

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 24, 2021

Board Members Present:

Paula Proulx, Chairman
Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman
Gerry Vachon
Ken Dickie
Doug Staples

Others Present:

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
Jason Parker
Adam Giles

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Proulx called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Input:

Rec. Dept. Open House – Mr. Capello thanked Rec. Dept. Director Erica Rogers and the volunteers that came in for the re-opening of the Rec. Center. He said it went extremely well and there was a good turnout and they are looking forward to the rebranding of the Rec. Dept. He said the first Zumba class for seniors was held today and there were 7 people in the class. Chairman Proulx asked about the sign-ups for summer camp.

Mr. Capello said the last that he heard there were 15 full/part time kids signed up for the program and they are now accepting enrollments from other towns because not all of the slots have been filled with Farmington residents and camp starts right after school ends in June. They still have slots available for Farmington residents he said.

Hornetown Road Bridge – Hornetown Road resident Jason Parker said the speed bumps at the bridge are an extreme nuisance and in his opinion are doing more damage to the bridge than good. He said there are skid marks there from a dual wheeled big truck that slammed on his brakes because he didn't realize that the speed bumps were there and if you put a heavy weight up it has to come back down so the first 2 or 3 boards on the bridge are going to get destroyed. He asked if the speed bumps were staying until the other bridge is built or if they are a temporary thing until the bridge is properly fastened.

Mr. Capello said it is a dual pronged approach where the bridge will be properly fastened early next month and the plan is keep the speed bumps there because people are not obeying the speed limit going over that bridge even when there have been police patrols writing out tickets to people going 40-50 mph over that bridge. He said they need to slow people down to reduce the noise and the inconvenience for the residents and taxpayers that live there as well.

Mr. Parker asked if the noise would be gone once the boards are fastened properly.

Mr. Capello said the engineer's thought is the noise would be gone once it is fastened down and they will know that once they're fastened.

Mr. Parker said there will be a major accident there because people are avoiding the speed bumps by going around them.

Mr. Capello said they are going to resolve that by putting down 2 more speed bumps on the other side so people can't go around them.

Mr. Parker asked about the vehicles such as Corvettes that can't cross the bridge with the speed bumps there.

Mr. Capello said there are alternate routes if needed.

Mr. Parker asked if they planned to put speed bumps on every road in Farmington where people drive too fast.

Mr. Capello said right now they are dealing with Hornetown Road and that ultimately that is a board decision. He said if people had obeyed the speed limit it wouldn't have caused the damage to the bridge and inconvenience to the taxpayers in that area.

Mr. Parker said the damage done to the bridge was because the boards weren't properly fastened from the start. He said if you have a moving item on a structure it's going to damage it and they should have been fastened before the bridge was opened and that's how wooden bridges work.

Chairman Proulx said that may be true but that's not something that was shown on the original engineering consultant's plan.

Mr. Capello said the belief is that the reduced speed would have prevented it.

Mr. Parker said it's a major inconvenience and you can't even go 5 mph over the bridge especially if you're on a motorcycle or in a low car because you will "bottom out" on it. He said the only option to avoid the bridge and get to town takes an additional 20 minutes and asked as a taxpayer why he should have that inconvenience. Over time you guys are going to end up paying more for car repairs because the speed limit says 25 mph and if you hit those speed bumps at 25 mph you are going to damage your car he said.

Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Parker what he would propose as a solution to the problem.

Mr. Parker said crossing it at 10 mph you still hear the noise and the noise does not go away because there are loose wooden boards banging on metal. He said people are going over the speed bumps and then accelerating more now and it's just a game.

Chairman Proulx then asked for the estimated time to have the boards tied down.

Mr. Capello said the materials needed are supposed to arrive this week and they plan to do the work from June 7 -10 and they may be able to take the speed bumps out at that point.

Chairman Proulx said they may have to reassess things at that point to make sure it is doing what they want it to do as far as the noise issue.

Mr. Parker said he didn't like the idea of putting in doubles because he can't go over them with his bike.

Mr. Staples said there would be a 12" gap between the speed bumps.

Mr. Parker asked if they have police there if he would get a ticket for crossing the double yellow center lines while trying to go around the speed bumps.

Mr. Johnson said "oh yeah".

Mr. Parker asked who would pay for that and that he can't cross the bridge on his motorcycle with 4 speed bumps there.

Mr. Vachon said if people don't slow down they won't be crossing that bridge period because they're going to break it.

Mr. Parker said this is viable to the point of getting them reconnected but after that point they will have a lot more issues like vehicle repairs and maintenance of the speed bumps.

Waldron Road resident Adam Giles asked why they couldn't use 1" steel plates to weld the wooden boards to the I-beams. He said at Town Meeting it didn't sound like there was a permanent plan for this bridge for a while so these poor people are going to have to listen to that for that long. He asked for the real plan for the bridge.

Mr. Giles said at the meeting it didn't sound there was enough funds to fix the bridge and that they were trying to get grants. He said it's a steel structure with a wood platform and suggested that they leave the wood under it and weld the steel plates across so it becomes more of a temporary version of a permanent bridge.

Mr. Capello said the reason this bridge was designed the way that it was is so they would continue to qualify for the NH Bridge Aid funds when it reopens this year where the state pays 80% of the cost and the Town pays 20%.

Mr. Giles said welding it on would be a 2-3 day fix and it would still be temporary and they would just have to cut the welds off after but the plates would be there for a while and the plows would glide right over it.

Chairman Proulx said that is something for the board to consider.

Mr. Vachon said the state may then consider it a permanent bridge.

Mr. Giles said a piece of steel on the I-beams should be no different than a piece of wood on the I-beams and it's still a temporary bridge. He asked if all that was needed was an engineer who will say it's a temporary bridge.

Mr. Capello said the state has its own engineers that say what it is.

Chairman Proulx said they would have to check with the engineer and find out what their definition of permanent is. She said they could take his suggestion as a potential solution and find out the answer.

Mr. Parker said he would wait to see what happens in June and that he would really appreciate it if the other 2 speed bumps were not put in.

Mr. Capello said they won't go in until they reevaluate things after the boards are pinned down.

Mr. Parker said once they are pinned they will never get rid of all the sound but it would diminish it by at least 80%.

Mr. Johnson said it is up to the board but if the fix solves the issue there is no reason to have the speed bumps there.

Mr. Parker said then let the cops go up there and make their money.

Mr. Johnson said the Town doesn't get any money from traffic tickets it all goes to the state.

Chairman Proulx said she appreciated the residents attending the meeting and sharing their ideas with the board. She said sometimes people have some great ideas but if they don't come down and talk to them they can only go on the information they have.

4). Review of Minutes:

May 17, 2021 – Non-Public Sessions A-C – No errors or omissions

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

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to unseal Non-Public Sessions A and B minutes passed 5-0.

5). Review of Farmington Cable TV Upgrade:

Mr. Capello said the board received the information compiled by Cable TV Coordinator Robert Hall regarding the 3 bids to purchase the equipment to enable the Town to broadcast meetings live over the internet (live streaming). He said they gave the board a breakdown and they are hoping the board will approve the expenditure tonight so they can get moving on this.

Mr. Dickie asked whose bid Mr. Capello was recommending that the board go with.

Mr. Capello recommended the bid be awarded to the CASTUS Corporation (\$16,194).

Mr. Dickie said he is recommending the supplier that includes the installation and training.

Mr. Capello said it also includes the streaming for the first year and the other 2 bids do not include installation and training so while the AIO B100 bid is a little cheaper at \$16,000 it will go up when you add in the installation and training.

Mr. Hall said plus they would have to buy a separate unit for the streaming with cheaper model and the CASTUS model has it built in and that's an extra \$3,000 on top of their bid.

Mr. Johnson asked if the server would be located in the Municipal Office Building.

Mr. Hall said he would click on a link and it would go to the CASTUS.

Mr. Johnson asked if it was cloud based.

Mr. Hall said that is correct.

Mr. Johnson said that means the server would be offsite and wouldn't max out our bandwidth.

Mr. Hall said no and it only has a 10 MB (megabyte) upload.

Mr. Johnson asked for the annual renewal cost.

Mr. Capello said the annual streaming subscription is \$2,699.

Mr. Hall said the streaming cost for the other bidders is about \$3,500.

Mr. Johnson asked for the maximum number of simultaneous users.

Mr. Hall said he did not know.

Mr. Johnson said on Mr. Capello's cover sheet he listed the CASTUS cost as \$16,194 but their quote is \$18,349.

Mr. Capello said that is because he did it with the most expensive piece which is the video server which was \$13,495 plus the \$2,699 for the first year of streaming and did not include the other incidental pieces they have to get. He said he did the same thing with the other 2 bidders and just used the most expensive piece of equipment and the streaming which did not include the training or the installation where CASTUS includes everything.

Mr. Johnson said there is an additional \$2,000 cost for that everything. He asked for the total cost for the other 2 bidders (including the training and installation).

Mr. Capello said he didn't know and would have to get that answer for the board. He said he just used the server to figure the cost.

Mr. Johnson said they can't do anything with the server unless they spend the rest of the money to have it installed.

Chairman Proulx asked if at any point they looked the added cost of the training and installation and had any idea of what that will cost.

Mr. Hall said the way they do it, it is melded together. He said there is also replacement coverage for 3 years (3 years parts and labor warranty) included in the bids.

Chairman Proulx asked the board where they wanted to go with this.

Mr. Vachon said they should table the matter until they get the complete cost of everything including the installation and training for all 3 places so they can make an apples-to-apples comparison.

Mr. Hall said there is only one place that does the installation.

Chairman Proulx asked how that is if they carry CASTUS, AIO and Leightronix and they all come from the same vendor and who would do the installation and the training.

Mr. Hall said there is a person that does the installation for each server.

Chairman Proulx said they would have to contact those individuals to find out what that cost would be. She asked to have this item put on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Mr. Capello said he would do so provided Mr. Hall can get him the numbers for the installation and training and for all the other incidental equipment that goes with the CASTUS unit.

Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Hall and Mr. Capello to work together to get it done and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

6). First Congregational Church Fence Update:

Mr. Capello said some church members attended the meeting last week in regards to the damage done to their fence by the sidewalk plow and that DPW Director Gary Rogers went out and measured the area and the fence is in the Town's r-o-w. He said the fence is 16 ft. 6 inches from the center line on Lilac Street and 18 ft. 6 inches from the center line on Green Street. He recommended that the board pay for the repairs this year and put them on notice that in future years it will be their responsibility unless they choose to move their fence.

Mr. Johnson asked for the width of the r-o-w.

Mr. Capello said the r-o-w is 50 ft. wide.

Mr. Vachon clarified it is usually 25' from the center line to one side and 25 ft. from the center line to the other side for a total of 50' wide.

Mr. Johnson said they are talking about it being approx. 8 ft. into the Town's r-o-w which is more than a minor variance and if it was only by a couple of inches it wouldn't be an issue.

Mr. Dickie said that all of the side roads in town are not the common width of a road created today.

Mr. Vachon said the r-o-w doesn't change and its how much space they have to expand the road.

Mr. Dickie some of these roads were put in place in the "horse and buggy days" when those mandates were not in place and he didn't know how many roads would meet that.

Mr. Vachon said quite a few of them would and there are some "cow path" roads that have 40' - 50' right-of-ways on them.

Mr. Johnson asked for the amount requested to repair the fence.

Mr. Vachon said they asked for \$983.84 but that included the extra pieces they said they could do without because they weren't damaged by the plow (post caps).

Chairman Proulx said she has no doubt in her mind that the church will be fair.

Mr. Capello recommended that the board authorize up to the number listed to reimburse them but he would require an invoice before he makes the reimbursement to see the exact amount. He said the motion should include that he will send the church a letter notifying them that the fence is in the Town's r-o-w and this will be the last year the Town will pay for damages and they may choose to move it or not but if it gets damaged again it's on them.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to allocate no more than \$983.84 for the repair of the fence at the First Congregational Church Parsonage to be reimbursed upon submission of an actual cost invoice and to issue a letter along with the authorization to the church notifying them that they are within the Town right-of-way and the Town will not be held responsible in the future;

Discussion: Mr. Vachon said he didn't recall if a certain aspect of this matter was discussed in public or non-public session.

Mr. Johnson asked if he should table his motion to allow the board to discuss it in non-public session.

Chairman Proulx said they have had instances of this in the past in other areas and Mr. Vachon wanted to know if that discussion was done in public or in non-public session.

Mr. Capello said anytime this has come up it was done in public but he didn't know the exact instance he was referring to.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't know if the instance he wants to bring up was done in public so he didn't want to bring it up.

Mr. Capello asked if they were talking about a stone wall.

Chairman Proulx said no and that they were talking about the other fence.

Mr. Capello said that was done in public and that was about the Baptist Church and he would

follow up on it as they were still trying to figure out the r-o-w there. He said if it is a similar situation there the same letter will go to them telling them to move their fence or they are responsible for any damage.

He said he brought all of the information on that to the board and the board wanted some additional information on the r-o-w there.

Mr. Vachon said they haven't gotten the information on that r-o-w but they got the information on the r-o-w that came in after.

Mr. Capello said they pushed on this one so they could get the information quicker so they could get back to the other church.

Mr. Staples asked if this would set a precedent that the first time something gets damaged the Town will eat the bill and then tell them they have to move it or they are liable from now on.

Mr. Capello said if you talk to 5 lawyers 2.5 of them will give you a different decision and they will say there is no such thing as precedent and every case is unique.

Mr. Johnson said one of the determining factors on this for him was they have repaired that fence a number of times over the years.

Mr. Dickie said a determining factor for him is that it has been there for 20 years.

Mr. Staples said he was in favor of it because if the Town hit it they should fix it and that's what he would have to do if he was out plowing and smacked somebody's fence.

Mr. Vachon said the difference is he would be a private contractor.

Mr. Johnson said seeing there is a past history it would be fair to give them one last shot and warn them that they can't continue to do it.

Chairman Proulx agreed and cutting something off like that is not very good.

Mr. Vachon asked if everyone was going to get something repaired in the r-o-w.

Mr. Johnson said it depends on the instance.

Mr. Vachon said now they are repairing this and it's in the r-o-w. It's got to be black and white that this is on our property and we either fix it or we don't he said.

He said they should send the claim to Primex and let them deal with it. He said if they agree then go ahead and fix it and if not it's on the homeowner and that's why they have an insurance company. Not our call, it's in the r-o-w. Let the insurance adjuster deal with it he said. Discussion also included the procedure to replace damaged mail boxes in the r-o-w.

Vote: The motion passed 3-2 (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie-aye; Vachon, Staples-opposed).

Chairman Proulx asked if they want to know where the Town's r-o-w ends if they could be helpful and let them know that.

Mr. Capello said of course.

Mr. Vachon said that doesn't guarantee where the r-o-w is so he wouldn't tell them where it is. He said it depends on where their property pins are and a r-o-w is a "guesstimate". He said they could tell them it's here and if something happens and they have it surveyed they could find it is over there. Until you find the property pins that are set, deeded and recorded and do a

surveyor's job we could give them false information which could open a whole other can (of worms) he said.

Chairman Proulx asked if it would be more pertinent to suggest to the church how much leeway would be needed for a sidewalk plow to get through and then let them do what they want.

Mr. Vachon said they could suggest but don't tell them this is the r-o-w. We could say we own 25 ft. off the center line-roughly to here he said.

Mr. Staples asked if the Town would be liable again if they tell them to give us this much room so the plow can get through and he hits it again after we told them to put it there.

Mr. Capello said then the Town would ultimately be responsible. He said he agreed with Mr. Vachon and they would not tell the church where to put the fence. It will be "this is where we think it is, you make a choice on where you want to put it, it's totally up to you" he said.

7). COVID-19 Update:

a). Discussion on American Recovery Act – Mr. Capello said he did not print out the entire 500 page Treasury guidance on the act and provided the board with the highlights that would affect the Town so they would start thinking about it. He said he attended a Zoom meeting with the Whitehouse last week and came out of the meeting more confused than when he went into it because everything was in draft form and they are still trying to get final guidance.

He said one thing he did learn is that they can look at any loss of revenue from 2020 for any dept. and recoup it from the act. He said if you lost revenue from the Rec. Dept. due to the COVID-19 pandemic you can pull it from that fund and he asked the Finance Director to look at every dept. to see if there is any lost revenues from the depts., the Highway Block Grant and the Rooms and Meals Tax that they can pull from the Town's allocation.

Mr. Johnson said that is a change and asked if that was allowed initially.

Mr. Capello said that was not allowed previously but it may change again before they come out with the final guidelines.

Chairman Proulx asked if they gave him any idea of when that might be.

Mr. Capello said no but he thought it would have to be fairly soon because in the bigger metropolitan areas their fiscal year is ending soon and they can petition the Treasury directly for their money and some towns are starting to receive it. He said in NH they have to get the money from the state so we have to wait until the state divvies it down to us.

Mr. Johnson asked if Farmington is getting approx. \$690,000 over 2 years.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Mr. Johnson asked if they are looking for justifiable ways to use that money.

Mr. Capello said we could use it for revenue loss and water and sewer infrastructure. He said the caveat is that it has to be for uses approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency not the state Dept. of Environmental Services or state EPA. He said he planned to have Water/Sewer Dept. Supervisor Chuck Tiffany research the list of the approved federal EPA projects and that will give them an idea of what that money can be used for.

Mr. Johnson said they may be able to use these funds for looking for a new Town well. He said in the handout the board was given it said water and sewer infrastructure is included and the definition of new wells and improving access to clean drinking water was mentioned.

He said the improvements to data and technology infrastructure are also eligible and asked about the live streaming costs.

Mr. Capello said that is a possibility because it deals with providing more access to broadband that we don't have right now. He said during the meeting they talked about bringing it into communities that don't have it yet and he would have to get more guidance on it. He said they talked a lot about using the money for cyber security.

Mr. Johnson said it talks about improvements and data technology infrastructure and that live streaming would be a good backup if we lost the cable system or in an emergency situation and that may be something that could be justified.

Mr. Capello said he could also justify it by saying they are bringing it to people that don't have local access cable TV.

Mr. Dickie asked if it's possible to look at the systems the Town Clerk/Tax Collector is trying to implement and the system the Finance Director wants to move to.

Mr. Capello said no for the Finance Director but they have been looking at bringing in different software for the Town Clerk's office for the water/sewer piece of it. He said that would be an upgrade to the existing system and he asked them this question and is awaiting a reply.

Mr. Johnson said some of the statements are so wide open such as improvements to data and technology infrastructure could be anything. That could be upgrading from a flip phone to a Smart phone he said.

Chairman Proulx said it depends on whether they narrow it down or leave it broad.

Mr. Capello said he just received an e-mail from the National League of Cities that the Treasury just issued new guidance tonight for populations of under 50,000. He said he wanted the board to start thinking about this because he assumed that the money will start flowing soon because the Treasury Dept. had 60 days from when the bill was passed to distribute the money and that is now gone.

Mr. Johnson said then the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration has to determine how the municipalities can accept the funds, how it can be applied and how it will impact next year's budget. He said DRA does not process this stuff quickly and the last time it took them 5 months.

Mr. Capello said with the GOFERR money they did not have to hold a public hearing to accept the money when technically anything over \$10,000 unanticipated requires a public hearing.

Mr. Johnson said they would have to hold a public hearing for the first payment of these funds and the second payment would be anticipated.

Mr. Capello said that is correct because they would put the second payment in the budget.

Mr. Johnson said last time they wouldn't allow them to apply it to the current budget and it had to be applied to next year's budget. So we had to make up the money out of this year's budget

and next year's budget we could apply it and it's more trouble than it's worth-almost he said. Mr. Capello said one question asked at the Whitehouse Zoom meeting was how not to take the money if it's more grief that its worth and some communities don't want to deal with it. Mr. Staples asked if all of the Town depts. have a revolving fund. Mr. Johnson said the only depts. allowed to have a revolving fund are the Rec. and Police Depts. He said libraries can also have one but the library is not Town owned.

8). Town Administrator's Business:

a). Hornetown Road Bridge Update – Mr. Capello said he received an e-mail today from the contractor that the board approved to do the bolting down of the deck boards on the bridge and they are anticipating doing the work from June 7 to June 10. He said he replied and asked if they need to close the bridge the whole time the work is being done or if they can open it up at night and as soon as more information is received he will let the board know and post it on the Town website, social media and send out an e-mail blast from the website alert system. Chairman Proulx said a lot of readjusting will have to be done and asked him to make sure get the notice out prior to the start work date.

Mr. Capello said he e-mailed Hoyle Tanner engineer Josif Bicja and asked him about Mr. Giles suggestion to use steel plates as discussed earlier in the meeting and Mr. Bicja said they would have to use diamond steel plates because regular steel plates get slippery during the winter, the plates would have to be heavy and they could trap a lot of moisture under and between boards of the wooden deck potentially causing them to rot sooner. He said Mr. Bicja was also concerned that the state would then consider it a permanent bridge because it would last longer once you put steel on it and he would ask others in his office for their opinions.

Mr. Vachon asked if he had any concern about the weight of the steel plates themselves. He said they would have to be pretty thick to withstand the traffic and could be an issue because the bridge wasn't designed for that.

Mr. Capello said he didn't go into that calculation and just asked him for quick response.

Mr. Staples asked for the load bearing for the bridge.

Mr. Capello said there is no restriction on it at this point.

Mr. Johnson said that the engineer's design included a max weight but couldn't recall the exact amount.

Mr. Vachon said it has to be astronomical as they allow fully loaded logging trucks to use that bridge so it has to be over 100,000 lbs. per vehicle. He said adding stationary weight to the bridge that it wasn't designed for is a different matter. He said the steel plate he bought was 4' x 4', ½ inch thick and weighed 300 lbs.

Chairman Proulx asked what they are doing with this.

Mr. Capello said Mr. Bicja said he feels the tie down of the boards would still need to be done because you would still get the slapping. He said Mr. Bicja said to see how that goes and then go from there. I just wanted to get it out there that we did follow up on it he said.

b). Road Paving Proposal – Mr. Capello said the board received a proposal and a recommendation to utilize R & D Paving for road paving. He said that R & D Paving has done the paving many times, has always done a nice job, they are reliable and they give more accurate prices by measuring the roads.

Mr. Vachon asked if they really only received one response from all the (18) companies the Request for Proposals was sent to.

Mr. Capello said yes and he could tell the board that for a fact because they come to him.

Mr. Staples asked which roads would be done with this money.

Mr. Capello said he did not recall and would find out for the next meeting.

Mr. Vachon asked about getting an updated insurance certificate.

Mr. Capello said they would make sure they have it before they start work.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to override the Town policy on accepting three bids and to award the bid to R & D Paving in the amount of \$294,196.72 for the 2021 paving of Town roads

Discussion: Mr. Capello said he didn't think they had to override the policy where they sent the RFP to 18 contractors.

Mr. Johnson said he didn't think so but it's not going to hurt anything.

Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Capello to get some clarity on this matter so they wouldn't be redundant.

Mr. Staples asked how much was put aside for this.

Mr. Capello said \$325,000 was budgeted for paving. He said if there is any money left over after the planned road work is completed Mr. Rogers will pick another area to do.

Mr. Vachon asked if they were going to chip seal any roads this year.

Mr. Capello said he did not know and would find out.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

c).Resignation- Mr. Capello said the board has a resignation from a member of the Fire Dept. to accept.

Motion: (Vachon, second Johnson) to accept the resignation from Kaylee Downs from the Fire Dept. passed 5-0.

d). Road Sign Request – Mr. Capello said he received a request from a Green Street resident for a Children at Play) sign on Green Street.

Mr. Vachon said he has never dealt with this request and asked where the **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices** stands on this.

Mr. Capello said he did not know.

Chairman Proulx asked how many children were in this area.

Mr. Vachon said there is a ballpark around the corner and he drives in that area several times a week and has never seen any kids playing in or near the street on Green Street. He said there is only one house on that street that would have young kids.

Mr. Capello said he only received one request from that one address and they just moved

there.

Chairman Proulx asked if that is something they normally do and just throw up signs wherever they need to.

Mr. Capello said no and that signs are not cheap.

Chairman Proulx asked what criteria they use to determine when they put up a sign.

Mr. Capello said to his knowledge anytime someone wanted a sign put up they came before the Selectmen and the board made that decision.

Mr. Johnson said other than Smith court he did not remember ever having one come in front of the board.

Mr. Capello said it's very rare.

Chairman Proulx said she didn't think they have any codes or regulations for signs.

Mr. Vachon said they would need to put up 2 Children at Play signs on Green Street and asked where they would put them- one on each corner or one on Green Street and one on Pleasant Street because they loop around. He said for that size sign and to get it locally so that it is quick would cost about \$100 a piece plus about \$40 per post and \$20 per anchor.

Chairman Proulx said it may be cheaper for the resident to put a post with a sign saying Children at Play in their own yard.

Mr. Johnson asked if the DPW has any sign standards they follow.

Mr. Capello said they probably follow the MUTCD standards because they had to wait for some of the previous signs they ordered because they needed to be a certain size and made of a certain reflective material. He said he didn't know if the DPW Director would know what the standard is for Children at Play signs because it is not a common request.

Mr. Vachon said the MUTCD may only have standards regarding the size and makeup of the sign but may not have one for when that sign is needed.

Chairman Proulx said they need more information to even consider this.

Mr. Johnson said he didn't think the board should be dealing with it and didn't want the Selectmen deciding where to put signs up in town. He said he was hoping there is something the DPW has been following for this issue.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't know how many Children at Play signs have ever been seen in this town. He said there is one in his neighborhood at the entrance of the road that was purchased by a resident and half the time it doesn't slow people down.

Mr. Capello said if the board does do this everybody with a kid is going to want one on their street. This is a case where I'll agree with you on precedent which based on the information is one child he said.

Consensus of the board was to take no action at this time.

e). Line Striping Proposal – Mr. Vachon asked when the last time was that they talked to this company (Industrial Traffic Lines) and if they checked to see if they have paint available this year.

Mr. Capello said they bid on it and they may not have checked with them because they haven't been awarded the bid yet.

Mr. Vachon said he received an e-mail from a company they have a signed contract with at work that said "good luck-we'll let you know when we have paint" because there is a national shortage on paint now. He said they might want to get a tentative date for when the paint will be available.

Chairman Proulx asked if this was the only response to the RFP (RFP's were sent to 7 vendors). Mr. Capello said yes.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to waive the Town policy for accepting less than three bids as we only received one and to award the line striping contract to Industrial Traffic Lines in the amount of \$20,862.80;

Discussion: Chairman Proulx asked because of the big price increase if they are okay as far as the amount in the budget line.

Mr. Capello said he didn't know and would find out. He suggested the board could motion to not exceed the budgeted amount rather than up to the \$20,862 the company bid.

Chairman Proulx said the increase ranges from 24% to 28% and that is a substantial amount and she didn't think the DPW Director thought there would be a 20% plus increase when planning his budget.

Mr. Staples asked where they came up with the contractors they ask for a bid.

Mr. Vachon said they are usually the ones they ask every year.

Mr. Staples asked if they talk to other towns to see who is doing their stuff.

Chairman Proulx said she did not know.

Mr. Capello reviewed the budget and said they have \$14,875 in the budget line for line striping and suggested they motion up to that amount rather than the full \$20,862.

Amendment: by Mr. Johnson: to award the contract to Industrial Traffic Lines in the amount not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$14,875;

Mr. Vachon accepted the amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Johnson said if he (Mr. Rogers) can justify it and has to spend more than that he has to come back to the board.

Mr. Capello said he will have to find it in his budget and explain where.

Mr. Vachon asked how they will decide which line is more important than others.

Chairman Proulx said he may not have to go over the budgeted amount and recalled that they used to do one half of the town one year and the other half the following year.

Mr. Dickie asked if the back roads need to be striped.

Mr. Vachon said it depends on the speed limits and that striping goes by the speed limits.

Mr. Dickie said the speed limits there are 30 and 35 mph.

Mr. Capello said he thought it was required but he wasn't sure.

Mr. Johnson said they used an alternating system for the lines for example on Hornetown Road

one year they would do the double yellow center lines and the next year they would do the fog lines and he thought that is what they are still doing.

Chairman Proulx said there have been a few years where they have done them all. She said they should do the priorities first and then next year they could put in whatever extra there is because that is a hell of an increase in one year.

Mr. Capello said they are going to see that on everything unfortunately.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Capello to let them know if the company has paint.

f). Local Emergency Operations Plan- Mr. Capello said Fire Chief James Reinert previously came before the board about the grant he received for updating the Town's emergency plan and gave the board the grant document to sign so they can get the process started.

Mr. Johnson asked if the board already approved this.

Mr. Capello said yes and all they have to do is sign it. He said the grant is for \$4,500 and they will use the same person they used 5 years ago to do the update.

Mr. Vachon said while they were talking about the Fire Dept., he was looking at the monthly report and he would like to thank Engineer Douglas Houston for fixing all the minor repairs so they didn't have to send them up to the Highway Dept. mechanic to deal with it.

Mr. Capello said the new fire truck should be here by mid-June and they will have a celebration for that and the new plow truck so the people can see what their money bought at the last Town Meeting.

Mr. Capello said they need to do a motion for the emergency plan grant.

Mr. Johnson said the motion show on the document is wrong. He read that it says the board acknowledges that the total cost of the project will be \$4,500 in which the Town is responsible for a 50% match (\$4,500). It should be \$2,250 he said.

Chairman Proulx asked for the total amount of the grant.

Mr. Johnson said it was \$4,500.

Mr. Capello said the total cost of the project is \$9,000 and the Town is responsible for \$4,500.

Mr. Johnson said that isn't what the motion says and repeated that it says the board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$4,500 in which the Town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$4,500) so one of those two numbers is wrong.

Mr. Capello said he would bring it back to the Chief and get clarity on the motion to be made.

Mr. Johnson then read that the Dept. of Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is awarding the Town of Farmington \$4,500 to update the community's local emergency operations plan.

Chairman Proulx said that's what they are awarding us and asked if the Town is doing the \$4,500 in-kind match so the whole project is \$9,000.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Mr. Johnson then read further in the document that the total cost is \$9,000 with the Town's

share being \$4,500 and the grant is \$4,500. I can change the wording (of the motion) he said. Chairman Proulx asked where the proposed motion came from.

Mr. Capello said it came from the grantor of the grant.

Chairman Proulx asked if they should have the grantor change the motion or if the board can change it.

Mr. Capello said they could change it and the worst case would be they would have to redo the motion.

Chairman Proulx said she would make them change it.

Mr. Johnson said it says the grant is \$4,500 and the Town's share is \$4,500 but it should say the total cost of the project is \$9,000.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) the Select board in a majority vote accepts the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$4,500 to update the community's Local Emergency Operations Plan. Furthermore the board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$9,000 in which the Town will be responsible for a 50% in-kind match of \$4,500;

Discussion: Mr. Vachon asked if the Chief has \$4,500 to cover the in-kind match.

Mr. Capello said yes because he and all of the dept. heads are involved.

Mr. Johnson said they even assigned an hourly rate to the board members' participation.

Mr. Capello said they had no trouble covering it the last time this was done.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

g). Landfill Testing – Mr. Capello said he needed a motion to withdraw \$10,813.84 from the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund for expenses from closure and testing.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to authorize the payment of landfill monitoring in the amount of \$10,813.84 with the funds to come from the Landfill Closure Fund Capital Reserve Fund;

Discussion: Mr. Staples asked how much is in this fund.

Mr. Johnson said as of the end of last year it was a little over \$100,000.

Mr. Capello said there will be approx. \$70,000 left when they are done this year and they are going to have to start thinking about replenishing this fund. He said it was started and funded by a 5 year grant they received when they closed the landfill and the grant has long since run out and we have to do this every year for the life of the Town.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

h). Master Plan – Mr. Capello said he gave the board the Planning Director's responses to their earlier questions and concerns and asked if they wished to discuss it in non-public session or to just wait and see.

Chairman Proulx said they would deal with this at a later time.

i). Dept. Monthly Reports- Mr. Vachon said the board agreed on a meeting to have the monthly reports to the board and asked if they could get back to that instead of one on the first

meeting, one on the third, etc.

Mr. Capello said yes and that they requested that the dept. reports be provided to the board at the third meeting of each month.

Mr. Vachon said some of the reports have been coming in sporadically and he would appreciate it if they would go back to being submitted at the same meeting.

9). Non-Public Session A:

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

Motion: (Vachon, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 8:15 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to offer Erica Dickie-Yelle the position of Assistant Director of the Recreation Dept. in the amount of \$18 an hour to start and upon successful completion of the six month probationary period to increase her wage to \$18.50 an hour contingent upon the successful completion of the Town's pre-employment checks passed 4-0.

10). Next Meeting: Monday, June 7, 2021 (No meeting May 31 due to Memorial Day holiday).

11). Adjournment:

Motion: (Staples, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 8:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Paula Proulx, Chairman

Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

Gerry Vachon

Ken Dickie

Douglas Staples