

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
October 23, 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.**

**2024 Budget Review:**

Insurance –

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the Insurance budget in the amount of \$461,015.00.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Mr. Harrington states there are some changes.

Health Insurance – Change the dollar amount to \$234,000.00

Dental Insurance – Change the dollar amount to \$13,000.00

Unemployment Tax – Change the dollar amount to \$690.00

Worker's Compensation – Change the dollar amount to \$42,000.00

Property and Liability – Change the dollar amount to \$65,575.00

New Total = \$483,550.00

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to amend his motion to approve the Insurance budget in new amount of \$483,550.00

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Mr. Harrington explains the changes and answers the Board's questions.

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

Library – Anne Meyers (Library Direct) and Sadie Stimmell (Library Trustees Chairperson)

**Motion:** Selectman Huebner makes a motion to approve the Library budget in the amount of \$169,763.00.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Stimmell reads a statement about an MOU and the decision made on the MOU prior to the discussion of the budget starting.

Mrs. Meyers provides a hand out to the Board with budget changes.

Selectman Huebner reads the changes off for the minutes:

FT Employees – \$95,370.00

PT Employees – \$41,155.00

Consultants – \$6,000.00

Contract – \$12,114.00

Maintenance and Repair – \$8,320.00

Supplies – \$1,600.00

New Total = \$189,522.00

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the Library budget in the amount of \$189,522.00.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

Selectman Huebner asks if this frees up funds that would have been spent in other lines of the town buildings budget and Mr. Harrington states that this is not necessarily correct because that budget is currently over spent.

The Board and the library representatives continue to discuss the changes and how the budget will work going forward. They also discuss the possibility of revisiting the idea of an MOU.

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

Phil Bilodeau. Nottingham Road. Mr. Bilodeau brings up the discussion of the library needing a new roof and asks who would pay for it. The Board agrees it would be best for the library to create a warrant article for this.

Jack Hutchinson. Lang Road. Mr. Hutchison expresses his desire to see the Board work with the library on a MOU and then thanks the Board for their work and offers his assistance.

Rebecca Hutchison. Lang Road. Mrs. Hutchison would like the minutes to show clearly that the Board is agreeing to reconsider the MOU with the library. Selectman Huebner states they will consider reconsidering once an updated MOU has been presented.

Linda McNair-Perry. Range Road. Former Treasurer of the Library of Trustees. Ms. McNair-Perry voices her agreement of what Mrs. Hutchison was asking for.

**Motion:** Selectwoman McHugh makes a motion to reconsider a Library MOU.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Veasey Park –

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the Veasey Park budget in the amount of \$40,637.00.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

Selectman Huebner lists his suggested changes to the Veasey Park budget:

Swim Instructor - \$2,000.00

Uniforms - \$500.00

Contract - \$1,000.00

Repairs and Maintenance - \$2,500.00

Miscellaneous - \$300.00

New Total = \$31,887.00

Selectwoman McHugh states she agrees with everything Selectman Huebner has offered except for the repairs and maintenance as the beach needs a lot of work and Selectman Huebner can't see proving the full funding on this line because they do not have a plan in front of them showing that beach work is part of the repairs and maintenance.

Selectman Huebner decides to leave the Repairs and Maintenance line at the original amount of \$4,650 and says he would like to amend the motion to reflect that.

The Board continues to discuss the budget. Mr. Harrington states that with leaving the repairs and maintenance line at \$4,650.00 the new total will be \$34,037.00.

**Motion:** Selectman Huebner makes a motion to amend his motion by leaving the repairs and maintenance line at \$4,650.00.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Vice Chairman McGarry brings up the swim instructor line and points out that Travis is requesting 2 instructors and if they cut that line to what Selectman Huebner is suggesting then they could only afford one instructor and Selectman Huebner explain how he came up with number. The Board agrees to leave the swim instructor line at the original amount of \$2,700.00 which would be the budget total to \$34,737.00.

They bring up the new total of \$31,887.00 and needing to vote on it as the amended total before moving forward with other amendments. They agree to vote on the new total presented by Selectman Huebner before moving on.

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

The Board goes back to discussing Selectman Huebner's new amounts and agree that with another swim instructor they will need more money for uniforms. Chairman Pitman asks about the original budget in the amount of \$40,637.00 and Selectman Barry states this is the original motion that is still standing.

**Motion:** Selectman Huebner makes a motion to amend the Veasey Park budget to \$34,737.00.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 2, Nay 3, Abstained 0 - Motion Does not Carry**

Selectman Barry states that the original Motion stands for \$40,637.00.

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

Selectman Huebner would like to go back and discuss other budgets to see if any changes can be made. He goes back to the Highway budget and road reconstruction. He would like to reduce the line for hot top grinding by doing a warrant article. Selectman Barry does not feel they should this and explains why. Selectman Huebner then explains his point of view on this. Vice Chairman McGarry believes the warrant article is a good idea.

**Motion:** Selectman Huebner makes a motion to amend line 735 in the Highway Road Reconstruction budget by reducing it from \$500,000.00 to \$257,000.00 and put the remaining \$243,000.00 in a warrant article.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Mr. Harrington states the new total for this budget will be \$266,455.00.

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

The Board discusses the F/T fire fighter line in the budget and it's agreed to leave it with \$1.00. They then agree to move on with regular business while John calculates the new bottom line of the budget.

**Regular Business**

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

- Payroll Manifest – No Payroll
- Accounts Payable – \$60,717.05

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$60,717.05.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

**Review of Outstanding Minutes 10/16/2023:**

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the minutes from 10/16/2023.

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

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

**Signatures/Correspondence:**

- Signatures  
-Granite State Analytical. Contract for Water testing of the George B. White building in 2024.  
\$2,035.00.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the contract with Granite State Analytical in the amount of \$2,035.00.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

It's clarified that this is required by the state for this to be done at this particular building and it does go up each year. The major increase recently is due to PFAS.

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

Mr. Harrington states he has the new total for the bottom line of the budget. New total = \$4,947,312.00.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the total of the Board of Selectman's budget in the amount of \$4,947,312.00.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

Selectman Huebner explains how he feels there is higher than it should and why.

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

- Correspondence  
-Rockingham County Treasurer Warrant. \$661,058.00.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion approve paying the Rockingham County Warrant in the amount \$661,058.00 and have the Chairman sign it.

**Second:**

**Discussion:**

It is determined that this is just a notification of payment needed and that an invoice will be received in December.

**No vote needed.**

-Letter from Ray Ellis. Mr. Ellis comes before the Board to explain his letter. The letter is about why he needs a truck from the town to use instead of his own truck as it's causing a lot of wear and tear and he is paying for out of his own pocket. He goes on to explain where he looked at trucks to possibly purchase eventually landing on Facebook market place where he found a 2011 Nissan Frontier for \$7,800.00 that is great condition and has already passed inspection this year.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to authorize \$7,800.00 worth of ARPA funds for the purpose of buying this truck for the Town and Mr. Ellis can use to get around without it costing him.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

Selectwoman McHugh asks if a mechanic can look at it first and Mr. Ellis agrees to ask seller.

They go over milage verses getting just gas. In the long run, it does not keep up with the wear and tear on Mr. Ellis's personal vehicle.

Selectman Huebner explains his point of view on using ARPA funds and the purchasing of the vehicle.

It comes to light that the truck just passed in section this past month so it does not need to be taken to a mechanic.

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

Selectwoman McHugh brings up the point that they need to go back and look at Mr. Ellis's budget now that he'll have a vehicle to maintain.

Mr. Harrington states they would need add a vehicle repair line, 660, and a gasoline line, 635, to the Government Buildings budget.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to add lines 660 and 635 to the Government Buildings budget.

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

They agree that once they add the lines, they can then add money to them.

Selectman Barry amends his motion by adding \$1.00 to each line to open the and the second would like to try to figure out the actual dollar number needed.

The BOS agrees on adding \$1,500.00 to the vehicle repair line and \$1,300.00 to the gasoline line.

The Board agrees that the new total budget amount for Government Buildings is \$133,478.00.

Selectman Barry withdraws his motion.

**No vote taken.**

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to add lines 660 and 635 to the Government Buildings budget, \$1,500.00 going to line 660 and \$1,300.00 going to line 635, with the new total budget being \$133,478.00.

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

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

Mr. Harrington states this will now change the bottom line by \$2,800.00. The new total bottom line of the budget is \$4,950,112.00.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the total of the Board of Selectman's budget for 2024 in the amount of \$4,950,112.00.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

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

Mr. Harrington states he has no items tonight but does provide the Board with the current balance of the ARPA funds, \$231,800.59. \$80,000.00 is set aside for Haynes Road which leaves \$151,800.59 and out of this \$7,800.00 is being used for the truck.

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

Chairman Pitman has Vice Chairman McGarry read a letter from Cal MacKenzie into the minutes.

"Dear Deerfield Select Board, Cal MacKenzie, Owner of CM Truck & Trailer Sales LLC in Chichester, N.H. Would like to extend their donation to the wonderful town of Deerfield and thank each and every one of you for all you do for the wonderful citizens of this great town.

We are thrilled to be able to donate the following items:

- 1 8x20 storage container for the Highway Department (as mentioned last meeting)
- 1 8x20 storage container for the fire department or transfer station (whoever could benefit from it)
- 1 6x6 mini cube storage container for the Police department and their shooting/training needs located at the pit

In addition to these items, we would be honored to temporarily store (1) 20' NEW shipping container at the CBW building for the holiday season as a toy drive for local families that are in need. We would like to donate the first \$1 ,000 worth of toys to fill the container. We hope the local community, those who wish to help, would be willing to contribute to filling this container with toys and items needed for families who need it most this upcoming season. Thank you for all you do, Cal MacKenzie 10/23/2023."

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to accept the donations from Cal MacKenzie and send a thank you note.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

### **Unfinished Business**

Selectwoman McHugh asks how things are looking with the fire department hats that will be going on display and Mr. Harrington states that he has not heard from the Chief yet. Mr. Harrington agrees to reach out to the fire Chief about it.

### **Non-Public Session**

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

- Erroll Rhodes. Church Street. Mr. Rhodes voices his opinion about the F/T fire department line on the budget.
- Harriet Cady. Ms. Cady speaks her opinion about the Town buying a truck for the Government Buildings employee to use for work driving. She then gives her opinion on the use of the ARPA funds. Next, she provides her opinion about the Rockingham County Warrant and lastly, she gives her opinion on the library and the building not being theirs.

The Board decides to go back to every other week for their meetings now that they have finished the budget. Mr. Harrington states he will work on adjusting the schedule and will then send it out to the Board members.

### **Adjournment**

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

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

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

**Next Meeting: November 6, 2023 at 5:30 pm**

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