

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
January 8, 2024  
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 (remotely), and Selectman Steve Barry.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**Vote to Allow Selectman Huebner to join the meeting remotely.**

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to allow Selectman Huebner to join the meeting remotely.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Roll Call Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Ray Ellis – Town Hall Generator/Emergency Power**

Mr. Ellis explains he reached out to 4 different contractors and only received 3 quotes. He has Chris Porter from Porter Electric with him at the meeting tonight. He submitted a quote for a stand-up generator and a battery pack that would replace the use of a generator. Mr. Ellis then explains the battery pack and how long it would last with a power outage and that he feels, in the long run, this is the cheaper route. He then lists the pros and cons of a battery pack versus a generator.

Mr. Porter piggy backs off Mr. Ellis' explanation and then fields questions from the Board.

Selectman Barry feels that the battery pack is the way to go and explains why he feels this way.

Vice Chairman McGarry goes over a few questions with Mr. Porter and then Mr. Porter explains more about the batteries and answers questions from Selectwoman McHugh.

Selectwoman McHugh feels they should get more estimates on the battery pack idea.

Selectman Huebner provides his opinion which idea is better, generator or battery, and agrees with Selectwoman McHugh that more quotes are needed.

Selectman Barry would like to see this installed before the election.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to with the battery pack from Porter Electric Contracting for \$8,205.00.

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

The batteries would be set up in the heated bathroom downstairs as they would fit perfectly in there with extra space and since there is electric heat in that bathroom it can be heated alone and they only have to heat that bathroom for the batteries, not the whole building.

They discuss further how the batteries work and the benefits of it.

Selectman Barry states he would like to add to his motion that the funds come from ARPA money.

Selectman Huebner questions why ARPA instead of the Building Maintenance fund for the Town Hall and Selectman Barry states that since the budget is still up in the air and ARPA needs to be used up by the end of the year they should go ahead and use it. Selectman Huebner would like to use town budget funds and not ARPA and would like to stay with the original motion.

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

### **Non-Public Session**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman McGarry makes a motion to go into a non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

**Second:** Selectman Barry

**Discussion:**

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

Selectman Barry states that no action was taken during the non-public session.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to seal the minutes from the non-public session.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

### **Regular Business**

#### **Review of Outstanding Minutes 12/18/2023 and 12/20/2023:**

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the minutes from 12/18/2023 as written.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

**Motion:** Vice Chairman McGarry makes a motion to approve the minutes from 12/20/2023 as written.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

#### **Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:**

- Payroll Manifest 1/8/2024 – Gross, \$90,444.90. Net, \$58,374.67.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the payroll manifest for 1/8/2024 with a gross amount of \$90,444.90 and a net amount of \$58,374.67.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

- Accounts Payable - \$197,944.22

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$197,944.22.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

Selectwoman McHugh discusses concerns she has with the accounts payable with Mr. Schibbelhute and the Board.

Selectman Barry describes how he handles his role as a Selectman and his opinion of when questions about accounts payable should be brought up.

Selectman Huebner gives his opinion on the right to ask questions at any point.

#### **Signatures/Correspondence:**

- Signatures
  - Refund request for an overpayment. TC/TX recommends refunding the funds. Peter Aubrey, Mountain Road. \$365.25.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the refund for Peter Aubrey in the amount of \$365.25.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

- Letter from Standard Power dated 1/5/2024. Read by Vice Chairman McGarry.

“Representing Standard Power, we stand in support of the Deerfield Energy Committee, whose efforts have shaped an innovative Community Power plan (the “Plan”).

The Deerfield Energy Committee has done their homework, hosted public hearings, conducted community surveys, and provided public education on energy matters. Their work has been effective in ensuring that Deerfield's Plan is compliant with New Hampshire's Public Utility Commission (PUC) requirements while reflecting the community's interests.

The next two steps in this process run in parallel with one another. The first step, which you took on December 4th, is to place the Plan before the voters on the March 12th ballot.

The second step, which we are asking you to take this evening, is to send the Plan to the PUC for approval, which should be given within sixty days. Should the voters approve the Plan at the ballot, having a PUC-approved Plan puts Deerfield's citizens in a position to start benefiting from lower rates sooner.

By way of comparison, similar initiatives to the Deerfield Plan have received approval from dozens of other town Select Boards and towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, highlighting the success and viability of such endeavors.

Deerfield's Community Power plan provides a tremendous opportunity to the town, offering a diverse range of electric rate choices that cater to various needs, preferences, and environmental aspirations as expressed by community members.

Thank you for your support for this initiative, which will steer Deerfield toward a brighter, more sustainable future, following the successful examples set by other communities.

Cordially, Bob Hayden”

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the sending of the plan to the PUC for approval.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

- Chairman Pitman states there is an accounts payable from 12/26/2023 signed by 3 select people in the amount of \$62,080.93 and a gross payroll of \$89,995.03 with a net payroll of \$58,912.26.
- CAI Technologies. Mr. Harrington explains this is the annual agreement that needs to be signed and explains what the company does for the Town.  
\$2,700.00 and \$20.00 for each new parcel that gets added.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to approve the annual agreement with CAI Technologies in the amount of \$2,700.00 and \$20.00 for each new parcel that gets added.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

- Personnel Action Request. Parks and Rec. Jade Dostie. \$13.50 an hour. Needs a motion for the Chairman to sign.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion for the Chairman to sign the personnel action request for Jade Dostie.

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

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

- Correspondence -No correspondence

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

Mr. Harrington asks the Board to make a motion for Deerfield Parks and Rec to move mowing costs from 2023 in the amount of \$4,857.97 to their Rec Facility Maintenance Trust Fund.

**Motion:** Selectman Barry makes a motion to allow Deerfield Parks and Rec to move mowing costs from 2023 in the amount of \$4,857.97 to their Rec Facility Maintenance Trust Fund.

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

Selectman Huebner asks if this is surplus and what the movement means. Mr. Harrington explains what the monies are from and why they are being moved and the Board's approval is needed.

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

Mr. Harrington goes over the electrical work done at the highway garage the previous week.

Lastly, Mr. Harrington asks the Board if this BOS meeting room could be used for a candidate's night on February 8<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> per a request he received and the Board is okay with this as there are no meetings on those dates.

Selectwoman McHugh asks about the electrical work on the highway garage and Mr. Harrington provides her with the answers.

#### **Unfinished Business/New Business/Other Business:**

- Unfinished Business – No unfinished business
- New Business
  - Selectman Barry goes over something he received from a member of the Heritage Commission prior to the meeting about the Town Hall.
  - Selectwoman McHugh asks Mr. Schibbelhute about the work done on Cole Rd. and Mr. Schibbelhute goes over it with the Board.

- Other Business -No Other Business

### **Citizen's Comments**

- Susan Seitz. Cole Road. Ms. Seitz provides her opinion on the work done on Cole Road and why she feels it is unsafe.
- Vickie Bedard. Coel Road. Ms. Bedard provides her opinion on the culvert put in at the end of her drive way and the work that was done on Cole Road and asks for the work to be completed. She then goes over how she would like to see it fixed.
- Harriet Cady. Ms. Cady provides her opinion how the Board handled the meeting this evening.
- Ed Cross. Thurston Pond Road. Mr. Cross thanks Selectwoman McHugh for asking questions about the budget and then provides information on heavy equipment rental costs. He wraps up by giving his opinion on why they Town should purchase a roller rather than rent.
- Chairman Pitman has Vice Chairman McGarry read a letter dated January 8th.  
"Dear, Fellow Selectmen,  
~~De~~ Due to work and issues that have come up on the farm I will need to step away from being Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Thank you for your support in this past year. Mr. Pitman"

It is clarified that Chairman Pitman is not leaving Board, just stepping down as Chairman.

### **Adjournment**

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

**Second:** Vice Chairman McGarry

**Discussion:**

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

**Next Meeting: January 16, 2024 at 5:30 pm**

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

*Corrected minutes as approved by Board of Selectmen on 1.16.24  
Submitted by John Harrington*