

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 17, 2020
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 order of business is review of outstanding minutes but he noticed that the police chief is in the audience and he thought that he may want to address the Board and he would, if there is no objection, give him the first slot.

Gary Duquette, Police Chief

Chief Duquette stated that he submitted a couple of items and he didn't know which one the Board wanted to start with.

Chairman Robertson stated that he would like to start with the "detail rate".

Chief Duquette stated that the reason that he put this in is that the last time it was raised was in 2016. The contractors are actually talking to his guys that they are the cheapest game around as far as their detail rates.

Chief Duquette stated that he started to do some research and he stated that he actually has a spreadsheet in his office which is statewide salaries and detail rates and whatnot.

He stated that he went through those and they are kind of on the low end but that there is a pretty significant spread in rates and officer pay, those types of things.

The nominal number seems to be around \$48.00 to \$50.00 an hour to the officer. The town rates go anywhere from \$60.00 to up past \$100.00 an hour depending on where they are.

The chief thought it would be a good time and he didn't want to be at the bottom and he thought that this would make them a little bit more competitive with rates.

He stated that he would suggest bumping it up from \$60.00 to \$70.00 an hour with \$50.00 going to the officer and \$20.00 going to the town to cover administrative fees.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to go with the police chief's recommendation of \$70.00 per hour on detail rate

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion: Selectman Shute asked where that would put Deerfield in the ballpark and the chief stated that it would put them in the average rate. That is pretty much the average rate around the state. He stated that there are a few that he thought were ridiculously high and he stated that there are some that are really, really low. If it weren't for the contractor's themselves making comments to these guys, they have had details five days a week right through the winter. It is either feast or famine with those things. Sometimes it is two or three different locations a day.

Those guys have been out there all winter long, freezing their butts off doing details. They are hard to cover. It was the comments from the contractors that brought it to his attention.

This would pretty much put the town on par with what an average number is for the state.

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

Chief Duquette stated that the second item that he submitted to the Board in regards to the animal control officer. This is something that he has been thinking about for quite a long time and looking for a way to do it and it wouldn't have a whole lot of financial impact on the town.

He stated that he didn't think it was fair, in his personal opinion, that the ACO should be carting strange animals around in her personal vehicle like she does on a regular basis so he thought that he had a solution which would allow the town to supply an animal control vehicle.

He stated that he is getting ready to order a new cruiser this year like he does every year. He is going to stick with another Dodge.

So, with the money that he had in the budget, the default budget even, he can purchase a new car and outfit it and do that with the money that he has.

He is taking a 2017 Ford Explorer offline. It has a 125,000 on it and so what he is recommending is that they should make it the town animal control vehicle. Have it stripped out and put a simple graphic on it? Maybe the town seal and Deerfield Animal Control so that it is recognizable in the town.

He would suggest just taking, he would move \$1,000.00 out of the salary line of the ACO budget. He would create another line for vehicle maintenance so that it would cover those things throughout the year. It's got a lot of miles on it but it has been well maintained and he thought that it would serve them for quite some time as an animal control vehicle. It's all wheel drive, it's great in snow and they could do it with zero budget impact.

If the Board agrees with that, they would have an opportunity to trade in vehicles after that. He thought that it was a good way to get her a vehicle to use to do this job. She is out there a lot. They have a lot of animal calls. It is not a job that he would like to do. She is very responsive. She comes out at all hours and she does a really good job. He thought it would be nice to supply her with a vehicle that she could transport those animals around.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves that the 2017 police Ford Explorer get put into the animal control division

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries

Vice Chairman asked Chief Duquette when he thought that this would happen to which he stated that he would be ordering a new car this coming week as he was waiting as to what was going to happen there before he did anything.

He stated that they would be looking at the least, a couple of months. It is not going to happen right off. He didn't know how long it would take to get the car and then it would have to be all set up. It could be easily two or three months before they had it.

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of February 3, 2020

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of February 3, 2020

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 2 – Motion Carries

Accounts Payable Manifest - \$82,666.22

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable manifest

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Signatures:

Chairman Robertson stated that in the Signature File, there was a lot of horse shows that the Fair Association is looking to contract with Deerfield Rescue for their presence at the horse shows.

He stated that he was going to read them all as one as they are all from the same guy.

The first is for the Saddlebred Association Horse Show. They are looking to use Deerfield Rescue with an agreed upon fee of \$150.00.

The second is the NH Horse and Trail Horse Show. They are looking to use Deerfield Rescue with a fee of \$150.00 a day for their services.

The third is for EMT services at the NH Arabian Summer Jubilee Horse Show to be held on August 7 through the 9th, 2020, again \$150.00 per day.

Fourth, the Seacoast Morgan Horse Show, July 1 through the 3rd, \$450.00 for the duration.

There is a second NH Horse and Trail Horse Show which is from May 9 through the 10th, \$150.00 per day for these services.

There is also a second copy of the Seacoast Horse Show.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if the NH Horse and Trail Horse Show contract was a copy to which the chairman replied that it was.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to authorize the rescue captain to approve the use of Deerfield Rescue for the five shows listed above

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson stated that they look like the contracts only have a space for one signature. Two of them only need to be signed by the rescue squad.

Chairman Robertson stated that even though Selectwoman McHugh was abstaining, all of the contracts require her signature as captain of the Rescue Squad.

Chairman Robertson stated that they had paperwork from the New York Life Insurance Company and he thought it was for employee life insurance benefits and he believed that it was for the fire department.

Chairman Robertson asked if it was new coverage and Mr. Harrington stated that it was the renewal. He stated that there was no dollar amount listed with that. Apparently, it is the application for renewal to which Mr. Harrington agreed it was.

Chairman Robertson stated that he would need a motion to authorize the chairman to sign the application to apply for the renewal of the fire department's life insurance.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to authorize the chairman to sign the application to apply for the renewal for the fire department's life insurance

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson stated that they had notice of appointments to the Heritage Commission and that they are looking to appoint Andrew Merrill to fill a vacancy on the Heritage Commission. He had a copy of their minutes indicating they did indeed agree to appoint him.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to appoint Andrew Merrill to the Heritage Commission

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that was to fill Kelly's vacancy to which Mr. Harrington agreed it was.

The chairman continued and stated that there has been a notice that has come back several times for the Warren Billings tax sale that was rerecorded correctly that they have three signatures on but if anyone else would like to sign it, he was sending it down with the file.

Correspondence:

Chairman Robertson stated that they had correspondence from Wes Golomb who is looking for permission to hold a meeting, he thought that he wants to hold a meeting at the town hall and is looking for the Board to waive the fee of \$100.00 so that the NHSaves can bring a "Button Up" workshop to the community. The free workshop will be about weatherization and how to make your house energy efficient.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked when it was to which the chairman stated that it did not state the date. Sometime this winter he would presume.

The chairman continued to read that the Energy Committee has no budget and they would like to sponsor it but they are a town committee that has no funding.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know what the Board's pleasure was, did they want to waive the fee.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if that was something that they could do at the G.B. White Building?

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know but that they could send it back to them and ask if it is something that could be held at the G.B. White Building.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that then they wouldn't have to open up the building and warm it up. Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it was a good idea.

Chairman Robertson asked if it could be sent back and Mr. Harrington stated that it could.

That was the only item that they had in correspondence.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington stated that he didn't have a report for this evening.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Other Business:

Chairman Robertson stated that he would note that he went to Candidate's Night the other night and they had a good turnout in the school cafeteria and it's available online and uTube connected to various community sites if anyone missed it and want to see it.

Selectwoman McHugh asked when they were airing it and the chairman remarked that it was on as of today. There were several links that popped up today with at least the town and school candidates.

Selectman McGarry stated that the planning board candidates weren't there because they were having a meeting.

Chairman Robertson stated that is wasn't that exciting.

Citizen's Comments:

None

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 5:47 p.m.

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, March 2, 2020 at 5:30 pm

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