

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 21, 2019
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 pm – Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order

Present: Andrew Robertson, Chairman; Fred McGarry, Jeff Shute and Cindy McHugh, Selectpersons

Absent: Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Robertson asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Robertson stated that they had some appointments this evening that are not on the agenda. He is going to start with the budget review because they made that schedule early on and he had some people there for that.

He thought that they would just go in order unless a particular representative from that department isn't there but the first budget, they had listed is the Library.

He stated that if they could get the librarian or a library trustee to take the microphone so that they could get them on the record.

Library – Page 69

Canice Yost, a library director stepped to the microphone.

Chairman Robertson asked if Ms. Yost could give the Board a rundown of the budget, maybe what went up, what went down, anything new.

He stated that the Board had the backup that she submitted.

Ms. Yost stated that much if it is staying the same. There's a couple parts to note on the second page, under the line labeled "Books and Other Materials", they have asked for an increased book budget of \$2,000.00 and that is due to a couple of reasons which are a need to continually update the collection, a good deal of books that were in poor shape which are not able to be checked out. They had bug infections and mold.

The other reason is the rising book costs and she had a whole chart there and book prices have been steadily rising over years. For example, a hard cover fiction book in 2018, the average price was \$17.00 and so far, this year, the average price is \$18.00. When you add that to all the books, that's how the price goes up on that.

Ms. Yost asked the Board if they had any questions about that.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't but didn't know if the rest of the Board had specific questions. He thought that it was up some and the increases align pretty well.

Ms. Yost then continued and stated that the other line is under "Humanities" which is the museum passes and any special programming that they do. They asked for an increase of \$500.00 and that would allow them to put on some more programs, bring in a special speaker or hopefully have a special summer reading program event. Have the Children's Museum or someone like that come do something with the kids.

Chairman Robertson asked if the building and systems are in reasonably good shape so you don't anticipate needing a furnace or plumbing?

Ms. Yost stated that they didn't and that they were in a good place.

She continued that there were not any other real changes and did the Board have any questions upon review of what they submitted?

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't have any and asked if the Board had any.

Selectman McGarry stated that they were showing a \$1,300.00 increase on the contract line and he asked what did that cover.

Ms. Yost stated that there was an increase and that is due to prices going up as far as the downloadable eBooks pricing has gone up which is something around 22% of their circulation is downloadable books so a lot of their patrons they don't even see anymore which is kind of sad and the state did raise their fees for that but that they feel that it's an essential service considering the large part of the population that take that and such items as copier contract goes up slightly and the cleaning service is slightly more expensive.

Chairman Robertson asked the Board if they had any other questions which they did not and he stated that he could entertain a motion to approve that bottom-line figure.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Library budget for \$116,635.00

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that it appeared unanimous and thanked Ms. Yost for her time.

Chairman Robertson stated that the next up is the Highway Department but that he didn't see the highway agent so Fire and Rescue if they could get the fire chief to take the microphone.

Fire/Rescue Department – Page 35

Chairman Robertson stated that whenever the fire chief was ready if he could just sort of hit the highlights for them.

Chief Fisher stated that he didn't know if they had and he would refer to the backup documentation, he thought that it would be Page 4. It lists each individual line and a little description of why it might have stayed the same or might have updated.

He stated that for the most part, these funds shifted from one line to another. When the two departments merged, the monies were put into existing line items.

For example, the PPE items had over \$60,000.00. That he was shifting around as they were not spending \$62,000.00 on PPE. He stated that they were shooting towards the \$26,000.00-\$28,000.00 mark and that is kind of what he reflected in the budget.

Previous years, there had been money in there to purchase air packs and some jaws equipment so that's kind of shifting money out of that line and updating some other lines that he felt that those target values were a little more realistic.

He continued that the main increase this year would be that he is looking to put another part-time member on which would allow then to steadily have two people on Monday to Friday.

Chairman Robertson asked if there were any questions for the fire chief regarding his budget.

Selectman McGarry stated that it was showing an \$8,000.00 increase on contracts and software to which Chief Fisher stated that previously there was only \$2.00 in the line so that reflects the maintenance contract for the LifePak12, the Lucas device, Firehouse Software, air compressor, IamResponding and then there is another module that he wanted to get for the Firehouse software which is basically for inspections.

Chief Fisher continued that some of the other lines that might jump out is that they adjusted the gasoline line, that was a decrease.

Dues and subscriptions. Before he became fire chief, they didn't belong to a hazmat group and as of last year, they now belong to the Seacoast Chiefs Hazmat Team.

There is an allotment in there for NFPA Code References, a small increase in the vehicle maintenance line from \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00.

Selectman McGarry referenced the electronic and maintenance which the chief stated that was the fire/rescue equipment electronic line, 0.741.

That reflects four pagers, three portable radios, a new mobile radio every year as they still have three or four that basically, they got shortly after 9/11, he believed and they were already almost outdated at that time so they're no longer able to find parts available or fixable from Motorola. If they fail, they become a desk item.

Chairman Robertson asked if the fire chief would be bringing them a warrant article for a vehicle again this year, did he think?

Chief Fisher stated yes and that he was going to cover that and bring it up now if they would like or wait till after.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she had a question while they were still on this before they went onto that.

She asked if the Firehouse software or the IamResponding software, it doesn't have a spot to do the inspection modules?

Chief Fisher stated that the inspector module is curtailed around the New Hampshire fire code through Firehouse Software so it would basically allow somebody, instead of having paper before, basically take the tablet, go out and do the inspections. Everything's automatically into the Firehouse cloud software that they have.

Selectwoman McHugh asked then if they needed the Firehouse Software Inspector Module to go with the Firehouse that they were already paying \$3,400.00 for?

Chief Fisher stated that it's a one-time fee and it's something that he would like to get.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if it was a contracted item to which the chief stated that it wasn't. He continued that basically they would need an iPad and then it's a one-time fee for that module.

Chairman Robertson asked if there were any questions for the fire chief on the budget. Seeing that there wasn't, they could approve the fire department budget at this point and then get an update regarding warrant articles.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Fire Department budget of \$305,069.00

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that it appeared unanimous and if he could give them just a quick synopsis of what he might be looking at for warrant articles.

Chief Fisher stated that in regards to the Tahoe, if you will, he brought it to Banks for inspection after the fair. It failed due to both rock panels and quarter panels being rotted out.

He had Banks Collision do an estimate and they're at the \$10,000.00 mark. He brought it to Mark Rollins and he is still waiting on his estimate but he him more in the \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00 range in order to keep the Tahoe on the road he was going to try for one other individual and get three prices to see if it's something that they wanted to fix until town meeting if you will.

He stated that they do have the maintenance fund so he had funds outside of the budget for vehicle maintenance. He thought if it was worth putting the money into it and that they were to bring a command vehicle for town voting in March, it gets approved depending on the manufacturer, the timeline, depending on the operation, they may see a new command vehicle as early as June but possibly up towards August so it's probably worth the investment to keep the vehicle on the road for another ten months or so.

Chairman Robertson stated that it might be worth the \$5,000.00 investment but he didn't know if he would want to put \$10,000.00 into it.

Chief Fisher stated that was correct, he would certainly aim to the much lower end of that scale or he guessed that the other option would be waiting till January and using money out of the fire apparatus capital reserve fund to buy one but he would rather keep that money towards five, six hundred dollar fire trucks.

Chairman Robertson thanked the chief.

Chief Fisher asked if they wanted to go over the water holes to which it was agreed.

Chairman Robertson stated absolutely and didn't think that there was going to be much question on that and noted that it was down three percent to which the fire chief agreed.

Chief Fisher stated that it went down because simply there was an adjustment on the monthly telecommunication fee for the state. Everything that he communicates with the state now is through emails and text messages and daily fire reports are all electronic.

Chairman Robertson asked if there were any questions for the chief regarding the water hole lines and hearing none asked for a motion.

Selectman McGarry stated that his motion earlier had covered the entire budget which included the fire holes.

Chief Fisher stated that why he had the Board, they participated in the Town Wide Yard Sale and as long as his math was somewhat accurate, they raised \$828.00, excuse him, \$830.00, if he could read his own writing.

Most of that, the vast majority was to one individual who was quite pleased with the yard sale and the products that he purchased and a few of the members collected some things while they were there as well and then there were a couple of donations that were made.

He would like permission from the Board to take the money raised and put it into the equipment fund and turn it back into the department and probably keep moving along with the projects around the firehouse.

Chairman Robertson didn't know how the Board felt about that but they were in general agreement that it would be okay to do.

He asked the chief if they got some space and got rid of some stuff to which the chief answered that yes, there is space now. Now it's time to take more stuff out of the firehouse and putting it in there for next year.

Chief Fisher stated that he had a couple of other things. He knew that at the last meeting he was at, Denny was there to speak in regards to the physicals and such. One thought that he had in regards to the NFPA physicals that are in there is, that in his mind, is a program the town, the department desperately needs to start. He didn't know where the Board thoughts were in regards to taking the money out and putting it in a warrant article.

If the budget fails, then that's one year that they're pushing off the physicals. To give a little recap, that is a key component to covering the members under the new, New Hampshire Firefighter Cancer law.

Chairman Robertson stated that the only thing that he would say back is that if the budget fails and they have a buck in the line, they can still go ahead and look at if they have got surplus or money somewhere else.

If they make it into a warrant article and the warrant article fails, they can't touch it at all to which the chief agreed.

Chairman Robertson stated that it may be a better strategy to leave it in the budget. He didn't know how the rest of the Boards feels.

Chairman Robertson stated that he still didn't see the highway department but they had the building department and emergency management and they've got the building department before emergency management so they will start with Mr. Pelletier.

Building Department – Page 37

Chairman Robertson stated that Mr. Pelletier is probably aware, the Board had decided that they would like to remove the part-time employee from the budget in place of using Randi as an assistant in his department. They didn't discuss that with him before but certainly appreciate his comments with regard to that.

Mr. Pelletier stated that all he knew is that he's been moved four times since he has been there. Every time that he has been moved, everything in his office has been gathered up and packed away in boxes and then he is moved to his new location and he's left to unpack it and try to refile it. It's gotten to the point where he's got tons of stuff that needs to be filed and he's not getting to it at a very pace and that was the main concern as well as the fact that it

seems to be everything is requiring more time either playing on the computer or playing with paper to make things better for other agencies and their left holding the bag. That was his main concern.

He spent two hours just today with Air Resources, filing a permit because they didn't have a permit to operate their generator which they've had for 12 years and after lambasting the lady he was dealing with, all he got out of her was that those were deficiencies in their system so now they have fixed those loopholes so the town is hit with a \$1,279.00 bill which he just got a few minutes ago for this year and next year the town is going to be hit with another \$1,500.00 bill to renew the permit and now they're going to turn him over to the enforcement authority for having failed to fill out this permit twelve years ago.

He wasn't really concerned and stated that she admitted that there are deficiencies and he said that it is really kind of like a joke. When they installed that generator, they were contacted by the State and was told that they had to file for a fuel storage permit and when they came down, they said that the tank wasn't big enough so that they didn't need to worry about it.

He also enlightened her that the generator was supplied by Emergency Management and they never made mention of a licensing permit to operate it and suddenly out of the clear blue, here we are.

Chairman Robertson asked the Board if they had any questions for Mr. Pelletier regarding the Building Inspector's budget.

Mr. Harrington stated that when they are looking to reduce that part-time line, is that down to a \$1.00 or zero?

Chairman Robertson stated that it should be left at \$1.00 in case plans don't work to which other board members agreed.

The chairman stated that he would entertain a motion on that budget and asked if the town administrator had a new number.

Mr. Harrington stated that it would be \$53,875.00. Selectman McGarry stated that he got \$52,130.00 which is subtracting \$12,479.00 from the \$64,609.00.

Selectman McGarry asked if he had out of date number and Mr. Harrington asked what the date was in the upper left-hand corner and he stated that it was August 30th, 2019.

Chairman Robertson stated that his was 10-3-19 and it had \$12,480.00 listed for that position.

Mr. Harrington stated that he thought that Selectman McGarry had an older version.

Chairman Robertson stated that \$52,130.00 is still, he thought, closer to that number than \$53,875.00.

Mr. Harrington stated that members of the Board may have updated sheets that they just haven't filed in their binders.

Selectman McGarry stated that Selectwoman McHugh was kicking him under the table here and she stated that she just found hers.

Mr. Harrington stated that if their sheets had a new current total of \$66,354.00, then the new total would be \$53,875.00 if someone wants to check his math.

Chairman Robertson stated that he has the \$66,354.00 sheets and stated when Selectman McGarry asked for the number, that is was \$53,875.00.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Building Inspector's budget of \$53,875.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that while they had Mr. Pelletier there, they had to go into non-public a couple of times probably so he didn't know if he wanted to talk to the Board about the Transfer Station quickly.

Mr. Pelletier stated that he would.

As the Board knows, as of a few months ago or whatever, the State is now requiring that landfills to be tested for PFOA's. He stated that he guessed that it has been determined that any place plastic has been buried, not just the manufacturing of it like St. Gobain, which raised this issue. They are testing landfills and groundwater sources as well because evidently this stuff, the beautiful plastic that is used today, leaches this stuff constantly.

There are two wells at the transfer station that tested positive for PFOA's. He spoke to the CMA today and is point in time, it's not a concern and they will retest next year. Other than that, there is nothing that they have to do. The only criteria for wells are if the wells tested positive within so many feet of private wells, they would have to retest as well as test the private wells but the wells that tested positive are outside the required area. They will test next September or October and they will see what happens then.

Mr. Pelletier stated that the Board had the CMA's entire report and everything.

Selectman McGarry asked what the concentration was and Mr. Pelletier answered that it was 9.3 in one and he forgot the other one but it was .1 over the max, he thought. He thought that it was 11.something 11.1 and he thought that the magic number was 12. They are just like .1 or .2 in one of them and the other, one they were under.

Mr. Harrington stated that he also has the full report bound in his office if anyone wanted to look at the maps and details.

Chairman Robertson stated that next up they have Emergency Management. He asked if Mr. Barry could give them a briefing on the Emergency Management Budget.

Mr. Barry stated that basically the budget is more or less the same as it's been last year with a couple of changes. As Mr. Pelletier stated, the State of New Hampshire has determined that now that they have a generator, that has been located at the school for twelve years, they figure that they needed to have a license so obviously and it's a five year license but it's approximately \$2,000.00 each year for the license which is in the budget.

There's also in there, they are going to be doing a maintenance agreement with Milton-Cat for a three-year contract with a total of \$2,300.00.

The price for the fuel for the generator went down a little bit because the bid on the diesel fuel went down and hopefully, they got the right number which he thought was \$2.13 was the award this year.

On the Emergency Management equipment line, they need to replace the base radio upstairs as it is so old that it's due as well as there was a problem with it and also so that they could program it to the portable radios. They have two portables upstairs and one he thought, was still in Mr. Harrington's office and one is in the EOC.

Chairman Robertson asked if the big increase is covered by the Emergency Management Grant to which Mr. Barry stated that it was. The 23,000 percent increase.

Selectman McGarry asked what the grant covered and Mr. Barry stated that there are a couple of grants that they're going for. One is an EMPG grant for the town EOP which is a renewal of the grant which they have to do every five years and there is also a grant that they were applying for updating the emergency communication systems.

Chairman Robertson stated that they wouldn't be spending that if they didn't get the grant so they weren't going to appropriate that if they didn't get it to which Mr. Barry agreed.

Chairman Robertson asked if there were any questions for Mr. Barry which no one did.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Emergency Management budget of \$41,939.00

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't believe that they had the highway agent there so they would have to take that up at a later time.

Chairman Robertson asked if anyone else was at the meeting for budget reasons. No one was.

He continued that he was going to break from the agenda, Mr. Harrington cut in to ask if they wanted to hear from Mr. Ellis as he was there. If he could give them a rundown on the boiler estimates that he got and this was for the highway shed. He apologized because he thought that they were going to talk about that with the highway budget.

Mr. Ellis stated that when they had all the furnaces in the town cleans, A.J. LeBlanc noticed that they had a softball sized hole in the heat exchanger in the highway department and he condemned it. They can't fire it anymore.

Looking back, they found that the furnace was from 1962. Apparently, at one time, it was in the town hall and got moved to the highway garage because it was still running well at the time but it's seen better days.

Furnaces now are a lot more efficient and the only questions that they had and he got a bunch of bids for the Board to look over and whether they go propane furnace or oil-fired furnace.

He got a bid for both oil-fired and propane from each one of those bidders and it's just a preference thing, he stated that some people like gas, some people don't. Some people like oil, some people don't. It just comes down to preference.

Regarding the dollars and cents, the gas is a little bit cheaper. There is already gas there. They have a 500-gallon tank that's used for the emergency run generator only.

He already talked with Rymes who supplies them with the fuel and they said that if they go with the gas furnace, they would put in a bigger tank. They would lose the oil so it would kind of balance off.

Chairman Robertson stated that he would give them a run-down for prices that they received.

Starting with the oil side, Logan Air and Heating is offering to install a new ThermoPride 85% efficient oil furnace with all necessary piping, wiring, permits and labor for \$6,000.00

Al Terry Plumbing and Heating is offering the installation of a new high boy style oil furnace, does not give the, it's a Granby. Their total for installation is \$6,983.00 for the oil.

LeBlanc Heating had given them on a Rheem 70,000 BTU oil-fired furnace with a Becket oil burner and their total was \$15,623.00.

For the gas they had a quote from Al Terry Plumbing and Heating – installation of a new 80% efficient LP gas furnace and these all include removal of the old. The price was \$5,009.00.

Logan's gas price was \$6,500.00.

LeBlanc Heating's gas price for an Amana, 60,000 BTU, two-stage direct was \$11,881.00.

Selectman McGarry asked what the size of the Al Terry furnace to which Chairman Robertson stated that it was 64,000 BTU with a 4 Ton blower.

Mr. Ellis stated that they measured it out and it figured out to be about 38,000 BTUs to do that 800 square feet. He continued that they like to double it or at least go over as this has a cement floor in there and that holds the cold.

Chairman Robertson stated that Al Terry had a one-year parts and labor warranty as well.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if the garage has a different furnace to which Mr. Ellis stated that the bays inside have the waste oil furnace that they have been running whenever the trucks need work. The one that is to be replaced is just heating the office, the little kitchen area, the bathroom and that little waiting area out front by the TV. That's it.

She asked what furnace work was done about 8 years ago to which Mr. Ellis stated that he wasn't there. She continued that there was a furnace replaced at the highway garage to which Chairman Robertson that he didn't believe so and if it was replaced about 8 years ago, it was replaced because the age of the furnace.

Mr. Ellis stated that he was under the understanding and he was told that the furnace came from the town hall because they put a new furnace in the town hall and then they took that furnace, because it still ran good, and put it in the highway garage.

Now, maybe that was what they were talking about is that they paid to have it installed. He wasn't there.

Chairman Robertson stated that the furnace at the highway garage now that they are talking about replacing is certainly much older than 8 years.

Mr. Ellis stated that the tag on it says 1962.

Chairman Robertson asked Mr. Ellis if he were comfortable with Al Terry and he replied that he seems legitimate. He talked with the owners and the guy that came out and did the estimate. He felt comfortable. They explained exactly why he went a little bit bigger on the BTUs and that they would be better off to do that.

They recommend that we go with the propane but Mr. Ellis didn't have a preference if they go oil or propane. They're both pretty similar. The gas heat is a little bit cleaner, a little bit more efficient and there is already propane there so they could go either way. It just comes down to a preference as far as the Board.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that something to keep in mind is that with propane, the emergency generator is going to use a lot of propane and it runs out. It runs out at the fire house. She knew that they could get a bigger tank but is that going to be sufficient to change it all over to gas?

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know but they had a \$1,900.00 price difference between the two quotes on the bottom there.

Selectman McGarry asked if they would be installing a larger propane tank to which Mr. Ellis stated that Rymes would probably put in a 1,000-gallon tank in there and it was asked what was there now to which it was answered it was a 500-gallon tank but it only runs the emergency generator.

Chairman Robertson asked what the Board's pleasure would be. They are probably a week to ten days away from getting cold and Mr. Ellis stated that the earliest he found that they could have anyone over there is at least another two weeks after they got the agreement before they could start. They're booked right now.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that they could be comfortable with Al Terry and it's down to whether they wanted to do LP or oil.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to award the contract for the propane furnace to Al Terry in the amount of \$5,009.00

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 2, Nay 1, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

If for some reason the highway agent comes back with some reason that he doesn't feel they should do it, they could revisit it.

Chairman Robertson stated that he would entertain a motion to go into non-public session with the first person that responded back to Mr. Harrington which was Sarah Wicks then typically what they would do is go into non-public session and meet in the backroom here. If for some reason Ms. Wicks does not want to have a non-public session, she is welcome to have a public session as well.

Motion: Selectman Shute moves to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Board came out of non-public session at 6:42 p.m. and are back in public session.

Chairman Robertson stated that at this point, he would entertain a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson stated that for the record, no action was taken in the non-public session.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of October 15, 2019

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the minutes of October 15, 2019

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Payroll Manifest - \$73,203.26 (gross), \$47,348.48 (net)

Motion: Selectman Shute moves to approve the payroll manifest as read

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Accounts Payable Manifest - \$84,217.15

Motion: Selectman Shute moves to approve the accounts payable manifest as read

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that they had nothing in the signature file.

In the correspondence file they got notification from the State of New Hampshire and a copy of a check for \$50,142.79 which was from the biennial state budget and this is to offset property taxes, which he believed was the primary thought behind the return.

Mr. Harrington stated that this year, the Board has two choices. You can either save it to for offsetting property taxes or they could hold a public hearing to accept it and spend it. He stated that he will be talking about that when he gives his report.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that there was a second half to this as well, he believed. It's coming down the pike and Mr. Harrington stated that it would be next year.

Chairman Robertson stated that right on the heels of that, they had the 2019 Rockingham County warrant. The amount of the warrant is \$578,321.00. Payment is due by December 17th so they are still \$450,000.00 in the hole still.

There was no further correspondence.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington stated that he had several items for the Board tonight.

The first has to do with that municipal aid. In order to complete the MS-434, which is the adjusted revenue that the Board signed not too long ago, DRA needs to know how the Board would like to handle that money. They have a choice as he stated. You could save it to put towards offsetting the tax rate or hold a public hearing and spend it this year.

Chairman Robertson asked what the cut off date to notifying DRA to which Mr. Harrington stated that it was quite soon, tomorrow.

Mr. Harrington stated that the only delay is that they wouldn't be able to set the tax rate until the Board makes this decision.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know how the Board feels but he is comfortable with using it to offset the taxes, he guessed. If they have to spend \$50,000.00 on something, he thought they would have it in unexpended surplus.

Mr. Harrington asked then they wanted to use it to offset taxes to which all members of the Board agreed.

Mr. Harrington continued that the second part of the question for the MS-434 is that they currently have the overlay set at \$250,000.00 which is used for any abatements that the Board chooses to approve throughout the year and any settlements that may come in the future.

He did a little bit of homework back to 2015. There's a couple of outlier amounts but the average abatement that the Board has approved is \$53,728.00. The last three years, 2017-\$60,000.00, 2018-\$16,000.00 and to date it is \$8,000.00. This would come out of that \$250,000.00. Whatever would be remaining might go towards any anticipated appeal or settlement.

Chairman Robertson asked if that falls into the range that DRA approves to which Mr. Harrington stated that was correct. They have kept \$250,000.00 in there at least the last three years. That amount he would need an answer to as well so they, again, can set the tax rate.

Chairman Robertson asked if they were not meeting with their DRA representative to discuss any of the tax rate.

Mr. Harrington stated that he could ask to have them come in and Chairman Robertson added that they typically they have looked at a couple of scenarios and actually spoken with their DRA rep and then just setting it today.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know about the rest of the Board but he would feel more comfortable, he thought, doing that he thought.

Mr. Harrington stated that he would make that request.

Chairman Robertson stated that if for some reason they can't, let the Board know.

Mr. Harrington stated that he had two other things. One has already been discussed by Rick Pelletier. He went over the permit costs this year and the permit costs for next year, \$1,200.00 for this year and then for 2020, it would be \$1,500.00 permit. That would be good for five years on the emergency management generator.

The last item he had was when he finally gets the health insurance quotes from Beltran-Melcott, he would also like the Board to look at the dental program as well. You may want to tie it into whatever insurance program you go with or keep the current carrier.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that the reason that Mr. Harrington is mentioning this is that the current carrier is showing, not a huge increase, but significant increase in the dental. For Bill Ball's sake it's Melter and Prescott.

Mr. Harrington stated that he will reach out to DRA and see if he could get them in for next week.

Chairman Robertson stated that typically, and just so everyone's on the same page, they have not wanted to attend the evening meetings. They have typically asked for an afternoon appointment there.

It was noted that they don't ever remember them coming to an evening meeting.

Chairman Robertson stated that typically, they had an afternoon session and Mr. Harrington stated that he will see what they will offer.

Chairman Robertson stated that if they do agree to come, you may want to contact the school board. In years past, they have wanted to have a representative at the meeting to just hear what is being said.

Unfinished Business/New Business:

None

Motion: Selectman Shute moves to adjourn

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Both Selectmen McGarry and Shute withdrew their motions to adjourn.

Citizen's Comments:

None

Motion: Selectman Shute moves to adjourn

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Next Meeting: Monday, October 28, 2019 at 5:30 pm

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*