construction Administration for, uh, the structural design and construction administration for the electrical mechanical systems, uh, which all, uh, equaled somewhere around fourteen thousand dollars. Plus, there was construction administration included in Warrenstreet's quote of thirty-five five. So, I was trying to get them to back out what those costs were associated to construction administration since we would have to then, after we get the design done, then vote to go to construction and so I didn't really want to take and include those construction costs.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right. We shouldn't.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, that was my feeling. So, um, we're probably talking, uh, somewhere around a hundred and eighty-five minus he thirty-five so it'll be one fifty minus what the Warrenstreet has which I haven't, I don't have that number yet so I think...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Probably worth waiting.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. I would say so.

John Harrington: So, we're gonna wait on four?

Chairman McGarry: Wait on four.

Selectman Huebner: I'm just concerned that if it's identified as simply design work that it's going to be a hundred and fifty thousand ish, right?

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: I'm, I just got concerned about whether the voters will authorize that bill. I think they'd much rather see roads and highway stuff done than the design of the police department but that's just my feeling.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I agree. I think we're gonna stick with ARPA or not do it.

Selectwoman McHugh: That's what I'm thinking.

Vice Chairman Pitman: there's no...

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. And that could go for any of these articles that we want to use the ARPA list money, for highway and equipment, if we're doing this article and it fails and we can't use any of that.

Chairman McGarry: That's right.

Selectman Dill: No because the highway...

Selectman Huebner: (Inaudible, others talking) ...will also indicate that the citizens would not want us to use the APA money.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can't. that's what we just got done saying.

Chairman McGarry: What Will was saying is, if the, if they're opposed to it as a warrant article does that mean we're not going to get support to actually build a building even though we get the design through ARPA and that's...

Selectman Dill: the difference I would say is that's a specific use. Putting this warrant article in as a specific use. The general highway funds are not specific uses. It's not saying for x road or y road and then we couldn't apply any money. Those are general use funds. So, getting those voted down wouldn't negate us from using it on those funds.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, but we're looking at the, for the police station.

Selectman Dill: I know, but I was addressing Cindy's comment on the highway thing. Uh, there's a difference between the police station on this and the highway funds. The highways funds are general.

Chairman McGarry: Yep. Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, we would hold a public hearing and get input like we did the other night for the police.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, we could do that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: And not chance it.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, this might be something, I mean, I got a call that people would want to have another public hearing anyway with the ARPA money. So, we, yeah, we could do what Dick is saying. That's what people are asking for.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's what I'm hearing.

Chairman McGarry: Yep. I had heard that as well too.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do you want to make a motion to scratch number four?

Chairman McGarry: I guess we could end up doing that if that's what the board wants.

Selectman Huebner: Or we could wait until next week.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Next week and decide...

Selectman Huebner: Get the real number.

Chairman McGarry: Let me get that... let me get those numbers and we can decide next week.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: All right. All right, number five. Uh, will the town raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-nine thousand seven and fifty-five dollars which includes additional wages and required benefits for the purpose of providing cost of living adjustment to town employees of three percent. Uh...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: The social security, I just got a... the, uh, thing in the today of eight-point seven percent increase...

Selectman Huebner: Thank god.

Chairman McGarry: Right. But you know...

Selectman Huebner: I think this will pass.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, the only concern I have is that, are we looking at it for enough money here for the percentage, with it only being three percent?

Selectwoman McHugh: Think we should change it to eight point seven?

Chairman McGarry: Well...

Selectwoman McHugh: If that's what it's going to go up to.

Chairman McGarry: Well... (inaudible, others talking)

Selectman Dill: I would say at least five.

Chairman McGarry: ... social security but, uh... Alden did you say something?

Selectman Dill: Sorry Fred, I would say at least five. Five percent.

Selectman Huebner: Suggesting five. You know, if you change it to eight point seven, what you're doing... you're changing it for all time in the future.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

Selectman Huebner: When inflation comes up it also can come down, hopefully, and so you generally don't want to just match inflation because it would be a temporary situation. On the other hand, you don't want to short employees either.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, if I did it right, it's a hundred and forty-nine thousand, five percent.

Chairman McGarry: If we went for five percent?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

John Harrington: I have an exact figure that Rita has calculated considering the FICA and MEDI taxes that all has to be added in. It's not a flat number so if you want to table this until next week, I did have that range in a chart for you folks. I'll have to put it back in.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. You want to hold off until week?

Selectwoman McHugh: Sure.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do it right once.

Chairman McGarry: All right, next one. To see if the town will vote to establish a highway vehicle and equipment maintenance expendable trust fund for the purpose of general vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair with the ability to purchase any vehicle or piece of equipment should repair not be possible and to raise and appropriate seventy-five thousand dollars to put into the fund further to name the board of selectman as agents to expend from the said fund. The fund will have a cap of three hundred thousand.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Let's do it.

Selectwoman McHugh: There again, it that the ARPA money is gonna kick in here if it gets voted, no?

Chairman McGarry: Specifically, I don't know. Well, it's...

John Harrington: This is establishing the trust fund and it doesn't even exist yet.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: I think, I think voters get confused about all these different trust funds that we start up as accrual amounts. I... if I was reading that as a voter I would say, don't we already have one which sounds very similar to something we've something in the past.

Chairman McGarry: But we don't have anything on...

Selectman Huebner: It's actually a new one.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Maybe we should point that out and say, if the town will establish a new or un-currently, I don't know how you say it exactly but indicate that it's not adding more...

John Harrington: There's certain language we have to use according to DRA. This is the DRA format. You have to be careful about when you're constructing warrant articles.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah. Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Can we add a note to those?

John Harrington: You can add information which usually comes out in the voter's guide.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. So, I guess that would be the place to show that.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah. Otherwise, it seems like, uh, people just say, oh, you keep asking for fifty and then for seventy-five and, you know, they think it's just, uh, ongoing.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: I think your chances of getting it approved might be better if you explain it better.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right. All right, recommendations, uh, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: Article seven. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-five thousand to build a sixty-four niche, uh, columbarium that could take the place of a hundred and twenty-eight traditional burial plots. Columbarium construction, landscaping, installation costs is estimated at fifty-five thousand. A garden-like setting would be created in part of the lower section of the Old Center Cemetery. The columbarium would eventually pay for itself with the money generated from the sale of the niches. Any excess funds from the build would be deposited into maintenance fund created and approved in twenty-two which would allow the cemetery trustees to use those funds to maintain all cemeteries. Any discussion?

Vice Chairman Pitman: All set on that. All right. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: Article eight. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars to be placed in a previously established fire apparatus and equipment capital reserve fund. Any discussion?

Selectman Huebner: Here again, it seems like my question immediately is, how much do we have in that fund? Do we just build it on an infinite item?

Selectwoman McHugh: Matt told us last week.

Selectman Huebner: Shouldn't we give, maybe, either a piece of information that says we currently have accumulated so much money into this fund?

Chairman McGarry: Certainly, would need to have that for the, uh, for the informational meeting.

John Harrington: Right.

Chairman McGarry: But, uh, you know, that's something...

John Harrington: It would be a point in time, um, it's not going to exact.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Of course, the other thing too that voters should be told that a new fire truck costs...

Selectman Huebner: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: ...seven hundred thousand dollars.

John Harrington: I mean, you could add as much information on this as possible but, I mean, it depends on how big you want to warrant.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: There's three hundred thirty thousand in that one right now.

Selectman Huebner: Right, I guess, you know, if I'm a voter and it's got half a million dollars in it already of seven hundred thousand dollars, I'm not less inclined to vote for more because it seems like we've got a lot in there.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, but that doesn't...

Selectman Huebner: But if it only has a hundred thousand dollars...

Chairman McGarry: But it doesn't buy a fire truck.

Selectman Huebner: So, maybe we also say the anticipated cost of a new fire vehicle is between, you know, have a range that shows how high it is.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, I would say that that was something probably worthwhile to add as an explanation in the bottom. All right. Any other questions, comments? All right, Alden?

Selectman Dill: No.

Chairman McGarry: Was that a No?

Selectman Dill: Correct.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 4, No 1 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Uh, article nine. See if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to forty thousand to be placed in the previously established municipal government buildings infrastructure expendable trust fund. Said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Selectman Huebner: So, if it's not raised from taxation where is raised from?

Chairman McGarry: Because this left-over money from last year.

Selectman Huebner: Which was raised from taxation.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: That's my beef with these statements.

John Harrington: Actually, it's funded right at the beginning of the year. If this passes it's automatically put in from the general fund.

Chairman McGarry: Right. So, what are you proposing for, uh...

Selectman Huebner: I'd like to reword that last sentence to say...

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes taxation?

Selectman Huebner: Yeah. The funds for this were raised from previous taxation.

Chairman McGarry: Would that work?

Selectman Dill: No. I believe we already had this conversation.

Chairman McGarry: You believe we already, what?

Selectman Dill: I said, I believe we already had this exact conversation less than a week ago.

Chairman McGarry: Yes, we did.

Selectman Huebner: It's just an incorrect statement. No amount to be raised from taxation. The entire amount is raised from taxation. So. It's a question of timing. It's not a question of whether it comes from taxation. It's a question of the timing of the taxation. So, it should say, no amount... actually this amount to be.... was pre... raised from previous taxation. So, the taxpayers know they have to pay for this and if we don't approve it, it doesn't mean that our taxes stay the same and if we don't approve it, we actually don't spend the money, right, it'll stay in that fund and we won't use it and so that's more money in the general fund for the next year that we don't have to raise as taxation. We can spend it on something else. So, I just don't think it's a fair statement. It misleads the voter.

Chairman McGarry: How about. There's no amount to be raised from new taxation?

Selectman Dill: It wouldn't go into the general fund. That's an erroneous statement.

Selectman Huebner: Well, okay. Maybe I'm incorrect about it coming from the general fund but I do think we should just say, it is taxes it's just not... it's already previously raised. So, not...

Selectman Dill: I'll tell ya, I've heard this argument...

Selectman Huebner: ...new taxes this year.

Selectman Dill: I've heard this circular argument at forty-three years of deliberative session and town meeting. It comes up every year. This is the way it works. I don't see changing the wording would change a thing in the long run. I feel like we just had this conversation, voted on it, less than a week ago or a week ago.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: I think it say no amount to be raised from taxation when in fact the entire amount was raised in taxation. So, it's misleading. Misleads the voters that it's not coming from taxes.

Selectwoman McHugh: So, can we take that off and just put, estimated tax impact zero, down here, like that is?

Selectman Huebner: Well, the estimated tax impact to this coming year's taxes is zero but the estimated tax impact from previous taxation was a certain amount. So, I'm not suggesting we change the zero. We just... I think what, what Fred was alluding to is we change, just slightly change the wording to indicate that it is coming from taxes simply not this year's taxes. I feel pretty strongly about it but if I... if the board doesn't share me, my feeling then I'm certainly willing to be voted down.

Chairman McGarry: Any other comments by the board?

Selectwoman McHugh: No, I just... I know what Will is saying but if we could just...

Chairman McGarry: If we insert a "new" in front of taxation? No amount to be raised from new taxation?

Selectman Huebner: Yes, that would help.

Chairman McGarry: Alden, what's your thoughts?

Selectman Dill: My thought is, we have two ways pay for warrant articles from taxation or surplus. This is saying we're paying for it from surplus. I don't see making this a more complicated argument. This is the way we've always done it.

Chairman McGarry: Uh, it's true.

Selectwoman McHugh: Well, it's time for a change.

Chairman McGarry: All right, Will, do you want to make a motion to, uh, change...

Motion: Selectman Huebner makes a motion to change the wording of this article to say, no amount to be raised from new taxation.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Any further discussion? All right. Alden?

Selectman Dill: No.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yay.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, No.

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

Chairman McGarry: So, that passes with, new taxes. All right, recommendations. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: All right. We're more than halfway through.

Selectwoman McHugh: We're getting there.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Article ten. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand to be placed in a previously established cemetery general maintenance expendable reserve fund and said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from new taxation.

Motion: Selectman Huebner makes a motion to change the wording to new as they did before.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: And, uh, all right, Alden?

Selectman Dill: No.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, No.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right, recommendations. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: All right, we're gonna do the same thing on the next one here.

John Harrington: May I make a suggestion?

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

John Harrington: That for any warren article going forward with the language that exists that the board make a motion to add new to every last line so that you're not, um, belaboring the point.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Let's go on ... (inaudible, very soft spoken).

Selectwoman McHugh: I think that's the last one, isn't it?

Motion: Selectman Huebner makes a motion that any language that has that, uh, will be changed to new for any of the articles in this document.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded. Any discussion on that? All right. Alden?

Selectman Dill: No.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick. Oh, Cindy, excuse me?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: I'm jumping ahead here, and McGarry, I'll go along with Alden on that with a no.

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

Chairman McGarry: All right. So, article eleven, we've already covered that one, right?

John Harrington: Uh, you did not.

Chairman McGarry: Oh.

John Harrington: You did not. You, um...

Vice Chairman Pitman: You just need to say yes.

John Harrington: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: All right. The recommendations. Okay. So, recommendation on the, uh, twenty-five thousand for the recreational facility maintenance expendable trust fund. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: No.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 4, No 1 -recommended

John Harrington: Four, one?

Chairman McGarry: Yes. Four, one. All right, number twelve. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars to be placed in a previously established fire department vehicle and equipment expendable trust fund. Said, uhm fund to come from unassigned fund balance no amount to be raised from new taxation.

Selectman Huebner: Here I think the explanation in the information statement should, again, give the balance and the fund, the rough, rough fund balance at the time...

Chairman McGarry: Yea.

Selectman Huebner: ... at some cut off time and then also give the, uh...

John Harrington: this is more for repairs so there wouldn't be a particular figure to share. I could put the balance in.

Selectman Huebner: Yeah, just the balance. Right.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, so, we'll need an explanation to state that it's for repair of, uh, fire department equipment and vehicles.

Selectman Huebner: Right. It doesn't really say what it's...

Chairman McGarry: No, it doesn't. All right. Um, so, uh, we'll have a recommendations. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: Thirteen. Getting into the home stretch here. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand to be placed in a previously established rescue vehicle and equipment capital reserve fund. Recommendations, so, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Selectwoman McHugh: I have a question.

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectwoman McHugh: Why is it that the rescue article thirteen is estimated tax impact but article twelve doesn't have a tax impact?

John Harrington: Unassigned fund balance.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Huebner: So, it has no tax impact on this coming year.

John Harrington: Whenever it says it will, it... to come from unassigned fund balance, you're not raising taxes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy, I think Cindy's asking, why twelve is from... not to be raised from new taxation but thirteen is to be too from new taxation?

John Harrington: I'm just copying the way it's always been written.

Selectwoman McHugh: I know it probably has; I was just curious why it...

John Harrington: Yep. That's the way it was originally set up.

Selectman Huebner: So, thirteen doesn't come from the unassigned fund balance?

Chairman McGarry: Right.

John Harrington: That comes from raising taxes.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: Oh, gotcha.

Chairman McGarry: Well then, a three cent...

John Harrington: Any time it does that it'll have the estimated tax increase.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yep.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, so we already voted on that one.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: Article fourteen. The town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand to be used by Northwood Lake watershed association to control milfoil in Northwood Lake.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Good idea.

Chairman McGarry: Good idea is right. Uh, Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: All right, just two left.

Selectwoman McHugh: We tabled a couple too. Don't forget.

Chairman McGarry: All right, article fifteen. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate sum of two thousand five hundred dollars to be used by Pleasant Lake preservation association to increase the number of hours for trained attendance to provide courtesy boat inspection at the public access ramp on Gulf Road to prevent the introduction of and spread of exotic aquatic plants like variable milfoil and aquatic nuisance animals like zebra mussels from entering Pleasant Lake.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Great idea.

Chairman McGarry: Yes. Um, recommendations. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: All right, the last one. To see if the town will re-adopt the expanded provisions of RSA seventy-two colon twenty-eight as amended by the New Hampshire legislature approve don May twenty-seventh two thousand twenty-two effective fate July twenty-sixth twenty twenty-two allowing the maximum veteran's tax credit in the amount of seven hundred and fifty dollars. Any discussion on this one?

Selectman Huebner: So, what has our past history been on veteran's credits for taxes?

Selectwoman McHugh: We just upped it to this, didn't we?

Selectman Huebner: I thought we were already at seven...

John Harrington: This is at the maximum but because of the change in legislation if you don't put this warrant article in and it's not re-adopted, it will revert back to fifty dollars.

Selectman Huebner: Oh.

Chairman McGarry: Fifty bucks.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That's a yes.

Chairman McGarry: All right, uh, recommendations. Alden?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Will?

Selectman Huebner: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Cindy?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Yes.

Chairman McGarry: And McGarry, yes.

Yes 5, No 0 -recommended

Chairman McGarry: All right.

John Harrington: So, we'll revisit two next week?

Chairman McGarry: Yeah.

Selectman Dill: I have a warrant article to discuss...

Selectman Huebner: I think it's four, isn't it? The one with the police station...

John Harrington: Alden is saying something.

Chairman McGarry: Alden.

Selectman Dill: Fred, can you hear me?

Chairman McGarry: Yes.

Selectman Dill: I have a warrant article to discuss if you got a second. One that we haven't previously added. Um, I talked to the school board chair this morning, um, they're putting a warrant article... well, they are going to vote on Wednesday to put a warrant article on their warrant to see if the town would vote to revert to town meeting from SB2. Uh, the thought process here being that we've been running SB2 for quite a while. We haven't had a vote to stay that way and it would be good to see how the town felt about the system. Obviously, I don't have it written up. I just thought I'd bring it up with you guys.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Right. We could use... if we proceed with that, we'll use the language from the school?

Selectman Dill: Yes. They should have language at their Wednesday meeting and like I said the thought was, we're not presenting up or down how we feel about this but it gives the town a good chance to speak on it.

Selectman Huebner: Well, we would recommend though whether it be...

Selectman Dill: Yes, we would have recommendations but officially, you know what I'm saying.

Selectman Huebner: There has been a lot of sentiment about this issue amongst people. I don't know if there's a majority one way or the other but a lot of people have lamented about not having the town meetings and running the town the way, we used to run it before.

Chairman McGarry: Right. Certainly, have some merits. Do you want to work up the language, John?

John Harrington: I'll have to contact the school board.

Chairman McGarry: We can put that in for discussion for next week.

Selectman Huebner: My only concern would be, do the voters understand what they're voting on as terms of the ramifications of SB2 versus town. So, we might want to have...

Chairman McGarry: As it would require a six... what sixty percent...?

Selectman Dill: Yeah, it's the same super majority we had to vote to it in in the first place.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: Sixty percent.

Selectman Huebner: So, I don't know if we have a town, excuse me, a, um, public hearing. Perhaps we could add this to the public hearing to be a discussion amongst people about the merits of SB2 versus, uh, town meeting or whatever you call the other thing.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah. Because that could be discussed at the deliberative session.

Selectman Huebner: So, I just want to make sure the voters understand what the ramifications are of this and that they don't vote out of ignorance. I don't know so I'll just vote for one, you know...

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: So, let's make sure that we get the best sentiment of the voters.

Chairman McGarry: Yep. All right. So, we are all finished that stuff.

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'm ready for John.

Chairman McGarry: You're ready to go home, right? All right. John.

John Harrington: I just have one item. Just a correction to the agenda, uh, the agenda reads that the next meeting is Monday, December twenty-seventh and it should say Tuesday, December twenty-seventh.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

John Harrington: That's it.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Um, we want to do encumbrances or do we want to wait until next week?

John Harrington: They're not ready.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Any new business? Any other business? Cindy, sorry.

Selectwoman McHugh: I'm just thinking about Pete's contract. Um, we're going to get questioned, um, with Pete driving the truck versus an employee driving the truck where he might be double dipping. I just didn't know where... how we could fix that or if we should... (inaudible, someone coughing). I know the question is gonna come up, that's all.

John Harrington: Pete, could you take the table for a minute? I believe it's for his own personal vehicle not a town truck.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right. I know but he said he would drive it or little Pete would drive it but I'm just saying it's eleven dollars for a driver. If Pete's driving it then he's double dipping and that's going to come back to us, is all I'm asking. If little Pete is driving it, so be it.

Pete Schibbelhute: (Inaudible, not at mic or mic is not on)

Selectwoman McHugh: I'm just trying to get the question out there before it hits me, Pete.

Chairman McGarry: And that's a wise thing to do, Cindy.

Pete Schibbelhute: I, um, I drive my vehicle when I'm driving around the road to check things. Um, so this particular weekend because of what the storm was like, required me to plow my own driveway. I don't take the plow off to come to town, okay. So, as I get reports, one way or the other, I go check things. So, when I go... if I go to an area and it seems to be something needs to be removed off the road, like, instance, got a call from Paul Kimball about a tree up off of Griffin Road that was in the road that he, um, he hit with the, um, the wing plow but it's still in the road. So, he says, you know, we need to cut it. So, I grab one of the chainsaws. I'm driving in my truck, go up, cut it and take the snowplow and drop it and push the crap off the road so that we're clearing the road as opposed to me driving by it and go, okay we need the chainsaw and somebody to come up here and do that. So, it's just matter of, I happen to have my plow on. It's not because I'm looking to, you know, get more work.

Selectman Huebner: I don't think the question is about what you're doing and why...

Pete Schibbelhute: Oh, yeah.

Selectman Huebner: It's about the charge of eleven dollars as you being the driver versus, uh...

Selectwoman McHugh: You're already road agent.

Selectman Huebner: ...town employee.

Pete Schibbelhute: So, when I went and got the contract earlier today that's the rate they pay for the truck. If I feel that, that might...the truck that my company owns needs to be on because things aren't happening, I'll get a driver for the truck. It won't be me. I'll drive something else. It's... that's all that was all about. It was just, I was there. It had to get done. As far as how I get paid for being in the truck, we'll do whatever we need to do to make it right.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds good.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: it's coming. Just wanted to ask.

Pete Schibbelhute: Oh, no, no it's fine. I expected to get questioned on it. I mean, I would too. Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: All right. Uh, any other business?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Go ahead Alden.

Chairman McGarry: Alden, go ahead.

Selectman Dill: On old business real quick. Um, on the thing that we approved last week for the school choice event at town hall, um, I think we out to revisit that. We have policy not to let private, uh, entities use the selectmen's meeting room and we've been doing that for quite a few years. Uh, my concerns are, this is a private entity. Not a town committee or group. Um, my other concerns are that being a private entity I don't think they should be using the audio-visual equipment that again we have for town committees and official town, uh, business and my third concern would be, it's at a time when, uh, the George B White building is closed. We don't have staff to open it. We don't have staff to man it while this event is taking place and we don't have a cleaning fee after this event has taken place. Um, so I really think we ought to revisit our vote on that.

Chairman McGarry: Discussion?

Selectman Huebner: Well, I don't think Alden can actually bring it back out on the table because the voted against it.

Chairman McGarry: Yep.

Selectman Huebner: It would be one of us would have to bring it back up.

Chairman McGarry: Right. And I share Alden's concern, uh, particularly for other private groups wanting to use, use this area. I guess the question will end up being, how would we, how would we deny another private group where we've given this private group the authority to use it.

Selectman Huebner: I think in this case my feeling is that this group is gonna be bringing important information to the voting public about a warrant article that they're gonna bring to the ballot and so, um, this is just a way of educating the voters about what it would mean to have this voucher program or whatever you want to call it, a school choice program and I myself would like to hear form this committee, you know, as a voter and I think other voters will come and there'll be a lot of discussion about it. This pretty controversial topic and so for that reason and the reason that they got some... it's not just, you know, laymen so to speak. They got some very important dignitaries that are very educated and skilled in that matter to bring the information to is and have a good public hearing. So... and that... not a public hearing, a public meeting and so I feel that it's important to the town. That it has a town function if you will, almost. It has a reason why we want the town to have this meeting and why we want to be able to record it so that it can be on our website so that others who are interested in the topic who weren't able to come to that meeting can review that by YouTube or whatever the proper, uh, way of getting that video is to hear what the experts are saying about that, uh, issue. So, that's why I feel that this is different than lets say, somebody wanted to have a birthday

party in here or something, you know, we wouldn't do that. We would say that's not our judgement as that's not something that the town, you know, it's that it's appropriate to use this facility for. So, I agree with Alden in that sense. We don't want to give willy-nilly permission to anybody to use this facility. We would have to approve it and I think that's why this group has come to us and asked if we would approve it for that purpose because it does seem to serve the town.

Chairman McGarry: I guess the other question would end up being from me is that, uh, the proposal would be... is to put this on the town website, why would it go on the town website?

Selectman Huebner: As voter information, I would think.

Chairman McGarry: But it's not proposed by the school or the board of selectmen.

Selectman Huebner: Right. But it's... well we put out a voter guide that helps the voters to get information about election votes and this gonna be about one of the warrant articles that's gonna be on the ballot. It's going to be brought to the ballot.

Chairman McGarry: But we're the ones that put out the, uh, voter information guide and so why would we be supporting this...

Selectman Huebner: No, we're not supporting it. We're not supporting it. We're simply giving information so that people can understand what would happen if they voted yay or nay, you know, what does it mean.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: The way I see it is, we shut down the town hall. We wouldn't be having this discussion.

Motion: Chairman McGarry makes a motion to reconsider the vote from last week.

Second:

Chairman McGarry: Hearing one, the motion fails.

Chairman McGarry: All right, so I guess we're, uh...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Move on.

Chairman McGarry: ...we move on. Uh, citizens comments. Mr. Rhodes.

Erroll Rhodes: Um, so, I guess it's a good segue, um, I did check with the friends of the library and they will not be Pursuing a candidate's night. So, this is the same kind of issue. I guess the question is... I guess based on the vote just now, you would not want this space used for a candidate's night which is a pure civic exercise to get everybody who's, you know, who wants to participate in front of the voters.

Selectman Huebner: Why would you think we wouldn't have?

Erroll Rhodes: Um, well, I'm... what, what I guess what...

Selectman Huebner: I think we would approve.

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, willy-nilly.

Erroll Rhodes: Uh, Willy's not here. Nilly's not here either.

Vice Chairman Pitman: This is supposed to be comments. Not discussion.

Erroll Rhodes: What's that?

Vice Chairman Pitman: This is comments not discussion.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, okay.

Erroll Rhodes: Yeah, so I'm just wondering where... I think last time I brought this up I was asked to check out the friends of the library as to whether they were gonna do it. They are not gonna do it. So. I'm back to say, if this is something that a private group, the doria gazette would want to, uh, sponsor prior to the election so the candidates can be, you know, heard by the public. Would this be a venue that could happen in. So, that's the question I would leave with you and I don't know how I would expect to hear back.

Chairman McGarry: I guess, probably, you could take and put a request into Mr. Harrington to be put on the agenda and we bring it up then. Next meeting or whatever.

Erroll Rhodes: Right. Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Any other citizens comments? Mrs. Cady.

Harriet Cady: To go along with the candidate's night I would remember the days when we had the candidate's night in the town hall and we had a crowd there of, uh, people who wanted to meet the candidates. So, maybe you ought to just rethink having a candidate's night in a public space. We certainly had them at the town hall for years. I'm still waiting for a program that will be for a citizen my age from parks and rec. Raymond has a parks and rec and they do senior citizens and they do trips to Pennsylvania, to the Amish country and all kinds of things and I just want to know why Deerfield seems to think the only thing we've got are sports for a park and rec program?

Chairman McGarry: Anybody else? Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Anybody else? Well, I'll say...

Chairman McGarry: Apparently not.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to adjourn. Seven PM.

Second:

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'll rescind it.

Selectman Huebner: Dennis, what do you got?

Dennis Paradise: Well, I'm losing a good man tomorrow. I'm gonna have to run that place all by myself. I've done it before and it is a big pain in the bottom and all the tools I got there got to stay there so I can utilize them, supposedly, on my days off so I can get all the work done that needs to be done on the sidelines. Yeah, I think that ought to come with a substantial amount of moola at the same time. Got all kinds of money coming in. I figured maybe we can get some of that to go the right way.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, I just think he should do like the other one, bring it to the agenda.

Chairman McGarry: Get on the agenda and bring it to the board. Get on the agenda and bring it to the board.

Dennis Paradise: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: With your plan and details.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Than you.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to adjourn at 7:02 PM.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Chairman McGarry: Alden?

Vice Chairman Pitman: He hung up.

John Harrington: No, he's still there.

Selectwoman McHugh: He fell down.

Chairman McGarry: Alden, we're voting to adjourn.

John Harrington: He's muted.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Will?

Selectman Huebner: 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 0 – Motion Carries

Next Meeting: December 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm

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