

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 26, 2022
MINUTES**

Public Hearing: Department of Homeland Security's Fiscal Year 2021 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant

Call to Order

Present: Fred McGarry, Chairman, Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Alden Dill, Cynthia McHugh and Will Huebner, Selectmen.

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have a public hearing and I'll read the notice of the hearing.

Board of Selectman will hold a public hearing in accordance with RSA 31:95-B on Monday September twenty sixth twenty two at five thirty pm. This hearing shall be held for the purpose of discussing the acceptance of a Department of Homeland Security's fiscal year twenty twenty-one assistance to firefighter's grant in the amount of seven hundred fourteen thousand two hundred and eighty-five dollars and seventy-one cents for the purpose of vehicle acquisition for the Fire Rescue department. Hearing shall be held in the downstairs conference room of the George B. White building, eight Raymond Road, Deerfield.

Chairman McGarry: All right. If Matt on?

John Harrington: Not yet.

Chairman McGarry: Not yet. The, uh, this grant is a ninety-five percent, five percent grant and meaning that the ninety-five percent of the total grant will be provided by the Department of Homeland Security with a five percent matching requirement with the town. Will, you get that number?

Selectman Huebner: That would be seventy-one thousand divided in half so it would be thirty-five five roughly. Thirty-six thousand.

Chairman McGarry: About thirty-six thousand dollars would be required to come from the town and my understanding would be it would come from the fire apparatus account. And, what do we have in that? Anybody know what a balance is on that at this point?

John Harrington: I don't have that number with me.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Board members want to offer any comments? All right, I'll open it to any citizens that want to make comments and if you do, please go to the microphone at the table. Mr. Rhodes.

Erroll Rhodes: Erroll Rhodes, Church Street. I think it's terrific that the town's got such a great deal. IT's a five percent share. I think it's wonderful. I think they ought to do this for other apparatuses. Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Thank you. Mrs. Shigo.

Kathy Shigo: Kathy Shigo, Kate Road. I just want to ask a quick question, it's about the firetruck itself and I'm all for buying a firetruck, especially this thirty-six thousand-dollars. It sounds very good but it sounds like there's a lot of whistles and bells on it because you have to use it all or your gonna lose it, from my understanding so, it's a pretty big fire truck and that's why wanted the Chief to be here so I could just ask him personally, is this gonna fit in our now present fire station?

Chairman McGarry: Uh, he said it would.

Kathy Shigo: Okay. So, he's not gonna come by next year and ask for a new building? Or he might but it won't be because of this.

Chairman McGarry: Right. That's my understanding. John.

John Harrington: I believe when he puts together the order it will be in the dimensions that will fit the current building.

1 Kathy Shigo: It Won't?
2
3 John Harrington: It will.
4
5 Kathy Shigo: Oh. Thank you.
6
7 John Harrington: That's how he'll order it.
8
9 Kathy Shigo: Okay. That's what I wanted to make sure. Thank you very much.
10
11 John Harrington: He may not be here. He may be responding to the accident that happened right before the meeting.
12
13 Chairman McGarry: Oh, okay. Mrs. Cady.
14
15 Harriet Cady: My questions are, once we get it do we have to use it a certain amount of time? Does the grant have
16 any provision for what has to happen with it and, what, if we have to man it what will we hire full-time, part -time, how
17 will that work and the training and the expense that has to go into the stuff? Is that all within this cost?
18
19 Chairman McGarry: I can't answer that at this point. Cindy.
20
21 Selectwoman McHugh: I can't be positive but there was talk that this truck will replace tow of our trucks.
22
23 Harriet Cady: I'm sorry, I can't hear you.
24
25 Selectwoman McHugh: This truck would replace two of our older trucks now. Is, I think, is what I was told.
26
27 Selectman Huebner: That's what I was told too.
28
29 Chairman McGarry: Yep.
30
31 Harriet Cady: We would keep the two older trucks?
32
33 Chairman McGarry: No. We would get rid of those two trucks and this one would replace it.
34
35 Harriet Cady: Okay, but it doesn't answer, do we have to have a person full-time for it.
36
37 Chairman McGarry: Not that I know of, no.
38
39 Selectman Huebner: I believe the same personnel that operate the two... (inaudible, interrupted).
40
41 Harriet Cady: There's no requirement that we're going to have to hire people and make sure we use it and all this
42 stuff?
43
44 Chairman McGarry: My understanding of the grant is for capital cost of the equipment.
45
46 Harriet Cady: Could I have a copy of the grant to read?
47
48 Selectman Dill: Sure.
49
50 Harriet Cady: Okay.
51
52 John Harrington: I can request a copy of that for you.
53
54 Selectman Huebner: I think, uh, Miss Cady asked about the timing. Was there a deadline for the timing? In a sense
55 she asked about the man power. I think we answered the man power which is we don't think there will be any
56 additional man power that will be required. What about the timing John? Do we have a... (inaudible, interrupted)
57
58 John Harrington: I don't have that since this grant was just awarded. They do have online seminars for the recipients
59 on how to manage the grant. What's involved with it. We haven't participated in that yet so hopefully more answers
60 will be forth coming.
61
62 Harriet Cady: It's kind of early to have a public hearing if you don't have the answers.

1 John Harrington: The chief may have them but unfortunately, he's not here tonight. He planned on being here but
2 there was an accident just before the board meeting. He's likely there.
3
4 Harriet Cady: Will we go ahead after this hearing and just order it without the information?
5
6 Chairman McGarry: Well, he has to put together the specifications for the fire truck itself and I don't believe he's got
7 that information ready at this point.
8
9 Harriet Cady: So, you will be giving back the application of what they are asking for before it's ordered...?
10
11 Vice Chairman Pitman: I would think.
12
13 Harriet Cady: Before the town selectman give their permission to order it?
14
15 John Harrington: This is just to accept the money. We haven't even gotten into the specification of the apparatus or a
16 RFP of putting it out to bid. Haven't done that yet.
17
18 Chairman McGarry: Cindy.
19
20 Selectwoman McHugh: I kind of understand where Harriet's coming from if there's strings to this truck. I think she's
21 asking... we should know about the strings; will we accept it?
22
23 Harriet Cady: Well, I think the citizens should know what the expectations of community are and what we the citizens
24 are responsible for before we accept the grant and it doesn't seem like anybody knows how to answer that for me.
25
26 Selectman Huebner: I think she wants to know if there are any strings attached and we haven't read the fine print yet.
27
28 Selectman Dill: The string attached, when I was talking with the chief, is that the two vehicles that we're replacing,
29 sorry there's wicked revert one this, the two vehicles we're replacing cannot be used as fire trucks anymore in the
30 United States of America. So, the two trucks we have to, that we're replacing, have to be disposed of in a way that
31 they are never used as a fire truck. Is the only stipulation on the grant that I've been made aware of.
32
33 Selectman Huebner: But we probably need to read the... more carefully to make sure... (inaudible, interrupted).
34
35 Harriet Cady: Well, that's kind of crazy. There's communities that could probably use them for forest fire trucks or
36 other things. I mean, that's a stipulation I'd like to tell my senators at the state about.
37
38 Selectman Dill: It's also a nineteen eight-one and they're quite old trucks. So, for... what the heck is going on here?
39 Okay, sorry about that. Hopefully that's better. I mean, for us, I think it's a win, win. We're getting rid of older trucks.
40 Replacing two vehicles with one and... but that's the only stipulation the chief has made me aware of. That we have
41 to dispose of them, i.e., we put them out to auction with the stipulation that they cannot be used as fire trucks.
42
43 Harriet Cady: Our government is absolutely wasteful.
44
45 Chairman McGarry: Dick.
46
47 Vice Chairman Pitman: Should we put this off to next week?
48
49 Selectman Huebner: We could continue the hearing to the next board meeting. Just leave it open ended.
50
51 Chairman McGarry: John, do you have any comments?
52
53 John Harrington: If you have another public hearing it would need seven days' notice before you have the hearing
54 again.
55
56 Selectman Huebner: We can't continue the existing one?
57
58 John Harrington: No. You'd have to close this one and schedule a new one.
59
60 Selectwoman McHugh: Just open it next Monday.
61
62 John Harrington: I don't have that time. I need seven days not counting the day of the meeting.

1 Selectman Huebner: Planning board continues hearings when there's not... (inaudible, others talking)
2
3 Chairman McGarry: Yeah, we do.
4
5 John Harrington: Oh, if you do?
6
7 Chairman McGarry: We do. Yeah.
8
9 John Harrington: Okay.
10
11 Selectman Huebner: You just declare here that it's not going to be finished.
12
13 Vice Chairman Pitman: We don't have our keynote speaker so... wasting our time.
14
15 John Harrington: Right. So, you want to continue until our next meeting?
16
17 Chairman McGarry: I guess we could do that.
18
19 John Harrington: Okay.
20
21 Chairman McGarry: We need a motion to do that.
22
23 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman
24 **Second:** Selectwoman McHugh
25 **Discussion:**
26
27 Chairman McGarry: Movement seconded to continue the public hearing to five thirty on... what's the date?
28
29 John Harrington: ten three, I think.
30
31 Selectwoman McHugh: Ten three.
32
33 Chairman McGarry: October third. We have a motion and second. Any further discussion by the board
34 members.
35
36 Selectman Huebner: Well, let's make sure that we get the answers to Miss Cady's questions which is any
37 timing restrictions, any manning or training hours implications or any other, you know...
38
39 Vice Chairman Pitman: John can get them to the chief.
40
41 Select Huebner: ...any other strings attached to the money? So, John, if you could take that as an
42 assignment from us or if one of us has to do it, somebodies got to look into this.
43
44 John Harrington: He can get the minutes. He'll get all the questions.
45
46 Selectman Huebner: Okay. So, Matt will take care of it?
47
48 John Harrington: Mmhmm.
49
50 Chairman McGarry: Cindy. Oh, Mr. Rhodes.
51
52 John Harrington: Well, you have a motion and a second and in discussion.
53
54 Chairman McGarry: Any further discussion?
55
56 John Harrington: This is a motion too...?
57
58 Chairman McGarry: For a continuation to five thirty next Monday.
59
60 John Harrington: Correct.
61

1 Chairman McGarry: Everyone know what the motion is? All right. I'll call for the vote. All those in favor of the
2 continuation signify by saying aye.

3
4 **Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

5
6 Chairman McGarry: Mr. Rhodes.

7
8 Erroll Rhodes: Just, uh, an addendum. Yeah, thank you for that. There are probably other questions. What happens if
9 it doesn't pass, unlikely, but what if the town doesn't pass the warrant article? What are the...

10
11 Chairman McGarry: It's not a warrant article.

12
13 Erroll Rhodes: We have to pass the thirty-five thousand. Oh, we're not doing a warrant article on this? We're just
14 gonna...

15
16 Chairman McGarry: No. The money is coming directly out of the apparatus fund.

17
18 Erroll Rhodes: Okay. So, I guess... that condition... (inaudible, lots of people talking in the background). There was
19 some comment I heard earlier about a warrant article; I think. Nobody mentioned it last time?

20
21 Chairman McGarry: No.

22
23 Erroll Rhodes: Thank you.

24
25 Selectwoman McHugh: Thank you.

26
27 *The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Randi Long, Recording Secretary*
28 *Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*