

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 20, 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.

2023-2024 Plowing Contracts:

Chairman Pitman states he'll read off all the contracts, get one motion for all of them and then they will sign them.

1. East Coast Signal - \$90.00 -- second truck - \$100.00
2. Jesse Riel - \$90.00
3. Kevin Young - \$100.00
4. Jonathan Winslow - \$100.00
5. Van Der Plow LLC - \$100.00
6. All Seasons Landscape Associates - \$100.00 -- second truck - \$100.00
7. D-Town Site Work - \$125.00 --second truck - \$100.00
8. SCI Excavating LLC - \$90.00

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve all the plowing contracts listed and their costs.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

Selectman Huebner questions why some costs are higher than others and Mr. Schibbelhute explains why the costs are different and explains he's still looking for more people with bigger trucks. Selectman Huebner then asks about the difference between last years costs and this years and Mr. Schibbelhute explains the difference.

Selectwoman McHugh asks the operation works when it snows and Mr. Schibbelhute explains his process.

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

Selectman Huebner asks about sanding and salting and Mr. Schibbelhute explains the where the town sands and salts and why.

Selectwoman McHugh asks about damage to edges of lawns and mailboxes and Mr. Schibbelhute explains the process.

Regular Business

Signatures/Correspondence:

- Signatures
 - Intent cut. Map 424 Lot 58. 4 acres to be cut. Cal MacKenzie. No motion needed. The Board signs.
 - Refund request from Kelly Roberts TC/TX. \$89.00.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the refund request from Kelly Roberts TC/TX in the amount of \$89.00

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

- Personnel Action requests. Chairman Pitman reads them all off and then the Chairman signs.

1. Jasmine Dorval. Parks and Rec. \$13.50 an hour.

2. Forrest Sawler. Parks and Rec. \$13.50 an hour.

3. Lina Bouchie. Parks and Rec. \$13.50 an hour.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve all 3 personnel action requests and for the Chairman to sign.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

It's clarified that these are part-time hires for the afterschool program.

-Oath of Office. Davis Brush. Conservation Commission with term expiring April 30, 2026.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve Davis Brush's oath of office for the Conservation Commission term ending April 30, 2026.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

-Oath of Office. Glenda Smith. Veasey Park Commission with term expiring April 30, 2025.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion approve Glenda Smith's oath of office for the Veasey Park Commission term expiring April 30, 2025.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

-Greg McHugh submits a formal request to be appointed to the Veasey Park Commission.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to appoint Greg McHugh to the Veasey Park Commission.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

-Special Highway Block Grant from the State of New Hampshire in amount of \$43,265.67

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to accept the Special highway Block Grant from the State of New Hampshire in the amount of \$43,265.67.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

- Correspondence – No correspondence

Review of Outstanding Minutes 11/6/2023 & 11/14/2023:

Minutes from 11/6/2023.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the outstanding minutes from 11/6/2023 as written.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

John Harrington states there is one correction from the 11/6/2023 minutes. First page, line 44 needs to read 2023 instead of 2024.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve amending the 11/6/2023 minutes, first page, line 44 to read 2023 instead of 2024.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Minutes from 11/14/2023.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the outstanding minutes from 11/14/2023 as written.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Signature – Letter from the BOS to Daniel Tripp with the Historical Society about the Town Hall Usage. Read into the minutes by Vice Chairman McGarry.

“Dear Dan, On Thursday, October 26, members of the Historical Society entered the Town Hall to use the kitchen to prepare lunch for people working on the new Historical Society Museum building. The day they arrived to use the kitchen facilities Ray Ellis, the Facility Supervisor, was there doing a final walkthrough to check that the building was clean and ready for an event to occur the next day by someone who had paid to use the Town Hall. When Ray explained that the members could not use the kitchen as it was clean and ready for the event, they proceeded to use the kitchen anyway to prepare the lunch.

The Board would like to remind the Historical Society that the Society has approved use of only the two rooms on the second floor for the museum, not the rest of the building, including the kitchen. If the Society would like to use other areas of the building outside of the two museum rooms, they must first check with Ray Ellis to determine if the Town Hall is available to use and then schedule the use with Ray. Although the Historical Society is waived from the non-profit rental fee of \$75.00, you are still required as a renter of the other areas of the building, to fill out and sign a rental agreement and provide a \$50.00 deposit payment to be held for cleaning services should the Town Hall not be returned in the condition it was found in and requires additional cleaning. The fee will be returned if the building is found in good order after you use it.

As you continue to remodel the new home of the Historical Society Museum, do you have an anticipated day you intend to occupy the building and move the items out from the Town Hall into the new building. This is the process followed by all other users of the Town Hall and it helps to ensure that everyone understands the use and limitations associated with events held in the building. The Board wants to

preserve the building for residents to use and enjoy for many years to come. We anticipate your cooperation as we work to maintain this historic landmark in Town. Signed, The Board of Selectmen”

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the letter and sign it.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

- Payroll Manifest – No Payroll
- Accounts Payable – \$71,352.82

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$71,352.82.

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

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

Correspondence – Chairman Pitman reads a portion of a letter from Kearsarge Energy.

“We would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about leasing about 0.5 acres of the town's landfill at 51 Brown Road or any other suitable town property for the purpose of Battery Energy Storage.

Bankable rent checks for 20+ years. A silent neighbor and two options.”

The Board agrees to allow them to come into Town.

Community Power Plan:

A letter from Kevin Verville is read into the minutes by Vice Chairman McGarry.

“Mr. Chair, and members of the board:

It has been brought to my attention that there are multiple vendors both willing and capable to work with the town of Deerfield relative to electric energy programs. Despite this fact, only one vendor has been considered by the select board, and invited to participate in a public hearing. How are we to know the preferred vendor if we are only presented one option?!

I am writing to you today to urge you to NOT take action on this matter until at least three vendors are allowed to publicly present their products and services to the citizens of Deerfield. This is standard operating procedure for any other decision of the is magnitude that we would take as a community.

Otherwise, it appears that a select few in town are picking the winners and losers, for reasons that are not clear to the general public.

There is no rush in moving such a proposal forward. The Deerfield select board should take all the time required to conduct a thorough evaluation of opportunities, and to conduct the fiduciary due diligence that is the responsibility of the select board.

Further, I respectfully request that this letter be read into the record during your meeting tonight. Respectfully submitted, Kevin Verville”

Chairman Pitman reads a portion of a letter from Freedom Energy Logistic.

“I wanted to let you know that my firm, Freedom Energy Logistic, offers Community Power (aka Community Choice Aggregation) in the state of New Hampshire. I understand the Board is currently reviewing options for this program and we would be grateful for an opportunity to come

and present to you before a final decision is made. Our New Hampshire clients include Londonderry, North Hampton, Hampton, Ossipee, Lincoln and Hancock in addition to the 90 communities our group manages in Massachusetts.”

The Board agrees they should hear about other options.

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to not move forward with Standard Power for Community Power and to do more homework on other options.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Don Wyman. Nottingham Road. Asks about finding other vendors to compare and contrast and about solar power reimbursement.

Selectman Huebner goes over his 5 areas of concern on the topic.

Selectman Barry gives his opinion on the topic.

The Board agrees that they would like to hear from some opt-in vendors and from at least 2 more vendors.

Town Administrator's Report

John Harrington lets the Board know that the warrant articles in their folders are from last year and explains why they are there. He also provided a copy of the default budget for their review.

Mr. Harrington then explains there is a request being made to rent the Town Hall once a month throughout the winter and the Board agrees not to move forward with this and keep it closed for the winter.

Unfinished Business New Business/Other Business

Vice Chairman McGarry would like to check in on how the research for the salary survey and salary schedule for the 21 employees of the town is going. Selectwoman McHugh states that she has all the information and she just needs to put it all together and Selectman Huebner would like a special meeting to review the information. The Board agrees it should be public and added to the agenda of the next scheduled meeting.

Selectman Huebner brings up the higher tax rate and if there is a possibility to extend the dead line. Kelly Robert, TC/TX, believes it cannot be extended but agrees to check on it with the Town Council. Selectman Barry reads an explanation of the tax bill into the minutes.

Selectman Huebner comments on the calculated average over 49 years.

Chairman Pitman asks if they would like to go the warrant article tonight or wait until the next meeting.

Selectman Huebner provides his reasons why he feels they should wait until the next meeting.

Vice Chairman McGarry asks about looking doing the Police Station Warrant article again and the Board agrees, not this year.

The Board agrees to go over the warrant article at the next meeting.

Non-Public Session

No non-public

Citizen's Comments

- Kevin Verville. McCarron Road. Mr. Verville goes over what he was pleased about and disappointed about with the meeting tonight and explains why. He then explains what he feels it

means when the School Board does not return funds to the town and the speaks to the tax rate and how it's calculated. Lastly, he encourages the Board to go back to once-a-week meetings until the warrant articles are completed.

- David Van Hamm. 80 Bloomfield Road. Mr. Van Hamm gives his feelings on the tax rate based on what he has gathered and hearing what the BOS has said.

Adjournment

Motion: Selectman Barry makes a motion to adjourn.

Second: Vice Chairman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: December 4, 2023 at 5:30 pm

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