

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 21, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator
James Reinert, Fire Chief
Ed Cherian, Walden Renewables

1). Call to Order:

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

2). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples, Morin-aye) at 5:30 p.m.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 5:42 p.m.

3). Reconvene Public Session:

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

4). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

5). Public Input: None

6). Review of Minutes:

August 14, 2023-Public Session – Others Present, Pages 2-5: Change "McDuffie" to "McDuffee"

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

August 14, 2023-Non-Public Sessions A & B- No errors or omissions

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

7). Old Business:

Fire Dept.-Middleton Mutual Aid Fees- Chief Reinert said he and Mr. Dickie met with Roxanne Pegan and the Middleton Fire Chief to discuss our concerns and they were very receptive. He said Mrs. Pegan wants to bring this back to her board and possibly work out something in the future whether it's a more regionalized plan or a pay for service if we respond the same as Milton does. He said it was a very preliminary discussion with the Chair and the Fire Chief for us

to express our concerns and ask them what potentially we could do together in the future.

Firefighter Detail Rates- Chief Reinert said he wanted to come back to the board regarding putting together an outside detail service and the rare few times they get requested. He said he mirrored it off of what the Police Dept. currently has in place with the exception of they do a 3-hour minimum and he put theirs as a 2-hour minimum.

He said the proposed rate for a Firefighter/EMT is \$45 an hour, there would be a 40% administrative fee and the only difference would be is that he based their apparatus vehicle rates based on the 2023 FEMA rates which are as follows: fire engine-\$173.47 an hr; tanker-\$141.87 an hr.; aerial truck-\$190.80 an hr.; ambulance-\$48.32 an hr. and utility/command vehicle-\$22.91 an hour and that would be charged per each vehicle per hour.

Mr. Vachon said that would be if they are staged there.

Chief Reinert said this is for an outside detail if someone wanted them to burn their blueberry bushes and they wanted to hire a detail and they needed an apparatus they would charge per hour per the FEMA rates for the apparatus part of it. He said he would see it going more towards an event where they want an ambulance for standby but he threw all those numbers in there in the event in the future that they have something going on.

Mrs. Morin asked if that is just for non-municipal and that's not something they are charging the schools and the non-profits.

Chief Reinert said in talking to Police Chief Scott Orlando for Town events like Hay Day we are not going to charge ourselves but he understood that if the Water Dept. needs a detail they actually get charged and billed out same thing for the school district but that would be up to the board on whether or not they want to go that far.

Mr. Dickie gave everyone a copy of the Chief's memo regarding the proposed fee schedule for outside detail service requests.

Mr. King asked the Chief how he came up with the \$45 an hour per Firefighter/EMT.

Chief Reinert said he took what the Police Dept. is getting for a detail rate for a patrol person.

Mr. King asked for the range of pay and benefits for the people that could fill the slots. He asked if the \$45 an hour rate is based upon the highest per hour employee or the median. He said if that is based on the highest then pay and benefits are going to be less than that in some cases and asked where the extra money would go and if there was a case where it was going to be higher based upon who does it.

Chief Reinert said currently even at time and a half at the highest rate it would probably be right around \$45 and that would be like Asst. Chief Edgerly. He said he tried to research as to where the Police Dept. detail rate comes from and to get that number but he doesn't think anybody actually knows. He said when he talked to the Police Dept. Office Manager it was based upon what other depts. in the area were charging, some charge more, some charge less and that's where they came up with that figure.

He said he reached out to other Fire Depts. about how they operate their detail rates and the

City of Rochester takes a Firefighter, the person making the highest and it's time and a half plus 15% is what the Firefighter gets paid. He said Milton mirrors their Police Dept. detail rate and New Durham does not have a fee schedule in place.

Mrs. Morin asked if the Firefighter/EMT's are going to make \$45 an hour.

Chief Reinert said that's correct paid for by the outside detail by whoever is requesting it.

Mrs. Morin said she knew of some companies where the \$45 an hour rate is what the company would get but the employee would not get that rate.

Chief Reinert said for the Police Dept. the Patrolman would get the \$45, the Town gets the 40% administrative fee for any ancillary equipment and costs.

Mr. King asked if the Police are getting that or if it's based on time and a half.

Chief Reinert said yes and his understanding is that everybody is getting that fee with the exception of Captain Favorite who has a different rate because he is close to that range anyways but the Patrolmen and the Sergeants are at the same level.

Mr. King said if they are paying this at an hourly rate the employee can't get \$45 an hour we're charging \$45 an hour.

Chief Reinert said they're charging is \$45 an hour for personnel, then the 40% admin fee.

Mr. King asked if the employee gets \$45 an hour if we're paying the FICA, Medicare and Medicaid.

Chief Reinert said that's what the 40% admin fee on top of that is for to pay those ancillary costs.

Mr. King asked if nothing has to go to retirement.

Chief Reinert said that's correct. He said if they don't put a detail thing in and post it as overtime then that would go to retirement. He said there are 3 people in the Police Dept. that are grandfathered into the old system where detail rates were part of their retirement number package. We don't have any of them because everybody was hired post that system he said.

Mr. King said so none of the detail hours are going to count toward their 40 hours or yearly hourly requirements.

The Chief said it would be above and separate so they work their shifts and they needed it for a soccer game it's sign up for the detail, they get paid through the payroll system but it's all reimbursed. It would not affect retirement or overtime it's a separate pot of money paid for by the person requesting the detail or company he said.

Mrs. Morin asked about the non-profit groups and there are a lot of non-profits that do-good work in Farmington and say (for example) if the Girl Scouts want a CPR class as that is something they do anyway.

Chief Reinert said they do on-duty type of training and he can't force anybody to work part time. He said it would be up to board whether or not they wanted to cut a deal with or give a discount to somebody that's a non-profit.

Mr. Vachon said it comes out to \$63 an hour with the 40% admin fee.

Chief Reinert said that's without a vehicle.

Mr. King asked how they would keep track of this service. He said the extra money is going to come in as revenue and the board is going to want to deal with that.

Mrs. Morin asked if that could go in a revolving fund like the Police details.

Chief Reinert asked where they would like to see that go.

Mr. Dickie said they would have to bring a warrant article to Town Meeting for that.

Mr. King said he didn't think they were ready to set up a detail fund. He said say in the first year they take in \$1,000 that's revenue that comes into the general revenue of the Town and the board has to accept that as general revenue or take that revenue and designate it for a purpose like putting it into an emergency vehicle fund. I think that if we track that as a separate income stream the board can say this is what we can do or change something at Town Meeting he said. He said they need a mechanism to track that and they also need to track the expenses because an officer is out there on his time but if we put a vehicle on there's a gas bill associated with that so they need to take that into account because the taxpayers are paying for that.

Chief Reiner said he develops a spreadsheet for most everything he does for tracking purposes. He said he doesn't anticipate this being a common thing on their side but in the last few months they've had a few inquiries and if it becomes more prevalent he would rather have a mechanism in place to go from.

Mrs. Titus asked if for example someone is having a tournament and they just want a Firefighter there if he would say they have to have an ambulance there too or if it is what they request.

Chief Reinert said if they were doing a medical standby, they would have a "first in bag" and that is covered by the 40% and they would not mandate they have to have "x" amount of people or anything they don't need. It would be up to that agency he said.

Mrs. Morin said she would be more inclined to do this if it was just the ambulance. She said she didn't think we should be renting out our fire trucks, tankers or aerial trucks.

Chief Reinert said he didn't disagree but he wanted to put it out there that this is the cost.

Mr. King asked if there was an older structure that a resident wants to have burnt what they would do in that case. We don't want him just lighting it off he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if they do train burns like that.

Chief Reinert said they have done that but they have stepped back from them because of the regulations on asbestos abatement, the NH DES permitting and they are getting rid of a structure that is probably unsafe to begin with. He said they have plenty of opportunities at the academy to do live training fires and although they still get occasional calls for this, they haven't done one in about 5 years.

Mrs. Morin asked if that was something he would consider doing if they were renting a fire engine.

Chief Reinert said if they went through the process and wanted to hire a fire truck for control,

he wouldn't be opposed to it.

Mrs. Morin said in Mr. King's scenario it's a barn and they want it burned and they just want a fire truck and 1 Firefighter at the scene.

Chief Reinert said if that's what they want 1 or 2 he didn't want to dictate what they send out there for personnel.

Mr. King said in some cases they have to say that's not reasonable as far as safety.

Chief Reinert said they could put a minimum on it too but to Mrs. Titus' point if someone wants an EMS standby, they don't need an ambulance to sit there and he didn't want to dictate they have to put an ambulance up there. He said he didn't foresee those being any sort of common situation but these are the numbers through FEMA that they would reimburse for major weather events and all that stuff.

Mrs. Morin said she would not be in favor of all of them but he would have her vote for just the ambulance and the EMT rates. She said if they put an engine at a "guest burn" and they need that fire truck...

Mr. Staples said its mutual aid.

Mrs. Morin said with mutual aid at least we have a second ambulance if the ambulance is at an event, we don't always have a second engine.

Mr. Vachon said we would still have the duty crew on.

Mrs. Morin said with no fire truck.

Chief Reinert said we have a tanker, Engine 4, Engine 3 and Engine 1.

Mr. Vachon said these Firefighters would be separate from the duty crew and he wouldn't pull the duty crew out of the station for detail service.

Mr. King said typically when they had a request for fire it would be an engine not necessarily an aerial truck or a tanker.

Chief Reinert said typically but it depends on the situation and responses. He said a better example may be if the fire alarm/sprinkler system goes out at a private school and they have to put on roaming fire watch detail to keep the school open because they don't have the protection that's in place. He said whether they staff an engine up there or they just put 2 Firefighters that could be another scenario in town.

Mr. King said they could leave all the equipment on there and do that where we don't let anything past an ambulance out without the permission of the board.

Mrs. Morin said she could get behind that.

Mr. King said that may be on a case-by-case basis and they are just starting out with this and they may say this is reasonable and going forward you don't need to bring this back.

Mrs. Morin said she just doesn't want our fire engines at a scene when we might need them.

Mr. Vachon said football season is coming and the first game is on Sept. 10 at FHS and asked if everyone was all right with this so they can get this figured out and tell them we can staff it and what it will cost. He asked if everyone was at least all right with the hourly rate, the admin fee

and if by chance they want an ambulance that rate even though they are not requesting an ambulance they're just requesting an EMT with a jump bag at this time.

Mrs. Morin asked if they are a 501C3 organization and if they want to do anything different for a non-profit.

Mr. King said that might sound good but that means if they're going to give a waiver for every 501C3 then they might have a 501C3 that says they're going to have an event at the park and they want 2 Firefighters and an ambulance because they're going to be throwing darts at each other. He said if they start waiving that for 501C3's they will be doing it for free and that will be on the taxpayers. There may be a scenario that we would consider waiving but the one that is posed to him is not one that I would waive he said.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to approve at this point a policy allowing a 2 hour minimum, the rate, the 40% administrative fee and the fees assessed for the ambulance and command vehicles to proceed with and the other equipment to be worked on in the final policy;

Discussion: Mr. King said so they can moving for this request and then figure it out on the larger equipment.

Chief Reinert said he expected they would be far and few between but he wanted to have it documented so if they had some sort of an issue or a person was intentionally setting their junkyard on fire these are also the fees that could be assessed for reimbursement for those types of issues.

Mr. King said that's another whole set of questions.

Mr. Vachon said just for the board's information the request that was made to the Chief is for a junior high-level team, the league does require them to have an EMT on standby and they only have 4 home games at this time.

Mrs. Titus asked the Chief if they have been in contact with him.

Chief Reinert said he has been in contact with Gabe who he thinks is the Asst. Coach.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

Recycling Building Estimated Costs- Mr. Dickie said he reached out to Jeff Greenhalgh again and asked him if we were to start today what would the cost be by next March to figure out additional monies above and beyond \$130,000 that we would be required to lug us until the next Town Meeting. He said Mr. Greenhalgh replied that his best guesstimate would be for just the building, the concrete and the excavation would be about \$175,000 and for the engineering of the site with the plans would be about \$5,000 so it would be about \$180,000 to \$200,000.

Mr. Vachon asked if that is on top of the \$130,000.

Mr. King asked if that the total amount to be expended between here and March.

Mr. Dickie said that is the total for between now and March. He said if they were to put a shovel in the dirt today by next March it would be about \$180,000 to \$200,000.

Mrs. Morin asked if that is inclusive of the \$130,000, they have set aside.

Mr. Dickie said they need to come up with another \$70,000 on top of the \$130,000.

Mrs. Morin said they could do that in March.

Mr. King said to keep the project moving without any halt they would have to come up with another \$70,000 somewhere in the budget.

Mr. Dickie said or he had an idea and it would be up to the board on how they want to handle it. He said they have \$105,000 set aside for bridge repairs in the American Rescue Plan Act funds and they got a payment last year for bridges of \$136,548 from the state for bridges only. He suggested they do the repairs with the state money and take the \$105,000, take the \$70,000 out of that and then take what is left and add it to the bridges to keep the repairs going. That would go with what Penny was saying through the ARPA funds you could have that and you don't have any effect on the budget he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if they already used that other money to offset the bridges when they went to do the bond that's not part of the calculations they used.

Mr. Dickie said that is above and beyond that.

Mr. King asked if he was referring to the \$105,000 that was earmarked from ARPA to go to bridge repairs that they never got kicked off because they couldn't find anybody to bid on it.

Mr. Dickie said they couldn't find anybody to do them so they have \$105,000 sitting there for repairs that nobody has bid on so he is saying take \$70,000 out of that and the \$136,000 they got from the state which was a payment that they don't typically get that they have sitting in a bank account not in the general fund.

Mr. King said the \$130,000 is \$100,000 by warrant article and \$30,000 out of ARPA funds.

Mr. Dickie said that's correct.

Mr. King said now we're going to take \$100,000 out of the ARPA funds and \$100,000 that was earmarked through a warrant article.

Mr. Dickie said yes and to do the repairs on the bridges through the money they got from the state that's specifically for bridges.

Mr. King said the other thing they can do is go with a warrant article to replenish that money through the undesignated fund balance at the end of the year or by general taxation and put it directly there.

Mr. Dickie said he was giving them an avenue that wouldn't have an adverse effect on the operating budget.

Mrs. Morin asked if the money for the Hornetown Road Bridge would be more than the \$105,000 when all is said and done or would it stay at the \$105,000.

Mr. Dickie said in the warrant article last year they were taking \$200,000 out of the Capital Reserve Fund to match with the \$1.4 million they borrowed from a bond and that's separate.

Mr. Vachon asked the board if they wanted to take that extra \$70,000 out of the ARPA funds and get this thing going since its August and it was voted in in March.

Motion: (King, second Staples) to re-designate \$70,000 of the \$105,000 that was for bridge repairs to the recycling building project from the ARPA funds;

Discussion: Mrs. Titus asked if they would do a warrant article in March.

Mr. King said when they get closer they will know what they need to do.

Mrs. Titus asked if he wanted to add that to his motion.

Mr. King said no because they're just earmarking the money and they don't know how the project is going to progress and they may not use all that or it may get held up for something. As we get closer to the bottom line, we'll figure out what the warrant articles are going to be he said.

Mr. Vachon said if the total comes in at \$180,000 that would be \$50,000 that they'll have to slide over.

Mr. King said they really need to get this project moving. He said they know they're going to do it, the taxpayers want it done, they knew the estimate was just a starting estimate and they know now what it's approx. going to cost and if they don't start now they won't have it online by next summer.

Mr. Vachon said there are still a few months of construction season left.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Morin said that somebody brought up that there's a board sticking up out of the Hornetown Bridge.

Mr. Dickie said he would have someone go up there and cut that off. He said it's where the planks have dried and some of them lift up where the grain is.

Walden Renewables Nutes Solar Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement- Ed Cherian said he didn't know how much there is to review at this point and hopefully they have the latest version that was sent back.

Mr. Dickie said he put it in the board's packets and Att. Keriann Roman responded back but she removed some verbiage from something but he didn't get any update from her on that.

Mr. Cherian said she red lined an older version, they fixed that and sent it back to her, she was okay with that and there was one last minute change but he didn't remember what it was. He said she added all this stuff about if the commercial operation date extends beyond a certain date after construction in Section 3 (c).

Mrs. Morin said on page 4, Section 4 there's a strike through "shall be the first tax year covered by this agreement" and she took that out.

Mr. King said there is a strike through on Page 7, Section 8.

Mr. Cherian then showed Mr. Dickie the column Att. Roman wanted taken out and that is probably the one change that she did last. He said there is a table on page 5 that had "Tax Year Beginning April 1" and her note said to delete the column because it's confusing because they don't know what year will be year 1 so now it just says year 1.

Mr. King said it's a tentative date not an actual date.

Mrs. Morin said they got rid of the "Tax Year Beginning April 1".

Mr. Cherian said they got rid of the years and that whole column was taken out entirely.

He said on page 6 there was something she added and then wanted taken out.

Mrs. Morin said she took out the 4 lines under the Table's total.

Mr. Cherian said she took that out because again it was tied to the specific date of 2025 which is speculative and the language she added up front was essentially once they start construction if it's not operational by a certain time there's another \$10,000 transition payment to be paid to the Town because it's not fully taxable until its online.

Mr. King said Mr. Dickie said earlier that there was some flexibility built in based upon what they're proposing vs. what may actually happen as far as the size. He said right now they are proposing 20 Megawatts but they haven't gone through the process yet and it could be bigger or it could be smaller and the attorney addressed that in her note.

Mr. Cherian said it can't be bigger at least not right now because the interconnection with Eversource cannot exceed that or you'd have to file a whole new request. He said some of the language she added is suppose you ended up building 15 MW the pro-rated payments adjust accordingly. He said suppose they go in after 10 years and there are new modules that are more efficient, they re-power it and it becomes 30MW or 40MW the payments would adjust to account for that. It's not like you signed this agreement for 20MW that's all you get he said.

He said Mr. Dickie was printing the agreement in color so it would have all of the attorney's strike throughs and additions in red ink. He said they had no objections to any of those changes to clarify transition after delay in construction from start to end.

He said the other thing she added there was an Exhibit A that called out RSA 80 that according to the Town Attorney required notification to the landowners whose land is subject to a PILOT that the Town has entered into a PILOT so they have no problem doing that as it is required by statute. He said he didn't know if there is a standard form the RSAs don't call out some kind of format so they will have their attorney produce a form that would then go out just like a notice to abutters.

Mr. King asked if the RSA was saying the municipality is required to notify the landowners.

Mr. Cherian tried to find the attorney's comment in the agreement and then said she may have said they have to do this in an e-mail. He then said in Section 8 under Non-Payment is where it calls out RSA 80 and the law says the Town Tax Collector has many different tools to go after a property you can lien a property and in this case because it's a PILOT the Town has the right if the project were to default on payments to go after the landowners. He said it was added at the bottom (page 7) "in accordance with NH RSA 72:74 (which is the PILOT RSA) Nutes certifies that it has sent by certified mail or will send within 30 days of the parties' execution of this Agreement a notice to each of the private landowners (owners or lessors) for Town tax parcels (then lists all the parcels) that the property of the owners/lessors may be subject to RSA 80..." He said the way it was put in there they will be responsible for it and they will make sure they have the correct list and confirm it with the Town Tax Collector and confirm it sent by certified mail by providing those receipts back to her. We would do that after it's signed, he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if this is the final one that Att. Roman is satisfied with.

Mr. Cherian said he thought they should make sure because she red lined a different one and she red lined her own red line and that was a bit confusing. He suggested they may want to have those in front of everybody at the hearing if they have to have one so they know exactly what it is.

Mr. King asked if they have to hold a public hearing before they sign that.

Mr. Dickie said he was not sure and would ask the attorney.

Mr. King said originally, they wanted to wait until they got their approval (before finalizing the agreement) but that doesn't work.

Mr. Cherian said they have Zoning Board approval and the Planning Board will probably be a long process and that's where they had to spend a lot of money because of all the field survey work. He said they bid that out, they have bids they are evaluating and once the board signs the PILOT, they will award the bid for the field work and hopefully get it done before snow flies.

Mr. King asked how many subcontractors bid on it.

Mr. Cherian said they sent the request for bids to 5 companies and they all responded.

Mr. King said he will be curious who they selected.

Mr. Cherian said they will let them know and they will bring them to the board to introduce them as well. He said they may have different companies do different parts some companies are good at field work, wetlands delineation or drainage, etc. and the firm they select will be the lead for the Planning Board. He said it may go on for a while and they are going to do a comprehensive job it's going to be a big package because they want to make sure it covers everything.

Mr. Vachon said it sounds like they are awaiting the attorney's thumbs up and the final, final version of the agreement.

Mr. King said and to find out if they need to hold a public hearing before signing it. He said if they do they have to have a notice period so it won't make the next meeting but if not, they can do it at the next meeting.

Mr. Dickie said he texted Att. Roman.

Mrs. Morin said they could hold a special meeting they don't have to do it at a regular meeting.

Mr. Cherian asked Mr. Dickie to let them know if there's a public hearing or it would be ready at the board's next meeting. He said he would like to be at the next meeting for a final deliberation and in case there are any questions from the board or the public.

Mr. Dickie said the attorney replied that they do need to hold a public hearing and it must be scheduled 7 days from the date of the notice.

After some discussion the board decided to hold the public hearing on Wed., Aug. 30 at 5 p.m.

Kodiak Settlement- Mr. Dickie said he didn't get anything new from the attorney and asked the board to table the matter. He said it is potentially resolved as they discussed at the last meeting as they agreed to the additional \$3,000 and they agreed to everything.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to table this to the next meeting passed 5-0.

Fernald Park Playground- Mr. Dickie said they will be standing up the playground starting on Aug. 30. He said they will be in to put the posts and platforms in and then they will start putting the rest of it together the next day because they recommended, they get that done before the cement stiffens up so they will be working on it on Thurs. and Fri.

He said he was getting a list of the tools they need but the staff except for Chief Reinert will be with them. He said they said to have a crew of between 5 and 10 and right now he has 6 people so if anybody else would like to come down and give us a crew of 10 they are more than welcome. He said the Rec. Dept. will provide lunch and drinks and he trying to do this as a staff development to get them to work together. He said a lot the time we interface with people but aren't necessarily able to work with each other so this gives us the time to try to develop relationships and strengthen the staff at the same time.

Mr. Vachon said they said it would only take 3 days so it would be up in time for Labor Day.

Mr. Dickie said that's what the thought process is.

New Computers- Mrs. Morin said back in July she was requested to come down and sign he life away for a new computer that they still don't have access to. She said they are not getting e-mails at their new e-mail addresses and asked when that is going to take place.

Mr. Dickie said the IT technician was supposed to meet with each board member and get them all set up and let him know when they're ready so they can move forward with it.

Mrs. Morin asked if everybody has signed in to get a computer.

Mr. King said he has not met with the tech yet.

Mr. Staples who is the Selectmen's Rep to the Budget Committee left this meeting to attend the Bud Com meeting taking place in the conference room.

Mrs. Titus said she thought they were not getting that e-mail because they all have to be signed up first. She said the computers would also be staying in this building.

Mr. King said he has an issue with that.

Mrs. Titus suggested maybe they could sign something saying if they damage the computer, they'll get a new computer or something like that but she goes over her meeting packet every weekend.

Mr. King said they need to be able to take the computers home so they can access the information on their own time. If we have to leave it here there's no sense in even having it he said.

Mr. Vachon said he thought the plan was they would get them and be able to take them home and bring them to the meetings because all of their stuff was going to be on them.

Mrs. Morin asked Mr. Dickie contact the technician and find out what the holdup is and if it's just that everybody has to get signed in and setup their e-mail and their password. She said when she came in it was that they couldn't take them home.

Mr. King said that was never the intent and asked if they can't trust themselves then who can

they trust.

Mr. Vachon asked what the point of going paperless was if they can't read it beforehand. He said the point was they would use less paper and can read it ahead of time and know what they're discussing before 6 p.m. on a Monday. He asked Mr. Dickie to check that out for the board.

Mr. King asked if it makes sense to have the IT tech here at a certain time right before a meeting so they could all come in and check in or sometime this week.

Mr. Dickie asked if they would be available at 5:30 p.m. next Monday to sit with the IT tech.

Mr. King said he could do that.

Mrs. Morin noted that it would really only be Mr. King and Mr. Staples coming in at 5:30 p.m. to get setup.

Tax Deeded Property Policy- Mrs. Morin asked after last week's meeting with Mr. McDuffee if they have a policy that says certain people can... She said she wanted to make sure that it's clear for anybody that comes in later because she left on Monday not really clear why they let something go for 6 years when their policy is 3 years.

Mr. King said he has been on the board for about 10 years and it's always been done on a case by case basis because situations are different and people have agreements based upon different things. He said you can set a policy but then you're going to have to deal with that.

Mrs. Morin said they can waive policy but if they don't have a policy.

Mr. King said the law says that after 3 years of being behind they can deed the property. He said he didn't think there have been many instances where the Town has been that aggressive and deeded it in 3 years unless maybe the person is deceased and there are no heirs or something like that. He said typically they try everything they can to not take something through taxation so if you make a hard policy you end up potentially being harder than you really want on that individual case.

He said this board the prior year met with Town Clerk/Tax Collector Becky Dickie and said this is the letter they sent out trying to kind of set a policy and it was sent out to 5 landowners and there were some that were resolved. He said Mr. McDuffee was before them regarding his particular situation and asked for an extension which they gave him for a few months and there may be 2 others that may be before them or not as they may work it out with Mrs. Dickie. He said that was them trying to bring them up to current to those 3 years. He said he is not opposed to looking at it but from his experience it ends up being a lot on a case-by-case basis based upon that landowner's issues. Sometimes it's been issues with multiple owners of the property, the person may be elderly, the person doesn't have the financial means to make the payment and in some cases they were able to get a poverty exemption or they weren't taking a benefit that they could have been he said.

Mrs. Morin said it was news to her on Monday that there was an agreement made and asked where the agreements are and if this was hey I did this last year or if it was just past practice.

Mr. King said the agreement he referred to was one that he made 7 years ago. He said from what he has seen the Town Clerk or one of her people will have a discussion with the landowner that's behind and they come to an agreement on what they can pay and how they're going to get caught up. He said that is the type of agreement that's on a case-by-case basis that the Town Clerk may make with people that are behind.

He said Mr. McDuffee stated that he made an agreement 7 years ago and that is still in force. He said there have been other agreements past that that may have been after that maybe not. I think those are made trying in good faith to negotiate with the landowner to get them as current as reasonably possible as fast as they can. That's what he was referring to and typically that's been handled strictly with the Town Clerk, we've been notified of it and overall approve them, we ask questions and say that's okay with us he said.

Mrs. Morin said it took her a little bit to process what that was and maybe through policy they can come up with something that's fair to both the taxpayers and the owners so they're not carrying someone's taxes over 7 years.

Mrs. Titus said she understood that but she does like the idea of case to case and they do have somebody new there that has newer ideas too that was 7 years ago that was the deal made and that's what the gentleman can pay. She suggested they ask Mrs. Dickie to come in and see what her process is and maybe talk it over with her instead. I would want to talk to her and see what her procedure is before I made a policy and maybe she can help us with it too she said.

Knotweed Removal- Mrs. Morin said she asked about this last week and asked if there was any new information on getting rid of the knotweed.

Mr. Dickie said no.

Mr. King said a resident told him that goats will eat it.

Mr. Dickie said he thought about doing that but their waste product would probably spread it.

Mr. Vachon said they can't get all the roots either.

Mr. King said they may eat the bushes but then you may have to treat and cover it.

Mr. Vachon said they have actually used that process and they brought the goats in, let them eat it and then it grew back.

Mr. King said if we tried to do that we would have to do some treatment and then cover it and asked if that would reduce the amount of coverage required.

Mr. Vachon said it would because they wouldn't have to bend the stalks over to do it but he thought Mrs. Morin was referring to the roadsides and it would be really difficult to cover roadsides. He said on roadsides you also have to worry about spillways because any time of pesticide we spray is going to end up in a brook or a stream because that all ends up in a brook or a stream at some point. Unfortunately, it's a huge issue all around NH and there's really no good way to get rid it he said.

Mrs. Titus asked if they did it up by the roots and put it in a bag if they can dispose of it somewhere.

Mr. Vachon said 1 one-inch piece of that plant will re-root. He said they will never get all the roots because they did a study where they planted it in a sand bank and the roots went out over 20 ft. from one plant. He said it's extremely invasive and nasty to get rid of and they would end up tearing up the complete whole road shoulder just trying to get it out and then you have to put all the gravel back that you tore up.

Mrs. Titus said she knows people that have gotten rid of it so that's why she brought it up.

Mr. Vachon said there are ways to get rid of it but it depends on the location and how bad it is. He said most of it is along the roadsides and it's growing over and bending in and in most places, they could just cut it down and keep it looking good but we don't own a roadside mower to have somebody to go mow it and keep it from coming in the road.

River Road- Mrs. Morin said that River Rd. is still posted for 8 tons on the Rt. 11 side.

Mr. Vachon said speaking of River Rd. those blocks that go down to the Dubois property never got moved this spring. He said usually they get moved every spring and get moved back in the fall.

Mr. Dickie said people park there and walk down to the bridge and walk back.

Mrs. Morin said she hasn't heard anybody complaining that they couldn't get there.

Mr. Vachon said since he has been on the board, they move them so people can drive in to use the trails and not clog up out on Hornetown Rd. He said he hasn't heard any complaints either.

Mrs. Morin said it's really nice to walk on that road with no traffic.

Mr. Vachon said he was okay with leaving there he just saw them and remembered they hadn't moved them yet.

Mr. King said they should move them if it provides additional parking closer to the trail head and if the 8-ton sign is still posted it needs to be picked up.

Auctioneer Services- Mrs. Morin asked if that bid process has been closed.

Mr. Dickie said that is upcoming at the end of this month and he has 2 interested parties right now.

Telephone Pole Replacement- Mr. King asked about the telephone pole out past the park that was leaning next to the fence that they replaced and if they have an action plan before the winter.

Mr. Dickie said he reached out to Eversource to see what they're going to do to get them to replace it and to get it standing up straight. He said they are also looking at maybe an alternative way to move the fence inward but he wants the pole fixed first.

Mr. King said the pole has to get moved.

Spring St. Bridge- Mr. King said on our current assessment we have it slated to be replaced and asked if it makes sense to have our secondary engineering firm look at it to see if it's readily repairable. He said he initially looked at that and he is not bridge engineer but when he looked underneath you could see some broken away concrete and some rebar but based upon the width of the structure and the depth of the concrete it may be something that's repairable to

push that out of the red listed bridges. He said based upon what's there that was a pretty high number- \$1.25 million or something like that and asked if it makes sense to ask Tighe & Bond to look at that and say this is what they're proposing and if they did a rough assessment if there is an alternative. He said when they met with our engineer, he asked that question and it was oh no you have to replace that bridge and he is not convinced.

Mr. Dickie said he could have them look at it.

Mr. Vachon said he has not gotten underneath that bridge.

Mr. King said it wasn't like when you go out on River Rd. and you get underneath it and you would say that it's obviously not passable. He said it was nothing like that at all and he was left scratching his head.

He asked if there is a stop gap that they can do because there's no funding readily available. We talked about funding for this bridge, but we have 5 we're fixing 2 and there are 3 other ones. If we could do a stop gap on that and then another one and we can potentially...

Mr. Dickie said the state had awarded us \$1.375 million for the Spring St. Bridge.

Mr. King asked if that is the only avenue. He said maybe they don't want to risk the funding but if they make a case with the state to say we could put \$250,000 worth of repairs that would put another 10 years into it and then take that other money and put that in the next bridge that helps the state out too it doesn't just help us out.

Mr. Dickie said he would have them look at it and then let the board know and if they say yes, he will reach out to the state.

Mr. King said if he can get a date he would love to go out to the bridge with them and they can show him what they know so he understands better. He then asked if the Cocheco Rd. Bridge is red listed.

Mr. Dickie said not yet. He said it needed repairs but it wasn't red listed.

Mr. King asked for the other red listed bridges.

Mr. Dickie said there is one on Spring St., one on Hornetown Rd., one on River Rd. and one on Sheepboro Rd. but that one needed special attention because it's all stonework.

Mrs. Morin asked if he had the bridge book handy.

Mr. Dickie said it wasn't readily handy but he would have it for the next meeting.

Meadorboro Road- Mrs. Titus said she received a couple of phone calls from Meadorboro Rd. residents who said it was fine for a while but now it's really bad. She said there are 2 businesses that sell farm produce and they are having low volume going up there and they think it's from the road and asked if someone from the Highway Dept. could go up there and grade the road.

Mrs. Morin said the road is rough especially where the pond is after you come down the hill.

Mr. Dickie said they are going up there tomorrow.

All Day Burning Light- Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Dickie to call Eversource about the day-burner light in front of the municipal building.

Mr. Dickie said he already talked about the light with them and that he filed a customer

complaint with them.

Mrs. Morin suggested they file for an abatement on our costs.

Mr. King said our cost is not affected by the light being on their expenses are. He said we pay for a certain number of poles whether they're on or not. So, if they're not on we're losing but if they're on all day they're losing he said.

Mr. Dickie said he has notified them twice.

8). New Business:

New Well Meeting Reminder- Mr. Vachon read a reminder that the Farmington New Well Meeting which is tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. but the location has changed.

Mr. Dickie said the meeting location was changed to Underwood Engineering in Portsmouth. He said when he receives the e-mail invitation, he will forward it to the board and they can log in.

Plodzick & Sanderson Audit Presentation- Mr. Dickie said next week they will have a rep from the auditing firm at the meeting to talk about the audit. He said they will probably hear a lot of the same things they heard last year and they are working with the IT tech on ITC policies trying to get that composed but he didn't want to just put something there to put a check in the box. He said they are also trying to do some training and he is trying to line that up with Primex at the same time to do cyber training because the trend seems to be trying to infiltrate the IT system in different towns to gain access to whatever they're looking for.

He said Primex came in last week and reviewed their IT policies with him for the cyber-attacks and he told him that the IT technician monitors that pretty closely which he does. He said the rep told him he didn't really see anything financially but he would let him get into that next week with the board. He said he gave the board a hard copy of the audit and those are the only ones that they have and asked them to review and bring them back to next week's meeting.

Waive Facility Rental Fees- Motion: (Titus, second) to waive the funeral fee of \$50 at the Rec. Dept. for employees or residents of Farmington;

Discussion: Mrs. Titus said if someone dies and they want to rent the hall for a funeral they have to pay \$50 and she thought it would be something respectful. She said she's not waiving any birthday parties or anything like that but she thought it would be a good idea for staff if they want to use it to waive the fee and for some residents if they ask. I just think it would be something nice to do for the community she said.

Mr. King asked if she was making this motion to waive it from here on for everybody.

Mrs. Titus said yes.

Mrs. Morin asked if it would not be on a case-by-case basis.

Second: Mrs. Morin then seconded the motion for discussion.

Mr. King said because they sometimes require staff presence that staff presence to use that hall is going to be on the taxpayers.

Mrs. Titus said unless they pay for the person and they can amend it and add to it that they have to pay for the person that is there.

Mrs. Morin said the \$50 doesn't pay for the person that is there for a 3 hour party plus cleanup and setup.

Mrs. Titus said the \$50 is for the hall and paying for a staff person is separate.

Motion: (Morin, second King) to table this until the next meeting so they know what the fees are and what they are going to waive and what they're not going to waive;

Mr. King said he is okay with tabling it because he would like to know how often it's been requested for funerals. He said she is saying they are requesting it for a funeral but they are requesting it for a celebration of life or...

Mrs. Titus said they can add that too and she didn't want to get into anything personal but she knows somebody that's using it that is a Town staff member and it would be nice for our staff that they could use it for a celebration of life or a funeral.

Mr. King asked if her motion was just for staff members or for everybody.

Mrs. Titus said for everybody but they can amend it but for tonight if they could at least do it for staff members.

Mrs. Morin said she would be in favor of waiving it for a staff member for one not to change the policy. We always have the ability to waive the fees she said.

Mrs. Titus said if Suzy Smith doesn't want to come in front of them to get it waived then...

Mrs. Morin said she can go through one of the Selectmen and it sounds like Suzy Smith has reached out to her and she wants to be anonymous.

Mrs. Titus said she heard of a situation and she just felt compelled to bring it to the board to do an act of kindness. She said she knows its money towards the Town and maybe if they work it out and find the fees maybe the people will have to pay for the person that's going to be there for their cost and that's not going to be more than an hour or two.

Mrs. Morin said her heart was in the right place she just wanted to make sure that it's across the board what they would do for anybody.

Mrs. Titus said that's why she said residents and staff but they can look at prices and talk about this again. I understand and I don't want to put any more money on the taxpayers but if we can bring it up for discussion and look up the fees and maybe figure out something she said.

Friendly Amendment: by Mr. King to waive the fee temporarily until the board makes a final decision on a permanent policy

Mrs. Morin asked if she could make an amendment to his amendment.

Mr. King said his intent was to let a short term motion go through until its solidified if at all.

Mrs. Morin said she was going to make it short term until the end of Sept.

Friendly Amendment: by Mr. King to waive those fees until the end of Sept. giving it time for the board to finalize the policy if they do for those purposes.

Mrs. Titus and Mrs. Morin accepted the amendment.

Mr. Vachon said the motion now reads: to waive the fee for residents and employees until the

end of September for funeral/celebration of life purposes

Vote: the motion passed 4-0.

9). Next Meeting:

Monday, August 28, 2023- next regularly scheduled board meeting

Wednesday, August 30, 2023-Public Hearing on Walden Renewables PILOT agreement 5 p.m.

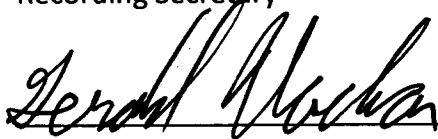
No Meeting on Monday, September 4, 2023 due to the Labor Day holiday

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 7:25 p.m.

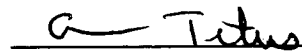
Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary



Gerry Vachon, Chairman

Charlie King, Vice Chairman



Ann Titus



Douglas Staples

Penny Morin