

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2019

Board Members Present:

Paula Proulx, Chairman
Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman
Dave Connolly
TJ Place

Others Present:

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
Chuck Tiffany, Water Dept. Supervisor
Bruce Bridges, Bill Fisher, Clark Hackett
Elizabeth Johnson, Richard Moulton

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). Reorganization of the Board:

Chairman Proulx turned the meeting over to the Town Administrator.

A). Chairman: Mr. Capello asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to nominate Paula Proulx for Chairman of the Board;

Ms. Proulx accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations for Chairman.

Vote: The motion passed 4-0-1 (Proulx abstained).

Mr. Capello turned the meeting back over to Chairman Proulx.

b). Vice Chairman: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board.

Motion: (Titus, second Proulx) to nominate Neil Johnson for Vice Chairman of the Board;

Mr. Johnson accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations for Vice Chairman.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

c). Rep to the Planning Board: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Planning Board Rep.

Motion: (Titus, second Connolly) to nominate TJ Place for Selectmen's Rep to the Planning Board;

Mr. Place accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations for Planning Board Rep.

Vote: The motion passed 3-1-1 (Johnson-opposed, Place-abstained).

d). Alternate Selectmen's Rep. to the Planning Board: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Alternate Rep. to the Planning Board.

Motion: (Proulx, second Place) to nominate Neil Johnson for Alternate Selectmen's Rep. to the Planning Board passed 5-0.

e). Rep. to the Budget Committee: Mr. Johnson volunteered to remain as the rep to the Budget

Committee.

Motion: (Proulx, second Place) to nominate Neil Johnson for Selectmen's Rep. to the Budget Committee passed 4-0-1 (Johnson-abstained).

f). Alternate Rep. to the Budget Committee: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Alternate Rep. to the Budget Committee.

Motion: (Titus, second Johnson) to nominate Paula Proulx as the Alternate Selectmen's Rep. to the Budget Committee passed 5-0.

g). Rep. to the Conservation Commission: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Selectmen's Rep. to the Conservation Commission.

Motion: (Place, no second) to nominate Dave Connolly for Selectmen's Rep to the Con Com; Mr. Connolly declined the nomination.

Motion: (Proulx, second Place) to nominate Ann Titus for Selectmen's Rep. to the Con Com passed 4-0-1 (Titus-abstained).

h). Alternate Rep. to the Con Com: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Alternate Selectmen's Rep. to the Con Com.

Motion: (Proulx, second Johnson) to nominate Dave Connolly for Alternate Selectmen's Rep. to the Conservation Commission passed 5-0.

i). Rep. to the Economic Development Committee:

Motion: (Proulx, second Place) to nominate Dave Connolly for Selectmen's Rep. to the Economic Development Committee passed 5-0.

j). Alternate Rep. to the Economic Development Committee: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Alternate Rep. to the EDC.

Motion: (Proulx, second Johnson) to nominate Ann Titus for Alternate Selectmen's Rep. to the Economic Development Committee passed 5-0.

k). Rep. to the Capital Improvements Plan Committee: Chairman Proulx asked for nominations for Selectmen's Rep. to the CIP.

Motion: (Titus, second Johnson) to nominate Paula Proulx for Selectmen's Rep. to the CIP passed 5-0.

l). Second Rep. to the CIP: Mr. Capello said the board is allowed 2 reps to the CIP.

Motion: (Proulx, second Connolly) to nominate Ann Titus as the second Selectmen's Rep. to the CIP passed 5-0.

m). Alternate Rep. to the CIP:

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to nominate Dave Connolly for Alternate Selectmen's Rep to the CIP passed 5-0.

n). Rep to the Goodwin Library Trustees: Mr. Connolly volunteered to remain as the Selectmen's Rep to the Library Trustees.

Motion: (Johnson, second Place) to nominate Dave Connolly for the Selectmen's Rep. to the Goodwin Library Trustees passed 5-0.

o). Alternate Rep to the Library Trustees: Mr. Johnson volunteered to be the Alternate Selectmen's Rep to the library Trustees.

Motion: (Connolly, second Titus) to nominate Neil Johnson for Alternate Selectmen's Rep. to the Goodwin Library Trustees passed 5-0.

Contract Negotiations- Mr. Capello said he planned to discuss setting up the negotiating team for the union contracts with the board at their next meeting.

4). Public Input:

a). Clark Hackett said that word around town is there will be a meeting where the board may decide to purchase a new Pumper/Tanker for the Fire Dept. even though it was defeated at Town Meeting. He said if the board does decide to buy it and to put it on the Town Meeting Warrant for next year and the people again defeat it, the Town will have had the truck for that time period and would be responsible for any damage that occurred to the truck before it could be returned for non-appropriation.

Mr. Hackett said he understood the truck would lease purchased on a 6 year plan. He said if the board decides to purchase the truck that he would like to see them go to a 10 year lease program because \$60,000- \$70,000 a year is easier to come up than \$108,000 or more. This is bedroom community without any major industries to help with the tax rate he said.

Mr. Hackett also expressed concern about the condition of the in-town roads and asked if there is anything in the works to address this. He then asked if the highway subsidy funds goes to rebuilding the roads and bridges or back into the general fund.

Chairman Proulx said the money goes into the general fund.

Mr. Hackett said years ago the money given by state/federal government every year (\$198,000- \$203,000) was strictly for road/bridge repair and it didn't have to come from taxation.

Mr. Johnson said most of that money is long gone and the Town gets very little of that now. He said they are now funding \$350,000 for road work from the general budget.

Mr. Hackett asked if that much money is being spent for roads if there is anything in the immediate schedule for the in-town streets.

Mr. Capello said the plan for this year includes reclaim and base pave Governor's Road, crack seal Meaderboro Road and Spring Street, top coat Waldron Road, overlay the sewer joint and bridge overlay on Bay Road.

Mr. Hackett said this doesn't do anything for the people who live in-town and that this has been the practice for the last 4 years.

Mr. Capello said he thought that Governor's Road is in worse shape than any in-town road.

Mr. Connolly asked who decides the road maintenance plan.

Mr. Capello said the DPW Director decides and he looks at what is the "best bang for the buck".

Mr. Hackett suggested that one outlying road, such as Governor's Road, and a similar stretch of 1 in-town road be done so people could see it coming along.

Selectmen said Mr. Hackett's suggestion wasn't a bad idea.

Mr. Hackett thanked the Selectmen he spoke to about a problem at the intersection of Pearl Lane and Mount Vernon Street where a pot hole was filled but they left an approx. 4' wide triangular surface pothole that goes back into the road for about 8' that can't be driven around anymore. Every time they plow it gets worse he said.

Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Capello to add this to his to-do list.

b). Richard Moulton said he owned the next 2 properties adjacent to the Municipal Offices and that Green and Summer Streets are always flooded so he would like to see the Town install drains before they hot top the streets.

Mr. Capello said the practice has been that before the road is hot topped all of the drainage work is done first.

Mr. Moulton said he has to pump the water that runs down Summer Street out of his basement and that he felt like pumping it into the road because then the Town would have to put in drains because (the Municipal Offices) would get flooded.

Mr. Capello said the Municipal Office Building already has a similar problem and there are a couple of sump pumps in this basement as well.

Mr. Moulton said he is aware that the Town pumps the water out of the basement onto his property. He said the road is really breaking up bad and that it needs to be repaired.

He then said he did not understand why Town equipment is sitting outdoors when the old fire station could be used for storage and it doesn't have to be heated.

Mr. Capello said the antique fire trucks are presently in the old fire house bays.

Mr. Moulton said one truck is in the old fire house and another is sitting near the NAPA store.

Mr. Capello said the antique trucks are owned by the Farmington Fireman's Relief Association and the Town signed an agreement with them to store the vehicles in the old fire house.

Mr. Moulton said he would like to see the Town equipment put under cover there too instead of being left outdoors all winter.

c). Bruce Bridges asked why the Town does not use millings (old ground up asphalt) on the Town's dirt roads. He said it would require less maintenance, lasts longer and after it has been in place for a while it will get hard just like asphalt. A lot of paving companies use it as a base before they pave because it makes an awesome base as it gets so hard he said.

Mr. Capello said he would find out if there is a reason this isn't done in town.

Mr. Bridges said the Town could stock pile any rip ups and grind up and reuse the old asphalt.

Mr. Hackett said the material is called "RAP" or recycled asphalt pavement or millings.

Mr. Bridges added that the millings are usually cheaper than asphalt.

Chairman Proulx thanked the residents for attending the meeting and for the information.

d). FPIO Flag Proposal – Mr. Johnson said he received a proposal from the Farmington Preservation & Improvement Organization (FPIO) to take over the hanging and taking down of the American flags that hang from the poles downtown. They would like to purchase the flags and the hardware and maintain them when attending to the other flags, banners and strings of

lights hung there. He said he was not sure if the American Legion post is still providing the flags and brackets for the town.

Mr. Capello said the Town takes the flags down and stores them and if new flags and/or brackets are needed the Legion supplies them to the Town and the Town installs them.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the FPIO contact the Legion to see if they would want to relinquish providing the flags or maybe work together with the FPIO to purchase, hang and take down the flags. He said he thought this is a good idea as they have already seen what the FPIO has done with the decorations downtown and this would fit into their plans to maintain the decorations. He said that at one time the Legion was having some financial difficulty donating that number of flags on a continuing basis so this may alleviate that situation because the FPIO is offering to finance it. It would also relieve the Town from having to provide personnel and equipment to hang the flags as the FPIO would do it he said.

Mr. Connolly asked if this would include the flag downtown and at the Town buildings.

Mr. Johnson said it would not include the flags at the Town buildings and on Center Street.

Mr. Capello said the Legion used to give the Town all of the flags but to get the proper size flags they are several hundred dollars now.

Mrs. Titus said people used to purchase flags in someone's memory so the Legion did not have to pay for the flags. She said it would be a good idea for the 2 groups to work together on this.

Mr. Johnson said the FPIO also plans to highlight Farmington Veterans on an annual basis by putting their names and pictures on flags and publicize their service to the country.

Mr. Capello said it would be nice if they could find a way to tie it into the Civil War memorial.

Mr. Johnson said it is a nice idea to highlight local people and there are several options on how it could be done.

There were no objections to the FPIO's plans raised by the board.

Mr. Johnson said he would contact the FPIO and ask them to contact Mr. Capello if they don't have the contact information for the Legion or they need any assistance coordinating the plans.

Mr. Capello said the board would probably be hearing from the Post Commander soon in relation to the Memorial Day Parade.

Mrs. Titus said the parade committee has already completed a lot of work for this year's parade and plan to include the Shriners, the 500 Boys and Girls Club, the school band, the church band, the Historical Society, Friends of Farmington, Boy Scouts and the ceremonies at the bridge and the cemeteries.

e). Thanks for Participating- Chairman Proulx said she would like to thank everyone who came out to vote on Election Day and at Town Meeting. She said the Town Meeting was a long night and it was nice to see the back and forth of everything that happened there. She gave a special thanks to Jo Kenney for supporting the candidates on that cold Election Day with some hot coffee and hot soup and that it was very nice of her to do so.

Mr. Johnson agreed.

Mrs. Titus thanked the staff, officials and volunteers for a great job in preparing and running the Election Day and Town Meeting proceedings.

Chairman Proulx then thanked the rest of the board for their poll coverage during the elections while she and Mr. Johnson had to remain outside the polls as candidates for re-election.

5). Review of Minutes:

March 4, 2019 – Public Meeting Minutes – Page 5, 2nd line- add “residential” before “arrays”. Page 8, item #8a, Board Appointments, 3rd line- add “as a full time member for a 3 year term” after “Bridges”; Page 10, 12th from the top- strike “to need” after “prepared”.

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

March 4, 2019 - Non-Public Sessions A-C- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Titus, second Connolly) to accept the March 4th Non-Public Sessions A-C minutes as written passed 5-0.

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to unseal the March 4, 2019 Non-Public Session C minutes passed 5-0.

6). State Sanitary Survey Report:

Selectmen reviewed copies of the NH Dept. of Environmental services (NHDES) Water Dept. Sanitary Survey Report summary for the survey conducted on June 12, 2018 and the explanation and response written by Water Dept. Supervisor Chuck Tiffany.

Mr. Johnson said the DES report for the inspection of the Town wells and the Town water system contains some recommendations but nothing that he found to be “earth shattering”. He said on Page 1 of the DES report they list the implementation of a Capital Improvement project to address water quality and improve redundancy in the distribution system as an issue that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Tiffany said this mainly has to do with the complaints DES received from water users about the quality of the water due to the dead-end hydrant off of Flagstone Ave. He said the Water Dept. flushes that line once a month to improve the water quality and that a solution to the problem would be to connect the Flagstone Ave. line to the line that dead ends at Cameron’s sod farm but there are no funds in the budget for that this year.

Mr. Johnson asked for the distance to connect the 2 lines and the cost for the project.

Mr. Tiffany said it is approx. 500 feet to tie the 2 dead ends together. He said the first step would be to get an engineering design for the lines to go over the Mad River and that he had previously budgeted \$19,000 based on a quote from Wright-Pierce to develop a design plan and handle the easements and the Request for Proposals (RFP) related to the project.

Chairman Proulx asked if the dept. has to go out there once a month and flush the line if it makes sense to just keep doing that if it makes the water quality that much better.

Mr. Tiffany said the flushing does make the water quality better. He said this project was included in the improvement plan for the Asset Management Program to improve the fire flow.

Mr. Capello said this would also help the high/low water pressure issues in that part of town.

Mr. Tiffany said the board requested that he obtain more quotes for the engineering plan and there was some discussion about possibly including the project in next year's proposed budget.

Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Tiffany's response says that he applied for a leak detection grant.

Mr. Tiffany said he applied for a DES grant and that the paperwork was submitted on time but he has not heard back from them. He said the Rural Water Assoc. would perform leak detection for the whole town for a "small donation" but he did not know what that amount would be.

Mr. Johnson asked if this would be done after the new water meters are installed.

Mr. Tiffany said this would be done in the spring.

Mr. Johnson said he wondered if the conversion to the new meters would impact the survey and asked if the association would do it twice.

Mr. Tiffany explained how the leak detection process works and that they would only conduct the survey once.

Mr. Capello said the board would need to have a future discussion about what a reasonable small donation would be.

Mr. Johnson said Page 3 of the DES report states that the pump station for Well #5 has a variable frequency drive pump with circular charts for tank level and pump output and that the operator stated that the paper charts and the replacement parts are difficult to obtain because the equipment is outdated. He asked if this is something that Mr. Tiffany planned to replace.

Mr. Tiffany said they don't make these parts anymore and that he planned to put it in next year's budget request.

Mr. Johnson said that DES wants the existing bulk chemical storage tanks replaced but that Mr. Tiffany did not see any issue with the existing tanks.

Mr. Tiffany said he inspected the tanks and found them to be in good shape and they are inside under cover but DES thinks they should be replaced every 20 years. He said he understood that with outdoor tanks but in his opinion it would be a waste of money (approx. \$10,000 each).

Chairman Proulx asked about DES' statement that the water system should have in-place controls to automatically shut down chemical feed systems should over feed occur.

Mr. Tiffany said one of the monitoring control systems is included in the budget and once the system is in place and set at a certain level the operator will be alarmed if the chlorine or pH level is too high. He said he was not sure if it would automatically shut down the chemical feed and that he would find out.

Mr. Johnson facetiously asked how much impact the graffiti on the water tank has on the water quality.

Mr. Tiffany said it has no impact on the water quality. He said he did not understand why NHDES seems to be "hung up" on this issue.

Chairman Proulx said it could be because the vandals have access to get to that point. She said that it didn't matter what was put in front of it and that if they want to paint it they will get in.

Mr. Tiffany said he told the inspector that the board decided that most cost effective plan for now would be to put a gate at the beginning of the access road while other issues are being addressed.

Mr. Johnson noted that in Mr. Tiffany's response that he stated the well houses don't have showers with tempered water and asked what could be done to provide hot water to them.

Mr. Tiffany suggested that a small water heater be installed at each well house.

Mr. Capello asked Mr. Tiffany to provide some pricing information on the cost of the heaters.

Mr. Tiffany said he planned to get a quote from a plumber on the installation of the heaters.

Mr. Johnson suggested that if there is propane available they should look at an on-demand water heater that doesn't heat the water until the water is turned on.

Mr. Connolly turned to the chart on Page 2 of the DES report and asked if GPW6 that supplies water to the Textron storage tank is the tank located on Pound Road.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Mr. Connolly said on Page 5 the report says that the Town has hired a consultant to investigate the potential for replacement of Well #4 and asked for the status of the investigation.

Mr. Tiffany said he submitted all of the reports about the wells that were shut down due to MTBE contamination and the consultants are looking into getting grant funds (from the settlement of state's lawsuit against the oil companies).

Mr. Capello said there is documentation that the well contamination was caused by the plumes coming from the former Textron facility.

Mr. Johnson said the consultants are also due to report to the board about the drawdown testing of the potential new well sites.

Mr. Capello said they have completed the draw downs and that they hope to have the funding in place for the next step before returning to the board or they will have to ask the board for the money to fund it.

He said that when he and Mr. Tiffany met with the consultant about 2 months ago they said the best location for the replacement for Well #4 is over at the cemetery. We looked at possibly moving the new well location slightly onto the Town property or the Town will have to negotiate with the cemetery owners for an easement to locate the new well there he said.

Mr. Connolly said that on Page 6, the 2nd and 4th paragraphs mention land protection and conservation and that the property on Pound Road where the water tank is located was placed under the protection of the Conservation Commission by the previous Select Board. He asked if any of the Town's other wellheads are under that protection.

Mr. Capello said the wellheads are included in the Wellhead Protection Plan which was re-done and approved by voters 5 years ago but he did not think they were placed in conservation.

Mr. Connolly asked if that gives them the same protection as if they were in conservation.

Mr. Capello said it limits what can be built around them but noted that they couldn't include Well #6 because the Town rents that site.

Mr. Connolly said he was looking to guarantee the lifelong protection of these areas.

Mr. Capello said that a conservation designation would be more restrictive as then you couldn't build anything near it.

Chairman Proulx asked if the well heads could be in the Wellhead Protection Plan and in conservation.

Mr. Capello said he didn't see why not with the exception of Well #6.

Mr. Connolly said the 4th paragraph also mentions grant programs for water source protection and suggested that they ask the Conservation Commission if they know of any grants that they could apply for or co-apply for with the Selectmen.

Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Titus to discuss the issue with the Con Com as the board's rep.

Mr. Tiffany said the DES inspector was very impressed with what has been accomplished with the improvements to the water system since the last inspection.

Mr. Capello said he received a phone call from Richard Skarinka, DES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau complimenting Mr. Tiffany on his work and that he has seen more work done there in a year than he has seen in the last 10 years.

Chairman Proulx asked whose responsibility it is to update the new staff on the Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. Tiffany said the plan has already been updated and is posted in his office and at the wells.

Chairman Proulx asked if the shut off for the sodium hydroxide feed pump was relocated as recommended by DES.

Mr. Tiffany said he relocated the shutoff from its confined space and re-shielded the lines.

Chairman Proulx said DES also recommended that the system have a means to shut down the chemical feed systems at both pump houses.

Mr. Tiffany said they are working on it and that he budgeted \$5,000 for one of the pump houses this year. He said he planned to budget the money for the other pump house next year.

Chairman Proulx asked if she recalled correctly that grant funds could not be used for fencing.

Mr. Tiffany said he tried but found that containment only applies to the well house and wells. He said he cost of fencing is about \$25,000.

Mr. Johnson said the best part of this inspection is that a lot of what needed to be done has already been addressed and thanked Mr. Tiffany for doing a good job.

Mr. Connolly asked how the water meter project is going.

Mr. Tiffany said the project is on track and is going well.

Mr. Capello said the only problem with the project so far is that cost to upgrade the Vadar software is actually \$15,000 and not the \$6,000 that was budgeted. He said this was due to the previous person who started the project did not get a price quote for the software update as was recommended and just guessed at the cost.

Mr. Tiffany said he would find the money somewhere in the budget so they would remain within the approved budget.

Chairman Proulx requested an occasional update on the water meter installations to keep the board informed about the progress of the project.

Selectmen thanked Mr. Tiffany for attending the meeting and his work on these issues.

7). Results of Town Meeting:

Mr. Capello said it went well and there was a great turnout. It was long night but it was a good night. He said all of the Selectmen's warrant articles passed and he was now coming to the board to start spending.

Riding Mower-He said the first item was the replacement riding mower which was in the Highway Dept. budget for \$5,000. DPW Director Gary Rogers did some research and has recommended a mower at a cost of \$3,500 including the bagger he said.

Mr. Johnson said he collated all of the information the board received for comparison purposes and that he didn't have any issue with one recommended by Mr. Rogers. He said this model is within the price range of the other mowers, has a 24 horsepower engine, 3 year unlimited hour warranty and seems to be a good buy just based on the warranty.

Mr. Bridges asked if the warranty was a residential or commercial warranty and that sometimes the commercial warranty is only for 1 year.

Selectmen said that information was not specified in the materials given to the board.

Chairman Proulx asked if Mr. Rogers looked into the maintenance record/costs for this mower.

Mr. Capello said it shouldn't be any more than any other mower and that Mr. Rogers usually looks into all the issues before making a recommendation.

Motion: (Johnson, second Connolly) to go ahead with the purchase of the Cub Cadet ZT1 as recommended by the DPW Director with the stipulation that he clarify the warranty coverage and the bagger in the amount of \$3,500;

Discussion: Mr. Johnson asked what they planned to do with the old mower.

Mr. Capello said he assumed it would be kept as a back-up mower but he had not gotten that far in the discussion with Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Connolly asked if the mower could be kept at the Transfer Station to take care of that property.

Mr. Capello said the Town is not going to have to mow that property once the solar farm is built as they will take care of it.

Chairman Proulx requested that Mr. Rogers check into its maintenance record before buying the mower.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Capello said the new sidewalk plow will arrive in about 1 month and the thermal imaging camera (for the Fire Dept.) is also on its way.

Road Permits – Mr. Capello said that following the board's recent discussion about conserving the town roads Mr. Rogers came up with a proposed weight permit application that follows the state statute and requires the vehicle owner to provide the Town with certificates of insurance.

Mr. Connolly noted that “restrictions” was misspelled in the bolded section of the application. Mr. Johnson said the form follows the state application and says it is only approved for Routes 153, 75 and 11 and that they plan to use it for all of the town’s roads.

Mr. Capello said any changes needed would be made but that he wanted the board to review it first so Mr. Rogers could make the changes all at once. He said this would be used for the current posted roads and that he spoke with the Police Dept. to make sure that they are strictly enforcing the posted roads. Violators would receive a warning for their first offense and would be ticketed for additional violations. He said the Town has had the ability to enforce weight limits but has not made it a priority to do so.

Chairman Proulx said that in the past it was a priority to enforce weight restrictions until they received “push back” from the Police Dept. She said it is a whole new ballgame with the current Chief and the dept. that are looking out for the town and the taxpayers.

Mr. Johnson asked what the permit process would entail.

Mr. Capello said it will be similar to what is done now except that they currently don’t receive a permit. The company will call the DPW asking for an over the road permit and will have to follow the procedure outlined on the form and then the permit would be issued. There are certain vehicles that are exempt such as gas, oil and septic trucks that are considered emergency vehicles he said.

Mr. Connolly asked if garbage trucks were exempted.

Mr. Capello said they are not considered an emergency vehicle and are not exempted.

Mr. Johnson asked if the current process is if someone has to go over a posted road in a vehicle weighing more than the posted weight limit all they have to do is call the DPW and get permission to do so.

Mr. Capello said that typically Mr. Rogers would give permission or not give it based on whether or not the road is frozen and if it is between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. before the road defrosts. The drivers would be required to have the permit with them to prove that they have one if pulled over he said.

Mr. Johnson asked why they would need to have a permit if they still have to call the DPW for permission to travel over posted roads in an overweight vehicle.

Mr. Capello said it is because they are planning on posting weigh limits on the internal town roads that wouldn’t necessarily require a call to the DPW. Right now they only have to call to travel over dirt roads to make sure that they are frozen he said.

Mr. Johnson said he didn’t see the necessity for a permit if it isn’t going to do anything. If they still have to call before using the road then requiring a permit just adds an extra step he said.

Mr. Place asked how they would prove they have permission to use the roads without the permit.

Mr. Johnson said it would be something the DPW would have to keep track of.

Mrs. Titus asked if the vehicle owners would have to pay a fee for the permit.

Mr. Johnson said the fee is \$5 (single vehicle) or \$10 (fleet permit) and would be good for 1 year. He said it seems like an unnecessary additional step.

Mr. Capello said he thought this will be more useful when they decide to post the in-town roads on a year round basis because fielding phone calls on a year round basis may be a hindrance to the DPW. A permit would give them permission to pass on paved roads that don't require passage only at specific times he said.

Mr. Johnson said he would have to wait to see the form when it is done as he didn't think it will change anything.

Mr. Capello said the permit process would require the vehicle owners to provide proof of insurance to pay for any damage to the roads caused by overweight vehicles.

Mr. Johnson said if they damage a road due to an overweight vehicle they are currently responsible for the damage with or without an insurance certificate.

Mr. Capello said that it is difficult to enforce without something in writing. He said the permit probably would not be issued if the vehicle owner didn't have some type of insurance coverage because if the town roads are damaged they would never recoup the money.

Mr. Johnson said when the form is completed and returns for final review by the board they would have to provide better reasons to do this because they were not provided tonight.

Mr. Place said it makes sense to him that when they call up and ask to run the road they would be told they must get a permit first and when a cop sees them and pulls them over they have a permit.

Mr. Johnson said that is not how it works.

Mr. Capello said the form states the permit would be effective for no more than 1 year and the permit for the dirt roads may only be during the winter or the spring. The other roads may be approved for year round he said.

Mr. Johnson said from Mr. Place's description of the process the company would call and get a permit each time they wished to travel over the roads. He explained that if they called on Monday and got permission to drive over a road and then drove over the road again on Friday without calling they would still have their permit so the permit doesn't do anything.

Mr. Place said once an overweight vehicle driver has a permit for dirt roads who would know if 2 days after receiving permission and the weather is warmer he would just drive down the dirt road again (without calling for permission). He said he did not think this type of permit was a good idea for the dirt roads and they should be handled separately including requiring them to call every time they want to drive on the dirt roads.

Mr. Capello suggested the DPW Director could put that as a condition of approval for a permit for the dirt roads.

Mr. Place said he would like to see the approval made specific for which roads that vehicle has permission to travel over.

Mr. Capello said the permit application also requires the permit holder to name the Town as a

payee of their insurance.

Mr. Johnson said he thought that most of trucking companies won't pay any attention to the permit requirements and they won't add Farmington, NH to their insurance policies just so they can drive over our roads. They are going to tell you to "go pound sand" he said.

Mrs. Titus said when a truck pulls the lights/wires down again on Civic Street or causes damage to the roads...

Mr. Johnson interrupted to ask if the permit would do anything to stop any of that.

Mrs. Titus said if she saw that a truck caused damage she would report to Mr. Capello. She then suggested that the companies should be asked what specific roads they planned to travel on.

Mr. Capello suggested the current postings be enforced and that they take up the discussion again when Mr. Roger attends the board meeting in April to talk about his suggestions for what other roads should be posted.

Mrs. Titus asked if Mr. Capello had spoken to the Police Chief to get his opinion on whether this plan is enforceable.

Mr. Capello said the permit plan is enforceable and that the Chief agrees that it is enforceable.

Mr. Connolly asked if the weight limit for in-town roads would be same as for the dirt roads.

Mr. Capello said that is something the board can decide after hearing Mr. Roger's recommendations. There will be a Public Hearing held on the issue and there will members of the public who will be here to discuss it he said.

Mrs. Titus said she wanted to be fair about this and not to just implement it without considering all sides of the issue.

Mr. Johnson he didn't mind trying to be fair about but he would prefer if they are going to start developing policies, procedures and fees for permits that they actually do some good and not do it just to waste paper and ink.

Mr. Connolly said they would be doing this to save our roads and money in the long run.

Chairman Proulx said this is a conversation starter and there are a lot of people in town who are complaining about their roads and rightfully so. She said that somehow they have to be able to hold these people's feet to fire and asked how they could go after someone legally who damaged a road if there is nothing in place regarding whether they can travel that road.

Mr. Bridges said he owns a 10 wheel dump truck and that if you want to drive on a dirt road during mud season in any town you have to call the town and get permission to do so. He said that if the town is going to permit travel on that road it would be restricted to a certain timeframe and you usually don't have to get a permit.

Mr. Johnson suggested one way to do this would be to determine a weight limit for all of the roads in town and post all of the access roads into town with that weight limit similar to those towns who have posted a universal speed limit for their town. He said they could also post the roads leading into the Village Center and if someone is caught on Civic Street or Mechanic Street they've been duly warned and we can "nail them".

Chairman Proulx said they may have to give waivers to the downtown businesses and the insurance policy could be part of the waiver.

Mr. Connolly asked if they could find out what other towns with similar situations have done.

Mr. Capello said he could send out an e-mail blast to other towns to see what they have done.

He asked the board to look over the application form and send any questions or comments to him so Mr. Rogers could be prepared to answer them during the next discussion. He said he will contact Town Counsel to get more information about what the Town is allowed to do regarding insurance binders and permits.

8). Town Administrator's Business:

a). Meaderboro Road – Mr. Capello said the Town received an offer for Town owned property on Meaderboro Road “out of the blue” offering to pay \$20,000 for the property that has \$80,000 in back taxes still due on it.

Chairman Proulx suggested the board should discuss this matter in non-public session.

b). Purchase Order for Landfill- Mr. Capello requested that the board approve a purchase order to withdraw \$1,490.99 from the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund (CRF).

Mr. Johnson asked why the amount on the PO was reduced from \$3,267.65.

Mr. Capello said it was because the Finance Administrator had forgotten she had already received partial payment for the landfill closure testing.

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to withdraw \$1,490.99 from the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund for payment of the monitoring and testing of the landfill site passed 5-0.

c). Purchase Order for Water Meters – Mr. Capello asked the board to approve sending the \$10,166.25 invoice to NH DES for the loan for the water meters. He said that at this time 116 meters or 10% of the conversion project has been done.

Motion: (Titus, second Johnson) to approve payment of the purchase order of \$10,166.25 for the water meters;

Discussion: Chairman Proulx asked for a copy of the meters that have been installed.

Mr. Capello said he had a discussion with the installer about billing and told them that per the contract they cannot bill for extra hours if the installation of a meter takes more than 1 hour.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0.

d). Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Selectmen reviewed the letter Mr. Rogers received regarding the results of the 2018 inspection of the Cocheco River Flood Damage Reduction System (FDR) for the left bank of the river.

Mr. Capello said Mr. Rogers plans to get clarity on some aspects of the report as one sentence says the levy system is conditionally approved and is eligible for the rehabilitation assistance but other statements would not lead you to that conclusion.

Chairman Proulx asked about the plans for the levy going forward.

Mr. Johnson said some of the things pointed out by the USACE have existed for decades.

Chairman Proulx said several years ago (2007?) all of the landowners were put on notice about

what needed to be done and there was some push back from those residents. The USACE is still not happy with the results and that further action has not been taken she said.

Mr. Capello said he didn't think the Town could make the residents comply with USACE's assessments and that he will contact the Town Attorney to see what they can do legally.

Chairman Proulx recalled that if any damage resulted from actions taken by the landowners they would be responsible for it.

Mr. Capello suggested they send the notice out again to the current landowners as some of the properties have changed ownership since then and they may not have this information.

Chairman Proulx said there should be a comprehensive plan for the levy and there are places where there are things that wouldn't require a lot of hardship for the Town to take care of.

Mr. Johnson said other than the encroachments by buildings or by 80 year old trees, the other issues are with unwanted vegetation growth is mostly wild growth with a few instances where people's gardens or plantings have encroached a little.

Chairman Proulx said that could be rectified by telling people to not do it and there is also some spalling (small pieces of rocks or concrete) that should be easy to take care of.

Mr. Connolly asked about the existence of buffer zone for the Cocheco River in that area.

Mr. Capello asked if Mr. Connolly was thinking of the Shoreland Protection Program and that the river must be designated as at least a Class 4 river to be included in that program.

Cocheco River Advisory Committee member Bill Fisher asked that the committee be sent a copy of the USACE report to see if there is something they can recommend that would address some of their issues. He said that they also work closely with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission who may be able to provide some assistance with the plans.

Mr. Capello said the Town did not receive the report until recently so he has not yet had a chance to sit down with Mr. Rogers to come with a comprehensive plan but that they will do so.

Mr. Johnson said when they start developing a plan they should also look at the encroachments and see what can be done.

Mr. Connolly said Page 4 states the existing easements do not allow the sponsor to address the issue of overgrown vegetation at the levy toe and new easements should be established to allow for maintenance of the FDR system. He asked if this is something the Conservation Commission would be able to help with as far as conversing with the landowners.

Mr. Capello said he thought this would be out of the privy of the Con Com.

Mr. Connolly said it involves protection of a water source and open space so it would be in their purview.

Mr. Capello said he would ask the Town Attorney.

Chairman Proulx suggested that instead of trying to deal with the landowners separately they could hold an informational meeting with participation from the Con Com.

Mr. Johnson said they could inform everyone that this is being required by the USACE and not by the Town.

e). Civics 101 – Mr. Capello reminded the board the Civics 101 session will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Chambers.

f). DPW Reports – Selectmen received the February DPW storm, equipment maintenance and costs reports.

Mr. Capello said it was an expensive month with the cost for salt

Mr. Connolly said he loved all of the information contained in the Equipment Storm Repairs Report.

Chairman Proulx said she liked it but it doesn’t address the time spent on routine maintenance of vehicles and equipment. She said the information would be useful in the event they were to apply for reimbursement of costs during a State of Emergency.

Mr. Capello said it would also be useful for when they come to the board next year seeking to replace one of the vehicles.

Mr. Connolly said some of the numbers for some vehicles did not add up correctly between the Feb. storm repairs and the Feb. equipment repairs reports.

Mr. Capello said one report is for repairs made during a storm and the other is the total month’s expenses for equipment repairs.

Mr. Johnson said the dept. spent \$35,000 in storm expenses in February and now the board can see how the money was spent and how many miles was put on each truck for plowing snow.

Chairman Proulx asked how the reports are looking at labor costs.

Mr. Capello said the report looks at it from the employee’s hourly rate that is performing the work.

Chairman Proulx said another pie chart could be created depicting who is spending the most time on what they are doing and where they are spending most of their time.

9). Additional Board Business:

a). Richard’s Way -Mr. Johnson asked if they received a report on the Barron Bros. visit to the site to inspect the cistern.

Mr. Capello said they received a copy of the inspection report and with a few minor exceptions everything passed inspection.

Mr. Johnson asked if the drainage system was cleaned.

Mr. Capello the drainage system was cleaned except for areas that were inaccessible due to ice so the owner plans to have the contractor return to finish the cleaning.

He said he is working with Town Counsel to complete the process to put the road in the Town’s name and no Public Hearing will be required to complete the taking by the Town. He said the Attorney advised that as soon as they receive the deed in the Town’s name and it snows the Town should plow the road.

b). Lights for Rec. Center- Mr. Johnson asked about the status of this issue.

Mr. Capello said that Rec. Director Rick Conway is getting more quotes on the purchase and installation of the lights. He said that he (Mr. Capello) is working with Affinity

Lighting/Eversource on energy efficient lighting solutions which may include some rebates to the Town.

c). Letter from Frisbie EMS – Mr. Connolly said they received a copy of an e-mail from a Frisbie Hospital EMS complimenting one of the Farmington EMS crews on a call. He said the note named Derek Murdock as the male EMS crew member but the sender did not know the name of the female EMS crew member involved in the call. He said it was good to hear good feedback about our personnel and asked Mr. Capello to pass on a “pat on the back” to the 2 individuals.

d). Police Chief’s Monthly Report – Mr. Connolly said that paper wasn’t centered when it was printed and asked what he was asking for in the incomplete sentence under High Points that said “he is asking for es”.

Mr. Capello said he would have to find out.

e). Class VI Road Signs- Mr. Connolly asked for the status on the Class VI sign posting project. Mr. Capello said the DPW Director is compiling the inventory of the streets where the signs will be posted and then he will order the signs.

Mr. Connolly asked where the signs will be made.

Mr. Capello said he thought the Director gets the signs from the state prison system.

f). Thank You to Teacher/Student- Mr. Connolly asked if Mr. Capello was able to get in touch with the teacher who contacted him about her student who found the economic development information on the Town’s website very helpful and in return provided an additional link to a site she thought would be helpful to kids.

Mr. Capello said he contacted the teacher to request the student’s contact information but has not received a response from her. He said that he planned to invite them to a board meeting so they could present her with a certificate of appreciation.

g). Trench Boxes – Mr. Connolly said there were questions about the use of trench boxes at the previous meeting and asked if Mr. Capello had an opportunity to get any answers.

Mr. Capello said he will attend an OSHA training session soon and may be able to provide the answers to their questions after he attends the class.

Chairman Proulx said she has not yet had an opportunity to get more information on the boxes but still intends to do so.

h). Exterior Stairs- Mr. Connolly asked what the plan is to address the front exterior stairs at the Municipal Offices and the old Town Hall/Rec. Center.

Mr. Capello said they plan to remove the metal strips from the stairs and skim coat and level the steps and address the drainage this spring.

i). Joint Meeting – Mr. Connolly asked if the Selectmen are still planning to meet with the School Board.

Chairman Proulx recalled that they decided to leave it up to the School Board Chair to contact the Selectmen when he is ready to make plans for the meeting.

Mr. Connolly said Selectmen decided to wait until after Town Meeting to hold the joint board

meeting.

Mr. Capello said Selectmen instructed him to send an e-mail to the School Board Chair informing him that the board planned to first meet with the Budget Committee and to wait to hear from the School Board as to a suggested meeting date for the joint board meeting.

j). Fire Chief's Monthly Report – Mr. Johnson said the report contains a statement about Frisbie Hospital being bought out with a transfer to the new system reported to be in the fall. The report goes on to say that currently the dept. relies on them for paramedic intercepts and has a contract with them for bundle billing. The Chief wrote that this could have a significant impact on their level of service and the overall operating budget.

Mr. Johnson said he did not understand how this would impact their overall budget.

Mr. Capello said Frisbie Hospital is being bought out by Portsmouth Hospital and there is a rumor that they will not provide ambulance intercepts anymore and that the Rochester Fire Dept. will have its own ambulance crews. If they don't have the intercept and we have to call Rochester we could get billed by them instead of us billing for the intercept service. Currently if Frisbie comes out for a Paramedic intercept we charge at a higher rate and Frisbie gives us a portion of that billing. If Rochester decides to charge us for the intercept we may not be able to recoup the cost from Medicaid/Medicare he said.

Mr. Capello said this could also affect the PILOT agreement for Farmington Family Health Care with Frisbie Hospital because Portsmouth Hospital is a for-profit hospital and is not a tax exempt hospital. He said that Town Assessor Chad Roberge is working with them to figure out if they will form a non-profit subsidiary company and if the PILOT agreement will still apply. Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Capello to stay on top of this matter and provide the board with any additional information obtained along the way so the issue doesn't suddenly get dropped on the board and they are forced into making last minute decisions.

k). Fire Dept. Incident Report - Mr. Connolly said he assumed that mutual aid responses reported were for true mutual aid and not just for coverage in other communities.

Mr. Capello said that is correct. He said he had a discussion with Chief Reinert that day and he plans to attend a board meeting at the end April/beginning of May to discuss the matter.

l). More Lighting Issues- Mrs. Titus said she saw the electric company on Grove Street and asked if the street light was replaced.

Mr. Capello said the replacement light for that location was dropped off at Eversource but he did not know if the new light has actually been installed.

m). Fire Dept. Apparatus Maintenance Report- Chairman Proulx asked if the damage done to one of the ambulances listed on page 2 was reported.

Mr. Capello said this happened last year to the old ambulance that was traded in and it was properly reported. He said the Town received an insurance settlement to repair the damage and that the board received a copy of the accident report at that time.

Chairman Proulx said the report shows that Engine 4 had a valve discharge leak and it was

temporarily repaired by greasing it until it can be replaced. She asked if that meant it is rescheduled for repair or if it comes up again we will deal with it then.

Mr. Capello said he thought that it means that it is scheduled for repair but he would find out. Chairman Proulx said this information in the reports allows the board to see maintenance issues and to make sure they are being followed up on.

Mr. Capello said his philosophy is to do what you have to do to get it through and then come back and fix it right.

Chairman Proulx agreed. She said she did not want the lack of routine maintenance or fixing “little things” to accumulate so that in 3 years all of a sudden the engine is has to be replaced.

n). Police Chief’s Monthly Report – Chairman Proulx asked if the change in the School Resource Officer has happened yet.

Mr. Capello said the SRO has not changed yet as the current SRO will finish off the school year.

o). Let There Be More (or less) Light – Chairman Proulx said the Police are continuing to keep the list of non-functioning street lights updated and noted that the light near her home continues to remain on constantly.

Mr. Capello said he e-mailed Eversource again and asked why the light is constantly on and has not received a response. He said he even took a picture of the light on during the daylight with the pole number and sent it to the utility company.

Chairman Proulx said she was told you would get the best results by asking for a work order number when calling Eversource.

Chairman Proulx then asked when the Cumberland Farms store area would be brighter.

Mr. Capello said Mrs. Titus reported that the light was changed.

Mrs. Titus said the Grove Street light was changed but she did not see if the light on Civic Street was changed.

Chairman Proulx asked that they be informed when the lights are changed and if there is any significant difference in the amount of light there.

p). Praise for Police – Chairman Proulx said previously there were continuous complaints about the lack of Police presence downtown and that while standing at the polls on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. she witnessed continuous monitoring of the area all day by the Police Dept. She said at first she assumed it had to do with Election Day but after checking around town for several days she said she could honestly say they have stepped up their presence and are doing a good job monitoring the area not only by patrol car but they are also parking the cruisers and getting out of the car and walking around downtown. She said she wanted to send the dept. some praise and to thank them for taking the initiative to do what we need them to do.

Mr. Connolly added that it also helps when the dept. has a full crew.

CRAC Report -Mr. Fisher said he attended the meeting of **Cocheco River Advisory Committee** that evening and reported that they reviewed the state permit applications for the solar farm coming to the landfill at the meeting. He said the committee had no issues with the plan and

they would be sending a letter to solar power company informing them that they had no adverse comments about the project. He said they need more towns in the Cocheco River area to start stepping up and sending a rep to participate in the meetings as only 3 members have been attending the meetings.

He said the committee would be meeting again in 4 weeks and he will ask them to review the issues brought forward by the Army Corps of Engineers.

10). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Connolly, Place, Titus-yes) at 8:20 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Connolly) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:40 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Connolly) to seal the minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Connolly, Place, Titus-yes).

11). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Johnson, second Connolly) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (d) Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Property passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Connolly, Place, Titus-yes) at 8:40 p.m.

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

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to seal the minutes as disclosure would render the proposed action ineffective passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Connolly, Place, Titus-yes).

12). Next Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2019 at 6 p.m.

13). Adjournment:

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

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

Paula Proulx, Chairman

Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

Dave Connolly

TJ Place

Ann Titus