

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 14, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

Gerry Vachon, Chairman
Charlie King, Vice Chairman
Penny Morin
Ann Titus
Doug Staples

Others Present:

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator
James Reinert, Fire Chief
Becky Dickie, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Steve McDuffee, resident

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Vachon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (King, second Morin) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) Compensation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples, Morin-aye) at 5:31p.m.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 5:48 p.m.

3). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (L) Consideration of Legal Advice passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples, Morin-aye) at 5:48 p.m.

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

4). Reconvene Public Session:

Chairman Vachon reconvened the public session at 6 p.m.

5). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

6). Public Input: None

Mr. Vachon said that a local business owner that's been in town for about 40 years now is moving the location and had nothing but good things to say about Code Enforcement Officer Ron LeMere and Planning Director Kyle Pimental in the entire process of changing the use of the building that he is moving into. He said he has had great things to say every time he sees him and he talks about how great those guys were to deal with. Code Enforcement and the Town Planner have another satisfied customer he said.

7). Review of Minutes:

August 7, 2023-Public Session- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0-1 (Morin abstained).

August 7, 2023-Non-Public Session A- add the word "SEALED" to 3rd line of the heading and add the motion to seal the minutes that was done in public session to these minutes.

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to accept the minutes as amended passed 4-0-1 (Morin abstained).

8). Old Business:

Steve McDuffee Property Taxes- Mr. McDuffee said he made an agreement with the Town and he called today to get the records of when everything changed but they only have records back 5 years. He said many years ago he had an agreement with the Town to pay \$500 a month which is the equivalent of \$6,000 a year and he told them he would pay that plus an additional \$4,000 to \$5,000 on his back taxes. He said it has always worked well and he kept his word. He said usually in Sept. they go up to his place in Colebrook for a couple of months and he stopped in to see the secretary and she said that he was sent a copy of the wishes to get money to be paid in August of \$16,000. He said he is self-employed and restores cars and by the end of the year he will have plenty of money to pay that money but the dates have changed.

Mr. McDuffee said they used to be at the end of the year which everybody agreed on which he did and then he got a notification in April and he immediately called the Tax Collector and told her he just got this notice to pay \$16,000 in August and it caught him off guard a little bit. He said he didn't want to make a big deal about it and he figured he would give it a bit but here we are in August and he doesn't have it yet but he will have it by the end of the year no problem whatsoever. I felt kind of threatened on that and I've had problems before with the Selectmen way back and Code Enforcement and I had to go to court and we got it taken care of he said. Mr. King said they were given a copy of the letter that was sent to him in August 2022 and asked if he got that letter.

Mr. McDuffee said he did not and that they go to Colebrook and he and his family go there for the foliage.

Mr. King said the letter says it was certified and then he is saying he got notification in April.

Mr. McDuffee said he thought it was in April and the minute he received it he called in and asked what this is all about.

Mr. King said this was sent out to everybody that fell into this area so it wasn't like he was singled out. He said there were some properties that they handled consistently as far as people who were behind on their taxes this was the decision that was made and it was sent to all those people and he was one of them. He said he didn't know how many people were noticed maybe about 10 or so.

Mrs. Morin said currently what she sees here is that he is still paying on 2017 and he owes 2018

through 2023.

Mr. McDuffee said yes and the agreement was they wanted \$500 a month but he is self-employed and he works off "x" amount and then they pay him and then he does a couple of his cars and then he sells them. He said a good time to sell is between now and the end of the year and they could check the records he has always paid what he agreed to pay.

Mrs. Morin said for that many years that's a lot of us holding onto.

Mr. McDuffee said he has done this for 7 years and all of a sudden there's a new sheriff in town and the rules change and that's not the way it should be.

Mr. King asked at that rate, the original agreement of 7 years ago was ever going to get him current. He said he would have to do the math but he said it was \$6,000 a year on his back taxes and asked based on how fast it's growing with the interest would he even ever catch up at that rate.

Mr. McDuffee said yes, he will and he has a lot of stuff going on in life which is nobody's business but he will get everything straightened away. I'm not going to lose that place I've been there for 50 years so I'm not going to lose it because of taxes but this caught me off guard a little bit. If you give me until the end of December like we have done you'll have your \$16,000 he said.

Mr. King asked if the \$16,000 was the number to get current to a certain year.

Mr. McDuffee said he went to get records today and they were busy and he got a call saying they would call him back but they didn't and he didn't want to "bug" them.

Mr. King asked Town Clerk/Tax Collector Becky Dickie what that \$16,000 amount gets him current to.

Mrs. Dickie came forward and gave Mr. McDuffee a copy of the records they could get from their system. She said \$16,298.10 is what would bring him current up through 2020.

Mrs. Morin said so he would still owe for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Mrs. Dickie said that's correct.

Mrs. Morin asked how long they usually sit on taxes and if it has to be for 3 years and then they go into the process.

Mrs. Dickie said the process begins when a tax lien is 2 years and a day old, then they are eligible to get a deed notice.

Mr. King said typically they don't take it at that point they try to resolve it. He said the \$16,000 amount would get him current to 2020 and Mr. McDuffee said he can have that to us by the end of the year.

Mr. McDuffee said he could explain how he got behind way back in the day when...

Mr. King and Mrs. Morin said they didn't require that information.

Mr. McDuffee said he had to spend money on lawyers to fight the Town and they did that and it came out the way it should have but then the Town forbid him to sell cars and he had signatures from 80 people saying he has been selling cars since he got the place in 1978. He

said he contacted his attorney and he said the state allows you to sell 5 of them without getting a license for it but the Town has the right to do their own rules and in order to challenge them you have to go to court and with the letter he got from Don Gilbert stating that from 1980 to his time in retirement he never had an issue, he was within the zone and did what they asked no problems whatsoever.

Mr. McDuffee said then the new guy came on and he knew him from years ago and he knew they were going to have a couple of issues and here we are. He said they forbid him to sell cars and he talked to CEO Dennis Roseberry and said there is a meeting tonight and asked if he had to go to it and he said no you're all set.

He said he got copies of the meeting and Mr. Roseberry suggested that the Town take his junkyard license away because he was selling cars but he wasn't there was a customer's car there that he was working on that they were trying to sell and Mr. Roseberry saw that and thought that he was selling cars. I felt as though I had a bull's eye on my back for a while and things have calmed down a little bit but then I got this letter and it threw me off a little he said. Mr. Vachon asked about the \$16,298.10.

Mrs. Dickie said that amount is through today and that wouldn't be through the end of year as the interest continues to accrue to the end of the year.

Mr. McDuffee then said he might have the money in a week you can't tell.

Mrs. Morin asked with the amount that he is paying for his monthly payments if that is going to help him come current with the interest.

Mrs. Dickie said he doesn't do monthly payments.

Mr. Vachon said he always pays at the end of the year for many years now-at least the 4 years he has been here.

Mr. McDuffee said that was the agreement and he stays by it.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to extend the time to the end of this calendar year for Mr.

McDuffee to get current to 2020 paying his back taxes to the tune of approximately \$16,298 plus interest;

Discussion: Friendly Amendment: by Mrs. Morin: to make it December 1 so it's not at the very end of the year.

Mr. McDuffee asked why.

Mrs. Morin said so that they would be able to balance their books for the end of the year.

Mr. McDuffee said it's always been at the end of the year and last year he came in and threw another \$1,000 down in January. I don't think it would be a problem but I know how things have gone previously he said.

Mr. King said he understood Mrs. Morin's reason but he would keep it at the end of the year.

Mr. Staples asked if by chance something comes up and he can't do it if they would have time to deed his property like they would deed everybody else's property that got this letter.

Mr. King asked for the results of the other people that they sent this exact letter to.

Mrs. Dickie said 2 have gotten completely caught up, 1 has made a lot of progress but still has a way to go and 1 has paid less than Mr. McDuffee has paid.

Mr. King said it sounds like they will be discussing those in the next couple of weeks because they will have to figure out what they are doing in those cases. He then asked for the total number of letters that were sent out.

Mrs. Dickie said 5 letters were sent out.

Vote: the motion passed 4-1 (Morin opposed).

Mr. King said Mr. McDuffee has until the end of the year as he requested.

Mr. McDuffee thanked the board and left the meeting.

Fire Dept. Update- Chief Reinert said he had a few things he wanted to run by the board to see how they wanted to proceed with certain items and began with Middleton Mutual Aid.

He said several years ago they put them on notice about the potential for charging them for mutual aid because when they don't show up it's not considered mutual aid it's our run. He said they never had to do that but their call volume seems to be increasing to Middleton and he found out that Milton actually charges Middleton and they get paid for those runs that they do from Milton. He asked if the board would like to follow suit and start invoicing the Town of Middleton for mutual aid responses to their community.

He said there is no real reciprocation from Middleton because of the way they staff they are strictly on-call or volunteer and we don't put them on our run cards and it's very rare that they have Middleton come down for an EMS mutual aid call and they're on a second or third alarm depending on where in town for a fire engine for a structure fire or forestry but typically they will get 1 or 2 people that's just the demographics of that community. They're a neighboring community and I'm not saying we're trying to take advantage but I don't want to be taken advantage of either he said.

Chief Reinert said Milton currently charges \$500 for an EMS call and that charge happens after 20 minutes of them being toned so whether that's including their response time or on-scene time once they hit the 20-minute mark that's when they submit an invoice plus if they transport, they keep the billing. He asked how the board felt about that and if we wanted to follow suit. It could be some potential additional revenue back to the Town he said.

Mr. King asked if Milton is charging Middleton \$500 for an EMS call if they are calling us instead. Chief Reinert said initially no but he saw that our call volume is starting to increase to Middleton.

Mr. King said in his (July) monthly report it only shows 2 EMS calls for last month.

Chief Reinert said last year they were about 20 calls to Middleton.

Mrs. Morin asked for the number of calls of them coming to us.

Chief Reinert said there was 1 call for a structure fire.

Mr. Staples asked if he knew how many calls Middleton sent to Milton.

Chief Reinert said as of today they have 70 calls to Milton and they are paying. He said there are

some employees on both departments over there so that may influence where the calls are going. He said he tells them all the time we don't need the call volume we're busy enough as it is but he is sympathetic to someone is unresponsive on the floor at their house and no one from Middleton is showing up so we're going to go help.

The Chief said it would be different if we were getting reciprocal help from them on certain calls but he can't count on them so they don't call on them for mutual aid ambulance. He said once in the last year we had duplicate calls going on and they were coming through town from Frisbie and were available to help so they said they would take it but it's very rare.

Mr. Dickie said on the one hand we probably ought to be getting some coin for it but on the other hand we're down on our Highway Dept. and if we have to call them to help us it probably won't happen. On the one hand yeah charge them but if we needed help they'll be charging us for that so I have mixed emotions on it right now he said.

Mrs. Morin said that 2 calls to Middleton this month didn't seem excessive and 20 calls over the year didn't seem excessive.

Mr. King asked if they have a Town Administrator.

Mr. Dickie said no they are governed by their Select Board.

Mr. Vachon asked if the Chief said Middleton had 70 calls to Milton to date or 70 calls for last year.

Chief Reinert said 70 calls in a year. He said at one time it was all Farmington going up there and the previous board 5 or 6 years ago sent them a notice saying that we're going to give you a couple of months and that's the threshold and then we would start charging them and at that time they cut us off completely and they started using Milton.

Mr. King said Middleton is still kind of going by we can use Farmington a couple times a month before they're going to start sending us a bill-that may be what they have for an impression because that's the last thing we said to them officially.

Mr. Dickie said when he talked to the Chief when he came in to see him, he said it sounds like this has some valid points to it let's bring it to the board. He said then when they joined the Highway Mutual Aid he thought being down on manpower if something happens to our town, we have to call on them to come help us and they send some they're going to charge us because we're charging them on the Fire Dept. side. He then suggested he could go sit with their Chair of the Selectmen.

Mr. King said this certainly needs a discussion and it should be Mr. Dickie doing it. He said he was not ready to say they are abusing it so we're going to start charging them but is reasonable to put them on notice that we're not charging them and we're going to support the best we can but if it gets out of hand, we may have to consider it. If it's excessive call volume I think we need to do it but based upon what you're saying I don't think it's in that ball park but that doesn't mean it couldn't be he said.

Mrs. Morin said she was not inclined to go there until Mr. Dickie has a conversation with the

Chairman and asked if they have a Fire Chief and if so if he has sat down with him.

Chief Reinert said they have a Fire Chief and it has been a discussion like this is something that could be coming down the road.

Mrs. Titus suggested if we have an excessive number of calls to charge for calls over a certain number such as giving them 5 calls and if they have over 5 calls then start charging them.

Mr. King said if you say that then we're going to get the first 5 calls so they don't have to pay Milton.

Mrs. Titus said if they can't get Milton then they're going to call us and then we'll start charging after those 5 calls.

Mr. King said he wasn't ready to put a number on it.

Mr. Staples said we're risking our men for a town that's not paying to have staff on and we're covering that town no matter what. He said it's mutual aid it's not we're going to send guys to cover you. He said with the Highway guys it's different they have staff on, we have staff on and if we're short-handed we help each other. They don't want to pay a Firefighter to be in that building then somebody needs to take care of your residents and now Farmington or Milton has to foot the bill. Milton's right if they're going charge them, he said.

He said it's not like we're going to assist with a structure fire that they can't handle or we're going to help their EMT's that can't handle the situation they don't have anybody on and they can't do it and they're unwilling to do it. It's not on us it's not our residents. We almost lost an officer in that town because they didn't have a cop on, he said.

Mrs. Titus said that's in the past and we can move on and start a conversation and see where it comes to.

Mrs. Morin asked of those 70 calls last year how many were fire calls and EMS calls. She asked of those EMS calls how many did we transport that we did get paid for because if we're transporting them, we're getting paid.

Mr. Vachon said the 70 calls were with Milton and it was 20 calls to Farmington.

Chief Reinert said for the 20 calls we did in the last year there were 16 EMS and 4 fire calls. He said he would have to go back and check the billing and there's a potential that there were self-pays or Medicare or Medicaid and there's a \$1,200 BLS rate and we're only getting \$400. He said there's a potential that there is a loss by us going to Middleton and transporting a patient on the taxpayers' dime.

Mrs. Morin said that would be important information for Mr. Dickie to have when he goes to sit down with their Selectmen on this is what we see.

Mr. King said maybe there's something in the middle where we say we're going to go but we want to be made whole meaning whatever we don't get in the billing to cover whatever we put on the value that we back charge them the difference. He said Mr. Dickie should have a discussion and then advise the board on what he thinks they should do and in some ways he wanted to keep the Chiefs out of it because it is their decision and it's not on them.

Chief Reinert said he was looking at potential revenue and if we're being utilized and there's a revenue stream out there if they want to jump on it.

Mr. Staples asked the Chief if his men were in Middleton and something happens here who would cover it.

The Chief said that's where the rest of the mutual aid district comes in depending on where in town for example we could use New Durham because they now have some paid staff during the day, Frisbie Hospital or Milton.

Mr. Staples asked if they charge us.

Chief Reinert said no. He said the way the National Fire Academy who gets all of our reports through the state sees mutual aid as the give and take so primarily there is no give and take with Middleton and there is a lot of give and take with Milton, Frisbie, Rochester, etc. So we are supplementing and Milton is supplementing their service because they are unable to provide their own service or give additional feed to another community he said.

Mr. King asked if they provide zero EMS service for the community.

Chief Reinert said he wouldn't say zero but they have a 250 call volume a year and they're probably 80/20 like everybody else EMS to fire and they've done 80 and we've done 20 so we're close to 40% of their call volume that 2 other communities are supplementing. He said sometimes if we're not available and they're not available Rochester is going and he didn't know what that call volume is. They're probably at 75% but I would have to look at their numbers he said.

Mrs. Morin said it would also be interesting to know of the 20 we did; did they call Milton first and they weren't available. She said they may be using Milton primarily and calling us when Milton is not available.

Mr. Vachon said he agreed that he didn't want to do anything right now but have Mr. Dickie talk to their Chair. He said 20 calls a year doesn't seem excessive it's not like they're calling us every time they have one so we're up there more than we are in town.

Chief Reinert said he wanted to make sure if it's progressing because he has heard that Milton might be increasing their fee.

Mr. Vachon asked him to keep an eye on their usage and if this is something they would like to discuss further if he would add it to a running tally in his report so that it's 2 times a month but it's this many times over 12 months for this community.

Mr. King asked the Chief to stay on top of the financials for those calls like Mrs. Morin requested and then they could say going forward that part of this information is now captured for what he feels are the costs associated with that and the revenues. He said then they could say this is what it's costing the community to go there on an annual basis and the last 12 months what they are going to do about it.

Chief Reinert said he would get that information.

Hay Day-Mrs. Morin said she went through his report and it says he attended a Hay Day

meeting and there's nothing new to report.

Chief Reinert explained that he uses a template for his report and that was supposed to be under the Emergency Management section. He said he attended a Hay Day meeting regarding setting up and putting our incident action plan together. We're all set and there's nothing new to report on Hay Day, we're good to go, the fireworks permit has been submitted he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if they have enough personnel for the event.

Chief Reinert said they will have enough but not as robust as in years past. He said with it being at the 500 Club they can reduce their staffing during the day because it's not as spread out and he is going to put a roaming EMS crew there and then the fireworks will have more staff on because of the crowds and the safety with the fireworks.

Paramedic Intercept Program-Mr. King said his report says he attempted to get an update on the Frisbie Hospital paramedic intercept program but didn't receive any correspondence and asked the Chief to tell him about that.

Chief Reinert said he reached out to the hospital's EMS Coordinator and he has had no feedback from the vice president at HCA. He said we have heard nothing and they were supposed to get back to us after their meeting about 6 weeks ago. He said they said they were going to run some more numbers and he continued to make the argument about the mutual aid reciprocation because we go to Rochester a lot and he is trying all avenues to make sure we don't get that intercept fee because we're different than Barrington, Lebanon and Milton because we're their primary mutual aid for EMS for the City of Rochester.

Mr. Vachon said it shows in the report that we went 12 times for Frisbie Hospital EMS calls.

Mrs. Morin said it doesn't seem excessive but the intercept is happening.

Mr. Vachon said our 20 when we called them was for paramedic intercept which is serious stuff that we're calling them for not just a stubbed toe and Frisbie isn't available.

Mr. King asked on a paramedic intercept if they come to the scene or meet us at the town line. Chief Reinert said it could be both and they have met them as close as downtown Rochester or out on Rt. 11. He said sometimes they may have initially decided they didn't need a paramedic but then the patient's condition changes and it's let's get the medic here and they're in downtown Rochester getting assistance.

Personnel-Mr. King said the Chief's report says they are still in the process of filling the vacant Captain and Lieutenants positions.

Chief Reinert said when they promoted Deputy Manchester, they never filled his spot and that was during the COVID pandemic and they were dealing with that and then Kirk Gagnon left so they have that vacant Lt. position. He said he didn't want to jump somebody in there he wanted to make sure it's the right people so it's been a process. He said they had to provide a hands-on training, take a written test which they just completed and the next step is going to be like an Officer Candidate where they are going to be assigned certain tasks running incidents.

Mrs. Morin asked if this is with the current staff.

Chief Reinert said yes, it's everybody in-house. He said the final step will be an oral board bringing in some outside people which keeps him and the other officers impartial and get their feedback on whether these candidates are capable and he will have a weighted grade for each of them and go from that aspect. It's going to be a drawn-out process as I want to ensure I'm putting the right people in the right positions to help grow the dept. with leadership he said.

Emergency Management- Chief Reinert said the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan expires this month and they put in all the paperwork for the \$10,000 grant process back in March. He said so far Homeland Security has not gotten signed off from FEMA regarding the monies which is the first time in his 20 years that they have been doing this that it's been drawn out.

He said he spoke with Planner Kyle Pimental the other day and he still has plans that haven't been approved through FEMA yet that are almost a year old that have been submitted. He said they can wait it out and hopefully get the money approved for the grant for the \$10,000 project or we can foot the bill and we wouldn't be able to go after the grant and if we wait for the grant, it could have a potential impact on future grants because if we don't have an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan that could have a negative impact because you have to be current or working on an update. That's your Emergency Operations and our LEOP Emergency Operations Plan which is up to date and I'm looking for direction he said.

Mr. King asked why we can't be in process of updating ours while awaiting the grant.

Chief Reinert said it's because he believes they are not allowed to start work until that grant money is approved like most grants. He said they are not going to pay for a project that hasn't been approved to move forward for the funding.

Mrs. Morin asked if anybody has reached out to FEMA.

Chief Reinert said Mr. Pimental has taken the lead and he has reached out to Homeland Security and to Emergency Management to get an update a week and a half ago and that time they said they're still waiting on FEMA and they don't know FEMA is holding up the grant monies because it's never been an issue. He said typically the way the grant works is you get approved for the grant money, do your project, get submitted for the reimbursement for the grant once that plan has been submitted to Homeland Security through FEMA with the final approval. We're still at the starting line and waiting for them to give us the blessing to start it and you'll get your \$10,000 reimbursement he said.

Mrs. Morin said but if we without approval...

Chief Reinert he understood that if they start it before they're approved for the grant, they can't ask for retroactive because we haven't been approved. He said the application and all the paperwork is with the state and FEMA but we're still waiting on them.

Mrs. Morin said that might be a daily call.

Mr. King said we have to move up the ladder and find who to talk to get them to say yea or nay.

Chief Reinert said we aren't the only ones and all the communities that are due for the Hazard Mitigation Plan are still waiting.

Mr. King said he didn't want to wait at the back of the line he wants to wait at the front of the line and be the squeaky wheel and suggested that he help Mr. Dickie find the person to squeak to because we may be able to just get an e-mail from a higher up that says that you're able to start and it won't affect your funding. Then we can proceed and then say you said this so we're now applying for the grant and we're almost finished.

Chief Reinert said typically if it's in process and it's not approved yet you're considered within your parameters to go after other grants.

Mr. King said they need to find somebody to put that in writing so they can get going even if the grant may be months away.

Chief Reinert said he wanted to keep the board apprised because they budgeted that \$10,000 in the Emergency Management line with the intention of getting the money back.

Pod Trailer- Chief Reinert said the red pod trailer they have out back was purchased in 2009 as part of an agreement between the Town and the Strafford County Public Health Network through a supposed grant (there was another Chief then). He said we purchased the trailer and SCPHN purchased all the stuff inside so all the equipment in there they own.

He said they haven't heard from or seen anybody since 2017 when they moved into the new station and they are supposed to come quarterly to inventory and replenish expired items. He said it has been sitting there locked and...

Mrs. Morin asked who it belongs to.

Chief Reinert said that's the rub. He said the title and registration is in our name and SCPHN thinks that it somehow belongs to them but nobody can find an agreement and he is still doing some digging. He said they haven't seen or heard from anybody for 5 years and then all of a sudden, a new representative from SCPHN showed up and said they want to relocate the trailer.

Mr. King asked where they want to relocate the trailer to.

Chief Reinert said to another community because they felt that Farmington is too far outside of the center of Strafford County. He said there are 4 pods currently in the county-one at UNH, 2 in Dover and we have the 4th one.

He said his argument was we own the trailer but they disagree and they now want to revamp the SCPHN and revamp the pod stuff and they want us to be on board with it. He said he is on the fence about it and we never had any training since 2009 from SCPHN and they never set up any sort of pod.

Mr. King said if they want to revive it fine and if they want to take that they should reimburse us for the cost of the trailer from 2009 for what we invested. He asked if the pod system is non-functioning now.

Chief Reinert said he thought they could better utilize the trailer in the future if the board doesn't decide to continue moving forward with SCPHN. He said he is working on a grant from Homeland Security to get more traffic control devices-traffic cones, barricades, etc. through a

grant process that we could pack that thing full. If we ever get a UTV in the future these are things we could utilize with the trailer vs. it sitting out there. We had a major pandemic that happened for over 3 years and never once were we called to utilize the set up that was a perfect opportunity to utilize this trailer and the equipment inside, he said.

The Chief said he and person presenting were the only ones going to these public health meetings for a long time so he stopped going to the meetings. He said it's been 5 years and all of a sudden, they have a leadership there. He asked if there was a direction that the board wanted to go, if they wanted to continue moving that forward, if we want to keep our assets. Mr. King said that asset is 14 years old and asked what condition it is in.

Chief Reinert said it sat outside the old fire station and when they moved to the new building it sat inside in the new station for several years until they got the new truck and then it went out behind the Public Works Dept. He said it's still in pretty good condition but it could use a power washing on the back of it. He said everything is functional, there are no cracks, dings or dents, the tires aren't rotted and it's dry on the inside.

Mr. Staples asked for the last time it has been gone through and inspected.

Chief Reinert asked if he meant from us or from Strafford County.

Mr. Staples said it's supposed to be inspected every year it's over 3,000 lbs.

Chief Reinert said he couldn't speak to that issue.

Mr. King said so they would assume it hasn't been inspected if he hasn't been saying it needs to be inspected every year. He said Mr. Staples was right that anything over 3,000 lbs. and has brakes needs to be inspected on an annual basis as far as trailers.

He said they should start with this is what the Town paid for it and ask them what they would like to do-would they like to buy us out of our investment or not and then come back to the board with whatever recommendations he has. He asked if they can find records showing we bought it and paid for it or if they got the money from a grant.

Chief Reinert said he wasn't part of any of that and all he has for paperwork is the temporary registration from the dealership that sold to the Town in 2009.

Mrs. Morin asked if it has been registered at all.

Chief Reinert said yes and it has a permanent plate on it from the Town and we have the title from the Town of Farmington.

Mr. King asked if he didn't know if we received grant funding from this organization or not.

Chief Reinert said the grant would have been from the state when they started the 10 country public health network which was a big plan but he doesn't think there was any follow-up on the trailer itself. He said when they were at the old station every quarter someone was there inspecting the internal supplies and then they just disappeared.

Mr. King said it sounds like he has some research to do.

The Chief said he contacted the state through Homeland Security and they can't find any records or they haven't gotten back to him with any records of the grant itself.

Mr. King asked if he ever asked the Chief at that time about it.

Chief Reinert said he doesn't speak to him and that he hasn't asked him.

Mr. Vachon asked if it would be possible for the Finance Administrator to find revenues from a grant. He said somewhere in the Town books archives there should be revenue from a grant in the revenue lines that we got reimbursed for a grant. He said it should be coming in as a grant if it was coded correctly because we'd have to pay it out and then get it back.

Chief Reinert said he try a search through the Selectmen's meetings because he would assume there had to be some sort of approval from the Board of Selectmen at that time.

Mr. Vachon said it was a purchase over \$5,000.

Mr. King said he was around then but he doesn't remember this at all.

Mr. Vachon said Somersworth had their trailer relocated to Barrington today.

Mr. King asked the Chief to keep digging.

Fire Dept. Detail Rate- Chief Reinert said he was looking to see if the board would approve or implement detail rate or process for the Firefighters similar to the Police Dept. He said they don't do a lot of them but they've had a few in the past year and they have been requested by the Farmington football team to have an EMT on scene during their games. He said they were asked if they were able to do that and asked how the board felt about implementing that.

Mr. King asked if they had one in the past.

Chief Reinert said they never had one because they really haven't had too many details and it's always been kind of on the clock and if they had to do them someone got paid their hourly rate.

Mrs. Morin said they've had football and had the EMS up at the high school for games in the past.

Chief Reinert said it shouldn't be an on duty type of event it's different from being a responder for an emergency call vs. someone standing by for a football game where the request would be coming from a private entity. He said if they put on-duty staff including full time people on that's considered overtime which then goes towards NH Retirement costs and if we do it as a detail it doesn't go towards NH Retirement with the way it currently sits. He said he was looking at it as people willing to do these types of events getting paid for them and not having it go towards the 30.35 % for NH Retirement. It could be costly he said.

Mrs. Morin asked how many games they have scheduled this year.

Chief Reinert said he thinks they have 5 home games and they said they have funds for EMS coverage.

Mr. King asked if one of their requirements is they have to have it.

Chief Reinert said that's correct.

Mr. King asked if we don't provide it where they would get it.

Chief Reinert said they would have to find somebody somewhere either an athletic director or an off duty EMT.

Mrs. Morin said a lot of times they have also used the other athletic trainers so if there's a

trainer from the neighboring school they've also agreed to help in that dept. so we don't incur those costs.

Mrs. Titus said this isn't for Farmington High School this is for a different team in Farmington but it's not through the school or anything through the Town.

Chief Reinert said that's correct.

Mrs. Titus asked what our liability is with this.

Chief Reinert said it would be the same as if anybody hired a Police detail to sit out on Rt. 11 for traffic because of construction. He said they are providing immediate on-scene coverage for sports injuries types of things.

Mrs. Titus said so if little Johnny breaks his leg, they can bring him to the hospital.

Chief Reinert said they would radio in and say they need an ambulance and the on-duty crew would come up to transport them and that EMT would still sit at the football game in case there was a future need. They would stay there no matter what and an ambulance would be dispatched from the station to go take care of them. Typically, they don't need an ambulance they need an EMT with a first-in bag he said.

Mrs. Titus said years ago they used to have an ambulance when they had tournaments at the 500 Club but she didn't know if they were volunteers.

Chief Reinert said he recalled that a while back Roxanne did some footballs games but he didn't know if it was high school or a younger level and at that time it was between a volunteer or the on-call people and they would get their hourly rate. He said it's not a ton of details like the Police Dept. and he didn't know if they wanted to implement this for the future.

Mrs. Titus asked how they would price that.

Chief Reinert said theirs is not mirrored off the Police with their admin fees and the other thing that would be different is instead of the fee for their cruiser they would base it on if someone needed an ambulance or a fire truck, they would base it on whatever the current FEMA rates are for an hour. He said the current FEMA rate is \$21 at the last time they updated and for an ambulance it's \$26 an hour.

Mr. King asked on these requests for services if they said they would do a detail rate if they would be putting an ambulance up there.

Chief Reinert said it would be up to the request for what they needed and with the football games no unless they wanted it and they didn't request it.

Mr. King said say they request an ambulance and one person and we put an ambulance up there at a rate and a person up there at a rate and if we get a call for service, we may have to call for mutual aid.

Chief Reinert said no because we have 2 ambulances and we have a backup ambulance but if the first ambulance was out on a call, they would have to call in a mutual aid ambulance. He said it would depend on staffing and whether or they have enough for 2 full crews.

Mrs. Morin said chances are they won't put an EMS or an EMT up there that is on-duty anyway.

Chief Reinert said that's correct and this would be completely off-duty non-scheduled personnel that another outside agency is paying for the fees the Town is just the middle man. He said he put in an administrative fee so whether or not the board decided to move forward with this where that money went would be another decision on where the board would like to see that-in the general fund or another place.

Mr. Staples asked if they were going to charge for the EMT and then if a kid gets hurt, they're going to charge hourly for that ambulance to come and transport the kid on top of the transport fee the parents would pay.

Chief Reinert said our on-duty personnel would transport the injured child and then whatever normal billing would go through that. He said they would be charging the organization a 3-hour minimum because they have 3-hour games on average at \$40 an hour plus whatever administrative fee for whatever reason they requested an ambulance be on standby. We're providing that service to the agency or organization that is requesting us to do a standby and then normal duty personnel would transport if needed. We're there to stabilize and then call for an ambulance he said.

Mrs. Morin suggested he come up with a fee schedule and bring it back to them.

Mr. King said he is going to have to figure out some of the other caveats with the equipment and how they are going to handle that.

Mrs. Morin asked if we are going to provide the EMS bag or charging a use tax.

Chief Reinert said disposables would be within the admin fee so in the event of being used it's already covered. He said it would be the hourly rate for the person, the administrative fee for ancillary equipment and if for some reason they needed apparatus they would base that off the FEMA rate which is what they would get paid from the federal government.

Mr. King said he was not opposed to going through the process to set it up and it would take some prep time.

Mrs. Morin asked when the first game is scheduled.

Chief Reinert said it is scheduled for the middle of Sept.

Mr. King said that it's a community organization and they need somebody to do it and we should provide that service at whatever reasonable fee.

Mrs. Morin asked the Chief if he has discussed fees with the organization.

Chief Reinert said no and that he said he was working with the board and there potentially would be a fee for this. He said that is when they responded and said they do have money that was specified for that.

Mrs. Titus asked if the games would be held at FHS.

Chief Reinert said he didn't know but it would be somewhere in Farmington.

Mrs. Titus asked if the Fire Dept. has to get permission from the school district to be up there.

Chief Reinert said he wouldn't think so and the organization using the facilities would have an agreement with the SAU and they would be there as medical standby.

Mr. King said they would have to submit a facilities use request.

Mrs. Morin said its 3 different communities-Farmington, Alton and Milton.

Mr. Vachon said he read that they were going to try high school football again.

Mr. King said the school is and they budgeted money for that in a prior budget but this is a feeder organization that was discussed when he was on the School Board and he assumed these are the same people involved.

Mrs. Morin said with NHIAA you have to have an EMS for football and she didn't know if they were following NHIAA but she would imagine they are.

Consensus of the board was to have the Chief provide the board with a written fee schedule.

Chief Reinert said he would get that done for their next meeting.

Mr. Staples asked how often they are going through and cleaning up the trucks and equipment.

Chief Reinert said the ambulances get checked every day, they have a rotating schedule for the fire apparatus and that schedule rotates every month so that the same crews aren't looking at the same truck. He said they have that all in their emergency reporting and he doesn't include that in his monthly report because if he was to print it out it would be pretty lengthy especially with 2 ambulances with 60 entries alone.

Mr. King asked if the trucks are getting checked once a week based upon that rotation.

The Chief said at least once a week per rotation for every truck.

Mr. Staples asked how often they were taking them out and cleaning them.

Chief Reinert said not every time they go out but when they get outside.

Mr. Staples asked what else they have for small gear that's being neglected like trailers and stuff that are just sitting God only knows where.

Chief Reinert said there was nothing that he could think of. He asked if he had anything specific.

Mr. Staples said we bought a trailer and we find out it's been sitting behind the highway garage going to hell. It's the taxpayers' money right down the drain he said.

Mr. King said it may have been the taxpayers' money and it may not have been.

Mrs. Morin said somewhere along the line we paid for it.

Chief Reinert said it hasn't been utilized in the capacity it was initially intended for and now there's a new regime but he thinks it is just going to sit there again.

Mrs. Morin said but likewise they haven't used it in any capacity.

Chief Reinert said there's some more discussion and research needed and he can't find any records of the grant or an agreement.

Mr. Staples said we don't even know what kind of condition it's in.

Chief Reinert said he is not a mechanic but it seems water tight, there are no leaks and there's nothing rotted on it.

Mr. Staples said you can buy box trailers like that that are nowhere legal for the road.

Mr. King said it would take getting underneath it to know the answer.

Chief Reinert said it has seen very little road miles.

Apparatus Maintenance Issues- Mr. King read from this section of the report that they are still awaiting closeout reports from the DPW and asked if there was something of significance in those issues.

Chief Reinert said if he does something on his own like going to Granite Ford he usually gets that report and he puts that in himself. He said any work that's been done at the highway garage he would get an actual report saying whatever the maintenance was, the costs, the parts and he implements that into their software. He said they had a few repairs and issues in July and he hasn't seen those reports yet to put them in to make it accurate for what the cost was for the repairs.

Mr. Vachon said the mechanic usually takes care of the smaller stuff in-house.

Chief Reinert said he has been sporadic because he is on grand jury duty so his availability was limited.

Fireworks- Mrs. Titus asked how many people come for a fireworks permit.

Chief Reinert first said zero then said that a couple of people called but where they reside per the new fireworks permitting policy they're not required and they've had no actual requests for a permit since last year.

Mrs. Titus said she loves fireworks but in the downtown area sometimes it's not safe and asked the Chief to give a safety tip or how they go to get the permit.

Chief Reinert said he could put an e-mail blast out of what the updated fireworks ordinance is.

Mrs. Titus asked if there is no hassle or fee to get that.

Chief Reinert said no. He said the issue is the way it's written if you're in a certain part of town and you're not in a compact area you don't need a permit but if you are in a congested area and there are 6 buildings within a certain area you need a permit but you don't meet the square footage anyway so your permit would be denied.

Mr. Staples said so they don't apply they just do it.

Mrs. Morin asked what the consequences are.

Chief Reinert said that is Town ordinance that is enforced by the Police Dept. He said he believes the first time is a warning, the next infraction is a \$50 fine and it works up from there.

Mrs. Titus said it's a safety issue and they're really pretty, they're nice and they haven't been at 3 a.m. lately (thank you people) but it's just a lot of the apartment buildings have gas and go ahead and do your fireworks but make sure you're safe.

Chief Reinert said it's different for someone who lives on Civic St. downtown than someone who lives on Meaderboro Rd. that has 15 acres of land.

Recycling Building Quote- Mr. Dickie said when they did the initial quote and they saw the dollar value he and Mr. Staples took a trip to New Boston and came back with a new idea of sinking it down below and taking out a couple of cans and let the gravity be our friend. He said he met with Jeff Greenhalgh at the Transfer Station and they walked the area where they were looking at placing the recycling building.

He said they got him to understand what they were looking to do and he took all that back and he came back with \$218,500. He said the first initial quote for the building up on top was \$252,500.

Mr. King said going through this e-mail there are a bunch of exclusions like stamped drawings which are usually included from the building manufacturer. He said this building is a purchased building which sounds like it doesn't include shipping it to us so this is not a building proposed to be erected that's purchased through like Bodell which would typically be a butler building and this is a Great Western building proposal. He said he assumed that's what we would be buying, somebody else is erecting it in this plan so they need to figure out if there's any shipping involved and installation and new utilities. Nowhere in this does it say plumbing for the bathroom so either we're going to tie into the existing septic system or we're going to put in a new field he said.

Mr. Dickie said that was what the thought was and they would have to put a pump in the house to pump it to it.

Mr. King said so that's a cost and asked if there is going to be additional paving.

Mr. Dickie said it would be minimal from what he sees. He said they had \$30,000 in ARPA funds and they got the warrant article for \$100,000 but they are still about \$100,000 short. He said with the \$218,000 plus adding the additional costs we're going to need more money to make this project go.

Mr. King said he thought they would need closer to \$300,000 before it's all said and done because they have to put in a bathroom, they have to pump up, it doesn't talk about new utilities and whether they have to get gas and water to it even if we do it with staff, we have to pave it, additional site prep work for the paving and whatever incidental stuff comes up. We have to do the project because that's what the taxpayers want, he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if they need to go back to the taxpayers and ask for more money in March.

Mrs. Titus said maybe they should do another warrant article to get the rest of the money.

Mr. King said unless maybe Mr. Dickie has some ideas on where else they would get some money to start this project. He said he was not opposed to starting it and either put in a warrant article to fund it out of the undesignated fund balance to finish it or raise it through taxation because there are some things they need to get going on. He asked if we only have \$130,000 to get going on or if there is more money, they could pull out of the undesignated ARPA funds.

Mr. Dickie said right now they have about \$22,000 in undesignated ARPA funds.

Mr. King said that would get us to \$150,000 and asked if there are any budget lines they could tap.

Mr. Dickie said he would have to "scrub" the budget and see. He said the budget was 9% to the good through June but they still haven't taken the paving out of it and taking the \$322,000 the board approved out of it would put us down to 5% to the good.

Mrs. Morin asked if there were any projects on the ARPA list that they can kibosh.

Mr. Dickie said he could bring the ARPA funds and scrub them out and bring them to the board at their next meeting and they can take another look at it.

Mrs. Morin said they could see if there is something that it's more worthwhile to finish this than to do some of the other things.

Mr. King said there is money in the Buildings and Grounds Fund as far as maintenance and repairs that they could potentially use. He said the only other money they have potentially available would be the second set of funding we got from the state on the Highway Block Grant. He asked about the restrictions on that and if they can they use some of that on this project. He said that money was taken in as revenue but this board hasn't designated the purpose for it. He said of that money could go to new equipment and maybe some of it could come over here maybe in the short term.

He asked if they were to start now and proceed at a reasonable pace what would be expended and where would we be come March and Mr. Greenhalgh may be able to estimate that. He said we may be able to fund it until then and put the rest of it on a warrant article but he doesn't want to wait until then. He said they may be able to do the site stuff, the foundation and get the building erected to a certain point and then pick back up in the spring. If we wait until next year, we'd be hard pressed to bring it online next year he said.

Mr. Staples said speaking of recycling they talked about trucking costs that went through the roof and asked how much they would be going up.

Mr. Dickie said he just got a new slip which was on his desk in his office. When he returned, he said the MSW is \$263.21 per haul and \$87.75 per ton; demo and bulky is \$263.21 per haul and \$91.26 per ton and single stream streaming is \$263.21 processing formula. He said it has gone up and he has also called out to different recycling companies to see what their cost is to truck and he is waiting for that information to come back and then he was going to bring it here for the board to go over what their cost is going to be vs. Waste Management. They went up last year and now they're going up again he said.

Mr. King asked what their contract is with them.

Mr. Dickie said he would have to go pull that back with them.

Mrs. Morin said if we are at the end of the contract hopefully it doesn't just roll over because they've definitely run into that on the school side.

Mr. Staples said we own the cans so switching trucking companies is not going to be an issue.

Mr. King asked if he reached out to Casella.

Mr. Dickie said yes and all the ones you see around here they've reached out to get their costs for what it would be to truck these cans for us.

Fernald Park Playground Update- Mr. Dickie said the playground is in and they are going to be moving that up to possibly tomorrow or Wed. He said they are here Wed. and Thurs. putting in the poles and the platforms in place. He said when they put them in place they will be reaching

out to the company and get an estimated number of volunteers needed to put the playground together. He said he is hoping it is just the staff members because he wants to do a staff development session with them on working together and establishing relationships, they don't currently have but if more is needed then he will reach out to several people that wanted to volunteer to help but he wanted to see what the true number is first so he didn't have too many people there and have things start getting out of control. Once I know that number then I'll let the board know he said.

Cable TV- Mrs. Morin said she had a resident speak to her on Saturday about the TV and it appears that sometimes when they are talking the volume changes throughout the meeting. She said the resident wanted her to bring that up and that she would like to have the scrolling back down on the bottom of the screen for when the meetings are instead of waiting as it takes about 9 minutes to see everything.

Mr. Dickie said he has been working with Cable TV Coordinator Robert Hall and he had a technology guru come in and they are going to be coming in with some new microphones that will be suspended from the ceiling that will keep it more even across and it won't fade in and out. He said the board asked him to get a list of what is needed to upgrade that system and they met with the company and he is going to be sending us a list so we can get this upgraded and get the mikes and the system the way it should be so it's working as it should be all the time.

Mr. King asked if those mikes will be able to pick up people that are in the audience.

Mr. Dickie said yes and they can pick up anything anywhere with the mikes being suspended.

Mrs. Morin asked if they will be able to be turned off because a lot times while they're meeting people in the audience are having conversations so she wanted to make sure that those can be muted.

Mr. Dickie said they will have to review all of that with them.

9). New Business:

New Well Meeting- Mr. Dickie said originally, he was told it wasn't going to happen on the 22nd and after everybody looked it and rehashed it, it stayed on the 22nd and will be at 1:30 p.m. He said if anybody is available it will be held in-person in the conference room and they should feel free to come in.

Mr. Vachon and Mr. King said they would try to attend and Mrs. Titus said she was not sure.

Mrs. Morin and Mr. Staples said they would be unable to attend.

Mr. Dickie said if they were all going to be there he needed to know so he could have it posted.

Mr. Vachon said they have 3 "possible" and asked him to post the meeting to stay on the safe side.

Community Power Committee Meeting- Mr. Dickie said on the 15th at 5 p.m. they will be hosting the third Community Power Committee meeting where they will be developing some flyers to send out to residents for information on the Community Power program and getting

the format for what they need to structure it and present it to the board. He said they are also sending surveys to residents to see what they would like to see and the different options.

Mrs. Morin asked how they are sending those out and if it would be by the list serve.

Mr. Dickie said they would be placed at various businesses and the library and at different places where people can grab them and they may also do it by mail. We're trying to get the public informed because we will have to have 2 public hearings if the board chooses to support it and then the initial push would be to try to get it on a warrant article but we have a long way to go before we get there he said.

He said there are currently 6 people on the committee and they are moving along. He said they will be reaching out to other communities to have them attend one of their meetings so they get informed about what they need to do with their towns to develop their own plans and be prepared to get on the March ballot.

Mrs. Morin said they should definitely do an e-mail blast because they would get more input and get more people talking about it.

Resignation- Mr. Vachon said they received a resignation letter from Melissa Drury from the Buildings and Codes Dept.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to accept Melissa Drury's resignation with regret passed 5-0.

Road Update- Mr. Vachon asked how they are making out with the roads up on the ridge and if they got the grader out there at all and started cleaning some of those up.

Mr. Dickie said they graded Sheepboro Rd. and Reservoir Rd. and upper Ten Rod Rd. is next and then they will be hitting lower Ten Rod Rd. and Meaderboro Rd.

Mrs. Titus said the street sweeper was downtown and did some of the side roads today.

Mr. Dickie said they got all the catch basins done so they are getting the sweeping done and then they will be back out grading. We have the new guy starting on Thurs. he said.

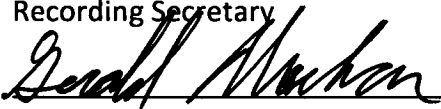
10). Next Meeting: August 21, 2023

11). Adjournment:

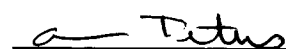
Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:30 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary



Gerry Vachon, Chairman



Ann Titus

Charlie King, Vice Chairman



Douglas Staples

Penny Morin