

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, August, 28, 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
Kyle Gingras, Plodzik & Sanderson

1). Call to Order:

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

2). Non-Public Session A:

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

(c)Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Morin, Titus, Staples-aye) at 5:01 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 5:31 p.m.

3). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Morin, 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 5:31 p.m.

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

Motion: (King, second Morin) to the seal the minutes for a period of 2 years under (L) legal passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples, Morin-aye).

4). Recess:

Motion: (Vachon, second Morin) to recess the meeting until 6 p.m. passed 5-0 at 5:42 p.m.

5). Reconvene Public Session:

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

6). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

7). Public Input: None

8). Plodzik & Sanderson Audit Results:

Kyle Gingras introduced himself to the board as the auditor in charge of the Town of

Farmington's audit and tonight he was going to go over the annual financial report for 2022.

Page 1 - Opinion Letter- Mr. Gingras said this is their opinions on the financial statements. He said the Governmental Activities received an adverse opinion and on the second page it explains that this is related to not reporting long term costs of retirement, health care and pensions. He said this isn't necessarily a bad thing and it doesn't mean that management did anything wrong. This means that there is one element of the financial reporting framework designed by GASB the Governmental Accounting Standards Board that writes all the rules for the accounting and there is one rule that the Town hasn't implemented because on the cost/benefit analysis it's not in the Town's financial interest to do so he said.

He said this relates to long term costs related to employees where you have to have an actuary come in and do an evaluation of what this long term liability is and that allows you to be in compliance with this reporting framework. He said obviously there is a cost associated with doing that and there might be a small benefit if you were getting a bond on your raise particularly if it was a large bond but that would probably be outweighed by the cost of getting an actuary which could start at \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year to have this cost done. You're probably not going to recognize the savings in interest to do so, so if you're looking to keep costs down to the taxpayers it's generally a cost benefit not to do so he said.

Mr. King said the Town has never done that.

Mr. Gingras said that's correct. He said it's also relatively new in the last 10 or 15 years as a requirement to start reporting this liability so it's not to say that the Town is doing anything wrong the requirements have changed adding additional cost to the Town to comply with these requirements and management just felt that the cost/benefit wasn't in your favor to do so. Because of that missing component you received the adverse opinion he said.

He said all of the other opinion units, business type activities, the component unit, the general fund, the proprietary funds, aggregate and remaining funds all received unmodified opinions which is a clean opinion which is what you want.

Page 4-Management's Discussion and Analysis- He said this allows management to add some insight into what the numbers are. He said the financial statements themselves are pretty objective they're just a statement of here are the numbers and these are the disclosures that are required by the GASB for the financial statements but they don't provide a lot of background or additional information so the management discussion and analysis is a good opportunity to get the management's take on the financials themselves, provide some perspective and also includes prior to current comparisons which you don't get in the basic financials. If you really wanted to know the meaning as to what's underlying the numbers this would be a good read for you he said.

Page 9-Financials-Exhibit A- Mr. Gingras said this is reporting financial information for the Town as a whole so one column is for governmental activities, this includes the general fund and all the smaller non-major funds, the next column is for business type activities which are funds

that operate similar to a regular business where they generate revenue to offset the cost of running the fund which is the water/sewer fund.

He said the 4th column has a component unit which is the Town's library which is a legally separate entity but based on the GASB's reporting requirements primarily that they are funded through taxes from the Town and are reliant on the Town they meet the reporting requirements for a component unit so they are included in here as well.

He said these financial statements are full accrual so they include long term assets so capital assets and appreciable assets as well as long term liabilities-long term debt, pension liabilities and OPEB liabilities are reported on these financial statements. He said if you buy a Police cruiser rather than that being an expense that goes against your budget that becomes an asset on your balance sheet so that's the difference in the reporting here similar to if you were to pay debt that would reduce the liability rather than being an expense on your budget side.

He said Exhibit A is the balance sheet and Exhibit B-Revenues and Expenses is on pages 10 & 11. Page 12-Exhibit C 1- Governmental Funds- Mr. Gingras said these are more comparable to budgetary basis accounting so these don't include your long term assets or liabilities so back to the example of if you buy a Police cruiser here it would be an expenditure on C3 rather than an asset on C1. He said if you pay long term debt that is going to be an expenditure rather than a reduction of your liability on C1.

He said there is one major fund that's the general fund and all of the other governmental funds did not meet the qualifications for reporting as a major fund so they are aggregated in this other governmental funds. He said there are supplemental schedules at the end that break out each of the individual funds for your reference.

He pointed out that they have large balances for deferred inflows of resources here particularly related to grants so in the general fund you received money in advance for Bridge Aid as well as Highway Block Grant money and those were additional grants you received from the state last year that you hadn't spent and there are plans to spend them this year for current projects.

He said similarly in the non-major ARPA fund you received ARPA money that hasn't been spent as of the end of FY 2022 it was \$381,515 so that was additional federal grant money that you received but haven't spent yet. This is in more detail on page 35 in note 10 but these are additional revenues you received that you have available to spend in the future he said.

Page 16-Exhibit D-Budget to Actual for General Fund- He said on the top they have budget to actual for revenues and then budget to actual for expenditures and then on the bottom it shows a reconciliation of unassigned fund balance. He said the ending unassigned fund balance here is also what gets reported to the Dept. of Revenue Administration for tax resetting so that number is \$2,363,908 so when it comes time to set the tax rate this is the number that they will be referencing. There are also more detailed schedules of budget to actual at the end of the report that we'll get to this is more of a summary analysis of the budget to actual he said.

Exhibits E1, E2 and E3- Mr. Gingras said these are proprietary funds that operate similar to a

commercial business where they generate revenue to offset the cost of running the fund. He said these are full accrual basis so they include long term assets and liabilities.

Exhibit C 3-He said one thing they do get with these funds is a cash flow statement so you can see where the cash gets spent throughout the course of the year and that's something you don't see with any of the other funds.

Exhibit F 1 - He said these are fiduciary funds which is money held by the Town specifically the Trustees of the Trust Funds that belongs to other entities or groups so they have private purpose trust funds which are generally scholarship funds, other custodial funds which includes trust funds held on behalf of the school district as well as state fees collected by the Town on behalf of the state such as motor vehicle registrations.

Mr. Gingras asked if the board had any questions on the basic financials. He then said he would skip through the notes unless anyone had any questions on them as they pretty much follow the standards set by GASB on what gets reported for the financials so they are pretty dry unless you feel like taking a nap.

Page 53-Schedule 1- He said from a management perspective these are probably the most useful financial statements in here because boards and management are more concerned with budget to actual typically in evaluating an entity's financial performance. He said Schedule 1 is budget to actual for revenues and this is broken down at a higher level or a greater level of detail than Exhibit D so you can see the specific groups for taxes, property taxes, yield excavation and different types of taxes and where you are over or under.

He said one place where you were over quite a bit on revenues is the motor vehicle permit fees because they had \$200,000 more than they budgeted for which is favorable. He said they also had some unanticipated miscellaneous income during the year so that was good. At the end of the year you received \$611,994 more than you anticipated for revenue so again that's good news he said.

Page 54-Schedule 2- He said this is the budget to actual for expenditures so the first column is encumbrances this would be money carried over from the prior year and this would be added to your current year budget. He said the next column is your appropriations so that's your budget for the current year, the third column is expenditures and the fourth column shows whether you are over or under on your budget.

He said you'll see Police and Highway Administration had savings in payroll and insurance and there was also a spending freeze mid-year and as part of that they had savings in highways and streets that was pretty significant.

He turned to page 55 and said in the right hand column the very bottom number \$324,942 is what was left in the budget at the end of the year so they were under budget by that amount.

Page 56-Schedule 3- Mr. Gingras said this is the changes in the unassigned fund balance so at the top they start off with the unassigned fund balance of the prior year of \$1,800,904 and of that \$295,355 was voted from the fund balance to reduce taxes, there was a revenue surplus of

\$611,944 from Schedule 1 that increased your fund balance, you had unexpended appropriations from Schedule 2 of \$324,942 and there were some changes in the non-spendable fund balance which could be things like pre-paid items, tax deeded property or inventory so the decreases in those caused an increase in the unassigned fund balance. He said a non-spendable fund balance is an asset that is not in a spendable form. He gave the example of a pre-paid item where you spent the money so you can't spend that money on anything else but then in this year FY '22 that pre-paid item became an expense but you didn't have to pay any more money for that so that's increasing your unassigned fund balance because you're taking out of what was already spent for the prior year.

He said the increase in the committed fund balance was the warrant articles voted from the remaining unassigned fund balance at the March 2023 Annual Town Meeting and the decrease in the assigned fund balance non-encumbrance. He said in the prior year they had assigned fund balance for tax payments so that was paid off in the current year so at the end of the year the unassigned fund balance was \$2,363,908 which is the same number as on Exhibit D. That's what gets reported to the NH DRA as your unassigned fund balance for setting the tax rate this year so you had an increase of more than \$500,000 from the prior year he said.

He said the last couple of pages just have reporting for non-major funds so there are a couple of reports for governmental funds as well as the custodial funds and then there is no management letter so there are no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and there was nothing significant that they came across that needs to be reported or corrected.

Mr. King asked Mr. Dickie if he calculated if the undesignated fund balance is \$2.363 million what that would be for a percentage.

Mr. Dickie said he did not.

Mr. King said say if they were going to buy it down to 8% which is typically what the board has done over the years and he didn't know if they were at 12% or 15%. He said they had talked about some warrant articles going before the town to replenish some funds that they used to purchase the land Well #6 is on so he didn't know if he had calculated that out.

Mr. Dickie said he will do that.

Mr. King said Mr. Gingras said they were up \$500,000 the prior year as far as either revenue or unexpended funds. He said it looked to be \$611,000 plus \$324,000 which is \$935,000.

Mr. Gingras said it's about \$560,000 or so from the prior year so if they look at the top number there's a prior year unassigned fund balance of \$1,800,904 and then the current year unassigned fund balance is \$2,363,908.

Mr. King asked but on that \$1,800,904 we actually through warrant articles depleted some of that.

Mr. Gingras said no the \$1,800,904 was after the warrant articles. He said the warrant articles are actually in that committed fund balance and that gets factored in.

Mr. King said asked for that total.

Mr. Vachon said that \$295,355 was the amount voted from the fund balance.

Mr. Gingras said \$295,355 was what was used to reduce the tax rate in the prior year which is separate from the amounts voted on warrant articles to come from the fund balance. He said when the DRA sets the tax rate you can use some of your fund balance to reduce the tax rate so that would be this \$295,355 number that it was the prior year. He said based on this number you can use some amount thereof more or less. At the March 2024 (Town Meeting) you can create warrant articles to use the unassigned fund balance as well which is separate from these amounts voted to reduce taxes he said.

Mr. King asked if he would be wrong in assuming that they potentially have over \$900,000 to reduce the tax rate and fund things through warrant articles in March 2024.

Mr. Gingras said that's correct and as of right now it's the \$2,363,908.

Mr. King said it seems like they are in a good position to do what they need to do this coming March.

Mr. Staples asked on the un-expendable part of the balance with the tax plan that we own and everything else how getting rid of that helped the fund balance.

Mr. Gingras said for example a debt payment that is due in Jan. but you pay it in Dec. at the end of the year. He said at the end of Dec. you don't have that money available to spend for other purposes so we reclassify that amount of the pre-paid item as non-spendable then when you go into Jan. of the next year you take it out of pre-paid and it becomes that year's expense because it was due in Jan. you just paid it early. He said it becomes an expense next year but you haven't paid any resources to it but because you no longer have that pre-paid item you no longer have a non-spendable fund balance so it locks back into the unassigned fund balance.

Mr. King said so what he is saying is that it was paid before the year it was due but it gets booked on the year that it was supposed to be paid but because it was paid out of that money that was paid it ended up showing in the undesignated fund balance.

Mr. Gingras said that's right and if you had paid the money in '22 you wouldn't have that money available this year to reduce the tax rate because you've already spent it but you don't have to spend it next year because the cash is already out there.

Mrs. Morin said it's like encumbering in the previous year.

Mr. Gingras said essentially yes.

Mr. Vachon said it looks like we are doing alright from last year.

Mr. Gingras thanked the board for their time and thanked the business office for accommodating them and they have been very gracious and answered all of their questions and it's always a good time working with them.

9). Review of Minutes:

August 14, 2023- Public Session-Amended- to correct a spelling error (McDuffie to McDuffee)

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to accept the minutes as amended;

Discussion: Mrs. Morin asked if they wanted to have amended minutes come back to the board

or if they want them to amend them and then just file them. She asked if the board wants to re-see them because they haven't in the past.

Mr. Vachon said it's usually accepted as amended and they get amended.

Mr. King said he didn't feel the need for them to come back unless there is something that the board would request because typically the edits or amendments are minor. He said the only reason he would want them to come back was if it was something that was a lot of re-wording to the minutes that they would subsequently want to approve but he didn't think that has ever happened but it could in the future especially if it had something to do with an opinion that was rendered that had potential legal implications or a decision that needs to be clearly documented for an applicant or a resident.

Mrs. Morin asked if they wanted to take those minutes off the agenda or if they wanted to approve them as amended again.

Mr. Vachon said they already approved them as amended (on 08/21/2023).

Mrs. Morin noted there was a motion made and Mr. Vachon called for the vote.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

August 21, 2023-Public Session- No errors or omissions

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

August 21, 2023- Non-Public Session A- No errors or omissions

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

10). Old Business:

Water Improvement Project- Mr. Dickie said last week he attended the meeting in Portsmouth and he gave the board copies of the meeting minutes that were highlighted in red (Work session #1 Notes Project Design Optimization 08/22/23) .

He said it was basically the same presentation they pitched at the Town Meeting and all the way forward it stayed the same and then they got into the financials and in front of them they have the loan paperwork (Exhibit A- Special Provisions) and the Grant Agreement (Form #G-1) and they also have a certificate of vote that needs to be renewed. He said once that is complete then he can send that to the state and get us positioned for the monetary value of the total of \$7.2 million.

Mr. Dickie said the other thing that came forward was the SRF fund from the state that they talked about but they didn't know if it was going to be available or not well that kicked in so it reduced the overall amount that we have to borrow so we are now borrowing a lesser amount. He said the net principal after 30% forgiven is \$2.28 million instead of the anticipated \$4 million if he remembered correctly.

Mr. King said they were going to have pay 44% of the \$7.2 million which would have been \$3.168 million and asked if now he was saying it's down to \$2.3 million.

Mr. Dickie said yes and the loan interest rate is 2.8% and if it goes lower we will get the lesser amount but it won't go any higher than 2.8%.

Mr. King said what was presented was we were going to bear 44% of the cost and now it looks like it may be down closer to 30%.

Mr. Dickie said that's correct.

Mr. King said and the interest rate is lower than what they presented because they presented a 5% interest rate and right now we are at a 2.8% interest rate. He asked if they went back and recalculated the projected cost to the user.

Mr. Dickie said they haven't gone that far with it yet but they will be.

Mr. King said that would be good to work thru in the next month or so whenever those numbers become ratified so they can present that to the public on air that this is what they presented, this is what happened, these are all the pluses (he said he hasn't heard any minuses yet) and the projections they gave to the users hopefully will be significantly less.

He said they still need to revisit the water and sewer rates because at least the last 1 or 2 years the sewer rates have been negative.

Mr. Dickie said that's a good point because right now we're right around the \$400,000 mark in the red for the sewer similar to what we were last year so they need to look at how to right that ship.

Mr. King said they need to adjust both of those rates and it would good to know what the target is on the water rate and where it's going to be when this project gets completed. He then asked for the project's completion date.

Mr. Dickie said it says the project has to be completed by 2026 and Rick (Engineer Rick Skarinka) told them to target April of 2026 so that is what they are now targeting for.

Mr. King asked if the term of the loan they went with was 15 years.

Mrs. Morin said the loan agreement says the principal would be paid in 20 years.

Mr. Dickie said this is for 20 years and the bond they got for the bridge is for 10 years.

Mr. Vachon asked if the board has to do another vote because the other one expired.

Mr. Dickie said that is correct and Mr. King has to sign it in front of the Town Clerk so she can notarize it. He said Mr. King was the one that witnessed the last one when they did the certificate of vote because it references the meeting they had in April where they set this all up. He said the meeting minutes for back in April will be printed out and put with the certificate of vote so they can verify that it was back in April when they solidified the certificate of vote and to go forward with it.

Mr. Vachon asked if they had the verbiage for what the vote has to say.

Mr. Dickie gave him a copy of the verbiage needed and the following motion was made:

Motion: (King, second Morin): I Charlie King of the Town of Farmington do hereby certify that at a meeting held on 17th of April 2023 the Select Board of the Town of Farmington voted to enter into a ARPA and DWGTF grant agreement with the NH Department of Environmental Services to fund a drinking water improvement project. The Town of Farmington further authorizes the Town Administrator Kenneth Dickie and the Select Board Chair Gerald Vachon to

execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the grant agreement and witnessed thereof by set my hand as Select Board Vice Chair for the Town of Farmington on the 28th day of August 2023

Vote: the motion passed 3-0-2 (Vachon, King abstained).

Mr. Dickie said Mr. King will probably have to sign another paper to verify that it matches what they have there and then the Town Clerk will notarize it.

Mr. King asked to have her text him when she wants him to come in and sign the paperwork.

Mr. Vachon said once that is notarized they can get that in the mail because there is a timeframe they have to follow.

Mr. Dickie said that's correct and Mr. Vachon will have to sign and initial the loan paperwork.

Mr. King asked if there was any change in the direction as far as the location and if they are still proceeding with the same location.

Mr. Dickie said they are still proceeding with the area in the cemetery area and looking in the area of Well #6 in case it doesn't pan out in the cemetery area but right now the dominant area is in the cemetery area. He said there is some discussion from the state level that Rick let him in on that they're concerned that Well #5 is now giving us discoloration and what's to say that the new well after 10 or 15 years doesn't start generating that kind of water. That's the discussion that Emery & Garrett is holding with the state and keeping me informed he said.

Mr. King said they are the experts on this and asked if they were part of the meeting.

Mr. Dickie said yes and that James Emery dialed into the meeting.

Mr. King asked for his discussion when that came up.

Mr. Dickie said that was held the day before so they didn't really touch on it at this meeting but he knew it was being held because Mr. Emery let him in on the discussion and he had a full day at the state and he said they are looking at it and they do have a concern. He said they are testing and doing what they can to eliminate that concern.

Mr. Vachon said he thought they asked them when they were here but asked if there is nothing on that side of the square.

Mr. Dickie said he tried looking out behind the school and up north and a high content of iron is what he reported so he is back down to the cemetery and down by Well #6.

Kodiak Agreement- Mr. Dickie said the agreement came in just before the meeting and he talked with the Town's attorney and asked the board to turn to the second section of the agreement Attachment 1 that goes into detail about what they agreed to.

He said they agreed to the attorney fees in the amount of \$6,000, Code Enforcement fees in the amount of \$900, a tree remediation fee of \$3,000 and they will provide a \$15,000 letter of credit to Farmington by Sept. 20, 2023.

Mr. King asked if that is an irrevocable line of credit.

Mr. Dickie said he will have to clarify that.

Mr. King said typically that's what it is so that person can't revoke it only the Town can so he is

assuming that's what it is but it just says letter of credit it doesn't say irrevocable.

Mrs. Morin said they definitely want that in there.

Mr. King said to make sure that is solid and that the only one that can release that is the Town because there may be one that expires after a year or they can revoke it so they want to make sure it's neither one of those and that deadline of credit stays in force until they release it.

He said the agreement says that Kodiak in its sole discretion reserves the right to select, hire and pay contractors and/or subcontractors to affect the remediation (page 6 h) and asked if that is regarding also the tree planting. He said he thought in their discussions they were going to specify what was going to be done and who was going to do it.

Mrs. Morin said she didn't remember the "who was going to do it" but she did recall the "what was going to be done".

Mr. King said they had gotten some feedback from Cameron's sod farm.

Mr. Dickie said he just penciled in Cameron's.

Mr. Vachon said this just talks about the money, it doesn't talk about the trees or the swale which he thought was part of the remediation to re-establish the swale for the drainage.

Mr. Dickie said that is the plan they have to submit to the Planning Board.

Mr. King said this is not ready for them to sign because the plan that went to the Code Enforcement Officer this morning that he pulled up when he was in the office says it wasn't what they talked about. He said the first draft of the plan that was sent to the CEO was not what he expected it did not have the swale and also they have had discussions regarding what needs to be done as far as the planting and that is not here.

He asked if it is not here how they would bind them to it. He said that's not spelled out here in the section where it says Kodiak has the sole discretion to pay the contractors to affect the remediation in the settlement agreement and there is not enough detail here to assure him that it would be done to what they expect is going to be done.

Mr. King said they have had discussions but he didn't think they have ever been on the same page with this individual as far as what needs to be done. So I don't want to trust that all of a sudden we're going to get it right this time he said.

Mr. Staples said it says pay a one-time tree remediation fee of \$3,000 but it doesn't say anything about the size of the tree or anything.

Mr. Vachon said that was for cutting down the trees they still have to replant them that's an additional cost.

Mrs. Morin said it also binds them to arbitration if whatever they do isn't right.

Mr. King said if it's going to be per this plan, say the binding documents for the remediation is the plan he didn't believe the plan is correct yet. Until it's correct we shouldn't sign this he said.

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

Source Water Protection Grant- Mr. Dickie said this is a grant that they advised us to apply for to supplement the cost of purchasing the Bradsher property. He said they were told that we

passed the initial first step of the process and he has until Sept. 29 to get the application filled out and then re-sent to the NH DES to position us to apply for the amount of money to offset the \$330,000 that we paid to purchase that property.

Mr. Vachon asked if the first application they put in was the initial step and now we have to do a more in-depth one.

Mr. Dickie said that's right and he would be working with Underwood Engineering to get that information accurate and precise and get that back into the state.

Mr. Vachon said they talked about the wellhead protection area and the deed restrictions have to be figured out.

Mr. Dickie said the board needs to look at how they want to prove they're protecting the property and whether they want to change the deed or post the property.

Mr. King said he wouldn't be in favor of posting the whole thing but they could increase the protected area or post that protected area because it is a large parcel of land. He said they just have a small fence around the wellhead but they could potentially do something in the next zone area maybe a little bit bigger.

Mr. Dickie said that was the discussion so by that point they will have to decide as a board how they want to protect that area and then they submit it back to the state and apply for up to half of the amount of what it cost us which includes the legal fees and the insurance we bought. I think the total was around \$166,000 if I remember correctly what I handed out to you he said.

Mr. Vachon said it was about \$333,000 and change total by the time the purchase price and the auctioneer fees were included. He said the board would have to have a discussion on that after the holiday on how they would like to go about the protection.

Mr. Staples asked if the snow mobile trail that goes through there is deeded in.

Mr. King said typically it's not citing his experience with the Powder Mill Snow Mobile Club and they would probably be able to have a discussion and say we want to relocate it on that property but further away from the wellhead.

Mr. Staples said it is about 250 or 300 ft. from the well and its there because of the bridge access across the river.

Mr. King said and it needs to get across that same crossing potentially. He said there is another crossing on Mr. Bradsher's old property.

Mr. Staples said the other bridge has a gate on both sides, it's heavily posted and that bridge was heavily restricted.

Hornetown Road Bridge- Mrs. Morin said that board on the bridge is still pointing upward.

Mr. Dickie said he would take care of it himself. I'll go down there with my hatchet and I'll cut that out of there. I meant to do it this morning so I could say I took care of it and I forgot it so I'll do it tomorrow morning on my way down through Paul Bunyan-Dickie said.

Roadside Mowing-Mr. King said somebody was out doing some roadside mowing and asked if that was a subcontractor.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Mr. King asked if the feedback in general was positive.

Mr. Dickie said it was okay and they had 3 roads done- Ridge Rd., Hornetown Rd. and Ten Rod Rd.

Mr. King said his personal feedback was its not very good. He said another resident said he saw them fighting with their equipment whether it needed to be sharpened or whatever and at the end of his road there was some stuff they just went around. It could have been better he said.

Mr. Vachon asked when they did it and noted he hasn't been up in that area for several weeks.

Mr. King said they did it on Thursday.

Mr. Vachon said he would check it out.

Mrs. Morin said she commented that it took a while but the machine he was using was pretty small.

Mr. Dickie agreed and said it is was only about 3 ft. mower.

Mr. King said so some of the stuff was probably too big for what he was using. He said his ditch line hasn't been mowed in years and had 2 inch oaks in it and that he would go out and finish it.

Mr. Dickie said he didn't remember the last time they were mowed. He said they used to do it with a big Ford tractor and the townspeople used to run it themselves. I think the last time has been years he said.

Mr. King asked if that equipment is longer available to be rented.

Mr. Dickie said you can't rent them anymore and this was the only one they could subcontract with.

Mr. King said he thought they had their hands full and he didn't want to say it was a bad job but it was a little ragged in spots.

Mr. Vachon asked what type of mower they were using.

Mrs. Morin said it was on an arm.

Mr. King said there were conflicting statements on what they were using.

11). New Business:

Police Dept.- Mr. Dickie said Chief Orlando requested to be on the agenda and was supposed to be here tonight but he didn't attend the meeting. He asked the board to table meeting with the Chief to their next meeting on Sept. 11.

Mr. King said he spoke to the Chief earlier and he said he was preparing something for the School Board so he may be at the School Board meeting tonight.

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to table the Police until the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen which is on 09/11/2023 passed 5-0.

Financial Report of the Budget (for the period ending Dec. 31, 2022) - Mr. Vachon said Mr. Dickie gave him the MS-535 form that needs to be signed.

Mr. Dickie said he just got that in and reviewed it with Mr. Gingras because he is the one that actually submitted to the system at the Dept. of Revenue Administration just to make sure that

we're okay. He said he printed it out and the board had it there before them.

Mr. King said he was looking at the budget report for the water business type activities and it shows those expenses are \$658,000 for the Water Dept and the charge for services was \$311,000. He asked for the budget for the Water Dept. and if it was just under \$400,000.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Mr. King asked why the expenses in the audit report showed so high.

Mr. Dickie said to his budget he submitted he was on.

Mr. King said right but if you look at the auditor's report it shows the expenses under the water were \$658,000, the wastewater is \$853,000 and under charges for services it showed water at \$311,000, the total shows a -\$347,000 for the water and the sewer shows a -\$335,000 by the audit and he didn't know what the difference is.

He said looking at the payment say if it's \$2.8 million for 20 years that's \$13,000 a month which would be \$156,000 a year. He said the increase may only be 40% to the water rate where before it was 69% of today's rate.

Mrs. Morin asked if that was going to balance it.

Mr. King said he didn't know why this report was different so he would have to take a look at it. He said the interest and premium would be an estimated \$156,000 addition to their budget.

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to accept the MS-535 for 2023 as presented passed 5-0.

Chestnut Hill Road- Mrs. Titus said she sent Mr. Vachon some pictures and she saw Highway Dept. Supervisor Ed Brannan today. She said Chestnut Hill Rd. has some significant holes in it and she didn't know if it was caused by the weight of the trucks or whatever but there's one that goes into the road and if somebody hits it, it's going to cause damage. She said she showed Mr. Brannan and he knew about it and he said he was going to get on it but she didn't know when. This is definitely a safety issue and needs to be addressed she said.

Mrs. Titus said Mr. Brannan said they were also going to do ditching on that road coming up but these 2 spots that she sent the pictures of need to be addressed.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Dickie to ask Mr. Brannan if he can get out there and do something.

Mr. Dickie asked the board to keep in mind that they are possibly going to have a gravel pit with the weight of those trucks going across that road as well and we are getting this stuff without it and it will probably get worse.

Mrs. Titus asked if they will have to post the road.

Mr. Staples said they can't post if they have a business on it.

Food Truck- Mrs. Titus said the food truck has been there (at the old fire station lot) and seems to be very successful but she drove by and they have a Porta-Potty and a picnic table there and she didn't know if that was approved or not or if they are supposed to have that by law.

Mrs. Morin said she thinks if you serve food you have to provide a bathroom.

Mrs. Titus said she has seen other food trucks where she has not seen a Porta-Potty.

Mr. Dickie said they asked for one and they have a food service and he didn't think it was that

big of a deal so they can blame him.

Mrs. Titus asked if he knew about it because that wasn't on the application that there was going to be a picnic table and she thought it was going to be to-go food.

Mr. Dickie said he said his food service people are going to have to go to the bathroom and to go ahead and put a potty there. It's locked up and is only open when he's there he said.

Mrs. Titus said that made her feel better.

Mr. King asked if it's his and he's in charge of it.

Mr. Dickie said yes- not us. He said he's paying for it and we're not involved at all with that.

Mrs. Titus asked if the Town would be liable for any damage.

Mr. Dickie said no that's his.

Eversource Scam? - Mrs. Titus said she thought there may have been a scam involving Eversource over the weekend as somebody was knocking on doors saying they're selling solar power and asked if anyone heard about that. She said somebody messaged her about it and it was also on Face book saying this person was asking if they want to buy solar power from Eversource and she thought it was a scam so she told the people to call the Police.

The rest of the board said they hadn't heard anything about that.

Mrs. Titus said she was bringing it to their attention.

Trotting Park Road - Mr. Vachon said it's a low traveled road but all the heavy rains coming down the dirt section of the road which is Class VI onto Pine Knoll washed the edge of road out about a foot deep right along the hot top and they are going to lose that edge of they don't get some gravel in it. He said its gravel, its low priority, its low traffic but if they don't get something done they will lose that edge as there is a spot that's over a foot deep. He said you have to look for it because the vegetation is overgrown. He said it's on the Rt. 11 side of the road but they will see it if they look for it and there's one good spot he was sure they saw it when they were sweeping at the bottom of the road before they lose the edge of that road as well. That's an easy one it's just gravel and they don't have to get hot top for that one they just have to pack some more gravel into it he said.

Red Listed Bridges - Mr. Dickie said there was a conversation last week about red listed bridges so the Cocheco Rd. Bridge is strongly pink and isn't quite red yet and could be at any time. He said the 4 that we have are on Spring St., River Rd., Sheepboro Rd. and Hornetown Rd. He said he reached out to Tighe & Bond and asked them to meet him at some point and maybe some time next week he will meet with them at the Spring St. Bridge and review that bridge to see if there's anything they can do to prolong that replacement.

Mr. Staples said he thought we got picked for State Bridge Aid for that bridge.

Mr. Dickie said we did and \$1.373 million will be allocated.

Mr. Vachon said not until 2027 or 2028.

Mr. Staples asked if we have to "milk" that bridge until then.

Mr. King said he looked at it and it didn't look that bad. He said there was some concrete

missing and some rebar was rusted where it was exposed but it's nothing like the River Rd. Bridge and there's a reason that was shut down. He asked if there was some approved method that could add 20 years to that bridge because it was pretty well built when it was built. He said they may say no and that it should be replaced but we have them as an employee of the Town and getting a second opinion from them is well worth the effort because these bridges are expensive especially when they're talking 2027 or 2028 and they've already put a number on it and by then it will probably be 50% more money.

Recycling Project - Mr. Dickie said he reached out to Jeff Greenhalgh to move forward with the recycling project and he will meet with him at Fernald Park at 9 a.m. Tues. morning to review what he thinks the next steps will be and once he has that he will report back to the board. He said he sent him an e-mail and told him how they added the \$70,000 to the \$130,000 and they project that they have \$200,000 so they can look to getting an engineering plan and get this thing moving forward. He said he would be at Fernald Park to help put the new playground together and they will have a 9 o'clock break to talk about this and then he will go back to helping with the playground.

School District Staff Orientation- Mr. Dickie said he attended the orientation for the new school staff today and it's the first time he was invited or the Town has participated in something like that. He said he sat with Police Chief Scott Orlando and the 2 School Resource Officers and there was a good conversation with the new staff about the SRO agreement and he thought that went well.

He said tomorrow they'll be up there with the overall staff at high school auditorium at 8:15 and expected to be there for about an hour or an hour and a half and then come back to the Municipal Office Building.

Budget Workshop - Mr. Dickie said on Sept. 12 he and Finance Administrator Kelly Heon will attend an all day budget workshop to get more familiar with the rules and regulations for the budget process. He said he felt his way through this but it was a lot of trial and error and he made a couple of mistakes and he is trying to learn more about it and if there are easier ways to do it so he thought it would be worthwhile for him and Mrs. Heon to attend that.

Culvert Replacements-Mr. Dickie said he talked to Mr. Vachon this morning and unfortunately no one bid on the culvert replacement but he came up with a name that he is trying to work out. Hopefully we can get someone in on that so we can get these culverts replaced he said. Mr. Vachon said he got a message from him saying they are going to take a ride up this week and check them out and he sent them the RFP that the Town sent out. He said the name of the company was Reno Construction out of Berwick, Maine.

Mr. King asked if they reached out to the local contractors in town and they all said they couldn't do it they're too busy.

Mr. Dickie said yes and that they reached out to 5 contractors- MGB, Barron Bros., SUR, Northeast Earth Mechanics and GW Brooks.

Mr. Vachon said so he forwarded it on to this company to see if they would be interested in it.

Auctioneer Request For Proposals- Mr. King asked for the status of the auctioneer RFP and if that was due yet.

Mr. Dickie said right now he has 1 that's interested but he hasn't heard anything back from them and he just talked to the company they worked with for the Bradsher property and he will have a response to the RFQ by Friday. He said the responses are due by Sept.15.

Mr. King said he thinks there are 13 parcels in various states and if and when they hire someone they can figure out which ones they want to sell this year and hopefully it will be at least half of them and some of them may be earmarked for other things.

He added he would like to move all the surplus/junk out of the Highway Dept. before the snow flies.

Police Cruisers- Mr. Dickie said speaking of junk- that Police cruiser he has confirmation that there are a couple of people interested in that Police cruiser and asked if the board wanted him to put it back out to bid and a motion was made to scrap it.

Mr. King said he asked him to ask the Police Dept. to survey it to see if they want anything off of it and he didn't know if that happened.

Mr. Dickie said he asked them to look at it but he didn't think anything has been taken off of it at this point.

Mrs. Morin said they were willing to give it for scrap so they should at least get the scrap rate.

Mr. King asked if they put a price on it before like a \$650 minimum.

Mr. Dickie said they put a minimum of \$651 or something like that.

Mr. King said he said something to Chief Orlando, Mr. Dickie said something to him and it may not be high on their list but if they don't need anything fine they'll just put it back out there and sell it.

Mrs. Morin asked if they have taken any delivery of the new Police cruisers.

Mr. King said they took delivery of the 2 new ones. He said where they didn't repair that one he mentioned to Chief Orlando that they may want to start sooner than later for an additional cruiser because that one didn't stay in the fleet. He said he didn't know what the status is on that and what their Fund 08 is especially where they are potentially going to be doing some details in Portsmouth and they may be able to find something and fund it sooner than later.

12). Next Meeting- August 30, 2023 at 5 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers – Public Hearing on the PILOT agreement with Walden Renewables for the Nutes solar power project
September 11, 2023 – next regularly scheduled board meeting (No meeting on Sept. 4 due to Labor Day holiday)

13). Non-Public Session C:

Motion: (Morin, 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, Morin, Titus, Staples-aye) at 7:23 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Morin) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:56 p.m.

14). Staffing Plan:

Mr. King said a recent employee evaluation and request for a wage increase brought up the topic of the staff positions at the Municipal Office Building and the current duties required for those positions. He said they may be looking at making some changes and those duties may move around and suggested they have a staffing plan to consider before making any changes. Selectmen asked Mr. Dickie to have a discussion with Mr. LeMere about the staff duties and return to the board with their recommended staffing plan.

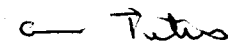
15). Adjournment:

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 8:01 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Gerry Vachon, Chairman

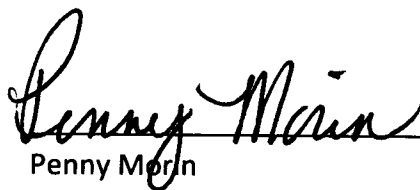
Charlie King, Vice Chairman



Ann Titus



Douglas Staples



Penny Morin

