

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 30, 2023
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 – Chairman McGarry called the meeting to order

Present: Chairman Fred McGarry, Vice Chairman Richard Pitman, Selectman Alden Dill, Selectwoman Cynthia McHugh and Selectman Will Huebner.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Eversource Meeting with Mr. Bernier and Crystal Franciosi: Mr. Bernier spoke about how it came to be that they would like to do a pilot program in the town of Deerfield to see how many trees there are and the removal of the trees. With this pilot program the town would work with Eversource in the entire removal process from public hearings to a wood bank the trees could be brought to. Eversource feels they could be ready to go in about 8 weeks. Eversource would like to get the work permissioned first and then they will put together a proposal per Selectman Huebner's request. They explain that Deerfield is coming up for trimming next year on their cycle so trimming this year would be off cycle and that's why they are not obligated to trim but are willing to try this pilot program where the town helps out. Selectman Dill is concerned about the cost of providing detail work. Chairman McGarry states that ARPA funds could be used if that's what they chose to do. Chairman McGarry states they would like to see a schedule from Eversource and then goes over the process of getting approval to cut trees on scenic roads. Once these are completed the BOS can then decide where to get the money from.

Dan Holdridge, annual visit to go Warrant Articles: Dan explains that he needs to go over each warrant article with the Board and then have them identify which Board member would like to speak on the behalf of each warrant.

- Zoning Amendment 1 is petitioned and is to see if the town will vote to amend Section 204 District Objectives and Land Use Control – to increase the “Minimum Lot Size Area Per Dwelling Unit Acres” from 3 to 5 acres. It was submitted on time with the proper documentation so it is valid as written. The reiterate that any zoning article cannot be amended.
- Warrant Article 1 is for the town operating budget at \$4,813,543.00 with a default of \$4,267,422.00. Article is valid. Selectman Huebner will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 2 is to raise \$350,000.00 for repair and/ or reconstruction of existing roads and associated drainage improvements. Article is valid. Chairman McGarry will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 3 is to raise \$250,000.00 for providing general support by way of maintenance and repair of equipment, purchasing supplies, and overall operational support to the Highway Department for road upkeep and repair. Article is valid. Selectman Huebner will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 4 is to raise \$120,000.00 to be placed in the police department building expendable trust fund. Article is valid. Chairman McGarry will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 5 is to raise \$112,195.00 for additional wages and required benefits for the purpose of providing a cost-of-living adjustment. Article is valid. Selectman Dill will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 6 is to raise \$75,000.00 to create a highway vehicle and equipment maintenance expendable trust fund per RSA31:19-a. Article is valid. Selectman Dill will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 7 is to raise \$55,000.00 to build a 64-niche columbarium. Article is valid. Selectman Dill will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 8 is to raise \$50,000.00 to place in the previously established fire apparatus and equipment capital reserve fund. Article is valid. Chairman McGarry will introduce this article and then have the Chief speak on behalf of this article.

- Warrant Article 9 is to raise \$40,000.00 to be placed in a previously established municipal government buildings infrastructure expendable trust fund. Article is valid. Selectman Huebner will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 10 is to raise \$35,000.00 to be placed in the previously established cemetery general maintenance expendable reserve fund. Article is valid. Selectman Dill will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 11 is to raise \$25,000.00 to be placed in the previously established recreational facility maintenance expendable trust fund. Article is valid. Selectman Dill will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 12 is to raise \$20,000.00 to be placed in the previously established fire department vehicle and equipment expendable trust fund. Article is valid. Chairman McGarry will introduce this article and then have the Chief speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 13 is to raise \$20,000.00 to be placed in the previously established rescue vehicles and equipment capital reserve fund. Article is valid. Chairman McGarry will introduce this article and then have the Chief speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 14 is to raise \$8,000.00 to be used by Northwood Lake Watershed Association. Article is valid. Selectman Huebner will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 15 is to raise \$2,500 to be used by the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association. Article is valid. Selectman Huebner will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 16 is to readopt the optional Veterans' tax credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$750.00. Article is valid. Chairman McGarry will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 17 is to readopt the all-veterans' tax credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property. Article is valid. Chairman McGarry will speak on behalf of this article.
- Warrant Article 18 is to rescind SB2. Article is valid. Selectman Dill will speak on behalf of this article.

The rest are petition articles and Dan states that he'll reach out to the people that submitted them and answer any questions they may have and let them know they are welcome to speak on the behalf of the article at the deliberative session.

Chairman McGarry would like to know what position the Board wants to take regarding Article 21, to see if the town will vote to give 100% of the land use change tax to the Conservation Commission. He explains that currently 50% of the money from the current change in use tax goes to the Conservation Commission and the other 50% goes to the general fund. They agree that they will not reach a consensus tonight so they will take individual positions at the meeting on this unless they change their minds between now and then.

Mr. Holdridge states, "So, typically you don't. You typically just have an opinion based on the ones you guys provided. Now, if you folks, as citizens of the town, want to have an input the microphones there for you to use as well."

Chairman McGarry states that the only reason he brought up article 21 was because it's a revenue impact and Mr. Holdridge replies they could come up with a game plan and then utilize the microphone to express their concerns.

Mr. Holdridge lastly invites everyone to join the school's deliberative session the following Saturday at 9:00 am.

Regular Business

Review of Outstanding Minutes:

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

Vouchers & Payroll/Accounts Payable Manifest:

- Accounts Payable Manifest - \$55,691.02

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to approve as is.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

- Accounts Payable for 1/24/2023 - \$91,769.04
- Payroll Manifest for week ending 1/18/2023 – Gross \$92,250.82. Net \$58,995.56

Signatures and Correspondence:

Signatures – Intent to cut. Raymond Road. Calgary Mackenzie. Total lot acreage is 43. Total acreage to be cut is 25.

-Intent to cut. Reservation Road. Roscoe Blaisdell. Total lot acreage is 84. Total acreage to be cut is 70. Selectman Dill brings up a concern with this being a dirt road and spring coming. He would like to see the road agent involved. Mr. Blaisdell comes to the mic and assures the Board that will not be necessary and that it's the paved portion of Reservation Road.

-Veterans' tax credit of \$750.00. Kim and Joseph Doucette at 12 Woodcrest Drive. Joseph Doucette being the veteran.

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

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

-Veterans' tax credit of \$750.00 and a tax credit for service-connected total disability of \$4,000.00. Richard Lee Siemens at 51 Meetinghouse Hill Road.

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

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

-Veterans' tax credit of \$750.00 and a tax credit for service-connected total disability of \$4,000.00. Michael Flynn at 281 North Road.

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

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

-Default service reimbursement agreement from Standard Power. John Harrington explains that this is a long-standing agreement with Standard Power that during off seasons the town gets a credit for hydropower coming down and the price is changing so there is a new agreement to sign. Currently the reimbursement rate is 1.67 tenths of a cent and it's going up to five tenths of a percent. Last year the town collected \$339.54.

Chairman McGarry requests a motion for approval of the new agreement and for the Chairman to sign on the behalf of the Board.

Motion: Selectman Huebner

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

-Surplus property disposition request for the 2004 Chevy Tahoe SUV with an estimated value between \$1,000.00 and \$1,500.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to sell the 2004 Chevy Tahoe via sealed bids and advertising on the Town web and if they do not find the bids acceptable, they can reject all bids and send it to auction.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

-Surplus property disposition request for the 2007 Ford Ranger with an estimated value of \$500.00 to \$600.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to sell the 2007 Ford Ranger via sealed bids and advertising on the Town web and if they do not find the bids acceptable, they can reject all bids and send it to auction.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

-Surplus property disposition for the light fixtures from the trucks.

Motion: Selectman Huebner makes a motion to seek informal quotes.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

-Surplus property disposition for windows taken out of the TC/TX office.

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to do sealed bids and post to the town website with pictures and dimensions and if there is no interest, they'll figure out a different method.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

-Rag and Roses Professional Cleaning Services. Price is changing. Currently, the yearly cost is \$24,570.00. The new rate will be \$32,500.00 a year. There is an increase of \$7,930.00 a year. They have working with for about three years. Ray Ellis explains that he feels someone should read through the new contract as the town did not write the new contract but he does feel this company is worth what they are asking for. This is tabled until the meeting on the 2/13/2023.

Correspondence -Email from Erroll Rhodes, request from the Heritage Commission, "I am writing to ask that Stephen Stoddard, a carpenter well-versed in historic building work, be permitted to address the issue of blocking the fallen upper sashes in Town Hall. The Heritage Commission has undertaken to cover the cost of this work which is anticipated to be in the range of \$300.00. Thank you for considering this request."

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve the work on Town Hall by Stephen Stoddard and paid for by the Heritage Commission.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion: Ray Ellis explains that Mr. Rhodes had asked him about the work and he let him know they needed to get permission from the Board thus the email. Selectman Dill then asks about what will happen if the windows break during the blocking up process. Mr. Rhodes does not know what would happen but he feels they will not get broken. Mr. Rhodes also clarifies that this is Mr. Stoddard's profession and his own business.

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

Town Administrator Report: John Harrington states he has a few items to go over. First, he has asked Ray to be present at the meeting to go over an item. He lets the Board the know that a new door for the back exit to leased space, Charlie's, per the fire department's inspection of the space needs to be replaced. Ray goes over what's needed and explains he got three quotes for the door.

1. Ricci Lumber - \$1,914.72
2. Amazon online - \$1,995.19
3. Home Depot (You have to build it)- \$ \$1682.00 + \$56.35 + \$898.00 =\$2,582.35

Motion: Selectman Dill makes a motion to go with Ricci Lumber at \$1,914.72 to replace the back door of the lease space and for the funds to come out of the George B. White repairs and maintenance line.

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

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

Mr. Harrington goes on to tell the Board that he has an update on a question they had asked him at the last meeting about the State Enhancement due to occur in Pawtuckaway State Park. He spoke to one of the authors of the letter and the plan is to add 35 new campsites in the existing big island camping area which is accessed from the main entrance in Nottingham and not from Reservation Road in Deerfield.

Mr. Harrington's last item is to announce for the Town Clerk that there is a change in the TC/TX office hours. The late night will be changing from Wednesdays to Tuesdays beginning 2/1/2023. It will now Be Tuesdays, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Selectman Dill brings up the GBW signage out at the front of the building and that they had voted on changing it. Mr. Harrington states that they showed up unannounced and did the work before they could get the signs moved.

Pete Schibbelhute, updates on Roads:

Mr. Schibbelhute goes over a tree that needs to come down along Candia Road as it's dangerous to the public on the along the road. It is a scenic road but where the tree it is it's Town owned land so they do not need to get permission from the Planning Board to cut it down. No motion needed just wants the Board and town to be aware.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

New Business/Other Business

No new business or other business.

Citizen's Comments

- Harriet Cady – She would like to know how much of Deerfield is in conservation and how much of Deerfield is unbuildable and if it's ever been mapped out. She also asks about free ad space in the town, city and state when the Town is selling something. Chairman McGarry states the he feels the town and city magazine would charge for any advertisement. Mr. Harrington asks her if she's referring to New Hampshire Municipal Association and she stays, yes. Mr. Harrington let's her know that towns can still put in classified ads and it's free. She would like know why we aren't going to post the surplus property there. Why was the vote only to post it on the town website?
- Kimberly Black -Meetinghouse Hill Road. She thanks Eversource for being there and then expresses concern about any trees that would extend outside of what electricity crews cover,

which is a ten-foot radius around the power line. Selectman Dill let's her know that many trees outside of this radius have been tagged. She just wants to make sure that if the Town is going to be spending on helping Eversource remove trees that we, as a town, are doing our due diligence on encumbering all trees that could be a hazard even if they are outside the normal radius.

Selectman Dill reassures her that they are marking outside of the radius.

- Erroll Rhodes -Church Street. Mr. Rhodes expresses that he would like to hold a candidate's night Thursday, 2/23/2023, at the GBW building. He states he doesn't have a specific time but he should have one by Friday, 2/3/2023, once he knows how candidates can make it and what time works best for them.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm.

Second: Selectman Dill

Discussion:

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

Meeting adjourned by Vice Chairman Pitman.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2023 at 5:30 pm

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