

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 22, 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

Denise Greig – EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant)

Ms. Greig stated that this is a grant to which the total cost is \$8,000.00. It would be a \$4,000.00 in kind grant for the town and it is to update the Emergency Management Plan.

This is done, typically, every five years. It is a critical step in ensuring that the town be able to qualify to receive funds from FEMA. It is one of FEMA's mandated steps.

The last update was done in 2014 so in the last month or so, sent out three bids for proposals from different planners to update the town plan. Hubbard Consulting, Jim Barnell, Mapping Solutions as well as Southern NH Planning.

They received the three bids. The Emergency Planning Committee met and reviewed the bids and recommended in a unanimous vote to select Hubbard Consulting, LLC as the planner to assist them.

Chairman Robertson stated that they needed a motion to go forward with Hubbard Consulting solution.

Chairman Robertson stated to the Board that Ms. Greig is looking for a motion to approve Hubbard Consulting, LLC to assist with the update to the Emergency Operations Plan for the Town of Deerfield through the filing of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the total cost of \$8,000.00 of which the town will bear fifty percent of the cost through a "in kind" match.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve Hubbard Consulting, LLC to assist with the update to the Emergency Operations Plan for the Town of Deerfield through the filing of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the total cost of \$8,000.00 of which the town will bear fifty percent of the cost through a "in kind" match.

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Chairman Robertson stated that Dan Holdridge is not with them at this time. He did expect him at a later time. He did give him a rough idea of how long the meeting would go. He is currently at a basketball game at the community school. It started at 5:00 pm but he assured the chairman that he would be there to discuss some moderator things.

The chairman stated that he didn't see Barbara Mathews either (someone from the audience stated that they were filling in for her)

Chairman Robertson stated that was wonderful and could they move to the microphone.

Frank Mitchell, Meetinghouse Hill Road – Town Hall Usage (filling in for Barbara Mathews)

Mr. Mitchell stated that he believed that Ms. Mathews submitted a request through the online forum for the agenda. He wasn't sure if they had all seen it yet?

Chairman Robertson stated that yes, he did have it there and he will read it for the record as well. It shouldn't take too long.

"The Country Coop is a group of local residents that order food in bulk once a month from United Natural Foods, Inc. based in Chesterfield, NH.

The order arrives by truck.

There are usually five or six households ordering.

The coop group for years paid the town of Deerfield for years, \$15.00 a month to use the town hall kitchen as a sheltered sorting area for sorting food being delivered and they would like to renew this arrangement with the town.

They need only the entry area or kitchen to sort and deliver their order and would not need heat.

They always leave the area as clean as they found it.

They appreciate their consideration and hope to attend the meeting on January 22nd to present this request and to provide any other information that they might want."

Chairman Robertson stated that he is familiar with this agreement and it has gone on for years and years and years with no difficulty that he was aware of but he didn't know if the Board had questions or concerns.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if it could be at the G.B. White Building or is it easier over there.

Mr. Mitchell stated that they asked themselves that question and it's a tractor trailer truck that delivers it which it might be easier at the town hall.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that he was right particularly at what time the tractor trailer shows up.

Mr. Mitchell stated that it is early morning for the most part and generally there is no one there.

It added that anyone is able to join the coop and the interior of the building is something that they only use in bad weather. Rain, snow, extreme wind and cold. Other than that, they just divide the stuff up afterwards.

Chairman Robertson stated that he has actually seen folks dividing up stuff on the steps.

Selectman McGarry asked if they would only be using the kitchen and they haven't had any problems with regard to the cleanup after they had finished?

Mr. Harrington stated that they hadn't been using it since he has been there. It has been some time.

Mr. Mitchell stated that it has been a matter of years because they private residents that they had used their property. They used their barn and the truck could turn around but that is no longer an option. They were looking for a similar location.

Chairman Robertson stated that his recollection was that they used the town hall previously to which Mr. Mitchell answered that they did.

Chairman Robertson added that they used it probably a decade to which Mr. Mitchell stated that it was at least that and the chairman added that it was without incident.

Selectwoman McHugh asked if it was during the weekend to which Mr. Mitchell stated that no, it was during the week and it is now Wednesdays. It had been Fridays.

Chairman Robertson asked the Board if there was any concern with allowing the Coop to using the kitchen area or the steps on the town hall on a weekly basis for \$15.00 a month.

Selectwoman McHugh stated that she just had a concern about if they did it for one, they would have to do it for another and she thought they had talked about consistency before. She noted that she knew that they were not using the whole building.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it sounded like they were only going to use the building in bad weather to which Mr. Mitchell stated yes, that was true and a short period of time. It takes them about 20 minutes to sort things out and go on their way.

It would not be an event where they would be using the entire building.

Chairman Robertson stated that to his mind, \$15.00 is a healthy return for the amount of use and Selectman McGarry added for the amount of time that they were going to be using it.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he would add that it is monthly that they would use it.

Chairman Robertson stated that they could do this with general agreement or someone could make a motion.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to allow the Coop to rent the town hall building for \$15.00 a month when used

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion: Mr. Mitchell asked if they needed to pay each month or just every time that they use the building.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't see the need to charge them unless they used the building.

Mr. Harrington stated that he thought that they could coordinate if they thought that there was going to be bad weather. Someone from the Coop would have to come by and pick up a key for the following morning and return it and if they use the key, they return it with a check. It can be that simple.

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

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of January 6, 2020

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Accounts Payable Manifest - \$33,921.83

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Veteran's Property Tax Credit Exemptions

Greg and Jessica Harlow – 27 Mountain Road (2 forms). They are asking for the standard Veteran's Tax Credit for both of them.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if it is common to have two tax credits for one property. Chairman Robertson stated that it isn't common but he suspects that it is not that uncommon. It is above board as far as he is aware. He thought that it was not that common because you usually don't have both having military service.

He didn't want to approve it if it wasn't approved and as long as they both qualify.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the two veteran's tax credits to Greg and Jessica Harlow

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

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

Sam White – Hartford Brook Road – standard Veteran's Tax Credit

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion:

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

Request from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Release of Tax Lien

It was a lien that was paid off on April 26th, 1986 and it should have been released at the Register of Deeds at that time. It is for Warren Billings, Jr. who hasn't been in town for a good, long time. They need a motion to release the tax lien so that they can correct the filing at the registry.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to release the lien

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Ms. Cady asked from the audience that there was supposed to be three veteran's tax credits and she stated that she got two but didn't get the third.

Chairman Robertson stated that the first two were husband and wife, Greg and Jessica Harlow.

Dan Holdridge – Town Moderator

Chairman Robertson stated that it looked like they were ready to go and if he could address the Board regarding upcoming events.

He introduced himself as the town moderator and his address was 107 South Road.

They have their upcoming deliberative session coming up as they knew, February 1st.

As moderator, he would like to go through the warrant articles and discuss briefly each one and who they were going to have speak on behalf of them and also to some concerns that he had that he wanted everyone to be aware of.

The first one is a zoning article that can't be amended during the deliberative session but would be information only for the zoning amendment.

He knew that the town administrator had put on the website, the full details of that zoning amendment so if anyone is interested in that, it is in full detail today.

Article 1 will be the budget per se so would that be you Andy that would take the lead on this to which he replied, yes, he would take the lead and typically refer it to the Budget Committee chairman because it is actually their number that is being moved.

The second one is to appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose to repair and resurface existing roads. He asked if that would be Andy or the road agent to which Chairman Robertson stated that for the most part, one of the Board of Selectmen would move all of these and if it is particularly related to a town office then they would refer for discussion.

The next would be the Winter Road Expendable Trust, adding to that and asked if the Board would deal with that to which Chairman Robertson stated that he would as it would be just what they were replenishing from last year.

Article 4 is the command vehicle for the fire department. He stated that he has reached out and asked Chief Fisher to be present for that to discuss that. Mr. Holdridge asked if the Board wanted to start and then turn it over to him to which the chairman stated yes that he could start and give some inkling of what the Board discussed about it.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know if the chief would want to amend that from the floor session as well.

Mr. Holdridge stated that they would give him that opportunity first.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it was 5-0 that it was not recommended and it was noted that they didn't vote on the warrant article and asked if they were going to.

Chairman Robertson stated that typically they would.

Mr. Holdridge stated that it was up to the Board and he asked Mr. Harrington if this was the last night to make changes to the warrant?

Mr. Harrington stated that it would be preferable.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it was good with it since it says "not".

Chairman Robertson asked if someone wanted to make a motion as to whether to recommend Warrant Article 4 or not and seconded it so that they could take a look. The warrant article reads as follows:

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$63,800.00 for the 2020/2021 Tahoe Command Vehicle. The price includes a 75,000/7-year extended warranty. The intent is to use the current command vehicle as a trade in.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve Warrant Article 4 as written

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion: The chairman

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

Mr. Holdridge continued with Article 5 will be the to approve the sums for the salary and benefits for the Library's full-time children's librarian position.

The chairman stated that they would certainly move that and defer to someone from the Board of Library Trustees more than likely, to talk to it. He assumed Jane Miller will be.

Mr. Holdridge continued with Article 6 which is the police department expendable trust fund for the engineering of architectural plans and asked if the Board would defer to the chief to which the chairman stated that they would.

The chairman stated that he will certainly be there if there are questions but the Board would move the article.

Article 7 is the town's appropriating the sum of \$50,000.00 for the fire apparatus. Mr. Holdridge stated that he let the chief know about that as well and the chairman agreed.

Article 8 is for the additional wages and benefits cost of living for you folks.

Number 9, the chief is going to speak on this one regarding the Fire Emergency Water Expendable Trust Fund.

Mr. Holdridge stated that they should have the fund balances for those.

Article 10. Has that been discussed yet?

Chairman Robertson stated that it has been discussed but they have not taken a formal vote on it yet at his recollection. He guessed that they would do that at this point to get it on the record.

Warrant Article 10 is to see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for the purpose of updating and amending the Town of Deerfield's Master Plan in accordance with RSA 674:1-4 and RSA 675:6.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve Warrant Article 10 as read

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion: Chairman Robertson stated that they did discuss this and had a general idea that it was going to be \$30,000.00 as the estimate cost. He believed that at the public budget hearing, he was informed that the master plan should be updated every five years. They are currently eleven years out was his recollection. Selectman McGarry stated that it was ten years.

The chairman continued that there are a number of reasons why they need to have an updated master plan, not the least is their ability to apply for grants, loans, that sort of thing. That is very frequently, or at the least at the forefront of many of the boxes needed to be checked to proceed.

It was also brought up at the public hearing that if the town gets involved in litigation regarding land use, that sort of thing, one of the first questions that the judge will likely to ask you is if the town has an updated master plan. So that is the rationale behind updating it and the expenditure.

Selectwoman McHugh asked what the \$30,000.00 was for to which the chairman deferred to Selectman McGarry who is a member of the Planning Board to explain the specifics of that.

Selectman McGarry stated that it has a very lengthy list of activities that are associated with that which comes from the updating of the master plan. It involves having a vision plan and working with citizen's on committees and looking at land use plans, community facilities, population and housing, transportation, economic development, natural resources, recreation open space, demographics and socio-economics, regional perspective, future land use and energy. Those are all the sections of the master plan that would have to be looked at and updated.

Chairman Robertson stated that the school is very interested in the town having an updated master plan as well for their purposes much the same as he has already described.

Selectwoman McHugh asked so what is the \$30,000.00 for?

Chairman Robertson stated that it would be basically for consultants to orchestrate this and put together and recreate the master plan.

Selectman McGarry stated that they would probably be looking for their proposals most likely would be Southern NH Planning but they would be looking to get proposals too.

Vice Chairman Pitman remarked that they would get proposals from other than Southern NH Planning to which Selectman McGarry stated that they would.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it would need to be voted for by the town's people first and the chairman agreed that they would to expend the money.

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

Chairman Robertson stated that they would be recommending that unanimously.

Mr. Holdridge stated that when they introduce that warrant, if Selectman McGarry could speak on what the plan was as a lot of residents may not know the importance with that.

Article 11 appropriating the sum for the municipal government buildings and structures.

Article 12 is the fire department which would be Chief Fisher.

Article 13 is to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 with have coming from the Parks and Rec Revolving Fund and the remaining from taxes. Are there any thoughts on this?

Chairman Robertson stated that they would probably have Selectman Shute move to have this placed on the warrant as he is a Parks and Rec commission member and he can speak to that too. Nick could also answer any questions also but Nick isn't a resident and couldn't move that it be placed on the warrant.

Mr. Holdridge asked Mr. Harrington if there was any verbiage on that and Mr. Harrington replied that there were some comments made at the MBC meeting that somebody might like to see the additional punctuation or clarification. That can certainly come from the floor at the meeting.

Article 14 is to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the rescue vehicle which would be the fire department.

Article 15 is the \$8,000.00 for the milfoil. He would turn to Andy and Andy would speak directly to that and will have the real estate value figures tax income from those properties.

Article 16 is the \$2,500.00 for the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association. Chairman Robertson stated that they should have Richard speak to that if he wants to and there is likely to be some folks from the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association there too.

Article 17 which is to see if the town will adopt the updated Veteran's Tax Credit so both Articles 17 and 18 are tax credits and one of them can certainly explain that and if the folks that brought the notice to us, for example, if Rob Wolfegram is in the audience, they could certainly recognize him to speak to it.

Article 19 was a petition warrant article which was to urge the NH General Court to carry out the 2020 redistricting plan. They have contact information for that person.

Chairman Robertson stated that he would suspect that Maureen Mann or Dana van Der Bijl if they are present, he knew were signatories on that.

Mr. Holdridge stated that he would reach out to them and see and make sure that they are there to answer questions.

Article 20 is changing the fee for use the town hall by the selectmen from zero to \$75.00 and they are suggesting that it shouldn't be more than \$25.00.

Mr. Holdridge stated that this is an unenforceable one and just an advisory warrant.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't remember any of the names of the signatories.

Mr. Harrington stated that he had them.

Article 21 is per **(couldn't hear because of paper rustle)** cemeteries **(untranscribable)**

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that Maureen Mann would probably be the best person to speak to that.

Article 22, Mr. Holdridge stated, would be advisory and non-binding as well. It has already been run by town counsel and there is nothing in there that is legally able to be done.

Chairman Robertson stated that he suspected that if anyone in the audience would be available to talk, it would be John Garland or Matthew Bourque who are signatories, that he could speak to them.

Other than that, are there any questions that they needed to ask of him.

Mr. Holdridge stated that they were going to add a little bit more technology this year. There is going to be an uplink to all of the warrant articles on the laptop so that when members of the public make suggestions, they can be brought up. The deputy town clerk will then put them up on the screen as typed. The hand written version took a little too long so and everyone can follow along.

If there are any amendments, they can see amendments as they go and will be easier to follow through.

They are adding this so that hopefully things will go a little smoother and everyone will be able to follow along with great ease. That is their goal.

If anyone has any suggestions that they would like to see incorporated, he would be more than happy to try and make it happen.

Chairman Robertson thanked Mr. Holdridge for showing up and going over this.

Review of Correspondence:

Chairman Robertson stated that he would note for the record that a payroll manifest in the amount of \$55,537.04 was signed by a quorum of the Board of Selectmen on the 13th of January.

That is all they had in there at the moment.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington stated that he only had one thing tonight to get back to the Board with for a question asked concerning the warrant articles with the Veteran's Credits.

If those were to pass with a majority of the citizens, anyone that was currently receiving the veteran's credit would automatically be increased to the new limit. They don't have to take any action.

Unfinished Business:

Chairman Robertson stated that they were going to take up the Sinnamon LUCT request and at their last meeting there was some discussion about information provided in the summary that Avatar gave them as their assessor.

He knew that some members thought that it would be helpful if Evan Roberge would be there to answer questions of the Board.

He didn't know what the Board's pleasure was. He had Mr. Simmanon in the back and has his hand up looking to speak. Does the Board want to hear comments at this point or do they want to move forward to speak to Mr. Roberge?

Selectman McGarry stated that he thought they should talk to Mr. Roberge first and the chairman added that they would certainly recognize Mr. Simmanon.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that the Board had the primary question and stop him if he is wrong but his recollection is regarding the valuation, how the property value was assigned. There wasn't much question of the recreational use, that sort of thing but there was some question on how the value was arrived at.

Mr. Roberge stated that the value was 10 percent of the full and true value at the time it was discovered. He thought that he (Mr. Simmanon) was comparing it to surrounding assessments. Assessments are very low right now as they know they are around 80 percent of market value so they aren't 100 percent of market value.

They look at all the recent sales in town during that time that they discovered this and look at those sales and make adjustments for differences.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that the question in particular was how the proportionate value of \$66,000 was arrived at.

Mr. Roberge stated that if you look at the land use change tax, you are looking at all these sales and he had details listed and he thought that it was as low as 69 to as high as 130. So, you look at all of those and make adjustments such as some have dirt driveways, some have paved roads, different topography, some have water access, some have powerline easements going across them and just have to make adjustments for different instances to come to a value.

Selectman McGarry stated that in his notes that he had there, it was calculated that they were using 1.3 acres and his question was how was \$66,000.00 related to 1.3 acres?

Mr. Roberge stated that was looking at all the sales. They look at all the sales, so three acres sold for \$86,000.00, there were three acres that sold for \$128,000.00, they would look at that so it would be an adjustment and take off essentially 1.7 acres, so it is all an adjustment. You won't find anything exactly the same. Just like you won't find the exact same house, the exact same piece of property.

Vice Chairman asked if there was a question about the dirt road? That's what threw him for a loop.

Mr. Roberge stated that talking about the land change tax is one thing and talk about the value is one thing and whether it should come out of current use is another thing. He asked the Board what questions they had on that.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that the primary question that came up at the last meeting was relative to what Fred asked which was how the \$66,000.00 figure was arrived at.

Mr. Roberge stated that it was done with all the recent sales that he had at the time and he made the adjustments for dirt driveways, take off 5 percent if the others were all paved driveway sales, that would be the adjustment for that. If he has a long access, depending on how long it is, then they take a 5-10 percent adjustment for that depending how long it is. That has to be figured out. There are adjustments for everything. They are trying to get the market value of that 1.3 acres, so if you are looking at a 3-acre sale, but it's paved, it's level, there's no access issue, you have to make adjustments.

Selectman McGarry asked if the current going price for three acres is \$120,000.00 roughly?

Mr. Roberge stated that it ranges depending on the neighborhood, depends on the road and so far, and this is back when I did it in August, it ranges from \$69,000.00 to \$130,000.00. Looking at it quick, the average in Deerfield is \$80,000.00 to \$90,000.00.

Chairman Robertson thanked Evan Roberge and also stated that they didn't have Mr. Simmanon on the agenda as an appointment but he is here and if he wants to make some comments, is the Board agreeable to listen to Mr. Simmanon to which all agreed it was okay.

Mr. Simmanon stated that one of the things that happened after their last meeting is that they had a chance to get the documents from Avitar. They didn't have the documents at the time to show why the land was being taken out of current use and he thought that they would like to address the three key areas really quick.

One of the things that they speak to is that this is considered by Avitar as a residential structure and that is what started this whole thing about valuation.

It has already been classified by the building department as an outbuilding. They got approval for that prior to purchasing this structure and they went to the town and showed them the brochures, the documents, the whole nine yards and the town classified it as an outbuilding.

Then Avitar comes by and says that "no" that's not an outbuilding. That is a residential structure and 1) he didn't know if they had the authority to overrule the town building inspector as to what he classified it as, as it is really pivotal to the case here.

The town says that it is an outbuilding. Avitar says no, they are not going to listen to what the town says, this is a residential structure.

That is a real problem in his mind because if this was deemed an outbuilding as they were promised before they purchased the structure, all this would go away. They haven't changed any uses of the land or the road.

In addition, a quick summary, the things that are written in the document are completely not true and he can point to the specifics in there.

There is a claim in there that they made changes to the road. That is completely not true. He has exact proof with pictures right here that he can show them.

There were claims that they made improvements to the log landing to accommodate this cabin. Completely not true. He has pictures showing where the loggers started and the loggers finished and how the loggers finished and if you look at them today, they look identical.

They claim that they saw a bulldozer on the property. That was probably used to edit the property with, just not true. He had pictures to prove that it is not true.

So, they didn't have this information going into the last meeting but there are several claims in there was grass growing. There is no grass growing. He can assure them that there is no grass growing. There are habitat improvement food plots put in that were done with cooperation of QTMA. There is no lawn seed put in there. It is chicory. It is things like clover, they have beans, but no lawn.

The driveway itself was made, what they call a driveway was made of 6 inch minus stone. There is no gravel in the driveway. It is 6 inch minus rock. Most people don't classify that as a driveway.

As far as the house goes, in one area it is claimed to be a cabin and, in another area, they claim it to be a seasonal dwelling, in another area they claim that it is a residency.

His house is on this piece of property. He has another house, three lots down. He doesn't have this as his residency. He lives on this land or next to the land, he should say.

So, where they come up with that this is their residency, is completely off base. The town has already classified it as something else. The town made an error in their classification which is costing them a ton of money because he would not have bought the structure if that was the case or it is their error in trying to overrule the town's classification as to what this is.

Now what is not in dispute, is a certain area of the cabin that can come out of current use. They are not disputing that. That area though is not total to the driveway, to the log landing and to field. It's specific to the outbuilding and what land that it is on.

Now they have tried to explain this to Avatar before but he knows that perception is everything especially when you drive by and there is a driveway and a field and a cabin up there, they must have made this all for the house. Absolutely not.

They could bring in the building inspector in here too to go through this that they got the approvals prior to this.

Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that they were at a point there, that in his mind, his arguments need to go to the BTLA and not to the Board. He didn't see the Board of Selectmen making a determination on the finer points of how much of a building or property is a secondary residence or cabin. He stated that he had mentioned several things such as there is 6 inch minus gravel driveway which is clearly changing current use land to what (interrupted by Mr. Simmanon to say that that was an improvement that the town made in 2006).

Chairman Robertson continued to say that his recommendation from the Board of Selectmen is that they pay Avatar thousands of dollars to advise them on matters like this. They have given them their opinion. The Board is not the last stop. The Simmanon's are free to take this to the BTLA for a hearing if they feel that there are legitimate problems where this does not meet the letter of the law or that they were misled by the town but he thought that that is where it needs to go. He was not comfortable as a selectman setting precedent with this with his limited knowledge of the exact specifics of what is current use and what is not.

He knew that they have had situations where far less was on a property that they took out of current use that he believed stood up at the BTLA so he didn't know how the rest of the Board feels. They could either make a motion. Mr. Roberge interrupted to ask if he could say a couple of things to which the Chairman agreed.

The vice chairman stated that he didn't want to hear a rebuttal and the chairman stated that he thought that it was a good idea to hold off until they made a decision.

The chairman stated that they could do a couple of things here. They could make a motion one way or another, depending on how the Board feels or they could take no action on this which would say that they stand by the decision that they were given by taking no action and the Simmanon's would proceed to BTLA hearing if they felt they were being wronged.

Chairman Robertson asked if it was the general consensus of the Board to take no action on this? He did not hear a motion, no second so he believed that was the process, unfortunately because he knew that it wasn't convenient or easy for them but he thought that it was the best way forward for the Board of Selectmen to proceed in regard to this.

The vice chairman stated that they gave us a lot more information that they were given in the past and it sounds like they should take it to the next level.

Mr. Simmanon stated that unfortunately they were relying on information that wasn't true. He understands their position and they will move forward with that.

Chairman Robertson stated that he was sorry it wasn't the outcome that they came there seeking but he thought that it was where the Board was going to leave it at this point.

Thank you for being here and thank you Mr. Roberge for showing up to answer the Board's questions.

Mr. Simmanon asked if they would take a vote on that so that he would have that for when he moves forward?

Chairman Robertson stated that they were not taking a vote. They are taking no action on the request.

New Business:

None

Old Business/Other Business:

None

The chairman stated that they didn't need a non-public session that he is aware of this evening.

Citizen's Comments:

Todd Boudreau – President of the National Wild Turkey Federation of Southern New Hampshire

They cover from Concord out to the Monadnock Region out to the Seacoast.

Vice Chairman asked again what it was?

Mr. Boudreau repeated that it was the National Wild Turkey Federation and their chapter is the South Central Strutters.

Selectman McGarry stated that they didn't have anything to do with the whiskey to which he laughed.

Why there are there this evening is that for the previous two years before here, they have worked with the state to do a certified fishing derby on Pleasant Lake and with the town manager.

This is a pure fund raiser that they are doing there and it has been supported tremendously by the local population around Deerfield.

They have never done anything like this in their chapter. They have a chapter of over 100 members and ten Board members.

What they are looking to do with a portion of the proceeds is to donate them to either a fuel assistance program or someplace where, looking for the Board's guidance. He is just trying to follow the rules to do this correctly. He would like to give a donation of \$1,000.00 to the residents of the Town of Deerfield in the name of the residents of the Town of Deerfield because quite frankly, they are the ones that come out and support them and they believe in giving back.

Chairman Robertson stated that they certainly appreciate that and the person to be in contact with is Denise Greig who is in the back of the room who is the, he wanted to say "welfare officer" but that isn't the correct term and is keenly aware of the heating assistance, the food assistance, any of those things that serve the community of Deerfield and he was sure that Ms. Greig could point you in a very specific direction.

Mr. Boudreau thanked the Board very much and just wanted to thank the town of Deerfield.

It is not an easy task, as they knew, doing any type of fundraising and they work within the best of their abilities in conjunction with guidance, quite frankly, with how to make this as seamless as possible. There are challenges, challenges in any event. There is a police officer, Mitch.

Chairman Robertson stated that Mitch is an avid turkey hunter by the way!

Mr. Boudreau stated that Mitch was a godsend on that day, wonderful, wonderful. On their last year, the National Wild Turkey Federation is about conservation however, their chapter uses it as a fund-raising platform to give back to the residents of New Hampshire.

They stated that they wouldn't be doing the ice fishing derby this year but wanted to thank them before walking out the door.

Chairman Robertson thanked them for coming in and thanked them for talking to them about it.

Selectman McGarry asked if they had any statistics about turkeys in the region.

Mr. Boudreau stated that the population is booming. The turkeys leave a path behind but they eat ticks on a wholesale level so they want turkeys. They are constantly reinvigorating the environment. They are constantly scratching and rolling over the leaves and is oxygenating to the environment.

The population is on the boom. There was a reintroduction program about 25 years ago. The turkeys in this region are called "easterns". There are 5 different subspecies of turkeys in the United States and the model of growth in the northeast is special and historic. It seems in the last twenty years; you have been seeing turkeys everywhere.

They do love seeing them. He loves a healthy environment and it has been a wonderful platform. Their mission statement, by the way, for their chapter is to "Provide the great outdoors to anyone no matter their financial means or physical abilities."

So, if there is someone in need and they want to go on a mountain bike or kayak or something that they can't do, that is what they are there for. Utilize them for that.

So, it doesn't necessarily have to be the fuel assistance program but however you folks recommend for them to serve the town of Deerfield, that is what they want.

Chairman Robertson thanked them and also noted as long as they had turkey folks there, their neighbor in the neighboring town of Epsom, Ted Wilensky, who was instrumental as a Fish and Game biologist and bringing turkeys here, retired this year, fairly recently.

Mr. Boudreau stated that they worked in conjunction with the biologists at the state of New Hampshire which is how they got Pleasant Lake and it is a shame to lose someone with so much knowledge to retirement but he is still around.

Selectman McGarry stated that the biggest number of turkeys that have walked across his lawn was thirty.

Mr. Boudreau stated that that number would have been half the state thirty years ago.

He stated that they are ground rooters. They don't like to fly. They are too heavy to fly. It's like a basketball trying to fly but they are pretty rugged, pretty stout.

Mr. Evans wanted to know if they all coordinate with UHN on the turkey census?

Mr. Boudreau stated that they didn't as they do it on a national level. They do it on a regional level. On the state level he was sure that they do as they have representation on the state level.

By the way, and he didn't know if they spoke with folks from last year, so far with the funds from last year, they supported the Manchester Soup Kitchen, the Nashua Soup Kitchen with food and financial donations.

They provided bikes to kids that didn't have one and they also supported a winter coat program.

These are all funds that Deerfield's residents and the locale have provided. They take zero as profit. It is 100 percent give back. The funds that they raise locally, they are able to invest locally. They just want to show their appreciation to the residents of Deerfield and please spread that around.

They also provided stocked trout to Pleasant Lake. And that wasn't for the tournament, that was months before the tournament just to give back to the resource.

He was sorry that he was being so long winded but that he just can't tell them how much they appreciated it.

Chairman Robertson stated that they much appreciated what they offered and for being there.

Chairman Robertson asked for other citizen's comments.

None heard

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, February 3, 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*