

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 18, 2021

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
John Drury, Police Chief
Danielle Morin, Police Officer
Members of Farmington Police Dept.
and their families and friends
Greg Cooper, Middleton Police Chief
James Reinert, Fire Chief
Becky Dickie, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

1). Call to Order:

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

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Medal of Valor Award:

Farmington Police Chief Jay Drury asked Middleton Police Chief Greg Cooper and Officer Danielle Morin to come forward. He said one of the difficult things when you're a Police Chief is when your phone rings at all hours of the day and night and it's dispatch telling you that one of your officers got injured. It's devastating and our hearts go out to everybody involved he said. He said he is very proud of their School Resource Officer and he wanted to take a moment to give an award to SRO Danielle Morin. He said on July 26, 2021 she was working the midnight shift and at about 4:19 a.m. Officer Morin was dispatched for mutual aid to the Middleton for a domestic situation and custody disturbance. Upon her arrival she was trying to get one of said parties into the car to leave and after several moments with the party still next to their car in the roadway with the door open, Officer Morin saw a vehicle headed right towards them that was not stopping. She yelled at the person to watch out and the person was able to quickly step away and avoid getting struck by that car. Officer Morin and her cruiser were hit by the car and at the last moment that car swerved away from the other car and the other person he said. Chief Drury said it's unfortunate that it struck Officer Morin and fortunately she was able to return to work after a few weeks. He said Officer Morin's action likely prevented the person from being struck by that on-coming car and sustaining serious injuries or even death. It is with great pleasure that I present Officer Morin the department's second highest honor the Medal of Valor he said. He then presented the medal to Officer Morin as everyone in attendance applauded.

Chief Cooper said he happens to know Officer Morin as she works for the Middleton Police Dept. as a part time officer and has had the pleasure of working with her there. He said he wanted to personally thank her for the efforts she put into that evening and for coming over to assist them in a time of need and potentially save a life. She's a very brave hard-working officer and I'm happy that she is receiving this award and thank you Chief Drury for that he said. He then congratulated Officer Morin and shook hands during a second round of applause from everyone looking on.

Chairman Proulx said it is not very often that award is handed out and although she hated the fact that Officer Morin was hurt she was very proud that she was able to do that and save a life.

Mr. Capello said having seen the video from the body camera she did a fabulous job.

Chairman Proulx said that goes to show how dangerous that job is and you never know.

4). Public Input:

Hay Day Update- Mr. Capello said for next year they're looking at holding the event during the third week in August and the Hay Day Committee has been meeting on a regular basis. He said they are making good progress and the only snafu at this point is the fireworks display.

He said the School Board has said they won't vote on the fireworks (allowing them on school grounds) until after the March elections because they can't commit a future board to something and they are requesting a full emergency operations plan containing the locations of the Police and Fire Depts., responses, etc.

Mr. Johnson asked if they could take the one from 2 years ago and reuse it.

Mr. Capello said he has not gotten that far with them yet. He said the committee is also looking at potential alternative locations because the display will go out to bid and they may not know until April or May whether they could do them there which could pose a problem for the fireworks company.

Chairman Proulx said if they don't have the plan Mr. Johnson spoke about instead of re-inventing the wheel they must have one because the school district has outdoor events there as well.

Mr. Johnson noted the Town has been holding the fireworks display there for many years and suggested that they get a previous copy and update it.

Chairman Proulx asked if they could just add the Town's staging locations to the school's plan.

Mr. Capello said they will add what they can but they weren't going to divulge any confidential information or tactical procedures. He said he would e-mail the Superintendent and ask her.

Chairman Proulx said the school district must have a plan because they deal with kids and she couldn't imagine they don't have an emergency plan for the use of the outside areas.

Mr. Vachon said parking and foot traffic would be an issue at another location and may not work say if 100 people showed up to the event.

Mr. Johnson said the amount of parking needed could reduce the sq. footage required to get the license for the fireworks.

Mr. Dickie asked what they used all these years as this is not the first year they're having them up there.

Mr. Capello said to his knowledge the Town hasn't provided a written emergency operations plan previously and that this is a new requirement.

Fire Chief James Reinert said the emergency operations plan for the SAU has been finalized for this year because they had to submit it to the Dept. of Education and it includes things for an active shooter and other types of events. He said the Fire Dept. typically drafts an incident action plan for Hay Day, the fireworks or any sort of big event but they typically don't give the SAU a copy of that. It's basically how we would operate and the same thing for the Police Dept. and for tactical reasons we might not give those to the School Board and it hasn't really changed for the 20 years I have been in town. There is a current emergency operations plan that was just signed off by me and Chief Drury for their implementation to give it to the DOE for the state and it should be in place he said.

Chairman Proulx said that sounds like the Town will be covered anyway and asked Mr. Capello to find out what they have and give the school a copy of that if they don't have one. Sounds like maybe one is not talking to the other she said.

Emergency Generator -Mr. Capello said he gave the board copies of the memo from the Building Inspector regarding the discussion about the emergency generator at the high school. He said he understood from watching School Board meetings that they purchased a used generator from Durham and their intent is to remove the Town's transfer switch and have their generator take care of it all but at this point there has been no permit issued. He said the existing generator was bought with a grant for emergency operations and they are researching that grant but the initial research says if they end up removing that there is a potential the Town may have to pay back money based on fair market value. There is a process they have to go through in order to terminate it and we're still looking into it and trying to get a hold of the original grant from Homeland Security he said.

Mr. Johnson asked how long ago that was.

Mr. Capello said it was installed in 2008.

Mr. Johnson said he was guessing the grant requirements don't apply any more after 13 years.

Mr. Capello said they wouldn't know until they get the original grant.

Chief Reinert said the high school is their **Point of Distribution** if they were to utilize it for things such as helping with vaccines for the COVID pandemic and it is also an emergency shelter in the event of a major weather event, power outage, etc. He said they are trying to get the paperwork on the generator and he is concerned that if they replace or install a permanent standby generator that it meets the needs to operate the shelter including all of the kitchen equipment, the lighting and the heat and fire alarm systems. If we're utilizing the building for an emergency shelter I want to ensure that we're using the building in all capacities so we can fully function and house people for whatever period of time in the event of an emergency here

in town. That's my number one concern he said.

He said his secondary concern is if there is a potential cost for deviating away from the original plan of the grant that was applied for and given to the Town. He said it is still part of the emergency management plan and that last year the Red Cross reevaluated it to make sure it met the needs of an emergency shelter for the number of people that could be using the kitchen and shower facilities for whatever reason it was needed as a shelter.

Mr. Johnson said that according to the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer the School Board Chairman expressed the possibility of no longer allowing the use that building as a shelter. He asked Chief Reinert if that is correct and not a misunderstanding what impact that would have.

Chief Reinert said it would have a significant impact because they would have nowhere else to go technically on paper though hypothetically in the event of an emergency the powers of the Fire Chief or the Emergency Management Director could still utilize the property.

Mr. Johnson said but he would have no idea what would be there for support equipment.

Chief Reinert said that is correct.

Chairman Proulx said it is very concerning to her that that statement was made.

Chief Reinert said it was to him as well and that he just heard about it today. He said he didn't know if the School Board was aware that this would also affect the Strafford County Public Health Network that is also part of this and there is an agreement with the outlying communities to use that building as a POD or an emergency shelter.

Chairman Proulx asked for the status of the permitting process.

Mr. Capello said the permit is on hold because the electricians already started work and buried the conduit without a permit. He said before they issue any permits they will get all this resolved because from what he was told they are not even getting the generator until spring.

Chairman Proulx said she hopes it goes better than it did with School Resource Officer and that she is getting sick and tired of these two boards can't seem to work together and let each other know what is going on because the only ones this is going to hurt is the townspeople.

Mr. Vachon asked if there is anything wrong with the existing generator or the switch.

Mr. Capello said no and that they are tested twice a year.

Mr. Johnson said it may be an increase in capacity.

Mr. Vachon noted the school hasn't gotten any bigger.

Chief Reinert said they can run the majority of the school off of the current generator and the only issue is running all of the kitchen equipment with the large overhead lights in the gym but there are other lighting options so as they bring everything on board the gym is the last to be transferred and there is adequate lighting without them.

Mr. Johnson said he is guessing the school district is looking to replace the generator to support the entire school not just for emergency situations. If there is an extended outage they want to still potentially be able to operate the school and it would have to be fully backed up. There are

too many unanswered questions he said.

Chief Reinert said the generator is in pretty mint condition and has less than 200 hours on it.

Mr. Johnson asked for the size of the generator.

Chief Reinert said it is 150 KW and is the same size as the one at the Public Safety Building.

Mr. Capello said he didn't know if the school realizes if they get a generator they are going to have to license it with the state every year and that's about a \$1,500 fee for that size generator.

Mr. Vachon asked if the school district was in the process of converting the lights to LED lights.

Mr. Capello said they were looking at it but he didn't where they are at with that.

Mr. Johnson said they need to find out what is really going on and if they are looking to cancel the agreement with the Town they will have to see where that goes.

Chief Reinert said currently they would have no other facility that could house a couple hundred people and no showers or kitchen facilities. Hopefully we won't have to do that again but when you live in New England that could happen he said.

Halloween – Mr. Capello said the Rec. Dept. is holding "Trick or Trunk" this year on Thursday, October 28 and there will be a downtown parade with the kids and then over at the Peaslee Funeral Home parking lot there are a bunch of people (including him) who have signed up to hand out candy. Town-wide Trick or Treating is on Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m. he said.

Mr. Johnson asked what Trick or Trunk is.

Mr. Capello said it is when you decorate your car and give out candy from the trunk. He said it is one central location for a bunch of vehicles and the kids walk around the vehicles to get treats.

5). Review of Minutes:

September 20, 2021 – Public Meeting Minutes- No errors or omissions

Mr. Vachon asked if the speed bumps are in at the Hornetown Road Bridge.

Mr. Capello said they are in and people are still using them as launching pads.

Mr. Vachon asked if the speed bumps are painted so that they are visible.

Mr. Capello said the signs are there and they have ordered the stripes to go on it because they can't get paint.

Mr. Vachon said he may know somebody who can get them painted fairly cheap and would provide the information to Mr. Capello.

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

September 20, 2021 – Non-Public Session A Minutes – No errors or omissions

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

September 27, 2021 – Public Meeting Minutes – No errors or omissions

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

September 27, 2021 – Non-Public Sessions A-D Minutes – No errors or omissions

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

Mr. Johnson said Non-Public Session D is to remain sealed because of union negotiations.

June 16, 2021 –BOS/School Board Joint Public Meeting Minutes-No errors or omissions.

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

6). Schedule Joint Meeting with Planning Board:

Mr. Capello asked if Mr. Vachon would like to speak to this as he is the Selectmen's Rep to the Planning Board and he was at their meeting when this was discussed.

Mr. Vachon said the Planning Board offered to meet on a couple of dates and he sent the dates to Mr. Capello one of which was tonight.

Mr. Capello said the Planning Board said they could meet with the Selectmen on Oct. 18, Nov. 22 or Nov. 29.

Mr. Staples said he will be out town and might not be back in time for the meeting on Nov. 22.

Mr. Vachon said the Planning Board also requested to do a 5:30 p.m. start time for the meeting.

Chairman Proulx asked if this meeting was time sensitive.

Mr. Capello said no and the purpose was to discuss the implementation the Master Plan.

Consensus of the board was to schedule the joint meeting with the Planning Board on Nov. 29 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Proulx asked if they would have any information on what they are looking for or any guidelines for the meeting.

Mr. Capello said he would ask the Planning Director to put a memo together for the meeting.

7). COVID-19 Update:

a). Possible Uses of American Rescue Plan Funds – Mr. Capello said he gave the board some prices on some of the items they have been working on and he is looking for the board's approval tonight so they can move forward on some of this stuff.

W/W Radios -Mr. Johnson began at the top of potential project list provided by Mr. Capello and asked about the water/wastewater radios (\$3,878).

Mr. Capello said this is for portable radios so the DPW and Water/Sewer Depts. are all using the same radios and can communicate and right now they don't have that ability.

Mr. Johnson asked how many radios they would be getting.

Mr. Capello said he put in 14 radios.

Mr. Johnson said then the radios are not just for Water/Wastewater Depts. because they are only 4 people there.

Mr. Capello said it would be a distribution so that everybody would be on the same frequency on the same radio.

Mr. Johnson said water/wastewater uses are allowed to spend money out of that fund and asked if they can spend money out of that fund and say it's for wastewater and water and give it to the DPW.

Mr. Capello said that is his understanding and when he checked on it they said based on the fact that they can use the loss of profits for a wide range of things and they had a 9.8% loss

after using the state's calculations. He explained that when they were given the funds they were told to calculate how much revenue money they lost over the pandemic year and Farmington's loss was 9.8% (of the \$730,000) based on the formula the state used.

Mr. Johnson said that means they can use roughly 10% of the \$730,000 (approx. \$70,000).

Mr. Capello said yes and for pretty much anything that they want.

Mr. Vachon asked if wastewater/water depts. don't have any radios now.

Mr. Capello said they have a couple of them that don't work well and they can't communicate with anybody.

Mr. Vachon said he assumed that the Highway Dept. is still on analog and they didn't spend the money to upgrade to digital as there is no sensitive information going over the Highway Dept.'s band like there is for the Police and Fire Depts. with medical information, names and addresses, etc. He asked why they can't just program the radios.

Mr. Capello said it's because their radios aren't working either.

Mr. Vachon asked if all the radios in Water/Wastewater and the Highway Depts. went down all at once all of a sudden when they got this money.

Mr. Capello said they have been going down over the last few years and they have been budgeting to get 1 or 2 new ones or to repair 1 or 2 of them for the last few years and this is something that has been discussed with the board over the last several years. He said he is trying to look at ways to pull things out of the budget and use the ARP funds for short term projects so they can get them done and over with.

Mr. Johnson said this total of \$3,878 will replace all the radios at the DPW, Water and Wastewater Depts.

Mr. Vachon said this is just the portable radios and doesn't include the radios in the trucks.

Mr. Capello said they were not looking to replace the truck radios at this time and he would rather that the staff has portable radios so if they are out in a snow storm and have to get out of their truck for something they have their portable radio on them.

Mr. Vachon said he wouldn't because batteries go dead in portables but they don't go dead in trucks. If the truck is running the radio works he said.

Chairman Proulx said all the trucks have radios so they are not looking to replace them and are looking for portables.

Mr. Vachon said out of everyone he knows he didn't know of one person that doesn't have a cell phone in their pocket. He said he asked about the radios last year when they were discussing plowing and never once did the fact that the radios don't work come up just the fact they couldn't have the Fire Dept. on them because they were old.

He said they should have the Fire Dept. on their frequency so if a fire truck rolls whoever is in that area can get that road plowed and treated quickly so they can get to the scene safely. I was told they couldn't do that not that they were no good and they need new ones. If they are buying new radios they better be able to put the Fire Dept. on them in my eyes from being in

that line of work he said.

Mr. Johnson asked if these new radios are analog or digital.

Mr. Capello said he did not know.

Mr. Johnson asked Chief Reinert if the Fire Dept. radios were digital or analog.

Chief Reinert said their radios are digital and analog capable.

Mr. Johnson asked if there is any use for the radios that are being replaced.

Mr. Capello said no and that they can't even get parts for them anymore and that they may have been hand-me-downs from the Police or Fire Dept.

Chief Reinert said they are his dept.'s old Motorola radios that were pre-Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Johnson asked if these radios will communicate with the ones in the vehicles and if the ones in the vehicles need to be replaced.

Mr. Capello said the new radios would communicate with the ones in the vehicles and he would find out if any of the vehicle radios need replacement.

Mr. Johnson said if there is an opportunity to offset what is in the budget by using these funds he would go with what Mr. Vachon said and if the truck radios need to be replaced do them all.

Mr. Vachon read from the DPW Director's memo that the DPW radios are not communicating or transmitting and is a safety issue with the coming winter months and that this has been brought up every budget season when he asked for added funds in that line to start replacing and repairing them.

Mr. Capello said he would find out about the truck radios and that would be a different quote and he was just looking to get these radios to start moving forward on some of this stuff.

Mr. Vachon said everything for the portables and truck radios was included in one of the quotes for \$17,524.

Mr. Capello said if the board wanted to go for the "full boat" they would gladly do that.

Mr. Johnson said would want to confirm that this covers everything for all 3 depts. and that it would all be covered by this grant before he would vote for it. He said he would prefer to go with the full boat to get it all updated and working before the snow season arrives.

Chief Drury suggested that they get portable chargers for the trucks so the portable radios could be charged as they are driving the vehicles. He said the batteries in the portables are much better than they used to be and he has a couple that will go 24 hours and most of them will go for 12 hours and being able to charge those in the vehicles would extend their life.

Mr. Vachon asked if there are any radios that are a couple of years old that need to be replaced.

Mr. Capello said they didn't have any that are a couple of years old as they have been replacing parts of the radios by piecemeal. He said he just received a text message from the DPW Director that said this would cover everything.

Mr. Johnson said so then they would not hear from him about missing a piece or they need this because they forgot something and he is well aware of that.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to approve the purchase of new radio equipment for the DPW, Wastewater and Water treatment Depts. in the amount not to exceed \$18, 532.70 with the funds to come from the COVID-19 grant with the stipulation that we verify that the funds can legally be used for this purpose passed 5-0.

Computers- Mr. Johnson asked what the 8 personal computers shown on the quote from TechSoup2Nuts quote were for.

Mr. Capello said they would replace 5 computers in the Town Clerk's office, 2 in the Planning Dept. office and 1 in the Welfare office.

Mr. Vachon asked how outdated the existing computers are.

Mr. Capello said they are about 7.5 years old.

Chairman Proulx asked if the computer in the Finance Administrator's office is fine for what she is doing.

Mr. Capello said that computer was replaced 2 years ago.

Chairman Proulx asked if it is where it needs to be with the software needed with the things they could be looking at now.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Mr. Johnson recalled that they also got an updated laptop at that time for when they go to Town Meeting, etc. He asked if there is any proposed use for the old stuff.

Mr. Capello said he planned to keep a few of them to have a spare in case a computer goes down and they would have something to operate until their computer gets repaired.

Mr. Johnson asked if the Rec. Dept. might have a use for them in their after school program.

Mr. Capello said there may be a potential use for them there and they were not going to get rid of them. He said they would wipe them clean and repurpose them to something that doesn't require the same attention.

Mr. Johnson said the senior center may be able to use a couple of PC's for their online activities. He asked if this proposed use was a legitimate use for the funds.

Mr. Capello said yes and that he had that e-mail in front of him.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to purchase eight desk top PC's for the Tax Collector, Planning and Welfare offices including installation and software in the amount of \$9,420 with funding to come from the grant;

Discussion: Mr. Staples said they're replacing these other ones because they are outdated and old and keeping one in case one of these go down. He said hopefully it would be a while before one of these goes down and asked if they should buy a back up because if those are outdated now 3 or 4 years from now when they have trouble with one of these, those (the current PC's) will be so outdated they will be useless.

Mr. Johnson said the new computers would be under warranty for at least a year and if one of them dies after it's out of warranty they are updated so quickly that they would just buy

another one for \$900 at that time. He said the downside of the extra new one is that it may just sit around in a closet somewhere and they may never use it.

Mr. Capello said they also have the Future Technology Fund for that purpose.

Mr. Vachon asked if they have a P drive that everybody can put things on and access e-mail.

Mr. Capello said they have an S drive that will serve the purpose while whatever is happening with the one that went down.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

Senior Center Windows – Mr. Johnson asked which windows would be replaced at the former courthouse (527 Main St).

Mr. Capello said all the first floor windows would be replaced with the exception of the stained glass windows.

Mr. Johnson said that is not the display windows up front but the double hung windows.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Mr. Vachon said his only concern is that it doesn't change the esthetics of the exterior of the front façade and it still has the historic look to it.

Mr. Johnson said there is just a store front on the front of the building and they are not doing anything with those windows and it would be just the side windows that would be replaced.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Mr. Johnson asked if they had another bid for this.

Mr. Capello said they also had a bid from Home Depot and they requested bids from several other places but they couldn't get anyone else to do it. Lowe's was the best price he said.

Chairman Proulx asked how many windows there are on the second floor.

Mr. Capello said they are doing a total of 6 windows on the first floor and he didn't know how many are on the second floor and they could come back to that at some point.

Chairman Proulx said they should look into it if they are going to try to tighten up the building for use by seniors.

Mr. Johnson suggested they could do the second floor windows with next year's funds.

Mr. Capello said they may be coming back to the board to talk about a potential plan for other uses for the second floor of the building and this would be part of the plan because whatever they do they would want to have operating windows.

Mr. Dickie asked if they are also looking at the flooring for that building.

Mr. Capello said yes but that is something they would probably do out of the operating budget. We are getting quotes on that as we speak he said.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to replace the windows in the old courthouse on the first floor, not the front façade windows but the rear and the side windows with the quote from Lowe's in the amount of \$4,985.50 with the funds to come from the COVID-19 grant passed 5-0.

Shed at Park – Chairman Proulx asked if there was a size they were looking for.

Mr. Capello said they were looking at one that is 16' x 20' which is slightly bigger than the

existing shed. He estimated the current shed is 12' x 18' and this bigger shed would be more advantageous for storage.

Mr. Johnson said the price includes the shed, the delivery and the installation and doesn't include any modifications they talked about previously.

Mr. Capello said it doesn't include any modifications, the electrical or the plumbing and he would take that from the operating budget if possible.

Mr. Johnson suggested that could be paid for through the grant.

Mr. Dickie asked if there was a reason they don't put it on a cement pad vs. putting it up on blocks.

Mr. Capello said he was not aware of any reason for that.

Mr. Dickie said he thought putting it on a cement pad would keep the moisture from getting in underneath it.

Mr. Staples asked if with going up on the size they would still be able to meet the setbacks.

Mr. Capello said yes and they have plenty of room.

Mr. Dickie said a pad would also keep any critters from getting underneath it.

Mr. Johnson asked if there is any reason they wouldn't want it on a slab and if the grant would cover a slab.

Mr. Capello said he didn't know of a reason not to put to put it on a slab and they are filling out the paperwork which is due December 17.

Mr. Johnson said so they could still add a slab.

Mr. Capello said he wasn't going to attempt to get this until the spring of next year.

Mr. Johnson suggested that they hold off on this until they get the quotes for the slab.

Mr. Staples asked that they try to get quotes from the concrete people in town so they can keep it local.

Mr. Capello said they try to do that but the companies don't always respond.

Cleaning of Well #5 – Mr. Capello said the board already approved this expense and he was trying to keep everything together. He said the board approved taking it out of the operating budget but if it could be funded out of the grant to take it out of that which it can be.

He said next year this would be a little pricier because they will be doing the 1 million gallon tank on Bay Road next year.

Mr. Johnson said that will come out of next year's grant funds.

Welfare – Mr. Capello said this is the stuff they have had to spend because of COVID and now that all the moratoriums are off this is something they can get reimbursed through the ARP funds so he is looking for the board to authorize them to reimburse the general fund for the \$7,307. We are over budget in welfare right now and I anticipate that happening for the rest of the year so I'll probably be coming back to you monthly if you agree with doing this he said. He said he asked the Welfare Director to track it on a monthly basis only for stuff that is related to COVID nothing else.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to approve the \$7,307 reimbursement from the COVID-19 fund to the operating budget to cover welfare expenses that are directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic passed 5-0.

Mr. Dickie said he heard Mr. Capello say 10% of the \$730,000 which is roughly \$70,000 and the board just authorized spending approx. \$37,000 of that \$70,000.

Mr. Capello said not all of that comes out of the \$70,000.

Mr. Johnson said approx. \$27,000 of this comes out of the \$70,000.

Mr. Dickie said so roughly \$40,000 is left. He said the Town Clerk's office does the billing for the Water and Sewer Depts. and asked if some of those funds could be used to purchase the upgraded Avitar software program the Town Clerk is looking to buy.

Mr. Capello said that may be able to come from the actual grant as opposed to the 10% profit loss amount. He said that is a good question and that he would look into it.

Mr. Johnson asked if they had an additional stand alone desk top computer that was solely for use for wastewater and water if that was something that would be useful.

Town Clerk Becky Dickie said the desk in the middle of the building they use to refer to as the water desk but now they have Badger and it's all online and is browser based so she can do most of it right from her desk. She said they still use that desk and need a computer there to do the final water and sewer billing and she could do her billing from there.

Mr. Johnson asked if they buy an additional PC and it sits on that desk if that would serve a need that she currently has.

Mrs. Dickie said yes.

Mr. Johnson said they could buy a laptop for that desk and call it the water/wastewater billing PC then they could justify the purchase of the software and the laptop and make it all one package and put that on the COVID-19 bill and not worry about it coming out of that 10%. He said they would also have a laptop they could use if they needed one for Town Meeting.

Mrs. Dickie said that is something she was going to ask for when it is her turn to talk about the budget because she does not have one right now.

Mr. Johnson said it would also give them the benefit of having an extra PC if one goes down in the Tax Collector's office. He said he would change one of the existing desk tops to a lap top and bill it to the ARP funds so they would still have 5 computers but it would be 4 desk tops and 1 laptop. He said the price would change and if they come through with a modification the board could vote on the modification for the laptop.

Mr. Capello said he wanted to get these things ordered because the lead time on things is not fun right now. He said as they go through the budget season they may see other projects that could be funded with the ARP funds.

8). Town Administrator's Business:

a). Health Trust Insurance Contract- Mr. Capello said their health insurance went down 8.5% this year but he was not making any promises for next year. He asked the board to authorize

him to sign the contract with Health Trust.

Mr. Vachon said the cost for coverage is an 80/20 split between the employee and the Town and asked what savings the Town would actually see.

Mr. Capello said it is an 88/12 or 88/15 split depending on the plan.

Mr. Johnson said the employees will get a refund on their payments too. He said the 2022 rates were included in the board's packets and it says the member group medical rate is going to go down .3%.

Mr. Capello said that's member rate for that whole pool and we are going down 8% of that pool. This is for the 2022 budget that we are coming into he said.

Mr. Johnson said he told them initially this was a drop in the existing rate and they were going to get some of it back and that's not true.

Mr. Capello said they got \$100,000 back.

Mr. Johnson said this is in addition to that.

Mr. Capello said that is correct. He then corrected that they are getting \$46,000 back from Health Trust and that it is Primex where they are getting \$100,000 back.

Mr. Vachon said of that \$46,000 some of that goes back to the employees.

Mr. Johnson said that is better than he expected with them getting a rebate and a reduced rate for next year.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the renewal contract with Health Trust for employee medical, dental, short term disability, long term disability and life insurance passed 5-0.

b). Committee Appointment Form – Mr. Capello said the board voted to appoint Angela Hardin to the Economic Development Committee and asked them to sign the appointment form. Selectmen then signed the form.

c). Bridges Workshop – Mr. Capello said as they are coming into budget season he didn't know if the board wanted to have a workshop in regard to the bridges in town and to try to make a plan going forward based on Hoyle Tanner Structural Engineer Josif Bicja's bridge review that he did to look at how they want to budget for it. He said if that is something the board wants to do he will get that scheduled with an otherwise very limited agenda. Consensus of the board was to have the workshop to determine how they will address this over the next few years and how they will fund it.

Mr. Capello said he would schedule the workshop for sooner rather than later because the direction of the board will determine how much time they need to meet the requirements of their plan.

d). Tire Removal Cost- Mr. Vachon asked if they ever found out how much the Town is paying to get rid of tires.

Mr. Capello said he forgot and then e-mailed Transfer Station Supervisor Pete Spencer to get an answer.

Mr. Vachon said if he could save the Town some money he would point them to his vendor.

e). Resignation – Mr. Vachon said the board needed to accept the resignation of Sergeant Jonathan A. Langley.

Motion: (Vachon, second Johnson) to accept the resignation of Sergeant Jonathan A. Langley from the Farmington Police Dept. as of October 8 with regret passed 5-0.

Mr. Johnson asked if Sgt. Langley had an exit interview.

Mr. Capello said he gave him a couple of opportunities to do it and he never followed up with him to do it.

Mr. Johnson said Sgt. Langley had been with the dept. for a long time and he would have liked the opportunity to talk to him. He asked Chief Drury if he would get in contact with Sgt. Langley and ask him if he would like to talk members of the board or the entire board.

f). Highway Dept. Monthly Report – Mr. Vachon said the (2009 Ford) Crown Victoria had a state inspection at the B & B Service Center (and failed the inspection).

Mr. Capello said that is the vehicle driven by the Code Enforcement Officer and it is coming off the road and he will be using the SUV until the Police Chief retires a cruiser.

Mr. Vachon said that was on October 1 and the vehicle left the property today so they are driving an uninspected Town vehicle around.

Mr. Capello said yes.

Mr. Vachon asked if that vehicle would be going offline at 7 a.m. the next morning since it is uninspected and illegal to be on the streets. That vehicle shouldn't leave this lot unless it's on a wrecker and that car needs to be out of service. Correct me if I'm wrong Chief he said.

Chief Drury said he can give permission for the Town to take it over to the Highway Dept. to be decommissioned so it doesn't have to go on a tow truck and that's all he can do. He added it would be decommissioned tomorrow at 7 a.m.

Mr. Vachon then asked for clarification on truck #301 (2007 GMC 5500 dump truck). He said it appears to be a hydraulic issue and they were given a work order for \$1,600 but it doesn't say what the issue was.

Mr. Capello said he would find out.

Mr. Vachon asked if the Highway Dept. was still down 2 full time laborer positions.

Mr. Capello said yes and that they interviewed somebody that day.

Mr. Vachon noted they interviewed one applicant for 2 positions so far with winter coming.

g). Road Issues- Mr. Vachon said he received a call from a resident today who was not very happy that all they are doing is scraping the surface and are not digging down past the potholes on the dirt roads. He said he drove it and it looks nice and flat but if they didn't dig the bottom of the potholes they will re-show again as soon as we get rain. He asked Mr. Capello to have them dig to the bottom of the potholes so we aren't going through this again in a month before the snow comes and then explained the correct procedure.

Mr. Capello said he would have them do so.

h). Old Fire Station Storage – Mr. Vachon said he wasn't on the board at the time and asked why we had a new fire station built and if it was because the old one was unsafe.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Mr. Vachon asked why they are using it for storage.

Mr. Capello said the only thing that is supposed to be in there are the antique fire trucks and the rest of the stuff in there is junk.

Mr. Vachon asked why it wasn't gotten rid of and it's full of junk.

Mr. Capello said it's just because they never hired a dumpster to get rid of it.

Mr. Vachon said as of right now if someone wanted to buy that building it's full of all kinds of stuff and when you move out of your house you don't leave it looking like s—t you clean it up.

Mr. Capello said if the board wants him to get a dumpster over there he will do so and throw everything out.

i). Bid Opening- Chairman Proulx opened and read aloud the following bids for the property located at 29 Bunker Street:

1). Craig Collins of Pittsfield bid \$75,000 plus the \$5,000 escrow for cleanup

2). Jason Lauze of Farmington bid \$70,000

Mr. Capello said the minimum bid for the property was \$60,000 plus the \$5,000 escrow and he explained to the bidders that the \$5,000 escrow is separate from the purchase price and the bidders have seen the property.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to award the bid for 29 Bunker Street to Craig Collins in the amount of \$75,000 plus the \$5,000 refundable deposit;

Discussion: Mr. Staples asked if this was the same person who submitted a bid previously and then backed out of his offer.

Mr. Capello said this is not the same person that backed out of the deal previously.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

j). Restore Involuntary Lot Merger – Mr. Capello said the board voted on the involuntary merger last week and the board needs to vote to give the Chairman permission to sign it.

Motion: (Vachon, second Johnson) to authorize Chairman Paula Proulx to sign the restoration of the involuntary merger for the lots of Lance S. and Cheryl Robicheau, Tax Map R 43, Lot 007, 922 Meaderboro Road passed 4-0-1 (Proulx abstained).

9). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (I)

Consideration of Legal Advice passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 7:33 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:53 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to seal the minutes as disclosure would render the proposed action ineffective passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye).

10). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of Public Employees, Reputation passed 4-0-1 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Staples, Vachon-aye; Dickie-abstained) at 7:53 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0-1 (Dickie abstained) at 8:15 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to increase the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector's hourly wage rate to \$19.50 an hour and to increase the Assistant Clerk's hourly wage rate to \$16.50 an hour effective at the October 31, 2021 pay period passed 4-0-1 (Dickie abstained).

11). Non-Public Session C:

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of Public Employees, Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 8:15 p.m.

Motion: (Staples, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:33 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to fund the additional 66% of wage increases for the senior officers and sergeants in the Police and Fire Depts. as previously discussed effective October 31, 2021 passed 5-0.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to increase the salaries for the Police Chief, Fire Chief Road Agent/DPW Director, Water/Wastewater Supervisor, Town Administrator and Transfer Station Supervisor in the amounts discussed in non-public session effective October 31, 2021 passed 5-0.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to increase the hourly wage for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector as discussed in non-public session effective October 31, 2021 passed 4-0-1 (Dickie abstained). Selectmen approved hourly wage increases for the following positions:

Police Chief: (current rate-\$44.41) to \$46.00;

Fire Chief: (current rate-\$32.25) to \$34.25;

Road Agent/DPW Director: (current rate-\$28.16) to \$32.00;

Water/Wastewater Supervisor: (current rate-\$29.54) to \$33.25;

Town Administrator: (current rate- \$44.34) to \$46.00;

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: (current rate-\$28.70) to \$30.20 and

Transfer Station Supervisor: (current rate-\$23.00) to \$24.50

12). Non-Public Session D:

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of Public Employees, Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 8:40 p.m.

Motion: (Staples, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 9:15 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to seal the minutes as disclosure would render the proposed action ineffective passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye).

13). Non-Public Session E:

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of a Public Employee, Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 9:15 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 9:35 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to seal the minutes as disclosure would render the proposed action ineffective passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye).

14). Non-Public Session F:

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of a Public Employee, Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 9:35 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 9:50 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to approve a wage increase for Parks & Recreation Director of \$1 per hour to \$22.58 an hour effective October 31, 2021 passed 5-0.

15). Mutual Aid Program for Public Works:

Mr. Vachon told the board about the public works mutual aid program where towns may enter into an agreement to provide mutual aid and assistance which could include personnel, equipment, services and supplies in response to a natural disaster or other public works emergency. He asked Mr. Capello to provide the board with additional information for review.

16). Next Meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021

17). Adjournment:

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 9:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

Paula Proulx, Chairman

Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

Ken Dickie

Douglas Staples

Gerry Vachon