

/Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Selectmen's Chambers
Monday, December 27, 2021

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Ken Dickie

Others Present:

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
James Reinert, Fire Chief
Pete Spencer, Transfer Station
Supervisor
Steve Rutherford

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). Public Input:

Mr. Capello complimented the DPW road crew for their work this weekend. He said it was a very long weekend with a lot of different types of weather with ice, rain and snow and they did a tremendous job keeping the roads as clear as they could given the circumstances they were faced with.

Chairman Proulx said especially on Christmas of all times to have an ice and snow storm.

Fire Chief James Reinert said he would like to thank the Farmington Fireman's Relief Assoc. for their help with the toy drive again this year. He said they helped make a difference for 76 individual children in 28 individual families.

Chairman Proulx thanked them for doing that and unfortunately there are a lot of people who are down under it this year.

4). Review of Minutes:

December 13, 2021- Public Meeting Minutes-

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to accept the minutes as written;

Mr. Vachon asked if the board was going to vote to allow Mr. Dickie to participate in the meeting remotely by phone.

Mr. Capello said he requested to call in only if the board needed him to.

Vote: The motion passed 3-0-1 (Vachon-abstained).

December 20, 2021 – Non-Public Sessions A, B and C – No errors or omissions

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0.

5). Transfer Station Budget:

a). Recycling Program -Mr. Staples said seeing the corporate greed and the lack of cooperation Mr. Spencer gets from their vendor that we use for most of our recycling and trash he understood why the board voted the way it did to end the recycling program. He said it's been horrible trying to get the vendor the Town currently has to give prices, to work with the guys to get them training, to try and sell stuff and in his opinion the town is getting robbed. He said the problem that he, Mr. Spencer and the staff is running into is as a transfer station trying to get back into recycling they have nothing to show for his numbers so they can't tell a vendor how much we produce a month or a year so the numbers he's getting are at the bottom and they can't get anything from the Town's main vendor. He said this is a huge problem because not only do we pay an annual fee to be part of this organization that is supposed to broker, sell and do everything for us and make sure the guys get top of the line training they also make money every time Mr. Spencer sends out tires and every time he calls someone in to do the Freon and there's a paperwork fee for that.

Mr. Johnson asked for the name of the vendor.

Mr. Staples said the town is part of the **Northeast Resource Recovery Assoc.** and they are a non-profit organization that is supposed to look out for the best interests of the towns and the transfer stations and use their mass network to ensure Mr. Spencer gets the best price when selling and the absolute lowest price when getting rid of stuff. He said Mr. Vachon has brought to the Board's and Mr. Capello's attention that the tires aren't the best price and every little bit helps. I've tried to work with them as my company and what they pay and what they charge is hugely different he said.

Mr. Spencer said the Town's prices were way off from what Mr. Staple's company is getting and some of it was as much as a \$1.33 lower compared to what Mr. Staples gets.

Mr. Johnson said then they should just dump the NRRA.

Mr. Staples said he likes that idea but for the first year or so they need to find out our volume. He said Mr. Spencer has tried for months to get a price out of them and the lady that returned his call tried to sell him back to single stream recycling and that is not what we asked for.

Mr. Spencer said they are looking for that mixed blend too and they want to sort paper, cardboard, plastic and there was the issue where they would have 2 commodities that would be considered a double sort so they would get more money that he didn't understand at all. He said if they have 2 of the same plastics they're calling it a double sort it's still going to be the same profit margin coming and going and he doesn't understand the double sort side of it.

Mr. Staples said they are selling a service and we can do it if the residents want to get the recycling out but the problem is it will be like it was with the single stream-they'll give you the bait and switch where they'll give you this, get you hooked on it and then whack you with fees, the sorting and separating fees go up.

Mr. Spencer said they never know who they are going to use for a trucking company and there

have been issues with trucks arriving hours or days late. He said they have sometimes burnt 4 hours of their day when they should be doing other things instead of waiting for a company. Chairman Proulx said this is what they have been dealing with and why they made the decisions they've made and asked Mr. Staples what he thought as he may see it differently being in that business.

Mr. Staples said everybody wants to hang the Selectmen because they got rid of recycling and they don't see the behind the scenes hell that Mr. Spencer has been going through and before he didn't have anybody in the business to tell him to tell them no and to push back. He said Mr. Johnson is right and that he does not believe the NRRRA is good for the town but he is skeptical of pulling out just yet. He said he hoped the board would agree to give them a "warning shot" and have Mr. Capello contact the NRRRA sales rep and make it clear the Town is not happy and wants quick responses to pricing on recycled goods and that will give Mr. Spencer time to look into it, learn the market and network.

He also asked if the board wouldn't mind he would like to introduce Mr. Spencer to people that do business with the NRRRA in other towns but mostly market themselves to help Mr. Spencer get his feet wet with the organizations out there and isn't tied down.

Mr. Spencer said it has gotten to the point that when you call them they want the number of Freon units and you tell them 78 and end up with 102 and they are upset by it but 3 weeks has gone by before the vendor comes and takes care of it. We can't control that he said.

Mr. Staples asked if board wanted to have Mr. Spencer contact Mr. Capello when they need something from the NRRRA and see if the NRRRA would be more cooperative with Mr. Capello. Mr. Vachon said they might not want to cooperate at all with Mr. Capello so he would get Mr. Spencer rolling on the right track before he has Mr. Capello call them.

Mr. Johnson asked if they pay a set fee to the NRRRA.

Mr. Staples said yes and it's set by the number of residents but he didn't have the paperwork with him.

Mr. Spencer said they paid \$1,300 for the annual fee and gives them the right of trucking the materials and some classroom training but he has never seen anything worthy of taking. He explained how they break things down more and instead of having 4 pickups they may have 2 in the whole year so it saves the trucking fee and stock time. The most in and out things are the tires and the Freon and we've done 6 loads of tires and 4 call-outs for Freon this year he said. Mr. Capello said they would be coming to the board after the first of the year to look at prices because as they are being charged more they need to look at what they are charging people to get rid of the stuff.

Chairman Proulx said this is the problem Mr. Staples is trying to avoid because if we're not getting the prices we need to get then they should be pushing back a little to find out what they can get for prices because they look at municipalities like they have endless pockets and expect us to do that and don't care that they have to do that.

Mr. Spencer said sometimes they are spending more than they are making in revenue to get rid of it and it's a service provided to the town but they don't have an endless piggy bank.

Mr. Staples said 90% of his business is dealing with towns and transfer stations and most of the time it is run by the Public Works dept. head that needs to get rid of it and doesn't have the time so he doesn't investigate it very much. He said very rarely do you deal with transfer station attendant like Mr. Spencer who is trying to learn it and is on top of it and a lot of the time you get an attendant who makes the call and doesn't care because it's not his money.

He said if the company doesn't have the individual tonnage numbers of the materials produced it's hard for them to say they'll buy it because they're not going to come here and pick up 10 tons.

Mr. Spencer said if we say we have 8 bales but they want 20 bales going out how long do they have to sit on the different commodities before they actually get rid of it. He said they are spending all this money to make bales when it is sitting for longer than they can harbor it because they are not going to come to the facility for 8 bales.

Mr. Staples asked the board if they should continue having Mr. Spencer contact the NRRA and he will try to get him up and running with other vendors as fast as they can.

Chairman Proulx asked if when they go through the budget if they will see that the compactor is in there.

Mr. Capello said yes.

Chairman Proulx said that gives them until after March and they approve the budget and asked Mr. Spencer how much networking they can do in the meantime.

Mr. Spencer said he thought they could do quite a bit in 3 months.

Mr. Vachon said it would be as much as he could do on a Friday or a Monday because everybody else is closed on weekends.

Mr. Spencer said now that there is a third employee at the transfer station he can be the ticket person/can guy, Mr. Rutherford can operate the scale and run the yard and he can go and see some of these places and what they are getting for revenues and share some ideas.

Mr. Staples said for selling the recycling part they should stay with the NRRA for the first year and next year they would bring pricing to the board showing this is what they pay, what they are saving by not sending it to the landfill and what they will make for baling it.

Chairman Proulx said she would be okay with them networking in the meantime and it would be a good idea to see what we can do and not to let up on the NRRA. Unless you have the actual numbers you may not get the best price if they don't know what you are doing she said.

Mr. Vachon asked if they have the space there to go to a sort facility.

Mr. Capello said they wouldn't be able to sort everything but if they chose an item to do each month such as aluminum cans they have space to store the bales.

Mr. Vachon said that would be a s**t show if they have to tell people in Jan. they have to sort their aluminum cans, Feb. they have to do cardboard, etc. It's either got to be sorted or not

sorted he said.

Mr. Capello said the problem is they only have one baler and they will have to pick something to bale.

Mr. Vachon said they could get another compacting machine and compact the rest of it. He said humans are creatures of habit and they can't be swapping it out monthly and it has to be complete sort, blended or single stream.

Mr. Spencer said once they took people out of the normal cycle of recycling it was hell.

Chairman Proulx said after they get this budget done they should have a workshop on this. She said they found the plans for landfill/transfer station area and where they can put things and if they have to have 50 bales of something before they come pick it up they have to have a place to store it as this stuff can't be in the weather.

She said they are going to have to plan for that and it has to be before March because if they're going to ask to have a baler they better have a plan to have a baler. We know what we want but we don't know if it's completely feasible or to start with a couple of the big commodities and get an idea of how much storage would be required for each she said.

Mr. Spencer said cardboard and aluminum would be good commodities to start with as they are the better money makers.

Mr. Staples said Mr. Spencer had an idea to put the bins out and you dump the tin in one bin, the plastic in this bin and that is what they do in Dunbarton. He said they bring the bins inside to store them and when they have enough to bale one certain thing they bale it and put it out.

Mr. Johnson then asked why they are wasting their time going into this level of detail when they are not going to make a decision tonight. Let's get to the budget and take this up at another time he said.

Chairman Proulx said because that might determine whether she wants to do some of the stuff in this budget.

Mr. Johnson said they are not going to make a decision on any of this tonight so why are they discussing it. We've already wasted a half hour on it he said.

Chairman Proulx said that is true but if she is going to look at the whole budget she better understand it.

Consensus of the board was to go with Mr. Staples' suggestion to have Mr. Spencer continue to contact the NRRA and to network with other communities regarding their recycling programs.

b). Proposed Transfer Station Budget-Landfill Solid Waste: (expenditures as of 12/22/21)
Scale Certification (2021 budgeted-\$1,700, \$1,092 spent; 2022 request-\$1,700) - Mr. Spencer said line is for the inspection, yearly calibration and if a cell goes on them. He said the underbelly of the scale has started to rust and they have to clean it and paint it and he would like to take care of that.

Landfill Phone (2021 budgeted-\$377, \$512 spent; 2022 request-\$400) - Mr. Johnson asked why they are asking for \$400 when they have overspent this line for the last 2 years.

Mr. Capello said it's based on the Atlantic Broadband bills because part of this year they had double billing so they took the last several months' bills and multiplied it by 12.

Tire Removal (2021 budgeted-\$550, \$474 spent; 2022 request-\$0) – Mr. Johnson asked why this line has \$0 requested.

Mr. Spencer said he didn't know why the line was blank and asked Mr. Capello what they came up with for a figure there.

Mr. Capello said he didn't recall why it was left blank and suggested they level fund it at \$550.

Mr. Spencer said this depends on how many big tires they get and that increases the price.

Chairman Proulx asked when that starts happening if he would adjust the prices for drop off.

Mr. Spencer said he would have to adjust it with the new prices they're looking at and they are talking about scaling us for a truck or doing individual tire prices. He said they get \$4 a passenger tire and they are talking about going up to \$4.75 and going up for dirty tires.

Mr. Staples asked if that was the NRRA price.

Mr. Spencer said he thought that was the BDS price and the other companies have also increased their prices and the one they used to use no longer exists.

Chairman Proulx said this is usually an in and out with these things and advised him not to cut himself short if he starts seeing the prices go up.

Landfill Electricity (2021 budgeted-\$4,000, \$2,929 spent; 2022 request-\$400) - Mr. Capello said a zero was missing from the requested amount and it should say \$4,000 not \$400.

Landfill Building (2021 budgeted-\$1,200, \$1,620 spent; 2022 request-\$100) – Mr. Vachon asked if the requested amount for this line was also missing a zero.

Mr. Spencer said yes and it is supposed to be \$1,000.

Chairman Proulx asked what this line is for.

Mr. Spencer said it is for anything that occurs on the grounds or the buildings, maintenance, painting, etc. and they had to take care of some new gates, the rails and the steel.

Landfill Stickers (2021 budgeted-\$2,600, \$1,314 spent; 2022 request-\$2,600) – Mr. Spencer said the cost of stickers has gone up.

Mr. Vachon asked who they get the stickers from.

Mr. Spencer said he tried one roll with Rydin and then with Lilac Printers which is the better of the two and the difference is a couple of dollars. He said Rydin then came to him with a different quote and one is better than the other for windshield stickers and one is better than the other for MSW tags and he has to determine which company he wants to work with.

He said he got tags from Lilac Printers and they lasted for 3 years for about \$3,600. He said there are 1,000 stickers on a roll, 6 rolls and that's about \$1,300 so he wants a bigger volume so they are not buying them 6 rolls at a time which would get expensive.

Repairs and Parts (2021 budgeted-\$2,000, \$1,974 spent; 2022 requested-\$2,000) - Mr. Spencer said this could be equipment, anything on the grounds and lately seems to be the backhoe. He said he bought tires, hoses and hydraulics and that would be his side of it being that it's shared.

Chairman Proulx asked if this was the one they were looking at for potential use of the ARP funds.

Mr. Vachon said Mr. Tiffany had asked for a backhoe for the Water Dept.

Chairman Proulx said then they could have this one dedicated to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Spencer said it wouldn't have to go anywhere other than to the Highway Dept. to be serviced.

Mr. Vachon said to keep in mind that this line would have to be increased because he would be paying 100% of the service on it.

Mr. Spencer said he didn't know how it would if work if Highway or Mr. Tiffany got a new backhoe to share or how this one would inherit to the Transfer Station.

Chairman Proulx said they would figure that out later and see what they can do.

Solid Waste Hauling (2021 budgeted-\$70,668, \$50,076 spent; 2022 request-\$70,000) – Mr. Staples asked if this is just for trucking.

Mr. Spencer said this is just the trucking.

Mr. Capello said based on the contract there was a 4% increase this year.

Mr. Spencer said it is going to go up by 4% again which brings up about \$9.

Mr. Staples asked who was doing the hauling.

Mr. Spencer said Waste Management is the hauler.

Mr. Staples asked what we are paying per can for the trucking.

Mr. Spencer said its \$234 per can.

Solid Waste Tipping Fees (2021 budgeted-\$92,000, \$69,147 spent; 2022 request-\$80,000) – Mr. Spencer said the requested amount includes the 4% increase.

Landfill Recycling (2021-\$30,000, \$5,439 spent; 2022 request-\$60,000) - Mr. Spencer said the \$60,000 would be to get things going with the baler and the building and other expenditures such as electrical work. He said he has a \$6,000 quote from Atlantic Recyclers to restore the baler to brand new with all decals, painted and resurrected.

Mr. Capello asked if the board wanted to pull \$30,000 out of there and do a warrant article to let the legislative body vote on whether they want to spend that money to get the recycling back up and going or to leave it in the operating budget.

Chairman Proulx said she didn't mind taking it out and putting it in a warrant article as long as they can fully explain what they are going to do and if they have a plan to go forward with.

Mr. Staples said they will have to get pricing from the NRRA to put up a fight for what they want to do and they are not cooperating right now.

Chairman Proulx said to try to sell this to the people they would have to have some kind of a plan to show that it makes sense.

Mr. Capello said that is something they will have to hash out here. He said although he agreed with Mr. Staples about our vendor it is difficult for them to give us a price without any history so they are going to low ball it.

Mr. Staples said if this is something they want to do they could get a price on baled corrugated cardboard, cans and tin that we are recycling now and show the difference he is making.

Chairman Proulx said they probably could get at least some of that going forward to tell people this is the plan and this is why we want you to spend this money towards it.

Mr. Capello asked for the board's pleasure-to pull the money out or leave it in the budget.

Mr. Johnson said they were pulling \$30,000 out to start the recycling but they are only spending \$6,000 (to repair the baler) and asked where the other \$24,000 would go. He said they have to account for every dollar of the \$30,000 if they are going to make it a warrant article.

Mr. Capello said the remaining \$24,000 would go for the concrete pad, the building it would go in and baling materials.

Mr. Johnson said they only spent about \$5,500 out of this line this year.

Mr. Capello said if they are going to do a warrant article for this he could reduce this line to \$15,000 or \$20,000 but advised he wouldn't go any lower than that because if a motor goes on one of compactors it will eat up this line up pretty quick.

Mr. Vachon asked if that would come out of the parts and repairs line.

Mr. Capello said it always been out of that and they can move it around.

Chairman Proulx asked if it is for something that could possibly happen if it would be better to start a **Capital Reserve Fund**.

Mr. Capello said we have one.

Chairman Proulx asked why wouldn't they make it a warrant article to put that money in the CRF instead of in the operating budget and if the board is the agent to expend from the fund. I think it would be cleaner that way she said.

Mr. Johnson said he would put it in the CRF and if they're not using it stop collecting for it.

Mr. Capello said the board has \$5,000 slated to go into this CRF for this year. He said it was set up specifically for the landfill and they made broad enough so they could use it for any equipment or repairs at the landfill.

Mr. Johnson said there is currently \$6,000 in CRF. He suggested they increase the amount they are putting into the fund from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and take it all from the unexpended fund balance and reduce this line to \$10,000.

Mr. Vachon said they should have enough in the CRF to replace a major component if needed.

Mr. Capello said he would reduce this line item to \$10,000, do a warrant article for \$30,000 for recycling and bump up the amount in the warrant article for the Equipment Purchase and Repair CRF to \$20,000 and provide the warrant articles for review at their next meeting.

Regional Solid Waste (2021 budgeted-\$3,479, \$3353 spent; 2022 request-\$3,500)- Mr. Capello said \$1,300 of that is for the NRRRA and the other part goes to Rochester Turnkey for the Hazardous Waste Day.

Universal Waste (2021 budgeted-\$3,400, \$2,670 spent; 2022 request-\$5,000) - Mr. Staples suggested looking for a better price for disposal of these materials.

Mr. Spencer said they can't find anybody to take the CRT TV's and they have to pay to get rid of them.

Discussion then included the names of several companies that will take them and charge by weight or by the can and the Town won't make any money on them until we start charging by weight instead of by the size.

Mr. Staples said the number in this line is way too low and it is not cheap to get rid of the TV's. He said if we went back to crushing them in the dumpster and NH Dept. of Environmental Services found out the fines would be outrageous.

Mr. Capello said they aren't doing that any more since they found out they couldn't. He suggested they leave it the way it is and wait until they get a year under their belts and the CRT TV's will become less and less as people transition to flat screens which are disposable.

Mr. Spencer said they have 6 TV's in the yard now and if they get up to 50 they could be in trouble.

Mr. Capello said if this goes over they will deal with it.

Mr. Staples said by law they can't hold anything for more than a year so next year they can figure out what they had at the end of the year and ship out a Gaylord (pallet sized box for bulk shipping) so he's covered and they can plan for what they have in stock.

Mr. Capello said that brings the new bottom line for this page to \$187,050.

Mr. Johnson said the last line item is Wage (no amounts are listed).

Mr. Capello said it could be deleted from the page.

Mr. Johnson said at the top of the page the word "actual" is misspelled.

Landfill Administration: Landfill Personnel (2021 budgeted-\$48,737, \$73,809 spent; 2022 request-\$85,290) – Mr. Capello said the requested amount is the actual salaries and they moved Mr. Rutherford to full time this year.

Landfill Part Time (2021 budgeted-\$27,560, \$8,090 spent; 2022 request-\$17,641) – Mr. Capello said this is the actual salaries based on the part time hours.

Landfill Uniforms (2022 request-\$950) He said the only thing new in here is they moved the uniforms from the DPW line to the landfill now that they are 2 separate depts. and that is contractual.

Mr. Vachon asked if the DPW line went down by that much.

Mr. Capello said it went down but he would have to look at it to find out by how much.

Mr. Spencer said if you take the 3 of them out it comes to \$950 requested for 2022. He said it is \$400 each for him and Mr. Rutherford and \$150 for the part time employee.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Capello to check to see if they actually dropped the DPW uniform line by as much as this line went up.

Wage Increase (2021 budgeted-\$1,347; 2022 request-\$2,907) – Mr. Johnson asked to have this changed to Wage Adjustment like all the other pages say.

Mr. Capello then reported that the DPW uniform line went down \$650.

Mr. Staples said they hired some guys too.

Mr. Vachon said the board didn't approve any new full time positions so theirs should be budgeted for the same number of people.

Mr. Capello said he would double check with the DPW Director.

Mr. Johnson said they pulled Mr. Rutherford out who was part time under the DPW when that budget was done and now he's full time so that would be a \$300 change. He said the DPW line should have dropped to \$700.

Chairman Proulx noted they also went from a part time person to a full time person at the DPW so that would be another increase.

Mr. Vachon said they promoted a part time DPW employee to full time but that was a back fill position and they didn't make another full time position. He said the DPW budget should account for all positions whether they're filled or not and the ones for the Transfer Station staff should have come out. He asked Mr. Capello to look into it to make sure they came up with the right amount.

(The remaining lines for deductions and benefits are provided by the Finance Administrator.)

6). Discussion of Fulltime Firefighters:

Chief Reinert said at a previous meeting Mr. Johnson asked what they could potentially save off the per diem grouping.

Mr. Capello said he would like the board to give him guidance after speaking with the Chief about how they want to redo the warrant article on the number of full time Firefighters and the timing because that will determine the numbers he puts in the warrant article.

Mr. Johnson asked if the full time positions included all benefits.

Chief Reinert said it includes all benefits, retirement and health insurance at the highest rate for a family plan and his handwritten numbers at the bottom of the page show the potential savings if they took a single plan. He said it's about \$9,000 for a single plan which would be about \$12,500 off of a family plan that a potential new employee would take times 3 positions would be \$37,311 and times 6 positions would be \$74,622 off the health insurance cost.

Mr. Johnson asked if that is already included in his numbers.

Chief Reinert said he budgeted for the worst case scenario and that was a little extra they would have if they were to hire someone that took a single plan.

He said he broke it down by how many full time positions and the cost for starting at 6 months, 8 months or a full year. He said the first section shows the cost for 6 full time positions vs. how much they would still have to pay for per diem to cover that and currently they average twenty-two 24-hour shifts or 525 hours a week.

He said the full time average per shift with all the benefits and the highest insurance would be just under \$900 and they will work 2 shifts a week so that be about \$1800 per position a week.

Chief Reinert said the per diem average, taking into account the average of what they make the potential increase for next year was about \$526 per shift to fill in the remaining shifts and his

proposed budget for wages/benefits for per diem coverage is \$601,755 in 2022.

He said the cost is \$1,052 (per diem) vs. \$1,794 (full time).

Mr. Johnson said this includes retirement.

Chief Reinert said that is correct. He said he got the updated numbers from the Finance Administrator because there is an 8% decrease in the insurance. He the next 3 rows on his handout show if they went with 3 full time positions to give them a ballpark idea of the cost.

Mr. Johnson said for example the 6 full time positions for 6 months is an increase of \$92,000.

The Chief said that is correct and they would see an overall increase of \$92,000 because they would take about \$188,000 from the per diem side and put it towards the full time positions.

The 6 full time positions would be \$279,750 for 6 months and they would still have to cover the rest of the shifts with the per diem (\$414,564) which is approx. \$694,000 which would be an increase from his current proposed 2022 budget. He said out of the \$694,000, \$188,000 would go from the per diem pot of money to the full time positions.

Mr. Vachon asked if he would be running 3 guys per shift full time.

Chief Reinert said if they went to Town Meeting with a proposal for 6 positions it would be 3 shifts of 2 people (two 24 hour shifts x 2) and he would still backfill the 3rd or 4th position with the per diem people. They would work 48 hours before overtime and the state requires overtime for anything over 54 hours for first responders. He said he took the 6 positions at 48 hours which is roughly 287 and subtracted the 525 to give him the balance of the open shifts hours that would still be needed.

Mr. Vachon said a team of two gets two shifts a week so there would be full time Firefighters for 6 days and the 7th day would have to be filled by 3 per diems.

Chief Reinert said that is correct and it would be a set schedule as opposed to a rotating schedule.

Mr. Johnson said realistically he didn't think 42 cents would pass as that would be the impact of 6 fulltime positions for a year and it might be easier to get it passed by doing a first run this year of 3 full time positions for 6 months and also point out in the warrant article that the full year next year is going to be \$115,000. The warrant article would be for 6 months July through December which is an increase of \$57,818 for 2022 and in parenthesis put the annual increase for a full year would be \$115,600 so they know what a full year's cost is and the tax impact of that would be 21 cents for the full year and for the half year it would be 10 cents he said.

He said the next year or the year after they would have something under their belts and then they could propose going to 6 full time positions. That would be more palatable especially with some of the other increases coming down the road this year he said.

Chief Reinert said even that would be a major step forward for the dept. and he asked for the "world" because you never know what support you might get but he understood there have been other significant increases.

Mr. Johnson suggested he have all these numbers available and somebody may propose more

and it may pass.

Chairman Proulx said she would rather see it done that way so it doesn't outright potentially fail. She said the voters are going to see what the school goes up to by that time and the Town is always on the tail end of what they try to do. Instead of having it all flush at once it's better to get the incremental step she said.

Mr. Staples asked where they would be brought in as a warrant article if these guys' jobs would be on the line every March.

Mr. Johnson said no and we only do it the one time.

Mr. Vachon asked how many other surrounding towns within a half hour have full time staff.

Chief Reinert said everyone except for New Durham so Milton, Wakefield, Rochester, Somersworth, Stafford, Lee, Barrington, Alton, Gilmanton, Gilford have full time staff.

Mr. Vachon asked how many full time staff they have.

Chief Reinert said it depends and Wakefield has 7 or 8 full time people, Lee has 4, Barrington has 2 or 3, Rochester and Somersworth are up there and Milton has 3 or 4.

Mr. Johnson said we have put it off pretty much as long as we could get away with it.

Mr. Vachon said our call volume is higher than most of the towns the Chief just named.

Mr. Staples asked out of those communities how many are staffed 24 hours.

The Chief said they all have 24 hour coverage except for Strafford which only does full time day coverage because they don't have the call volume or the facilities to house staff at night.

Mr. Johnson asked if we can house 3 or 4 people.

The Chief said they have 4 individual shift bunk rooms and 2 student rooms.

Mr. Vachon asked if we go with 3 full time positions if it be one full time person and back filling with 2 per diem per shift.

The Chief said that's correct and they would have 1 full time person 24 hours 6 days a week and then the remainder would be per diem.

Mr. Staples asked if this passes if we are competitive enough to swing some people.

Chief Reinert said the numbers he used were competitive and some were better because he was comparing it to what a new patrolman gets in Farmington. He said a couple of our per diem people are full time in other towns and would do a lateral transfer given the opportunity.

Mr. Vachon asked how it looks for back filling per diem positions.

Chief Reinert said it is still tough and one was out for a physical but has COVID and has to wait 10 days to go get their physical and there are a couple of applicants trickling in. He said people that are full time somewhere are not looking for part time any longer because they're getting hammered with the overtime and the COVID stuff.

He said anyone who is per diem or part time can walk into any open full time spot and unfortunately that middle person has gone by the wayside.

Mr. Johnson he didn't think \$115,000 for 3 full time employees was reasonable and just the insurance and retirement eats up the \$115,000 so it's the benefits.

Mr. Capello said he rewrote the warrant article to say it would be \$139,000 for 3 Firefighters for 6 months and the increase would be \$57,818 and the increase for 2023 would be \$115,627 and have a possible tax impact of 21 cents.

Chairman Proulx said the board will want to review the warrant article.

Chief Reinert said that is if operating budget passes and if the payroll gets cut he would have to find the money elsewhere if he is transitioning money from the per diem line to full time.

Chairman Proulx said she didn't expect that would happen though anything is possible.

Mr. Johnson said if that line is cut they would probably have to go to one ambulance.

Chairman Proulx said we wouldn't have any service and that's not usually one that they touch because everybody needs it.

Mr. Vachon said as we have seen in the past it depends on who gets enough backing to show up at Town Meeting to say they want to cut the Fire Dept. budget to zero and if they get enough people there guess what happens. It doesn't look likely but it could happen he said.

Mr. Johnson said they would have to zero out the entire Fire Dept. budget.

Chairman Proulx said if they touch one line it's up to the discretion of the bottom line. You need services she said.

Mr. Vachon said with the way the Town government is set up it can happen and that City Councilors have more authority. When we pack the gym with 60 people it depends on what they want to vote for he said.

Chief Reinert said they have always been supported and they appreciate that.

Radio System Use Agreement- Mr. Capello said the board received copies of the agreement and Sherriff's Office accepted all the changes the Town Attorney and Primex made and he went line by line to make sure they were actually in there.

Chairman Proulx she had asked if they were going to follow the RSA.

Mr. Capello said they feel that it does not need to go as an intergovernmental thing.

Chairman Proulx said she asked if the Chief was okay with that.

Chief Reinert said it's not his forte with that kind of agreement RSA-wise and the Town Attorney was the one that brought it up and he understood that she is okay with that.

Chairman Proulx asked if the Attorney feels with what they have here that the Town is covered for any incidentals that could possibly come up.

Mr. Capello said yes she does. He said she rewrote the indemnification part and Primex rewrote the insurance part to suit their needs and then the Town Attorney gave her final approval and then they sent it off.

Chief Reinert said the bigger argument may be if the Town or the board so chooses to tackle the additional fees.

Mr. Johnson said that would be if and when it happens.

The Chief said they will be getting their invoice soon for 2022 but this project is already paid for out of those fees.

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sherriff's Dept. regarding the radio system use and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign for the board;

Discussion: Mr. Vachon noted that in the Disabling of Radio Units section it says Strafford County can remotely shut our units off and asked if they can turn them back on. Chief Reinert said yes and this is their infrastructure and in their complete control. He said the only thing that would be Farmington's would be the existing user frequency and they don't have the authority or ability to shut that off and it would be used in a backup scenario. Mr. Vachon said he could understand shutting off a lost or stolen radio but a hot mike for 2 minutes they can disable and he wanted to make sure they weren't "frying" that thing remotely just because they don't want to listen to static.

The Chief said no and he was confident that they have the ability to deactivate and reactivate them because there is an identifier on each radio that can be deleted and then reinstall it.

Mr. Vachon asked if they have the ability to call him to tell him that Engine 4's radio has been disabled because it had a hot mike.

Chief Reinert said they would contact him to tell him they couldn't get anybody through Engine 4 so they disabled the radio and ask him to find out why it's keyed up.

Mr. Vachon said he was okay with the MOU except for the unknown fees that they don't have any idea what they're going to charge us and they're signing into it.

Mr. Capello said they almost have the Town over a barrel because come Jan. 31 they are not going to monitor our frequency anymore. He said the Chief is still working on pricing for a repeater as a backup.

Chief Reinert said a request for quotes was put out and he is still waiting for that. He said the New Durham Fire Chief said once he gets the numbers New Durham would commit to offsetting some of that cost for allowing them to use our frequency for the last 10 years. They didn't say how much and to let them know what it is because they also have ARP funds he said. Mr. Vachon said they could still use our repeater if something goes down. He asked if there was another town using our frequency.

Chief Reinert said Middleton was also using it but they currently don't have a Chief and he didn't know what was going on or who was running the show there.

Mr. Vachon suggested contacting them to see if they would consider contributing to the cost for repeater as they would be using it as well.

Chief Reinert said he has a contact there he could speak with.

Vote: The motion passed 4-0.

7). Arthur's Budgets:

Economic Development (2021 budgeted-\$600, \$0 spent; 2022 request-\$600)

Coast Bus Operation (2021 budgeted-\$28,000, \$28,000 spent; 2022 request-\$28,000)

Chairman Proulx asked if there was no anticipation of Coast going up.

Mr. Capello said they went up but he assumed that given everything else the board would want to level fund it. He said they didn't fully fund them last year and they didn't go up on their request from last year so he carried over the amount to level fund it.

Chairman Proulx asked what they asked for last year.

Mr. Capello said they asked for \$32,000 last year, the board settled on \$28,000 and they asked for \$32,000 again this year.

Chairman Proulx asked if we still get any money at all from their advertising revenues.

Mr. Capello said we don't because we don't fully fund their request and last year we would have gotten roughly \$900.

Mr. Staples asked if they have cut back on their services at all.

Mr. Capello said no and we are one of their most popular routes.

Tax Anticipation Note (2021 budgeted-\$1, \$0 spent; 2022 request-\$1) – Mr. Capello said they put \$1 in this line in case they need to take out a TAN.

Interest (2021 budgeted-\$114,271, \$95,646 spent; 2022 request-\$110,738) - He said the requested amount is the interest they pay on all of our long term debt which is broken down below on this page. He said one reason it went up is last year they encumbered the interest for the Scott packs because of the way the warrant article was worded we had to raise and appropriate it the year before, encumbered it for this year and next year they have to pay it.

Mr. Staples said there was talk the school district needed money up front to do infrastructure repairs and we might need to take a TAN and asked if that is something they plan for here.

Mr. Johnson said they are not planning for that at all and have gotten no updates to that.

Principal (2021 budgeted-\$297,441, \$242,925 spent; 2022 requested-\$301,109) – Mr. Capello said this is the principal that we pay on the long term debt and this line also went up because of the Scott pack leases and they have to budget for it this year (\$47,953 requested). This page shows the breakdown of the principal payments he said.

Property & Liability (2021 budgeted-\$173,780, \$173,780 spent; 2022 requested-\$189,420) – Mr. Capello said this represents the 9% increase in our property liability insurance.

Chairman Proulx said there is a \$1,000 deductible for all situations.

Mr. Vachon asked if they only have 1 situation a year or if they don't even have one.

Mr. Capello said typically they may have one that is our fault. He said most of them are not our fault so they end up putting them in the trial balance and then reimbursing the trial balance when they segregate against the person.

Legal Services (2021 budgeted-\$79,000, \$78,945 spent; 2022 request-\$85,000) – Mr. Capello said this number is based on the flat fee we pay the Town Attorney plus some incidental stuff that may come up that are not covered such as personnel issues, etc.

Mr. Johnson asked how much the flat fee went up.

Mr. Capello said it went from \$75,000 to \$78,000.

Mr. Johnson said last year he only budgeted \$4,000 for incidentals and this year they are

budgeting \$7,000.

Mr. Capello said their hourly rate went up also.

Lease Purchases (2021 budgeted-\$4,700, \$3,129 spent; 2022 request-\$4,700) – Mr. Capello said this line is the copy machine and postage machine.

Welfare Director (2021 budgeted-\$42,016, \$32,041 spent; 2022 request-\$38,480 – He said this is the Director's salary (and the lines related to benefits and deductibles).

Welfare – Rents, Etc. (2021 budgeted- \$25,000, \$25,594 spent; 2022 request-\$30,000) – Mr. Capello said he increased this to \$30,000 based on the trend and we are fortunate to be able to reallocate some of the COVID money to offset some of the welfare expenses but that is going to dry up. We would be at \$32,000- \$33,000 if we hadn't reallocated some of that money he said. Chairman Proulx asked if they could say some of the increases were actually due to COVID and if they wouldn't have seen some of the increases if it hadn't been such a screwed up year.

Mr. Capello said they would not have had so many things if it hadn't been for COVID. He said with all the moratoriums that COVID put on everything it made for a much higher impact when they were lifted and people came in for assistance and we would have been able to budget it out better over the course of 18 months. COVID and inflation are killing us in that dept. he said.

Street Lighting (2021 budgeted-\$20,000, \$9,089 spent; 2022 requested-\$20,000) – Mr. Capello said he may reduce this line but he has to get a better sense of the actual amount needed because it seems like this is high and he should have it for next week.

Mr. Johnson asked when the lease ends.

Mr. Capello said he thinks it is a 5 year payback and they still have another 2 years on it. He said that number may change once he gets a look at the final bills.

Mr. Vachon asked if all the Town buildings have been transferred over to LED lighting yet.

Mr. Capello said yes and they only one that is not is the old courthouse because the Town just took over that one.

Personnel Liabilities (2021 budgeted-\$4,000, \$27,475 spent; 2022 request-\$4,000) – Mr. Capello said this is what we pay out when someone leaves for sick time, etc. and it is high because some long term employees left.

Town Health Reimbursement (2021 budgeted-\$15,000, \$3,810 spent; 2022 request-\$15,000) – He said this line is for the deductibles the Town covers with the company that runs that for us. He said we haven't used much and he could drop it a little bit if the board wanted to but he is hesitant to do that because right now everything has been paid by the feds and he didn't know how long that will last.

Chairman Proulx asked if they could something different with this like they did with the personnel liabilities so they put money in a CRF until they have a certain amount in it.

Mr. Johnson said if they create a CRF for it they could put \$15,000 in it from the undesignated fund balance. He said there is \$25,500 left available to spend and that would cut the operating budget by \$15,000.

Mr. Capello said he was fine with that but he would like to keep \$1 in this line to keep it open in case it doesn't pass.

Mr. Vachon asked if the \$200,000 in the undesignated fund balance still keeps them at 9%.

Mr. Capello said keeps them at 8%.

Mr. Vachon said so the \$200,000 is above and beyond the recommended 8% balance.

Mr. Capello said yes. He asked if the board wanted him to draft a warrant article to create the CRF making the board the agents to expend from the fund.

Mr. Vachon said it could fail because someone doesn't understand the purpose of the fund.

Chairman Proulx said then they probably haven't explained it properly.

Mr. Johnson said they would have to call a special meeting to expend from it and would have to cover the cost of an additional Town Meeting.

Mr. Capello suggested they drop the line to \$10,000 and start a CRF for the Town health insurance reimbursement with \$5,000 so that it gets established and if it fails they still have money to pay those bills.

Consensus of the board was to go with Mr. Capello's suggestion.

Mr. Capello said that would drop the bottom line for this section of the proposed budget from \$32,500 to \$27,500.

Patriotic Purposes (2021 budgeted-\$1,000, \$523 spent; 2022 request-\$1,000) – Mr. Capello said this is typically the money they give to the American Legion Post for the Memorial Day Parade and that had been scaled back for this year.

Health Agencies-Cornerstone VNA (level funded at \$5,468) and Homemakers (level funded at \$2,011) – Chairman Proulx said this is pretty much what we have done the last several years.

Mr. Johnson said prior to that they cut them 3 years in a row.

Conservation (2021 budgeted-\$2,500, \$765 spent; 2022 request-\$2,500) – Mr. Johnson said they have only spent about \$700 the last 2 years and they are asking for \$2,500. He asked if the Con Com Chairman justified the \$2,500.

Mr. Capello said he just level funded the line from last year. He said they use these funds for training but there hasn't been any the last couple of years and asked if the board wanted to drop this line to \$1,000.

Consensus of the board was to reduce this line to \$1,500.

Mr. Capello said that puts the bottom line for this section at \$1,983.

Code Enforcement Mileage (2021 budgeted-\$300, \$267 spent; 2022 request-\$5,000) – Mr. Capello said he was going to drop this line down to \$1,000. He said at the time they did this they weren't sure about what was going on with the SUV he was driving after the lug nuts loosened up and damage was done to the car. He said they have an idea who did that but they can't prove it and they're going to fix it.

Mr. Capello said the bottom line for this section of the budget is \$1,113.

Building Health (2021 budgeted-\$2,593, \$864 spent; 2022 request-\$0) – Mr. Vachon asked if

the amount requested is on the next sheet.

Mr. Capello said that comes out of the **Special Revenue Fund** and the numbers shown from the previous years are from when there was a full time Land Use Assistant and there is no full time person there now that they pay health insurance for.

Codes Repairs to Vehicle (2021 budgeted-missing, \$99 spent; 2022 requested-\$1,500) – Mr. Capello said he increased this line because it's an older vehicle and they intend to spend that if they can get it repaired.

Mr. Johnson asked to have "Assitant" spelled correctly in the Land Use Assistant line. He said there are a lot of things that need to be corrected but he will wait until everything is done and then he'll go over it.

Executive- Mr. Capello said this section covers the expenses for the Municipal Office Building, the Selectmen's salaries and things like advertising and dues.

Town Training (2021 budgeted-\$1,300, \$119 spent; 2022 request-\$1,300) – Mr. Johnson said the most they have spent from this line in the last 2 years is \$700.

Mr. Capello said they could drop this line to \$1,000 because a lot of things that have gone virtual hopefully are going to go back.

Administration Dues (2021 budgeted-\$7,000, \$5,545 spent; 2022 requested-\$7,000) – Mr. Johnson said he would like to see this line dropped to \$6,500.

Mr. Staples asked what comes out of this line.

Mr. Capello said this is for the NH Municipal Assoc. dues and he was okay with \$6,500.

Mr. Vachon asked if they do not know what those dues are year to year.

Mr. Capello said the actual bill for the dues has come in and there are a couple of other small things in there.

Mr. Vachon said he would like to set it for the actual dues number and they should get notified if it is going up.

Mr. Capello said he would see what he could find out.

Town Office Supplies (2021 budgeted-\$5,000, \$9,304 spent; 2022 requested-\$5,000) – Mr. Johnson said this line seems to be under budgeted.

Mr. Vachon said or it was way over spent.

Chairman Proulx asked if this was due to COVID and if it was reimbursed.

Mr. Capello said a lot of that was reimbursed like the Plexiglas and historically they have been right around \$5,000 and he felt that would be enough.

Admin. Maintenance (2021 budgeted-\$23,000, \$27,525 spent; 2022 request-\$23,000) – Mr. Vachon said this line was over spent by \$4,500 and asked why they budgeted for \$23,000 again. Mr. Capello said this was the same as the previous line where the expenses were reimbursed and they would be good with the \$23,000.

Town Office Equipment (2021 budgeted-\$4,270, \$5,469 spent; 2022 request-\$6,000) – Mr. Capello said this is for a new router and they always budget for a couple of monitors in case

they break down during the year and the both the prices and the lead time have gone up on those things.

Administrative Sup Sec (2021 budgeted-\$2,000, \$6,603 spent; 2022 request-\$2,000) – Mr. Vachon asked for the purpose of this line.

Mr. Capello said that is the person who fills in when the Selectmen's Secretary is on vacation. He said the reason it was so high this year is they were down staffed and she was filling in.

Mr. Johnson asked to have "Wage Increase" line changed to "Wage Adjustment".

Meeting Minutes (2021 budgeted-\$4,553, \$4,218 spent; 2022 request-\$5,000) - Chairman Proulx asked if this line should say something about the minute taker so it doesn't look like they are just paying for minutes.

Mr. Capello suggested the line be titled "Minute Taker".

Chairman Proulx said that way he wouldn't have to explain that this is a wage line.

Town Mileage (2021 budgeted-\$1,500, \$166 spent; 2022 request-\$1,500) – Mr. Vachon said the last 2 years \$456 was spent but they are asking for \$1,500 and asked if that is for trainings that haven't been going on.

Mr. Capello said it is for training and he submits this at the end of the year and he has a \$500 or \$600 mileage charge to submit.

Mr. Vachon asked if the mileage for the Town Clerk is paid out of the Town Clerk's budget.

Mr. Capello said that is correct. He said the bottom line for this section is now \$283,836.

Finance- Mr. Capello said this section contains the salaries for the Finance Administrator and the Assessing Clerk. He said the money budgeted for the tax map updates (\$3,200) may not be spent now but will be at the end of the year as they just got the new maps in.

He said there is no longevity expense for this year.

Mr. Johnson said the "Wage" line should say "Wage Adjustment".

Bank Fees (2021 budgeted-\$200, \$368 spent; 2022 request-\$200) – Mr. Vachon asked about the \$168 over expenditure of this line.

Mr. Johnson said they had 2 banks running during the transfer from one bank to the other.

Mr. Capello said and when they dropped below a certain amount in one bank they had fees.

Planning – Mr. Johnson asked to have "planning" capitalized in the title at the top of the page.

Planner (2021 budgeted-\$50,000, \$22,965 spent; 2022 request- \$50,000) – Mr. Capello said this is the contract with **Strafford Regional Planning Commission**.

Strafford Regional (2021 budgeted-\$7,346, \$14,843 spent; 2022 request-\$7,400) – Mr. Capello said this is the annual dues the Town pays to the SRPC.

Mr. Vachon asked why it was double this year.

Mr. Capello said he was not sure and he would have to find out.

Mr. Johnson said this may have been mis-categorized because the Planner is only \$22,900 and we used the Planner much more than that.

Mr. Vachon said they may have drawn out of the wrong line (for the Planner's salary).

Mr. Capello said he would find out.

Appraisals/Revaluation (2021 budgeted-\$32,757, \$15,283 spent; 2022 request-\$25,000) – Mr. Capello said this for the contract with Avitar.

Mr. Johnson said this is the incidental charges for assessment changes.

Mr. Capello said they come here monthly and at other times if needed such as going to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals.

Chairman Proulx asked if they have now seen everything once.

Mr. Capello said next week all of the dept. heads will be in attendance at the meeting in case the board has any additional questions or make any additional cuts. He said he asked them to revisit their budgets for Wednesday and make any adjustments they feel they can make so it's them making the adjustments and not the Selectmen.

He said thanks to the Finance Administrator's hard work and fighting with Primex they have been able to get our call Firefighters reclassified as part time as they should be and that reduced the Workers' Comp line by \$12,000. We've already made a couple of small reductions that you will see next week he said.

He said the one question he has so he can give the board accurate numbers is the wage adjustment line is at 3% and the union contracts are at 2.5%.

Mr. Johnson said he would drop the wage adjustment line to 2.5%.

Chairman Proulx said she would go to that but she wouldn't go any lower.

Mr. Johnson said the non-union school district staff is getting 2% wage increases.

Mr. Capello said he would get those lines readjusted to 2.5% if that is the board's direction.

Consensus of the board was to reduce the wage adjustment lines to 2.5%.

Mr. Vachon said just because it's set at 2.5% doesn't mean everyone will get a 2.5% increase.

Mr. Capello said for budgeting purposes you budget for the worst case scenario. He said it usually averages at 2% Town-wide with some higher and some lower.

8). Possible Tax Impact of Budget:

Mr. Capello said he gave the board a full picture today with the understanding that he has made changes and asked the board if they wanted to look at that or do anything with it.

Mr. Johnson asked if they would get all new copies of everything.

Mr. Capello said he would give the board all new copies of every budget next week and he asked the dept. heads to mark where they made changes.

He said this information was worse case and asked if they wanted to go over the revenue part of it and make any changes because that will affect the potential tax impact.

2022 Revenue Estimates –Mr. Capello said for interest & penalty (\$10,000 increase to \$160,000 projected) and motor vehicle permits (\$70,000 increase to \$1,500,000 projected) he met with the Town Clerk and she ran her reports and this is the way we are trending.

Line 3359, Other (including Railroad Tax and Grants- \$58,100 increase to \$87,195 projected) -

Chairman Proulx said this has to do with the Fire Dept. grants and the grants are accounted for

in the Fire Dept. operating budget so that if we don't get the grants we don't spend the money so it wouldn't hurt us as far as for the tax impact.

Mr. Capello said it doesn't affect the tax impact at all.

Mr. Vachon asked if this was the vehicle the Fire Chief was asking about.

Mr. Capello said yes and he was trying to get some clarity on it which is not a good sign. He said that is something they will discuss with the board next week when the Chief is here.

Line 3352, Rooms & Meals Tax – (\$100,000 increase to \$500,000 projected) – Mr. Vachon asked if this is estimated to be back where we were or if he was still being conservative on that.

Mr. Capello said he estimated it based on what NHMA send out this year and the fact there is a new percentage formula the state is now using that passed with the budget so it should be a pretty solid number.

Mr. Johnson said they came out with the biannual state budget and they pretty much firmed up what those 2 numbers are and the same with the Highway Block Grant.

Mr. Capello said that is going down this year and he decreased that by 4%. He said they are projecting \$180,702 increase in revenues for 2022 and the numbers that he pulled (off the MS-4) are the numbers they used to set the tax rate. He then asked if the board was comfortable with the revenue numbers.

Chairman Proulx said she was for the time being unless he finds out some different.

Mr. Capello then added he did not include any revenue from the solar power **Payment in Lieu of Taxes** agreement. He said the PILOT agreement shown is strictly what the City of Rochester pays for the land around the reservoir (up \$1,000 to \$28,832 in 2022 due to change in tax rate).

Mr. Johnson asked about the rule for unanticipated income and if they put \$1 for income from the solar PILOT if they would have to hold a public hearing if they get any income from them.

Mr. Capello said they would have to hold a public hearing if it is over \$10,000 because they budgeted for under \$10,000. He said he would base his information for next week on this revenue sheet.

He said he will make adjustments to the 2022 warrant articles based on tonight's meeting.

Mr. Vachon asked if he contacted Alton regarding the replacement/repair of the salt shed (Article #8) because they just built a brand new one on a budget.

Mr. Capello said he has not and that they haven't really looked at that and that his goal is to get the CRF for the shed started.

Mr. Vachon said they could get an idea about the cost from them and they built the built the whole thing themselves in-house.

Mr. Capello said he would e-mail the Alton Public Works Director for more information. He said he is still awaiting an answer to Mr. Johnson's question from the last meeting about whether they can use ARP funds for this because it is a ground water issue.

9). COVID-19 Update: None

10). Town Administrator's Business:

a). Lost Check Policy – Mr. Capello said he made the changes the board requested at the previous meeting and if the board was okay with it he would get it out.

No other changes were requested were requested by the board.

b). Possible Inspection of Bridge – He said he received an estimate for an inspection of the Hornetown Road Bridge and asked the board what they wished to do.

Mr. Vachon asked if Hoyle Tanner engineer Josif Bicja said he would do it for free if he was here.

Mr. Capello said he is out of town and it would be around \$1,500 (half day inspection and report of findings) if someone else from his office did the inspection.

Mr. Vachon asked how long Mr. Bicja would be away. He asked what is waiting 1 more week if we could get it done for free.

Mr. Capello said he interpreted his response to mean the inspection is up to \$1,500 and if he was here he would come do it himself not that he would do it for free.

Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Capello to get clarification on this for the board.

Mr. Capello said he would get the clarification and asked if the board wanted to authorize a certain amount of money or any money to be spent on this and then he could just do it if it is within the budget or not do it.

Mr. Johnson said he has not gone there to look at the damage and asked what the damage looks like.

Mr. Staples said there is a 4' or 5' scrape with yellow paint down the guardrail.

Mr. Capello said it is in the middle of the guardrail with black and yellow paint. He said it didn't look like it was dented but he is not an engineer.

Mr. Staples said he was concerned about the Town getting sued because they knew it was hit.

Chairman Proulx said she didn't want to find out 3-4 years from now that there were broken welds that could have been fixed. It's short money to figure that out and then we can figure out what we want to do after that she said.

Mr. Johnson asked if Mr. Capello could do this out of his spending authority.

Mr. Capello asked if the Town would pay for it or if they would bill the school district for the cost.

Chairman Proulx said not to worry about that until they find out if they have to pay for the inspection or not and then worry about that after the fact.

Mr. Staples said if the engineer comes down for nothing and there's no damage it's just a "paint and scrape".

c). Road Issues - Mr. Vachon said it was nice to see the roads are being divided and not the people on the right or left hand side are getting pounded with snow.

He asked how long ago the Town took over Richard's Way.

Mr. Capello said it was 2 or 3 Town Meetings ago.

Mr. Vachon asked if there was any inspection of the base materials or pavement on that road, if any hot top samples were taken before they were placed and what the weather was when it was placed because the entrance road is junk.

Mr. Capello said he couldn't answer the question because it was done through the Planning Board.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Capello to contact the Planning Director and ask him for a copy of the records for that because something is not right there and either they placed it in the rain or too late in the season. The entrance road before you turn left to the homes is destroyed and now we're on the hook for it he said.

Chairman Proulx said this is the problem with taking these roads over when we didn't have any oversight and you don't know what's been run over them.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't know why we took it over without it being done. He said there are houses to be built and there are excavators and stuff with a lot of weight rolling over that road.

Mr. Capello said it was a legislative vote (at Town Meeting).

Mr. Johnson said it was submitted by petition.

Mr. Vachon said there's no way in hell that a road we just took over a couple of years ago should be falling apart like that. Something wasn't done right he said.

Mr. Capello said the logic for the petition was they couldn't sell any of the lots because it was a private road so it needed to become a Town road. He said he didn't necessarily agree with that but the logic played out because once the Town took over the road every lot but one has been developed.

Mr. Vachon said there are a few they are still trying to sell. He said this is one of the roads he noticed that was divided both ways and not all stuffed to the right and a resident thanked him for them doing that so they didn't have a 3' wind row while the guy across the street could just drive out of his yard like it used to be.

Mr. Capello said he just e-mailed the Planning Director with Mr. Vachon's request for information.

Mr. Johnson recalled they had to hire an outside engineering firm and that they submitted the engineering report.

Mr. Vachon asked if they had an engineer on-site at all times and it's pretty easy to put sub-par base material under the pavement and then say the road is paved here's your core sample.

Mr. Capello said there were a lot of problems with the road and they had to get extensions to the site plan because of the road not being completed and not wanting to do it until the houses were built.

d). Tree Maintenance- Mr. Vachon said about a year ago he brought up that the trees on Cocheco and Chestnut Hill Roads are out in the street and the local contractors are getting irritated that their \$110,000 trucks are getting scratched up and they have complained about it several times. He asked if they could please get the trees cut on those roads that overhang the

road and are not 14' off the pavement.

He said it is the trees coming in on the sides within the travel lane and not the ones hanging over the road and asked to have them trimmed up.

11). Next Meeting: Monday, January 3, 2022

12). Adjournment:

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 8:26 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Paula Proulx, Chairman

Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

Douglas Staples

Gerry Vachon