

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
June 26, 2023  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

5:30 – Chairman Pitman called the meeting to order

**Present:** Chairman Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman Fred McGarry, Selectwoman Cynthia McHugh, Selectman Will Huebner, and Selectman Steve Barry.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**Regular Business**

**Review of Outstanding Minutes 6/19/2023:**

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

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:**

- Payroll Manifest - \$86,647.82 gross. \$56,966.25 net.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the payroll.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

- Accounts Payable - \$68,072.95

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the accounts payable.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Signatures/Correspondence:**

- Signatures – Chairman Pitman reads a letter from the Town Clerk regarding personnel action requests with a pay increase of 3% that the Town Clerk budget can absorb. Old rate \$21.00, new rate \$21.63. Old rate \$17.85, new rate \$18.39.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the pay raises.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

- Correspondence – No Correspondence

### **Town Administrator's Report**

No items to report.

### **Unfinished Business**

Chairman Pitman has Pete Schibbelhute steps to the mic to speak about the box culvert on Haynes Road and himself and Steve Keech spoke about. Now that he has the official size 12 ft wide and 4 ft tall, he can start gathering costs so the Board can decide on who they will have build it.

### **New Business/Other Business**

Selectman Huebner states he has two items.

1. Selectman Huebner reminds the Board about the idea of the MBC and BOS having a joint meeting about the budget. Vice Chairman McGarry states he does not have an issue with talking to the budget committee to hear only recommendations. Selectman Barry disagrees and explains why. He would like the MBC to stay on their page and be there to check the math. The BOS sets the policy and budget. Chairman Pitman agrees. Selectwoman McHugh doesn't feel there is an issue with just sitting and talking about it. Selectman Huebner states it would be an opportunity for the public to learn about the budget as well and Mr. Harrington explains the process to having this public and that it would be entirely up to each Board if they would like public input. Selectman Huebner then goes on to explain more why he feels this would be good everyone. Selectman Barry then brings up work sessions they have done in the past and they could potentially do this with the MBC but he would value a meeting between the Select Board and the citizens who vote no but don't say why much more. Selectman Huebner brings up that in past 12 to 13 years the only budgets that have passed are because the default is higher than the budget and this warrants a meeting with the MBC. Chairman Pitman like Selectman Barry's idea of meeting with the voters and not he MBC as the voters are the ones who vote yea or nay. Selectman Barry then reemphasizes the idea of meeting with the citizens. Selectman Huebner states that the MBC would like it to be the MB, BOS and the public.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve a meeting with the public about the budget rather than the MBC.

**Second:** Chairman Pitman

**Discussion:**

Selectman Huebner states that the MBC is requesting a meeting and is the BOS going to tell them no.

Vice Chairman McGarry asks how they will get the citizens to show up and Selectman Barry explains what he feels they need to say to attract people to the meeting.

Selectwoman McHugh states that she agrees with both Selectmen but she's afraid they will not get the citizens there that they need but she would like to see the meeting with all three, MBC, BOS and the public.

Vice Chairman McGarry like the idea of meeting with the public but knows how hard it is to get people to show up.

Chairman Pitman asks what Selectman Huebner thinks the MBC will be discussing and Selectman Huebner provides the ideas he feels they will want to discuss.

**Vote: Yea 3, Nay 2, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

The Board discusses when and how they hold and present the meeting to the public. It is decided that Selectman Barry will meet with John Harrington to come up with a plan.

2. Selectman Huebner would like go back over the performance reviews for all town employees. He states the BOS handles three employees, the town administrator, the chief of police and the fire chief. He states that a motion is not needed is it's part of their procedures and explains the review process. He then volunteers to do take all the Selectman's reviews and put them into one for the Board then to review, approve, and then go over with the employees. Chairman Pitman asks where the deadline of

July 1<sup>st</sup> came from and Mr. Harrington states that it's in the employee handbook. Selectman Barry feels they do not have the expertise to know how the police and fire chief should be operating and states they have used outside companies with the expertise to review them. He agrees there should be oversight on the positions but it should not come from the Board. Selectman Huebner does not agree with this. He states that both chief's work for the Board and for the town and the town is depending on the Board to supervise them and the handbook and procedures will guide the Board in their reviewing and they are completely qualified as their employer. Selectman Barry brings up the point that there are state statutes that prevent the Board from telling them how to run their departments because they are the ones certified by the state. Selectwoman McHugh agrees with Selectman Barry but she does feel they are qualified to review them how well they are serving their community. She then asks who does all the department head reviews and Mr. Harrington explain he does all department heads besides, the two chiefs and road agent. The Board realizes they will need to add the road agent to their list so they will have 4 reviews to do. Most of the board then agrees they are not rating on their skills; they are rating on their interaction with the community and they will all submit their reviews to Selectman Huebner for the write up to be completed.

### **Non-Public Session** RSA 91-A3, II

#### **Citizen's Comments**

- Harriet Cady. Ms. Cady states she's in complete disagreement with Selectman Barry about the MBC and she explains why. She then brings up the performance review topic and how she feels about it. Third, she speaks to the budget and working on the roads and how she feels about this as well. Lastly, she speaks to the safety of the town needing a new police or fire building. Then she wraps back around to roads and it's what the public wants.
- Erroll Rhodes. Church Street. Mr. Rhodes states he's thoroughly encouraged by the conversation at the meeting tonight and he has very happy there will be an outreach to the town about the budget and offers his help to spread the word about the meeting.

#### **Adjournment 6:14pm**

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to adjourn.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Next Meeting: July 10, 2023 at 5:30 pm**

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