

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 15, 2022
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

Ken Dickie, Chairman
Gerry Vachon, Vice Chairman
Doug Staples
Penny Morin
Charlie King

Others Present:

Mike Farrell, Interim Town Administrator
Scott Orlando, Interim Police Chief
Kelly Heon, Assessing Clerk
Blanche Tanner, resident

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Dickie called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Input:

Resident Blanche Tanner said she understood that sometime this month the testing of the wells was supposed to take place and asked if they had any information on that for well #5 especially and if there has been any discussion about that.

Mr. Dickie said not yet and the company that is scheduled to come in and do the testing will get in contact with them within the next week to set a definitive date.

Ms. Tanner asked if there have been any volunteers for members or any meetings of the Capital Improvement Plan Committee, the Master Plan Leadership Committee or Tax Increment Financing District Committee.

Mr. Dickie said he is the Selectmen's rep to the CIP and they planned to meet this month but they couldn't get everybody together so they scheduled a meeting for the beginning of Sept.

Mr. King said they still need to recruit some members for the TIF District Committee before they hold a meeting and the staff is working on that. He said the Selectmen have not appointed anybody or received any requests for membership on the Master Plan Leadership Committee so maybe it's time to renew that they are looking for members to see if they can get any people that are interested in doing it.

Ms. Tanner asked for the date when the search process for the permanent Town Administrator was started.

Mr. King said it closed last week and it started about 6 weeks ago.

Mr. Tanner said on May 23 she asked about the permanent TA position and was told that the part time status would stay with Municipal Resources, Inc. for now and she was curious

between that date and when they decided to do the permanent TA what prompted that decision to do it that quickly.

Mr. King said initially he felt it could be done part time but getting into some of the budgetary issues and concerns they had they felt they needed to start sooner than later based on the time they were told it would take to get somebody in place and they were trying to get that person online before budget season.

Ms. Tanner asked how many applications the board has received and if they have reviewed any applications yet.

Mr. Farrell said he would give a report on that later in the meeting.

Ms. Tanner said she realized that the board has the final decision on who is hired but asked if they have discussed maybe bringing in some committee members and town residents to look at the applications to get an opinion from the public or if it would strictly be a board decision.

Mr. King said there hasn't been any discussion on that but he would take it under advisement.

Mrs. Morin said that MRI is screening the applications.

Ms. Tanner said it has been a while since she has given the board a quote and she saw this really nice quote the other day by novelist Edith Wharton and felt the need to relay it to the board with the way the world and life is now: "There are two ways of spreading light- to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it". She then thanked the board for their time.

4). Review of Minutes:

August 8, 2022-Public Meeting Minutes- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0.

August 8, 2022- Non-Public Sessions A-C-No errors or omissions

Motion: (Morin, second Vachon) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0.

Motion: (King, second Vachon) to seal the minutes of Non-Public Sessions A and B for a period of 90 days as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 5-0.

Motion: (King, second Vachon) to seal the minutes of Non-Public Session C for one year as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 5-0.

5). New Business:

Huckins Abatement Refund- Assessing Clerk Kelly Heon said the board received 2 memos in their packets and began with the memo regarding the settlement agreement/abatement for the Huckins' property. She said there was a subdivision that was approved in 2006 off of Chestnut Hill Road and the beginning of a road was put in but no other substantial development has taken place and they haven't sold any of the lots.

She said the lots were being assessed fairly low and when it came time for the 2019 revaluation and we had a new company, Assessor Chad Roberge took a look and he felt that based on the

fact that it was an approved subdivision and that there was a road in that was decent access, he actually drove his car all the way through it and he didn't have any other information to the contrary so he felt the lots could be assessed as buildable lots.

She said the lots increased in value significantly and Mr. Huckins filed an abatement by March 1, 2020, the assessor denied it and he appealed to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. She said his appeal was filed in Sept. 2020 which was during COVID and everything was getting backed up and he never had his appeal heard or got a date until July. She said for 2019, 2020 and 2021 the assessment that Mr. Roberge had was still on-going and that's what he was being taxed on and that's what he paid.

Mrs. Heon said when they got to the BTLA a few weeks ago Mr. Huckins presented some information to the BTLA that he had not previously presented to our assessor and that information was that as part of the subdivision approval Mr. Huckins was required to either post a bond for the road or finish the road to Town standards before any building permits would be issued. She said in Mr. Roberge's opinion that made a big difference in how he would have assessed those lots had he had that information previously.

She said in light of that information he made the decision to settle with the Huckins for the lots to be valued at \$14,000 per lot and there are 18 lots because the amount of money that would have to be spent on the road or posting a bond meant that the way the lots were as of now could not be assessed as building lots. She said what that means for the Town of Farmington is that we have to go back to 2019-2021 and pay the Huckins back the over tax they paid.

Mr. King asked if the assessor is going to negotiate a settlement shouldn't he have run that by the Town.

Mrs. Heon said she could talk to him about that and she didn't know how his contract reads and in the past he has been told he has the right as our assessor to negotiate settlements.

Mr. King asked if the \$24,857.52 stated in the memo is the total for all 3 years.

Mrs. Heon said that is the total for 3 years and interest.

Mr. King said during his preparation it sounds like he wasn't as prepared as he could be without knowing the conditions of the subdivision and that is public information they have on file.

Mrs. Heon said that's true but in his defense that was never brought up by Mr. Huckins until that (BTLA hearing).

Mr. King said if we have an 18 lot subdivision and there's a Notice of Decision that lists all these conditions of approval that goes with the plan he should have at a minimum gotten a hold of that. He asked before the settlement if the lots were for sale where somebody could buy A, B, C or D during this time.

Mrs. Heon said she didn't know if they were for sale at any point in the past.

Mr. King said if they were for sale and he could buy the 6th lot in it should have been assessed at full value. He said if they weren't for sale at any of that time because of that condition then that would be consistent. He said he knew that Mr. Huckins had the entire subdivision for sale after

its approval over the years and that he saw it multiple times on Craig's List.

Mr. King said his issues with this were they went from a minimum assessment to a full assessment without doing the necessary research and now we are backing up to the point where he asked if the lots were for sale where he could buy any lot because that would be a reason to substantiate that they should be at full value and if they weren't because of what the conditions were that all plays in.

He said his other concern was making a settlement without running it by the board. He said its one thing to settle something in a few thousand dollars but this is going to be a \$25,000 hit that in some ways could have been prevented if he was more diligent to start with.

Mrs. Heon said she would have to defend his assessing and part of the issue he is questioning is if this information is available and they have had some issues with staff and record keeping in the Planning Dept.

Mr. King said these are Notices of Decision which are part of the file and the public record and are available to anybody upon request. He said he knows this is not a new issue but there is room for improvement in this situation. I don't know what his experience is in this type of situation with subdivisions that don't get built out but this is not a unique situation in Farmington and we have others that fall into this category and sometimes they get approved and they don't build anything and that gets into a mess as far as their evaluation he said.

Mrs. Heon said at some point there has to be talk between the Planning Dept. and the Assessing Dept. on what's happening with this and how they are supposed to be evaluating these.

Mr. King said Mr. Roberge made a good case but there were still questions that could have been asked because if he had come before this the questions he just asked Mrs. Heon he would have been asking Mr. Roberge. He said if he has settled this and he was given the authority to do it he didn't know if they could really do anything about it.

Mrs. Heon asked if the board wanted to have another conversation with Mr. Roberge.

Mr. King asked if he informed the landowner that this has been settled.

Mrs. Heon said they both signed the settlement agreement that day at the BTLA.

Mrs. Morin said it sounds like we are locked into it.

Mr. Staples asked who oversees the appeals.

Mrs. Heon said the appeals go to the BTLA but in this instance they didn't get a chance to render a decision because during the appeal when Mr. Huckins brought this new information to light Mr. Roberge knew if he had known that from the beginning it never would gotten to this point because the assessment would have been changed 2 years ago. She said he brought the Huckins out and they discussed it and he called her and asked her to look in the minutes from when the Planning Board approved this is 2006. She said she found the minutes and found where it talked about the requirement for bonding or finishing the road.

She said she looked at this situation like the perfect example of the improvements they can

make in the Planning Dept. and the Assessing Dept. continuity of information flowing. She said they are not always going to have continuity of staff and the same people that were in the Planning Dept. in 2006 are not the people who are in the Planning Dept. now nor are the Assessing Dept. people the same as they are now. This shines a light on the need for continuity and how something like this could be prevented in the future she said.

Mr. Staples said he wanted to check because she said Mr. Roberge denied their appeal.

Mrs. Heon said Mr. Roberge denied the initial abatement.

Mr. Staples asked if he is overseeing his own work with no other set of eyes.

Mr. King explained that if you think your house is over assessed at \$200,000 you file for abatement and the assessor pulls out some stats where he can show it's worth \$200,000 and that is why he denies the abatement. He said in this case the Huckins went to the next level of appeal at the BTLA and filed for an abatement there and then there was a hearing where the additional information came out that Mr. Roberge didn't know and at that point Mr. Roberge thought it wise to settle.

Mrs. Heon said the fact that this all happened during COVID makes it a little more difficult because in a normal situation that appeal would have been heard 2 years ago and wouldn't have been going on this long because the BTLA got really far behind. This is an appeal from 2019 and that's why we have to pay back 2019, 2020 and 2021 she said.

Mr. King said really its \$8,000 a year on 18 lots.

Mrs. Heon said that's correct and then asked Mr. King if his feedback was more for how they would proceed in the future versus disagreeing with this.

Mr. King said there was enough information available if he knew where to look and had looked to maybe make a better evaluation to begin with and having that information would have been handy before going to the hearing. He said in the end it looks like a lot but it spans over 3 years so the difference in each lot was about \$800.

Mrs. Heon said they're all valued now at \$14,000 and they were increased to between \$25,000 and \$40,000 depending. She asked if she could send the forms down the line for their signatures. That gives me the authority to cut the check the check she said.

Mr. Vachon asked if they needed a motion to make it legit and lined up for us.

Mrs. Heon said she didn't know if a motion was needed as that is typically something they would find in her folder and just sign it.

The board signed the forms and then moved on to Mrs. Heon's next memo.

Harper Tax Refund- Mrs. Heon said this memo is regarding the land that is in the process of being donated to the Town by Cheryl Harper. She said there was a meeting in June where the board voted to accept the donation of this land and Ms. Harper is becoming very frustrated with how long this taking as she started these conversations over a year ago with the former TA and the Conservation Commission Chair. She said she didn't know that it's anything to do with the Town as to why it's taking so long and it's in the hands of the lawyers right now.

She said it was mentioned that perhaps the Selectmen would be willing to abate the taxes she has paid thus far this year and for the next half in anticipation that the Town is going to own this land.

Motion: So moved by Mrs. Morin; seconded by Mr. Staples.

Discussion: Mr. King said he would be in favor of the motion contingent upon that the abatements aren't granted until the Town takes possession of the property because at this point we are not the owners of the property and he has no problem indicating they will abate those taxes as requested as they had indicated in good faith up to this point. He said he wouldn't want to become effective until the land is transferred to the Town.

Mrs. Heon said that could be a couple more tax cycles and they would have to decide what tax years they would be refunding to her.

Mr. Vachon said he would think it would be whenever the discussion started.

Mr. King said the memo says it was paid for the first half of the year so it would be 2022 and they indicated that in the discussions because theoretically this was supposed to be done by that first half and the second half. He asked if she saw this continuing into 2023.

Mrs. Heon said she hopes not but she didn't know what is taking so long and if there are title issues.

Mr. King asked if they could put a stay on interest and penalties. He asked if it takes until the spring of next year if they could say by this vote they're going to abate all of 2022 and forward contingent upon the transaction going through. He said Ms. Harper has paid the first half of the taxes and asked if she doesn't pay the 2nd half if they would be able to wipe away the interest.

Mrs. Heon said they would have to vote to do that and then the Town Clerk/Tax Collector would have to do that in her system. She said that she thinks Ms. Harper intends on paying the taxes and is not going to not pay them. It might be a good will gesture especially since she is giving us this land and giving us house lots that will be able to be sold and she has indicated that she doesn't have any issues with perhaps a well being there she said.

Mr. King said seeing as they are going to reimburse the first half of 2022 and from this period going forward until they take possession and he would instruct her not to pay the end of the year because if they are going to abate there is no sense in her paying it but if the deal doesn't happen then she would be responsible for that.

Mrs. Heon said that would be her choice so it might behoove her to pay it and then just get refunded in case something happened.

Friendly Amendment: by Mr. King that we abate the taxes for the first half of 2022 going forward until the transaction is complete contingent upon that transaction being completed; Mrs. Morin and Mr. Staples accepted the amendment.

Mrs. Heon clarified that they would not be paying her anything back until they take possession and they would be paying her what she has paid for 2022 going forward.

The board said that was correct.

Mr. King asked for the amount of taxes Ms. Harper has already paid in 2022.

Mrs. Heon said it was about \$4,600 (\$4,619.80).

Mr. King said in the discussions he would say don't feel obligated to pay if this transaction doesn't close before that last payment because they're going to abate those taxes and interest if the deal goes through.

Mr. Vachon said Mr. King addressed his concern about it not being a done deal and they were going to give her money back.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. King said he has been meaning to meet with Mrs. Heon regarding the parcels involved in this transaction and he has some information he would like to go through with her as this expands across multiple tax maps and some are small individual lots.

Grove St. Fire-Mrs. Heon said there is a statute that allows homeowners to apply for a prorated assessment if their property is burned and is a total loss. She said she spoke to the Fire Chief and to the Code Enforcement Officer and this is a total loss so the property owner has applied for this and asked the board to sign the prorated assessment application.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to grant the request for a proration based upon the assessment of damaged property by Brian C. Kausler; the property is U05, Lot 162, 37 Grove Street passed 5-0.

6). Old Business:

Police Chief Employment Agreement Signing/Badge Pinning- Postponed to next week

ARPA Funds Expenditures Update- Mr. Dickie said he took the Excel spreadsheet he gave them and they would see at the top of the first page the funds spent to date which is \$227,826.41. He said the detail of that expenditure is in this large sheet.

He said he listed everything that they've paid and what they have for remaining projects down at the bottom which totals \$377,463. He said if they total what they have spent so far and what they have for residual projects it leaves us with \$124,710.25.

Mr. King asked if all the numbers on this sheet are what they paid out.

Mr. Dickie said all the ones that are shaded gray are what they covered.

Mr. King said for example the first one that has not been paid is the shed for Fernald Park.

Mr. Dickie said that's right and they haven't done that yet.

Mr. King questioned that the Fire/Police Server line shows that they haven't done that yet.

Mr. Dickie said part of it has been done and is not complete yet so that check has not gone out yet and it is in process.

Mr. Vachon asked if we paid \$20,000 even for grader repairs.

Mr. Dickie said that was what was earmarked and all he could do was what was earmarked. He said the grader was \$17,000 and some change and he just used the total of what they've spent. He said what they approved as a board was \$20,000 so he shaded it that we've already covered it and spent it but in the details it was \$17,000 so he used the \$227,826 figure and "reverse

engineered it" to get into what they have left.

Mr. Vachon asked if the \$124,710 reflects the actual amount they spent on the grader not the \$20,000.

Mr. Dickie said that is the amount they have left after everything they've spent.

Mr. King asked if that total reflects the \$20,000 or the \$17,000 that was spent.

Mr. Dickie said it reflects the \$17,000 spent.

Mr. Vachon said \$20,000 was what was earmarked but it's not the actual cost.

Mr. Dickie said that's correct and the detail of it is in the spreadsheet.

Mr. Vachon said he saw the entry for grader repairs for \$5,000.

Mr. Dickie said there are some more payments.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't know why they were "nickel and diming" it like that and they should have gotten an invoice and paid it. He then read the Repair Equipment line which is \$12,739.90.

Mr. Dickie said this is his 1st attempt at trying to give the board the details they are looking for.

Mr. King said the estimate for the bridge repairs is \$105,500 and asked if they have received any actual quotes.

Mr. Dickie said he called Hoyle Tanner and he said he hoped to have it today but he hasn't seen any e-mail from them and he didn't think Mr. Farrell had. He said they were going to have it at the beginning of this week and he would have it for their next meeting.

Mr. King asked if those were the quotes or the specs to go out to quote.

Mr. Dickie said they were the specs to go out to quote and they would also give them more details on the bridges themselves as far as the cost for a possible bond.

Mr. King asked about the Rec. Center ramp which is earmarked for \$30,000.

Mr. Dickie said they spent \$1,000 for engineering so there is really \$29,000.

Mr. King asked if there was any update on when the engineering would be completed so they could have it done.

Mr. Dickie said he thought they were done and he would follow up on it. He said they came in and reviewed what they proposed with the Building Inspector and he approved it so he believes they will be sending them their final proposal.

Mr. King asked if it has to go out to bid or if they are doing it.

Mr. Dickie said it will go out for bids and the engineering firm just does the engineering not the construction process. -

Mr. King said the water study they kicked off, the recycling is earmarked but they know that project is in excess of that and asked if they kicked off the levee engineering to be done or it has just been earmarked.

Mr. Dickie said he didn't know and he would follow up with Hoyle Tanner.

Mr. Staples asked if Hoyle Tanner teamed up with somebody else on the levee and subbed all that out to somebody.

Mr. Dickie said it was a different group from Hoyle Tanner and there is one for bridges and one

for the levee.

Mr. King said he will go through this and absorb it. He asked Chief Orlando if he had any idea when the Fire/Police server would be completed.

Chief Orlando said it has been installed, it's up and running and they are just waiting for the bill.

Mr. Staples asked if that is the server they put up on the mountain that New Durham chipped in on.

Mr. Vachon said that was the (Fire Dept.) repeater.

Mr. Dickie said we bought the server and TechSoup2Nuts hooked it up and it's included in that cost (\$5,750). He said if the board has any questions after they scan down through it to let him know and he will dive into it further.

Mr. Staples asked if the repeater was replaced.

Mr. Dickie said not yet and that it was listed as a base radio for \$15,547.

Mr. Staples said it was for \$10,000 because New Durham was going to chip in \$5,000. He asked if it was still the intention to kick Middleton off once they put the new one in because they weren't going to chip in.

Mr. Dickie said he would have to check on that with the Fire Chief.

Mr. Vachon asked if what they've spent so far takes into account the \$24,471 for the Police portable radios.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Mr. Vachon asked how that plays into the \$57,272 still on here for the Police radios even though they've expended \$24,000 out of it.

Mr. Dickie said if you take that, the car radios and add the batteries they bought with the portable radios everything will add up to \$57,272.34.

Mr. Vachon said he wanted to make sure because they paid for those with the \$24,000 already that that it's included in the amount to be spent even though it still says \$57,000 on this sheet. He said they have a number on one page that doesn't equal the other page.

Mr. Dickie said it is included and that the pages won't be equal because one sheet is what they earmarked and the other page is what it actually cost and what they spent.

Mrs. Morin said the single page is what they set aside and the spreadsheet is what they spent.

7). Town Administrator's Business:

Avitar Payment-Mr. Farrell said he just had a conference with Mrs. Heon and the Avitar payment is Fund 20 which is part of ARPA and the board can release that.

TA Recruitment- He said that MRI received 13 applicants, 4 of those are being interviewed this week and after they conduct the interviews they will make recommendations to the board on which ones they might want to hold live interviews with.

Mr. King asked if that would be up to 3 people.

Mr. Farrell said it depends on how good they are and it could be up to 4 people.

Mr. King asked if they would have the interviews at their next meeting.

Mr. Farrell said MRI asked that the board pick 2 dates for the interviews.

Mr. King said if they have a recommendation by the end of this week they have meetings scheduled for Aug. 22 and Aug. 29 and the latest he would want to start is the 29th and asked if they could start before then.

Mr. Dickie said he would be out next week.

Mr. King suggested they start the interviews on Aug. 29.

Mrs. Morin suggested they begin the interviews at 5 p.m. and schedule the public meeting for 7 p.m.

Mr. Farrell asked if the board wanted a back up date just in case and MRI asked for 2 dates.

Mrs. Morin suggested Aug. 31 as the backup date.

Mr. Dickie asked if they planned to do all 4 interviews in one night or 2 each night.

Mr. King said they should plan to see them all the first night with a longer non-public session if needed but if some of those people can't make it on the 29th the 31st is okay with him.

Consensus of the board was to set the interview dates for Aug. 29 and Aug. 31 if needed with the non-public sessions beginning at 5 p.m.

Mr. Farrell said he would communicate the board's decision to MRI.

Heating Oil Bids- Mr. Farrell said they did a joint bid for heating oil with the school district and they received 3 responses from Dead River, Irving Energy and D.F. Richard Energy. He said the low bid was from Dead River at \$3.729 a gallon, Irving was 1.4 cents below that at \$3.743 and D.F. Richard was \$3.99.

Mr. King asked if they quoted the same price for the Town and the school or different prices and if he received any indication of what they felt was the best bid for the school from SAU Business Admin. Brian Cisneros. He said hopefully the Request for Proposals went out as for both or either.

Mr. Farrell said it's a joint bid but it's not a joint purchase.

Mr. King said the school handles it differently than the Town does and they just get tankers and the Town has to get smaller delivery vehicles and more of them. He said sometimes people will bid just on the tankers and not be competitive on the Town side and that's why in the past it has not always worked together. He asked if Dead River was the lowest price regarding the delivery method.

Mr. Dickie said that is what he read when he saw the contract. He said they were okay with delivering to the Town for the same price and he talked to SAU Superintendent Ruth Ellen Vaughn about it to make sure they would deliver both ways.

Mr. King asked if Mrs. Vaughn said the staff was going to recommend they go with Dead River.

Mr. Dickie said he believes that is what they are going to do.

Mr. Farrell said he spoke to Mr. Cisneros and he said he was going to recommend Dead River. He said he didn't want to get into a situation like they did last year when they didn't buy enough although they quoted the Town at 17,000 gallons.

Mr. Staples asked what they ordered last year.

Mr. Dickie said he called Irving and what he provided to the school when they went out to bid was what they used from Sept. 2021 through July 2022.

Mr. King said so it was more than what was purchased the prior year. He asked if we would only get charged for what we buy.

Mr. Farrell said they said yes and he would have to get this nailed down they generally waive liquidated damages if you don't buy as much you said you would but if it's only because of pricing and weather and if we have a very mild winter they're not going make us buy 17,000 gallons. We can buy up to 17,000 gallons at the contract price he said.

He said it works both ways though because if the price goes down we're still stuck at that price.

Mr. King asked if he could recall the number he gave them.

Mr. Dickie said he believes the 17,000 gallons he is referring to also includes the 3,500 gallons for the library. He said so we actually used about 14,000 gallons in that timeframe plus the 3,500 for the library because they asked to piggyback on with us.

Mrs. Morin asked if they need a decision on that.

Mr. Dickie suggested they wait to hear back from the school on their side of it and he would talk to Mrs. Vaughn.

Mr. King said not knowing what the School Board is going to do tomorrow night he would agree. He asked if Irving who was 1 cent different also quoted the same price to both regardless of the delivery method.

Mr. Dickie said he only saw one price that was provided with everything that was given to them. He said they didn't break it out and say the Town would pay this much and the school would pay this much.

Motion: (King, Morin) to authorize the Town Administrator to purchase the fuel oil for this year after working with the school based upon the bid process passed 5-0.

Employment Agreement -Mr. Farrell said it's not for action tonight but he has the draft from the attorney on the Police Chief's employment agreement and it's highlighted with the changes that were made. He said he was not prepared to go over the changes and they can take that up next week. I'll have signing copies for the board and the Chief to sign next week he said.

Parking Lot Deed- Mr. King said at a previous meeting they talked about getting a draft deed for the parking lot across from the school and asked if that's in process.

Mr. Dickie said he will check on the status and that an e-mail came from Mrs. Heon from Randy Orvis and he will forward a copy to him.

Old Fire Station Lot- Mr. King asked about the preparations for an RFP for the old fire station lot. He said the board approved a motion to start preparing the information so they could move forward with the RFP and he was giving this as a reminder as they haven't seen anything yet.

Mr. Dickie said he would work on that this week.

Flag Update-Mr. Vachon said he was working with a local contractor to get the rope on the

flagpole downtown completely replaced since the last time it was just mended together with the old and new so it's a ticking time bomb on when it's going to break again. He said we got lucky last time that the rope was hanging low enough for the local contractor to get a hold of it and his stick wouldn't reach the top. He said this vendor can reach the top so he is working with them and maybe this week he will re-string it for us providing the rope and all.

He said he will work with him to make sure the flag is handled correctly while he re-strings it because they will have to take the flag down, re-string the pole and then re-fly the flag. Just in case anybody sees a very large bucket truck sitting on the corner blocking traffic possibly and I will be down there assisting he said.

Mr. King said the wires that run close to the pole are a safety concern and the pole they are mounted on has about a 2 ft. lean into the street putting the flagpole closer to this pole. He said the problem has been getting worse and asked if it would be possible to contact Eversource and say this flagpole has been here forever and now it's a safety concern because the wires are now too close to the pole and that the pole is failing and ask what can be done to get it away to whatever the safe distance is. If we can get them to fix the pole or maybe relocate it we can address the safety concern also he said.

Employee Handbook- Mrs. Morin said she was looking at the employee handbook and noted it hasn't been reviewed since 2018 and they should put it on the agenda for review.

Mr. Dickie said he was working with Anna Cole on a separate situation and she said she had been working on the handbook and has several recommendations she wanted to bring forth.

8). Next Meeting: Monday, August 22, 2022

9). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Vachon, second Morin) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Dickie, Vachon, Staples, Morin, King-aye) at 7:08 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:39 p.m.

10). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (King, second Vachon) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Dickie, Vachon, Staples, Morin, King-aye) at 7:39 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:57 p.m.

11). Police Chief Employment Agreement:

Motion: (King, second Staples) to accept the changes to the employment agreement as recommended by Town Counsel passed 5-0.

Mr. Dickie said the Chief's contract signing and badge pinning ceremony is scheduled for next week.

Chief Orlando then asked the board if they would prefer that he take his vacation from Aug. 24-26 or Sept. 7-9.

Consensus of the board was to approve both time periods and asked the Chief to work it out with the Town Administrator.

12). Non-Public Session C:

Motion: (Morin, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (d) Consideration of Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Personal Property passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Dickie, Vachon, Staples, Morin, King-aye) at 8:03 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:12 p.m.

13). Adjournment:

Motion: (Staples, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 8:12 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Ken Dickie, Chairman

Gerry Vachon, Vice Chairman

Douglas Staples

Penny Morin

Charlie King