

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 9, 2019
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

Present: Andrew Robertson, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman. Fred McGarry, Jeff Shute and Cindy McHugh, Selectpersons.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Chairman Robertson stated that the first thing he is going to mention is that Denise Greig will not be joining them this evening. She has had a family matter that has called her away so there will be no final report from the Joint Loss Committee.

That said, he would look to the Conservation Commission and he stated that he didn't see neither Serita Frey nor anyone else from the Conservation Commission.

A member of the public spoke up and Chairman Robertson stated that they had paperwork in their folders for the fourth quarter, 2019 report so if she doesn't show up, he thought that that was more than adequate and gives them a good idea on what they are working on.

Chairman Robertson stated that the next order of business is that they had a longevity award and it was for Ann Vennerbeck, Library employee and Ann has now been with the town for 10 years and they had a certificate and a small financial award to give Ann.

She advised the Board that she couldn't be in attendance this evening but the chairman wanted to get this on television and read into the minutes and he would leave it in the capable hands of Mr. Harrington to make sure that she gets it.

Chairman Robertson stated that they have had a request from Sara Wicks to meet with the Board regarding an ongoing matter that they have discussed with her before. He assumed that if she does show this evening, she is going to want to meet in non-public so he stated that he would keep an eye out for her.

Moving down the column, Wes Golomb had requested to talk to the Board about energy updates at the GBW and some ideas that he has had.

Chairman Robertson stated that he had mentioned this a meeting or two ago, that he had met with Wes and reviewed some of his ideas but he has some results that he would like to share with the Board regarding some of the improvements that have been made there and would invite Wes to go to the microphone.

Chairman Robertson stated that there are information packets in their folders also regarding this.

Wes Golomb – Energy upgrade results for GBW/Ideas for the future

Mr. Golomb thanked the Board for taking the time tonight to hear this.

He stated that he followed the upgrades to this building. They started, he believed, in 2014 and he has been putting them into a program called "Portfolio Manager", an EPA program that tracks buildings and actually is the program that determines if a building meets "Energy Star".

Just a summary of what the town did over the course, he thought of over five or six years. There was a total cost of \$197,000.00 for all of the upgrades to this building and he is assuming that in the figures that he is going to give them, that actually all of that money was expended for the energy upgrades.

He didn't think that was the truth but that is what these numbers are based on.

1
2 Based on that, they got a return in the first year of \$26,000.00. That is what was saved on energy between 2013 and
3 2018. He actually looked at the program today and without the final results for this year, they are up around saving
4 \$27,000.00 this year over 2013 which works out to 4 cents on a \$1,000.00 tax reduction which he thought that
5 everyone was happy about.

6
7 Our demand, as of last year, was down 57%. The report that he saw today had it down 60%. The greenhouse gas
8 emissions from this building alone, down 61%. The big one, the town got a return on investment of about 13.2% on
9 this project which is really great.

10
11 As a subset of that project, the last year, and this is one of the reasons that the numbers may vary from last year to
12 this year is and he wasn't sure when it was completed but there was a lighting upgrade on this building. That cost,
13 and this is included in that number that he gave the Board before, was about \$7,700.00 and that saved the town
14 about \$4,200.00 the first year or a return on investment of 55%.

15
16 He stated that the Board had some graphs and numbers in their presentation which are from the EPA program that
17 he was telling them about.

18
19 So, he just wanted to take this time here to congratulate the Board and the people that did the heavy lifting in this
20 project because he has been following projects like this on the local energy steering committee for the last twelve
21 years and this is one of the best ones that he has seen in the state, so congratulations and thanks for the work that
22 they have done.

23
24 With that said, he didn't think that this was a fluke. He stated that he thought that it was well thought out and it is a
25 model for future projects that could be energy efficient and cost effective for the town.

26
27 He continued that he has seen that other towns are systemically doing this and saving money and cutting taxes and
28 he would like to see Deerfield do that.

29
30 He has to stop for a second. He is a retired teacher. He can't go on without a quiz. Here is your "true" or "false" quiz
31 for the night.

32
33 "Deerfield has a goal written someplace to be net zero by 2030?" to which the Board members stated "true".

34
35 Mr. Golomb stated that the answer was true.

36
37 He stated that he has asked a bunch of people that and very few up till now have said that. They do have that goal in
38 the town's Master Plan and again, this project here is a really good step towards that and it's a first step that he would
39 like to see them continue and he would like to offer as a mechanism, a reformation of the Energy Committee.

40
41 Specifically, this would be to develop strategies for Deerfield to become a "net zero" community by 2030 and find and
42 promote specific cost-effective projects which would lower taxes, energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions
43 and help the town get to the net zero in the master plan.

44
45 In there, he has a bunch of different things that he could see the Energy Committee doing.

46
47 One of them right off the bat would be to help to find a place where they could have a solar array. They can find in
48 their packets, a sample, power purchase agreement from a couple of solar companies. This is a way that the towns
49 can put PV on, they had hoped they could put it on the roof but that won't work because of the structural stuff, but
50 someplace else up.

51
52 An array on the roof of the GBW, last year they had gotten a quote for it and it would have provided about two-thirds
53 of the Eversource bill that the town sees every year and through a power purchase agreement, there is typically no,
54 upfront costs to the town. He recognizes that one of the main issues that we have is the funding of things like this or
55 funding anything and he recognizes that.

56
57 With that said, he thought that there were opportunities out there. There is also a three-million-dollar infusion to the
58 state Clean Energy Fund which at least two million of it is going to go a revolving loan fund for projects like this.

59
60 There is a new law called the "Community Power Law" which also allows for some flexibility in projects like this.
61

1 He didn't know, since they already have a warrant article with what would be needed, whether a vote or whatever, but
2 whatever it would take, he would appreciate it if the Board would agree to restarting an Energy Committee and he
3 wanted to be very specific about one of the differences because the Board may be thinking that they had one and it
4 didn't work.

5
6 Actually, he stated, that he thought it did work for as far as it went but from his perspective, one of the big things that
7 failed or was a negative the first time around was that they were all energy geeks on that committee. Committed
8 people that worked hard but he would suggest, and what he has seen since then is with towns that were successful,
9 have stakeholders from throughout the community on a committee like this and he has already gotten some tentative
10 commitments from a variety of what he would call "key people" so he would ask the Board to approve this however
11 they need to and he would suggest that he come back within a month with a formal list of people that would serve on
12 this committee.

13
14 Chairman Robertson thanked Mr. Golomb for the report and he didn't think that there would be much objection from
15 the Board of Selectmen in constituting the Energy Committee and he thought with what he showed regarding the
16 energy savings, light replacement, that sort of thing, came directly out of the Energy Committee as he recalled.

17
18 He would refer people and he watched this at Wes' direction prior, if you have a chance to look at the Derry project,
19 he has the address in the back of the packet which will give them some ideas about what a town like Deerfield might
20 realize in what they might be able to do.

21
22 Mr. Golomb thanked the chairman for bringing that up and he stated that Joshua Gordon, who is the chair of the
23 Derry Town Council and the person that they will see in the interview, has told him to relay to the Board that he would
24 be glad to come to Deerfield to speak to them about their project which has been a success.

25
26 Yes, Derry has, he didn't know how many times the amount of energy consumption as they are larger than Deerfield
27 is but please look at it as a model and thanked the Board for their time, he appreciated it.

28 29 **Serita Frey, Chairman – Conservation Commission, Quarterly Update**

30
31 She thought that Judy, their clerk, sent them a copy of the quarterly update. She stated that she would highlight
32 some of the items.

33
34 She thought that the one that is the most interesting is that at the top, they are working with the Planning Board and
35 the Town Planner to update the Zoning Ordinance in regards to wetlands and that will be on the ballot in March and
36 there is a public hearing on that this Wednesday as part of the Planning Board meeting.

37
38 This is the one item that they have been most actively working on in the last couple of months.

39
40 Beyond that, they have continued with their typical land easement monitoring, continuing with a number of the
41 projects that they have been working on for a while.

42
43 They have also reviewed a couple of Eversource applications to the Planning Board. In particular, one recently for a
44 conditional use permit for a structural replacement project. She believed that there are continued conversations with
45 Eversource going forward into January.

46
47 They also reviewed a handbook "A Guide for Planning Trails" with an emphasis on wildlife and that is being
48 developed by NH Fish and Game.

49
50 Finally, they continue to review notifications of wetlands, shorelands and forestry permit applications to DES so that is
51 what she had for the Board tonight unless they had questions.

52
53 Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't think they did and thanked her for her time. The vice chairman stated that it
54 was well done.

55 56 **Sara Wicks – Non-public session**

57
58 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II - (c) Matters
59 which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member
60 of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any
61 application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay
62 or poverty of the applicant.

1 **Second:** Selectman Shute
2 **Discussion:**
3 **Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

4
5 Chairman Robertson called them back into public session and note that no action was taken in the non-public session
6 and would entertain a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session.

7
8 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session
9 **Second:** Selectman McGarry
10 **Discussion:**
11 **Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

12
13
14 **Motion:** Selectman Shute moves to abate Sara Wicks \$3,000.00 of interest
15 **Second:** Vice Chairman Pitman
16 **Discussion:**
17 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

18
19 Chairman Robertson stated that Miss Wicks could work through the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office with regard to
20 that and certainly reach out to the town administrator, Mr. Harrington, if she needs assistance.

21
22 **Regular Business:**

23
24 **Review of Outstanding Minutes of November 25, 2019**

25
26 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of November 25, 2019
27 **Second:** Selectman Shute
28 **Discussion:**
29 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

30
31 **Accounts Payable - \$630,108.74 (a large portion to go for County taxes)**

32
33 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$630,108.74
34 **Second:** Selectman McGarry
35 **Discussion:**
36 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

37
38 Mrs. Cady, from the audience, asked how much the county bill was to which he stated that it was \$578,321.00.

39
40 Chairman Robertson stated that there were a number of things in the Signature Folder.

41
42 He stated that he would start with the item that doesn't require a motion and a second and that would be a:

43
44 **Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – Michael Yurek, 99 Old Centre Road, an average of 5 acres he would**
45 **like to cut**

46
47 Two applications for Tax Credits/Exemptions

48
49 **Jonathan and Sarah Leslie – based on Jonathan Leslie's military service and are looking for the standard**
50 **veteran tax credit.**

51
52 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the veteran tax credit
53 **Second:** Selectman McGarry
54 **Discussion:**
55 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

56
57 **Mario Rey, II – veteran tax credit – 85 Hartford Brook Road**

58
59 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the veteran tax credit
60 **Second:** Selectman McGarry
61 **Discussion:**
62 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

1
2 **Computer Adjustment Abatement Request from the Tax Collector.**
3

4 This is in regard to the twelve properties that the town is in the process of deeding. The town is exempt from taxation
5 and since the town is now taking ownership of those properties, they have been advised by Avatar that they should
6 abate the amounts on each lot that are now being taxed to the town.
7

8 The chairman stated that he would read the map and lot numbers as that is how the tax collector has presented
9 them. There are twelve of them in total. He will list the abatement amounts as well.
10

11 Parcel ID – M201L21 - \$ 957.00
12 Parcel ID – M208L28 - \$ 27.87
13 Parcel ID – M204L33 - \$ 275.00
14 Parcel ID – M208L03 - \$ 164.00
15 Parcel ID – M208L22 - \$ 551.00
16 Parcel ID – M206L26 - \$ 639.00
17 Parcel ID – M405L19 - \$ 1.00
18 Parcel ID – M405L76 - \$ 766.00
19 Parcel ID – M418L25 - \$2,555.00
20 Parcel ID – M418L26 - \$ 119.00
21 Parcel ID – M418L62 - \$3,672.00
22 Parcel ID – M420L66 - \$1,349.00
23

24 Total Combined Abatements of \$13,835.00
25

26 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve all twelve abatements
27

28 **Second:** Selectman McGarry
29

30 **Discussion:**
31

32 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**
33

34 Along the same lines, they have a request from the tax collector's office for multiple refund requests for second half,
35 2019 bill and this is basically because of overpayments.
36

37 She is requesting a partial refund to the parcels because they overpaid their property taxes.
38

39 Total amount of the refunds is \$1,168.40.
40

41 He stated that he would read the tax payers in question that will be receiving the refund request if it is approved.
42

43 Harry Wiser of Canterbury, NH
44 Michael Vaillancourt, Raymond, NH
45 Donna Ramirez, Methuen, MA
46 Linda Lobow, Deerfield, NH
47 Kyle Desrochers, Deerfield, NH
48 Michael Gilkison, Deerfield, NH
49 Ronald Quinta, Deerfield, NH
50 Patrick Bonnell, Deerfield, NH
51

52 These refunds range from \$1.00 to a high of \$333.80.
53

54 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the refunds for overpayment
55

56 **Second:** Selectman McGarry
57

58 **Discussion:**
59

60 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**
61

62 Last but not least, they had the service agreement between the Town of Deerfield and Ruth A. Hanrahan and this is
63 for cleaning services as were awarded at the last meeting.
64

65 It requires one signature and if the Board is agreeable, and could make a motion authorizing the Chair to sign the
66 contract agreement, they could keep the building clean.
67

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the service agreement for Ruth A. Hanrahan for cleaning services

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Correspondence Folder:

There are a couple things. He would note that a majority of the Board of Selectmen signed an Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$1,053,503.70 on December 2nd as well as a Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$47,655.43 on December 2nd.

The other thing that the chairman would mention is an update that the Southern NH Planning Commission field work team has completed its initial inspection of all 51 miles of Deerfield's roadway. It hasn't been organized yet. The next steps include meeting with the road agent to review and make sure that he's in agreement with the assessed segments and that sort of thing and make any necessary adjustments and conduct any field work that appears to not have been completed after that review with the road agent so that is ongoing.

He stated that they had a number of other items in there including Theodore Gatsas has given them a report as to what is happening with the Executive Council. There is a notice from the town of Pelham regarding a wireless communications tower which is a notice to abutters. There is also information from NHDES as well as some information, trial summary from Upton and Hatfield for their review.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington stated that he had one item this evening.

In their yearly Board calendar, it indicates that the last meeting of the year is on December 26th, which is the day after Christmas.

His recommendation, with the Board's approval, would be to move it to that Monday, the 23rd and they would still have one final Monday if it should be needed, on the 30th.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it sounded good and asked if the next Monday would be out.

Mr. Harrington stated that it is scheduled but it would be up to the Board if it is needed.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that what he was getting at is were they going to go from this evening to the 23rd before having a meeting?

Mr. Harrington stated that typically, every Monday in December is scheduled out for budgetary reasons but the final review of the budget has been done. They just need to approve the final budget. They could keep the 16th or they could cancel it and go to the 23rd.

Chairman Robertson stated that essentially, they had the 26th listed as a Thursday, the day after Christmas. He thought they were all in general agreement that it is a lousy night to have a meeting and they could move to the 23rd and does the Board want to dump the 16th and just use the 23rd as the meeting night?

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it was a good idea unless we need it and then they could call it.

Mr. Harrington stated that he will post it as cancelled.

Chairman Robertson stated that everyone looked to be in general agreement and so they would scratch the 16th and the next selectmen's meeting will be December 23rd. If they need to schedule a meeting for encumbrances or anything like that prior to the close of the year, they could sneak one in during the last week.

Unfinished Business:

Letter to Northwood Board of Selectmen regarding Gulf Road.

Chairman Robertson asked if they had a letter that they had or were working on and Selectman McGarry stated that they had pasted it out at the last meeting.

1
2 The Board members were going to review it and get back to Selectman McGarry with any edits.

3
4 Chairman Robertson asked Board members if they had any edits to the letter presented.

5
6 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he didn't have a problem with the letter at all and did he think this would stop once
7 they received it until they got a better plan for the road?

8
9 Selectman McGarry stated yes and he continued that the Planning Board is considering a potential zoning change to
10 increase the argument against Northwood as well as far as limiting them on issuing building permits as well.

11
12 Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that it was important to look at steps like that because they have had this
13 same discussion probably twenty years ago were it was expressly represented that the town of Deerfield did not want
14 to see more development out there and that they didn't have the ability to improve the road access that was lakeside
15 to accommodate emergency vehicles and it didn't seem to help. It seemed for a year to eighteen months, not a lot
16 went on but it picked up pretty quickly after that.

17
18 Selectman McGarry stated that hopefully their planner will continue to make the recommendations against any
19 subdivisions taking place because of the limitations of Gulf Road.

20
21 Mr. Harrington stated that with that approval, he could have the letter printed on letterhead ready for their signature
22 on the 23rd.

23
24 Selectman McGarry stated that it will have to be passed along to the Planning Board members to take a look at it and
25 Mr. Harrington stated that when he had his final copy, just to email it to him.

26
27 **New Business:**

28
29 Before moving to things at large, one of the things that they should get out of the way is the warrant articles and what
30 they might want to propose.

31
32 He believed that they had in their files what they had last year and some of the things that they discussed during the
33 course of the year and these are going to take a review by town counsel and a little bit of crafting so if they could
34 decide what they might be interested in pursuing and they were not interested in pursuing this evening, it would
35 probably be good.

36
37 Starting with last year, he thought, looking at Warrant Article 2, and that was the police department expendable trust
38 fund, whether they want to try for that again to move forward with planning money for a police department.

39
40 Vice Chairman Pitman asked if there was any way they could go ahead with the cost of doing it, the project?

41
42 Chairman Robertson asked if he was talking about the total cost to which the vice chairman stated yes.

43
44 Chairman Robertson stated that he guessed they could. The committee that came up with the \$50,000.00 amount
45 thought that it would be in their best interest to have some plans that they could show the committee when they went
46 forward for the total amount but that could be developed on the road to building, he supposed.

47
48 Selectman McGarry stated that he would agree with that. He couldn't see ballparking a number which they have no
49 strong justification on.

50
51 Chairman Robertson stated that the \$50,000.00 amount that they used last year was based on, he believed,
52 \$44,000.00 to \$46,000.00 in hard costs for engineering, planning and rounding it up to \$50,000.00 gave them a little
53 bit of extra that they could use for communication to the community about what they were looking at and seeking
54 input from them as well. He didn't know, he guessed he was comfortable moving forward with the \$50,000.00 but
55 certainly he didn't know how the Board feels about it.

56
57 Vice Chairman Pitman asked if he was comfortable with that or did, they want to change it to \$46,000.00 which is
58 what he said it really is?

59
60 Chairman Robertson stated that they could certainly make it at \$46,000.00. He thought it was comfortable. They
61 have the original Warren Street plans. If the Board feels that \$46,000.00, \$46,500.00 might be more palatable than
62 \$50,000.00?

1
2 Selectman McGarry stated that they were only looking at \$3,500.00. It is always nice to have a little extra money
3 there in case something else comes up but he would be happy with the \$50,000.00. He certainly wouldn't want to
4 propose the \$1.4 million without having plans to show people.

5
6 Selectman Shute stated that he agreed with the \$50,000.00.

7
8 Chairman Robertson asked if there was a general agreement that they could proceed with the \$50,000.00 request?
9

10 Board members generally agreed.

11
12 Chairman Robertson stated that the other thing that they should probably talk about, do they want to do the usual
13 capital reserve funds that they have done and that would be fire apparatus, municipal government buildings and
14 infrastructure, the winter road maintenance expendable trust. He knew that the road agent was anxious to include
15 that again this year to replenish the winter road fund because they depleted it substantially last year.

16
17 Board members agreed that it sounded great.

18
19 Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that as they moved along with default budgets throughout the last five
20 years or so, they have been using these expendable trusts more and need to keep them replenished.

21
22 Vice Chairman asked if they could get rid of Article 8 then?

23
24 Chairman Robertson stated, depending. He didn't know. Has Matt (fire chief) submitted anything for a warrant article
25 and Mr. Harrington asked if the Board would go in order to make it easier.

26
27 Mr. Harrington asked if they were going to go with Article 3 to which the chairman stated that yes, Article 3, Article 5
28 was a one time which was his understanding.

29
30 Mr. Harrington stated that they were not going to be going for Article 5 unless the fire chief comes back and asked
31 them to replace that. Mr. Harrington stated that he would check with him.

32
33 Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that the Board was in agreement that they would go with Article 6 and
34 they would also go with Article 7 and they may want to check with the highway agent to see what exactly he would
35 like see put into that warrant article because he is going to have a better idea than the Board is likely to have.

36
37 Warrant Article 8 is the command vehicle for the fire department.

38
39 Vice Chairman Pitman remarked that it is way out of control for that price for that vehicle for the amount that it gets
40 used. He asked if the chief has come back with anything. They have spent a lot of money fixing rust and things like
41 that on it.

42
43 Mr. Harrington stated that with talking with the fire chief last time about the command vehicle, he was uncertain
44 whether to put in another warrant article for a lease or just leave it off all together depending on how it passes
45 inspection or not next year because if it goes on a warrant article and it fails, they are unable to use any funds to buy
46 a command vehicle. If they leave it off, then he can tap into the fire apparatus equipment fund to replace the vehicle
47 and just pay for it.

48
49 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it sounds good.

50
51 Chairman Robertson asked what the Board's pleasure would be, whether to just leave it off this year? It has been a
52 loser of a warrant article year on year.

53
54 Mr. Harrington asked if they were going to leave it off and the chairman stated, unless the fire chief comes back and
55 has a different proposal but he guessed that is the will of the Board at this point.

56
57 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that if the fire chief came back with something reasonable like a F-150 or something
58 like that.

59
60 Selectwoman McHugh stated that this was the concern is that the vehicle as designed before being used now as it
61 was then? She thought that he could come back with something else.
62

1 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he wasn't against a vehicle but he is against the Tahoe.

2
3 Chairman Robertson asked Mr. Harrington to express that to the fire chief and he said that he would pass on that
4 information to him.

5
6 Mr. Harrington asked on Article 4, is there any interest before they move on?

7
8 Chairman Robertson stated that it was the cost of living adjustment. Last year they asked for 2 percent and he didn't
9 know what the Board's thoughts are. They hadn't discussed this at all.

10
11 Mr. Harrington stated that they could certainly revisit it.

12
13 Members of the Board stated that they could revisit it on the 23rd since it is plain language that isn't going to require
14 any....

15
16 Article 9. This is the fire department vehicle equipment expendable trust fund. This comes from unassigned fund
17 balance if they have any. He is generally in favor of that but didn't know how the rest of the Board feels.

18
19 All seemed to be in agreement.

20
21 Chairman Robertson stated it was the same with Article 10 for rescue vehicles and equipment and members of the
22 Board agreed to this also.

23
24 He continued that he hadn't seen anything yet from Northwood Lake. He is assuming they may and the vice
25 chairman stated that they should keep it in there.

26
27 Mr. Harrington stated that he has heard from the PLPA and they are requesting that Article 12 go back in using the
28 language.

29
30 Chairman Robertson stated that they should plan on keeping in Articles 11 and 12 but if they don't hear from
31 Northwood, they can remove it.

32
33 This brings them to possible new warrant articles. They have the town hall elevator expendable trust fund. This is
34 basically to begin a trust fund as opposed to seeking full expenditure of the town hall elevator. There is \$25,000.00 in
35 there to show what the warrant article would look like. Don't know how the Board feels in regards to floating that.

36
37 Vice Chairman Pitman remarked, good idea instead of trying to get the whole amount.

38
39 Chairman Robertson asked if the Board was comfortable with starting with \$25,000.00?

40
41 Selectman McGarry stated that it would take 20 years to get enough and the chairman stated that they were in the
42 vicinity of \$300,000.00 and something that he could recall, \$350,000.00, \$360,000.00.

43
44 Selectman McGarry stated he didn't know if they wanted to discuss whether to have another number besides
45 \$25,000.00.

46
47 Vice Chairman Pitman asked if Fran (Menard) came up with that number to which the chairman remarked that he
48 didn't think so.

49
50 Mr. Harrington stated that it was just a place holder.

51
52 Vice Chairman Pitman thought that maybe they should find out from that committee.

53
54 Chairman Robertson stated that typically, this has come from the Heritage Commission and they should probably
55 reach out to them first of all to see if they would have any support for this and if they had a dollar amount that they
56 might be interested in having the Board vote on.

57
58 Selectman Shute asked if they had to have writing in there that they could accept donations as well or is that part of
59 the RSA?

60
61 Chairman Robertson stated that they would definitely want wording in there to accept donations.

1 The next possible proposed new is for road improvement, repair and reconstruction including drainage
2 improvements. This has an amount of \$250,000.00 in there and that is as much as a place holder as anything too.

3
4 They have heard what the road agent intends to put forward for road projects this coming budget cycle. This was
5 thought to be a good measure of the town's commitment to improving road quality and also keep it out of Mark's
6 budget or the town's budget. He thought anything from \$100,000.00 on up would be an adequate amount.

7
8 He didn't know how the Board feels. He did talk to Mark and he's in support of it if they town wants to get behind it.
9 He's happy to do more road reconstruction and if they don't, it's a pretty clear message on how the community feels
10 about what needs to be spent on roads.

11
12 Selectman McGarry asked if they had any idea when Southern NH Planning report will be available to which Mr.
13 Harrington answered that he did not.

14
15 Selectman McGarry stated that he would like to see what they are recommending and the vice chairman asked if they
16 still had time.

17
18 Chairman Robertson stated that they could leave it at \$250,000.00 as it's written and presented and either
19 downgrade or upgrade as they got closer.

20
21 He asked if the Board was in general agreement that they should leave the road reconstruction and repair on the
22 warrant to which they stated yes.

23
24 Mr. Harrington stated that the last warrant article was sent to him late last week from the cemetery trustees.

25
26 Chairman Robertson stated that they could place it on there for them or we could tell them that they don't want to
27 place it on there and they would have to get the appropriate number of signatures. He didn't know how the Board
28 feels?

29
30 Selectman McGarry asked what the downside would be if the Board put it on the ballot.

31
32 Chairman Robertson stated nothing except that it appears that the Board supports it if they put it on there and if the
33 Board doesn't support that, they may want to tell them to make it a petition warrant article.

34
35 Members of the Board agreed that they would like to see it has a petition warrant article and the chairman asked
36 again that they wanted it to be a petition article coming from them as opposed to coming from the Board.

37
38 He asked if the Board was in general agreement with that and Selectman McGarry added that if the Cemetery
39 Trustees want it, he guessed they should.

40
41 Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't think the number of signatures is prohibitive and Mr. Harrington stated that
42 he will connect with them and tell them that the Board prefers that it comes as a petition, independent warrant article.

43
44 Mr. Harrington stated that there is one, newer warrant article that Wes Golomb sent him language late and didn't get
45 it into this packet but could have it ready for the 23rd regarding reconstituting the Energy Committee.

46
47 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that he thought it was a good idea and the chairman agreed and stated that Wes was
48 gracious this evening with thanking the Board for doing the heavy lifting in regard to that. As he recalled, it was a
49 combination of previous town administrators and recommendations from the Energy Commission and maybe the
50 Planning Board that actually moved that forward. Having them back is not a bad idea.

51
52 Selectman Shute added that Parks and Rec is looking to put together a warrant article for field maintenance work.
53 He asked if that should come in as a petition article also, did they think?

54
55 Chairman Robertson stated that if Selectman Shute wanted to pitch it to the Board, he could certainly place it on the
56 warrant at the Board's discretion. If it something that the Board is likely to support, it would probably be better if they
57 place it on there.

58
59 He didn't know if everyone picks up on that notation but a fair number of people know if it is a petition warrant article,
60 the Board of Selectmen might not be in favor of it.

1 Selectwoman McHugh asked how they did the maintenance of the fields before and Selectman Shute stated that
2 there wasn't a lot of maintenance done.

3
4 Chairman Robertson stated that there were a couple of Eagle Scout projects that took care of some of the bigger
5 pieces that needed to be done.

6
7 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that they didn't have the inventory that they do now either.

8
9 Selectman Shute stated that volunteers covered some of it but the volunteers are shrinking so each program is trying
10 to get self sufficient and field maintenance is kind of one of the things that they are putting out there. If is just a
11 question but if no one wants to support it.

12
13 Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that he should bring it back to the Board and have them take a look at it
14 to see if they want to place it on there.

15
16 It's been sort of hodge podge, they've certainly had assistance from the highway department and he knew when
17 things had to be done, they have had assistance from volunteers, they've had Eagle Scouts redo the baseball soil
18 and the base pads, that sort of thing.

19
20 Selectman Shute believed that one of the items is tree trimming along the fence line at the GBW that is overhanging
21 the After-School program area so it is not just all field maintenance, it's just upkeep on some of the properties.

22
23 Vice Chairman Pitman asked if Selectman Shute would bring it back and he said he would that the Parks and Rec
24 Commission doesn't meet until after the Board's meeting so he will have to put something together and get it there for
25 the next meeting.

26
27 Chairman Robertson stated that maybe Selectman Shute could work with Nick on it or Katy can get it to which he
28 stated that it was a good idea.

29
30 He continued that if he could get the Board some sample language then Mr. Harrington can get it to Bart and they
31 can get it crafted so it's legal.

32
33 Chairman Robertson asked if there were any other warrant articles that the Board feels they should be considering?

34
35 Selectman McGarry asked if at one point they were considering the possibility of appointing the road agent?

36
37 Chairman Robertson stated that he did bring that up and they talked about it which would be a Public Works Director.
38 Typically, that position, lots of times, takes authority over the transfer station too. Didn't know how the Board feels.

39
40 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that the Board would have to write the job description to which the chairman agreed
41 they would.

42
43 If that warrant article passes, there is at least a calendar year or maybe even the term that has to be finished before it
44 takes effect.

45
46 Mr. Harrington stated that it is his understanding that if they were to put forth a warrant article to change it from
47 elected to appointed, the election would still be held this year. The warrant would take affect 2021 and the person
48 that was voted in would certainly be able to apply for the position if they were interested.

49
50 Vice Chairman Pitman stated that even though it was a three-year term, it might end in one which both the chairman
51 and Mr. Harrington agreed would be.

52
53 Chairman Robertson stated that his reason for bringing that up and discussing it is that he has some concern that
54 they may reach a stage where people with a background in road maintenance and road construction don't want to run
55 for a small town road agent and he knew that the towns around them, that has happened in three of them. They have
56 now gone to appointed positions.

57
58 Selectman McGarry stated that the concern that he has is that Mark is well qualified but it is entirely possible that they
59 have nobody sign up for the position and somebody says "gee, I'll sign up for it" with no qualifications whatsoever.

60
61 Chairman Robertson stated that if that is what they wanted to do, introduce that warrant article, its failed miserably in
62 the past but it is an RSA specific with regard to wording so it is certainly something that they could bring forward.

1
2 Mr. Harrington stated that he could bring language to the meeting on the 23rd and they can review it.

3
4 Chairman Robertson stated to throw it on the agenda and they can decide if they want to review it or not.

5
6 Selectwoman McHugh stated that if they did something like that, they would take over the transfer station and what
7 else?

8
9 Chairman Robertson stated that they would take over what the Board decides they want them to take over.

10
11 Selectwoman McHugh stated that they already pay somebody to do the transfer station and so would that cut that
12 person's pay?

13
14 Chairman Robertson stated that no, it wouldn't. The job description for a public works director would fall to this
15 Board. They could make it just highway. Quite a number of other towns include other things.

16
17 One of the things that is complicated about the transfer station is that they need a transfer station operator's license.

18
19 The reason that Mr. Pelletier fell nicely into that position for them because he has a transfer station operator's license.

20
21 Selectwoman McHugh stated that she is just concerned about double paying. They keep hiring people to do these
22 jobs that people already do but let's get the warrant article and see what happens.

23
24 Chairman Robertson stated that they would not have to pay someone to run the transfer station. He mentioned that
25 this is a common role of the public works director but they could adjust the wage and qualifications to say that it is just
26 the highway agent.

27
28 Vice Chairman Pitman asked why they just couldn't start with highway agent right now and at some time down the
29 road they may find that it doesn't work out but if it did pass.

30
31 Selectman McGarry stated that even if it did pass, they would have a year to discuss what they wanted to have for
32 duties and what they wanted to pay that person.

33
34 Selectwoman McHugh stated that it takes it out of the hands of the community also.

35
36 Chairman Robertson stated that this was the argument the last time it failed, he believed. Mr. Gorman led the charge
37 that he felt that the town should.

38
39 He stated that the town had some stretches of difficulty though. In fact, at one point, when he was on this Board, they
40 actually paid a selectman a stipend of \$2,000.00 to do the paperwork and advise the highway agent and he would
41 like to try to stay away from getting back into that position if they could.

42
43 They will take a look at it and decide on the 23rd if they want to leave it on there or not.

44
45 Chairman Robertson asked for other new business or any business that the Board would like to discuss this evening.

46
47 Selectman McGarry stated that the Planning Board was looking to get the cost of a sign for Gulf Road and he didn't
48 know if Mr. Harrington had talked to Mark to get a price from DOT.

49
50 Mr. Harrington stated that he had not heard back from him regarding the pricing and will check back with him.

51
52 Chairman Robertson stated that this is in regard to the decision with Northwood and Selectman McGarry added that it
53 is a warning sign saying "Caution, one lane road ahead" or "One Lane Road" and have two signs made up, one for
54 the Northwood side and one for the Deerfield side.

55
56 Selectwoman McHugh asked if Northwood was going to split this cost and Selectman McGarry stated that no, the
57 developer would be paying the cost.

58
59 Chairman Robertson asked if there was any other business to discuss?

60
61 **Citizen's Comments:**
62

1 **Ms. Cady – Old Centre Road**

2
3 She stated that she went looking in the old meeting room for the maps that Alan O'Neal had done up and the map
4 that she had made in Exeter that was from Joanne Wasson roads and when they were approved and they weren't
5 there so somebody suggested that maybe they were in the room across the hall and it wasn't there so she was
6 wondering if anybody knew where they went?
7

8 Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know right off hand but they could certainly see about finding them. He
9 would also advise anyone that is looking for the status of the roads that much of that information, not in map format,
10 but much of that information was transferred to the road report that is on the Highway Department webpage which
11 goes road by road in Deerfield and give the status as to whether it was discontinued, when it was discontinued, what
12 its width is, what its surface is and any applicable history that was readily available was thrown on that page as well.
13

14 Ms. Cady stated that she wasn't so much interested in that, she stated that she has her own map of Joanne's but the
15 map that Alan did, he had the ability to draw it out, showed that 39% of the town was unbuildable. Roads, town land,
16 lakes, ponds, whatever and then when she looked, she believed at that time, was the MS-24, God knows what it is
17 now, it was 63% of the town was in current use.
18

19 So, there is quite a bit of town property that pay way less in taxes which, she was fine with the current use but it is
20 throwing a big burden on the other taxpayers for the school and town taxes.
21

22 So, she would like to see that map back and added to because the town has bought more conservation land and so
23 forth since then and she thought that this should be kept track of just how much property is paying taxes.
24

25 Then she had a question, which sounds ridiculous but, every time that the town takes, as they know, the town's
26 value, \$569 million, something like that, is what the county bases their taxes on but every time that the town takes off
27 property and gives abatements on property, is that put forth to the county so that they aren't paying the taxes on it
28 that year or does that only come up in the next year? Anybody know?
29

30 Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know the exact table for that.
31

32 Ms. Cady continued that they base it on that MS-24 which is the total value of the town.
33

34 Chairman Robertson stated that he would suspect that it would come up the following year.
35

36 Ms. Cady remarked that then they actually pay county taxes on something that they didn't have in that year.
37

38 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

39 **Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

40 **Discussion:**

41 **Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**
42

43 **Next Meeting: Monday, December 23, 2019 at 5:30 pm**

44
45 *The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary*
46 *Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*