

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 23, 2023
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
Becky Dickie, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Kelly Heon, Finance Administrator
Ed Brannan, Highway Dept. Supervisor
Chuck Tiffany, Water Dept. Supervisor
Farmington Police Dept. members
Arthur Williams, resident

1). Call to Order:

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

2). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Vachon, second Morin) 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: (King, second Morin) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 5:47 p.m.

3).Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Morin, second King) 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 5:47 p.m.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 6:02 p.m.

4). Reconvene Public Session:

Chairman Vachon reconvened the public portion of the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

5). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

6). Public Input: None

7). Review of Minutes:

October 16, 2023- Public Meeting Minutes- No errors or omissions

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

October 16, 2023- Non-Public Sessions A, B & C- No errors or omissions

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

8). Police Dept. Awards:

Police Chief Scott Orlando came forward and thanked the board for giving them the opportunity to recognize the officers and they are going to try to recognize the officers every year for some of their outstanding work that they do throughout the year. He said asked Capt. Evan Favorite to come over and talk about it and to call the officers' names.

Capt. Favorite said they put some certificates together and some award pins based on what they received. The awards presented are as follows:

Distinguished Unit Medal for 2023: Cpt. Favorite said Officer Jeff Brown has gone above and beyond the many aspects of Police work whether it's in the community stopping at ball games, stopping to talk to citizens in the community, helping out at the Rec. Dept.'s various activities, basketball with the kids, etc. Officer Brown makes a concerted effort to build community relations and he is highly motivated. In 2023 he has led the department in community policing for motor vehicle stops and he is being awarded the Distinguished Unit Award for his efforts to make the community better by setting a positive example and showing a strong work ethic. Officer Brown came forward and received his certificate and medal as everyone applauded. Capt. Favorite said the 2nd Distinguished Unit Award goes to Sgt. Antoinette Webster who has been assigned as the School Resource Officer. Officer Webster has made a substantial effort to be a role model for the student body and has created many positive relations with students and staff and she can also be seen getting creative during the holiday weeks bringing holiday spirit to the schools. She has implemented many successful programs for the betterment of the district and you can also find Sgt. Webster taking time within the day to join student activities. Sgt. Webster also created other community based activities and continues to be a great liaison the Police Dept. and the School district.

He said on a second note, in Dec. 2020 officers from the Farmington PD received information about a man named Joshua Concoski possibly exploiting minors in this town. Sgt. Webster was assigned to the case and through her diligent investigation uncovered that he had more victims outside of Farmington. Working in conjunction with the investigators from the Concord Police Dept., the Merrimack Sheriff's Office and NH Crimes Against Children they identified 7 other victims who were exploited by Concoski between 2017 and 2021 including children in NH, MA and VT. She led the investigation of this and in August 2023 he was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison he said.

Sgt. Webster came forward and received her certificate and medal as everyone applauded.

Meritorious Service Medal- Capt. Favorite said this would be presented to Lt. Matt Embrey. He said on May 4, 2023 the Farmington Police Dept. received a 911 call stating there a shooting at the school and there were several 911 hang-ups that followed this. After the initial investigation Officers were able to confirm there was no validity to this however this case was forwarded to Lt. Embrey for further investigation. Lt. Embrey was able to identify the cell phone that placed the calls and this cell phone was no longer connected to a provider which makes it extremely

difficult to track. Lt. Embrey continued to press on with the case and he was able to track down the previous owner of the phone through a series of searches of phone records and he was subsequently able to identify the student that made the hoax calls. This took a tremendous amount of work from Lt. Embrey and he went above and beyond to resolve this case he said. Lt. Embrey came forward and received his certification and medal as everyone applauded.

Lifesaving Awards- Capt. Favorite said this award is going to Officer Connor Sutherland and to Officer Danielle Morin. He said on June 5, 2023 Officer Sutherland and Officer Morin responded to a report of a male with a self inflicted stab wound with a knife to his chest on Warren St. The officers arrived on scene and began to render aid upon arrival. Officer Morin applied pressure to the chest wound while Officer Sutherland began to remove a chest seal to apply to the victim and applied it in quick fashion. Both officers assisted the EMS in getting him quickly to an ambulance for further treatment. These officers are the recipients of the Lifesaving Award which is awarded to officers who have saved or attempted to save a life of another he said. Officers Morin and Sutherland came forward and received their certificates and medals as everyone applauded.

Capt. Favorite said this Lifesaving Award is particularly special because an officer that started his first day on shift with the Farmington PD getting out of the academy was part of this call. He said on Oct. 4 Officer Tim Seawards and Officer Chris Morton responded to Polliwog Rd. for a report of a male who had overdosed. They responded to the scene and provided medical assistance to the overdosed male. Officer Morton found the male unconscious and not breathing and immediately without b--being asked by his field training officer who is Officer Tim Seawards began CPR. Within 2 minutes of the CPR activation the male began to breathe and regained consciousness. This was Officer Morton's first shift with the Farmington Police Dept. and both officers' actions were paramount in saving the life of this male. Their quick response and their decisive action led to the life of a male being saved. These officers are the recipients of the Lifesaving Award which is awarded to officers that have saved or attempted to save the life of another he said.

Officers Morton and Seawards came forward and received their certificates and medals as everyone applauded.

Capt. Favorite said all the officers are doing a phenomenal job and some have the opportunity to grow and do some pretty amazing things in the town and hopefully they can continue to do this every year.

Mr. Vachon thanked all the officers for keeping Farmington safe and all of them go above and beyond. He said he sees them out on the road doing their thing, stopping cars, directing traffic, whatever they're doing and that he appreciates it.

Mr. King said the department is doing an excellent job representing themselves and the town on how they conduct themselves and it shows and people notice and appreciate it. The level of professionalism this dept. is showing has never been higher he said.

Mrs. Titus said she wanted to thank them for what they do for this town. She said she sees it all the time, she sees it in the schools and she knows that they care about this town and go 100%. Thank you she said.

Mrs. Morin asked them to stay safe out there.

9). Old Business:

Water & Sewer Rates- Water/Sewer Dept. Supervisor Chuck Tiffany said he was asked to put 2 preliminary budgets together so they could see what next year's budgets are going to be to help set the rates for the Water and Sewer Depts. He began with the Water Dept. budget worksheet which shows the amounts budgeted and actual expenditures for 2022 and 2023 and the proposed requested amounts for 2024.

Personnel-Mr. Tiffany said \$150,289 is requested for 2024 which would be for 2.5 staff- wages for 2 staff members and 50% of his wages (the other 50% comes from the Sewer Dept.).

Finance Administrator Kelly Heon said that figure includes the rate increase in their union contract.

Mr. Dickie said there is a 3% increase for 2024 and then 2.5% for the following year.

Treasurer- Mr. Tiffany said this line stayed the same at \$750.

Overtime- (2023 budgeted-\$4,500; expended-\$6,525; 2024 request-\$9,000) Mr. Tiffany said last year was a lot lower and they went over last year and this year it's creeping up and getting ready to go over too and he has been having a hard time tying that one down. Things are getting older, they get called out more he said.

Mr. Staples asked if that also covers when they are out on the road plowing.

Mr. Tiffany said no that comes out of the Highway Dept. budget.

Mr. King suggested that they look at the big ones that changed significantly instead of going through all of them.

Health Insurance- (2023 budget-\$41,230; 2024 request-\$50,035) Mrs. Heon said they would hear a little bit more from her on this next week in detail when she presents the new health insurance rates but our health insurance rates have gone up 15.6% this year and the bump up in that is we have one employee that was on a 2 person plan and has just had a baby so they are on a family plan so that would describe the increase in that line.

Electricity-(2023 budget-\$60,600; 2024 request-\$60,600) Mr. King said it shows they budgeted \$60,600 but their YTD is \$29,876.

Mrs. Heon said that would only be through Sept.

Mrs. Morin asked if the next 3 months is going to be another \$30,000.

Mr. Tiffany said if they look at 2022 he budgeted \$32,000 and they ended up at \$29,000 before the big hike.

Mr. King said if he has \$30,000 and that's over 9 months.

Mrs. Heon said they could take another look at that one. She said they would look at exactly what is being expensed to that line for the Water Dept. and pin that one down a little bit better.

Mr. King said if they use it at the same ratio which they should be they're only going to add about another \$10,000.

Mr. Tiffany said when he put in his budget spreadsheet he put the kilowatt hours used at each place and he had it do an average and that is what he bases it on at the end of the year but we are not there yet.

Mrs. Heon said all of the Eversource accounts are online and they can look at what the usage was for the last 3 months of last year and see if there is something that for some reason is...

Mrs. Morin said so the actual expenditure for this year is through Sept.

Mrs. Heon said that's correct.

Sodium Hydroxide- (2023 budgeted-\$15,000; 2024 request-\$33,525) Mr. King said the last time Mr. Tiffany was here he mentioned that it went up quite a bit but he budgeted \$15,000 and now he wants to budget \$33,000 and then asked what that is used for.

Mr. Tiffany said they use 15,000 gallons of the product every year and the new price for it is \$2.24 per gallon so that gave him the budget of \$33,525.

Mr. King asked if they tried shopping that around to see if they could get a better price.

Mr. Tiffany said he did and that cost is the lowest possible right now and that this stuff skyrocketed. He said they use it to lower the PH in the wastewater and at the wells which keeps people's pipes from corroding. He said they keep it at 7.5 to an 8 and any lower or higher would corrode your pipes.

Pump Repair (2023 budgeted-\$15,000; 2024 request-\$30,000) Mrs. Morin said that YTD they have spent \$7,000 and they are bumping it up to \$30,000 and asked if they need to replace a pump.

Mr. Tiffany said no they need to clean Well #5 or the pumping rates drop a lot because the manganese is an iron and as she knows the color issues they have been having. He said in the past when they cleaned the pump the pumping capacity greatly increased and the color and the quality got a lot better and it holds for a while. He said they have to clean it every 3 or 4 years and it's time.

Mainline Renewal- (2023 budgeted-\$3,500; 2024 request-\$3,825) Mrs. Morin asked if the mainline renewal went up for any specific reason and it looks like they doubled. She said they only spent \$1,645 and he's asking for \$3,825. She then asked if he thought they would exceed the \$3,500 this year.

Mr. Tiffany said they haven't used all the money yet and there are some things not reflected in here yet because it's not the end of the year. He said it's probably more than the \$1,645 and it's probably closer to about \$2,000 right now and they still have a couple of months.

Mrs. Morin asked again if he thought he would exceed the \$3,500.

Mr. Tiffany said no but then said he may because of the price of brass and stuff and he hasn't restocked the downstairs yet with all the fittings. He said it might go a little bit lower if he doesn't need much for supplies at the end of the year and he will take a look at that when it

gets closer.

Mrs. Morin asked what ICMA is.

Mrs. Heon said that is our retirement plan. She said she didn't know what the acronym stood for but the company is now Mission Square and they haven't changed the name in the budget. She said it's the retirement contribution and that is 5.15% of full time employees' base pay not calculated on overtime just on a 40 hour work week. It's a deferred compensation plan similar to a 401K she said.

Mr. King said they have a few things they have to look at but asked if they go forward and this number is still valid what would the rate need to change to.

Mrs. Heon said there is a third sheet the board should have received and she went back and looked at the actual usage for the last 4 quarters and did a math calculation-the budget divided by the usage and it calculates out to cover this budget they would need to charge \$4.88 per cubic foot of water use.

Mr. King asked what we are charging now.

Mrs. Heon said \$2.98.

Mr. Tiffany said that 1 cubic ft. is 748 gallons so they are paying \$2.98 for 748 gallons of water.

Mrs. Heon said some towns will actually price it per gallon and we price it per cubic ft. and sometimes people will understand the gallon measurement more but you have to have a price per what you're using and we happen to measure it in cubic feet.

Mr. Staples asked if their guys are taxpayer funded or based off the system.

Mr. Tiffany said most are based off the system. He said some do work at the Highway garage which is totally separate.

Mr. Staples said you guys are the only 5 guys that are rate payer based and we have a Rec. Center that a quarter of the town uses it and the employees are paid by the taxpayers and that would cut his budget almost in half. He explained if you take the employees out of this budget and put them over on the taxpayers' side that would cut the bill almost in half. He said they would not be covered under the rate thing and then it wouldn't matter where they're working and they would save \$248,000.

Mr. King said they would not be saving it they would just be putting it under general taxation. He said you just took \$250,000 and put it on people who don't use the service. He said he wouldn't be in favor of that and if they were going to proceed that way it should go before the town because he thinks the town would vote it down.

Mrs. Heon said she thinks they might have to go before the town for that and they would have to speak to legal counsel if they were going to do that.

Mr. King said if they have a proposed rate of \$4.88 for 748 gallons that's .6 cent per gallon.

Mrs. Morin asked if the municipal buildings are in these calculations.

Mr. Tiffany said yes.

Mr. Staples asked if it includes the school district too.

Mr. Tiffany said they get billed and everybody has the same rate.

Mrs. Heon said Mr. King wasn't here when they had the initial discussion regarding the rates and she wanted to bring up that calculating this rate based on the 2024 budget is just covering that requested budget there is nothing built into that rate that puts money aside for capital spending in the future. She said it also does not take into account the deficit that the Water Dept. has right now.

Mr. King said right now the deficit is going on general taxation because they had to cover it.

Mrs. Heon said not really it's just we're allowing the water and sewer funds to operate in the red. She said if it was going on general taxation then it would have a line in the budget that said we're covering it.

Mr. King said but it's going over budget so if it goes over budget by \$250,000...

Mrs. Heon said the money is coming from the Town's cash flow.

Mr. King said so instead of returning say \$250,000 to buy down the taxes they're using...

Mrs. Heon said that's not correct because it doesn't affect what is calculated as our undesignated fund balance. That is still a real figure and this is not impacting that she said.

Mr. King said but when we're over budget we're a bottom line budget so if this was fully funded it would be an extra \$250,000 in the Town's cash flow that could be used to buy down the tax rate.

Mrs. Heon said no it's just that because the other funds have a positive balance and they don't have any bills that are being expended out of them we have enough cash flow for bills to be paid but this situation won't last forever. I want to be clear the taxpayer is not funding the deficit it's just that we happen to have some funds because they are co-mingled that have high enough balances that we have a high enough cash flow in our general checking account that we can continue to allow some of the other funds water and sewer to run in the red.

Mrs. Morin said so they are covering them from other lines.

Mrs. Heon said they are not covering them from other lines they are allowing them to run in the red. It's confusing she said.

Mrs. Morin said the money has to come from somewhere.

Mrs. Heon said it's coming from our positive cash flow because we have other funds like for example there is \$140,000 in the TIF fund that is just sitting in our account.

Mr. King said but that is slated for improvements that may happen.

Mrs. Heon said exactly and there's still \$300,000 in ARPA funds that we happen to have sitting there so it inflates our cash on hand but that's why this situation has to be addressed sooner rather than later because we could find ourselves in a situation where we do not have the cash to pay these bills.

Mr. Staples said like if the school doesn't get it in on time and they can't set the tax rate we'd really miss that money.

Mr. King said that both of these budgets are in the same predicament and he doesn't believe

they've had a rate increase from 2018.

Mrs. Heon said it isn't even the fact that they haven't had a rate increase since 2018 it's that the rates that were set even back then were not high enough to cover the budgets.

Mr. King said unfortunately the only way to fix this is the rate needs to go to what the rate needs to go to.

Mrs. Heon said there are other ways to come with rates and some towns pay a consultant to do an in-depth rate study. She said some towns have a fixed rate plus a usage rate. This is a very simplistic formulation that we came up with without digging too deep that it's just plain and simple the budget divided by usage she said.

Mr. King said if they were to put this rate in place which is a 60% increase our water usage is going to drop.

Mrs. Heon said that's correct which wouldn't cover the budget and which is why this is a very simplistic formula and probably should be looked at in little bit more depth to make sure that we have a fixed cost on every bill plus a usage.

Mr. King said if they were make this correction people are going to drop their water usage then there may need to be a subsequent rate increase to balance that out.

Mrs. Heon said we have to start somewhere and if people maintained the same usage for the next year and we charged \$4.88 per cubic foot we would raise \$435,000 and that would be enough to cover our budget.

Mrs. Morin asked if there is an opportunity where they can make this into steps so that it's not all at once.

Mrs. Heon said if they chose to do that they would just continue to be-because this doesn't address the deficit it only addresses the 2024 budget.

Mrs. Morin said if they did it quarterly they could do more than the \$4.88 so they could do what we need. She said we're saying we need to go up to \$4.88 but if that's not the rate we need can we slowly increase it to get to the rate that we need to cover the budget and start paying down the deficit.

Mr. King asked how many times the bills go out.

Mrs. Heon said 4 times a year. She said there is another piece to this just as when we're setting the tax rate the other piece is the revenues that offset and she has not included any revenues in here to offset it though on the water side there really isn't that much.

Mr. Tiffany said there are some things they could look at but they already adjusted one the final reads and now we're getting money for the final reads that they do. He said another would be a minimum water usage we have a lot of people out there that don't use any water that are hooked up to the system and you pay for electricity if you're not using it. He said we should have some kind of a minimum water usage because the service is available to these people and we're depending on them to use it and they're not using it.

Mr. Staples asked how they are getting water.

Mr. King said what he is saying is they have a hitch up and a meter and their usage is 2 gallons a year.

Mrs. Heon said that was her point about having a fixed rate.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Becky Dickie said there are empty houses, old homes and stuff that is not rented out and businesses that are owned but are not functional.

Mr. King said before they can consider what that number is they need to consider the revenues.

Mrs. Heon said her thought was in coming up with a rate that did not include any offsetting revenues that would allow any revenues above and beyond usage to help the deficit balance.

Mr. King said he was not opposed to that but he would like to know what that estimate is.

Mrs. Heon said they can look at that on the water side but there's not a lot of opportunity on the water side for revenues like the sewer side has septage which can be a little bit more.

Mr. Tiffany said that needs to be adjusted too but that's for another meeting.

Mr. King asked them to do some additional research on a minimum charge to see what other towns are doing because maybe that would make an impact. He said we have a cost to maintain that system to the house that's not being used and asked what other towns have adopted as a reasonable number for that and if they were to follow something that's equitable what impact that would have for the board to consider.

Mr. Tiffany said he didn't think it would have a very big impact but it would help.

Mrs. Heon said there is always the opportunity to have a sophisticated rate study done but that would cost money. She said this is not a sophisticated rate study it's just crunching some numbers to come up with a basic...

Mr. King said the way it is structured the users pay the Water Dept. and for any substantial change of that would need to go to Town Meeting.

Mrs. Heon said she was not opposed to going back and crunching some more numbers but time is going to be of the essence regarding this because we have to have a public hearing and post any information about a rate change in the bill before the bill where it actually happens which would be the bills that go out right after Jan. 1. We want to make sure we have enough time to get more information together if that's what you're requesting, hold a public hearing, get that information out to the public and make sure it's ready to be printed in bills she said.

Mr. Staples asked what they thought about keeping the rate payers where they are but make sure the rate payers get stuff back like when they fix culverts and do driveways and stuff they're not supposed to do that we bill the homeowners and stuff with a FEMA rate for the guys and the equipment. He said the water and sewer guys are helping Ed (Highway Dept. Supervisor) and the water and sewer payers should be reimbursed for their rates.

Mr. Dickie and Mr. King said they are.

Mr. Staples said they're reimbursed for their time not for the wear and tear on their truck because you plow with your truck that is paid for by the rate payers plowing town roads.

Mrs. Morin asked if the truck was paid for by the taxpayers.

Mr. Staples said it's paid for by the rate payer out of this.

Mr. Tiffany said the truck was paid 50/50 by water/sewer and the town. He said they use the 1 ton and they don't plow with the black one because if you look in the minutes the black one is not allowed to plow because it was bought by the rate payers and the only thing it is supposed to plow is the wells.

Mrs. Titus said she understood that they have to go up on the rates but she would like to see it in 2 billing cycles so it's not hurting some of the rate payers because that might be a big jump for some people. She suggested they could do it in Jan. and then maybe the next cycle.

Mr. King said they could determine that when they hold the public hearing as to how they're going to do it. He said they need to fine tune what that rate needs to go to, have a public hearing, take input, come up with a plan for how it's going to be implemented and it should be phased if they're going to have a 40% or 50% rate increase because it hasn't been increased since 2018 and put people on notice that it's going to be phased in over 2 to 4 billing cycles.

Mrs. Heon asked if he would be proposing that we wouldn't be charging a rate that would raise the water budget.

Mr. King said he would be proposing that we cover all the costs and potentially then some depending on what the revenue stream looks like. He said if they phased it in over a year they would not solve it until that last bill. But you're getting there he said.

Mrs. Heon asked if some of the bills would be higher than \$4.88.

Mr. King said that is up to the board to determine but say the rate was \$4.88 and they decided to phase that in they're not going to be solvent in 2024 they would be getting there in 2025 and moving to where it's solvent.

Mrs. Heon asked if he was saying not to try to cover 2024's budget in one year.

Mr. King said that is what the board might decide to do and they might decide to go a little bit higher.

Mr. Heon asked if they didn't do that if they would be proposing adding something to the general fund budget to cover the shortfall.

Mrs. Morin said when she said over 4 bills her intention was that they start high and then go low. She said they would start with the bigger number not 4 equal. It didn't have to be 4 equal and it didn't have to be \$4.88 or whatever it was to cover this budget. It was what it was to cover this budget and then some deficit not \$4.88 she said.

Mrs. Heon said if the results of the public hearing and the board's decision is to not raise the rate to \$4.88 to cover the budget the budget has to be covered somehow so that would mean the shortfall falls to the taxpayer and maybe that's just for this year or for 2 years. She said we have to cover the budget somehow.

Mr. King said it's been falling and they have been taking money out of other areas to cover it.

Mrs. Heon said it would have to be real this time it would have to be a real line in their budget.

Mr. King said it should be and in the past over time it's been over budgeted and the Town has

taken money from some other means to cover it and Penny's point to cover the deficit is another whole discussion. He said if you look back what's been the deficit he didn't think the users should be held responsible for that as it is this board's bad for letting it get out of whack. He said if they didn't charge enough last year the water has already run through the pipes so to go back and say we're going to recoup the deficit is going back and retroactively charging the rate that it should have been. I don't think that's reasonable either he said.

He asked if they went to 2018 moving forward what the total dollar amount would be.

Mrs. Heon said you can look at the water cash at a moment in time and at this moment in time as of the end of Sept. the water fund owes the Town almost \$60,000. She said she didn't know where they will end up at the end of the year because they have revenues coming in and they are paying bills out so at the end of 2023 she'll have to see where we stand. She said but that's the accumulative effect of not having a sufficient enough rate to cover your expenses for many years.

Mr. Vachon asked if they knew what the average usage is over a quarter per household.

Mrs. Heon, Mr. Tiffany and Mrs. Dickie said they didn't know.

Mrs. Dickie said it's so different and you could have two 2 member households and they could be 100 cubic ft. and 1,500 cubic ft. it's so different.

Mrs. Heon asked if they were looking for what would be the actual dollars and cents increase for an average household.

Mr. Vachon said roughly what it would be per household for the \$1.90 increase.

Mrs. Heon said they have to take out the outliers and look at it a little bit closer.

Mrs. Dickie said they do just over 1,200 bills per quarter some are just water some are just sewer though not many are just sewer and some are water and sewer combined.

Mrs. Morin asked how far the water and sewer is in the red currently.

Mrs. Heon said she didn't know how it is going to shake out at the end of 2023 and just at the end of Sept. water is in the red \$60,000 and sewer is in the red \$425,000. She said that is not surprising because if she takes a look right now at where they are sitting with revenues with 2 billings under our belt. She said the first billing that they do in Jan. is revenue that's posted to the year before because it's usage to the end of Dec. She said they've done a billing in Apr. and in July and she has the billing for Oct. but it's not posted yet.

She said for 2 billings our sewer revenue is at \$202,669 if you assume that we would do that same amount in the next 2 billings that would put our revenue at approx. \$405,300 for sewer with a \$712,000 budget so that's how we get in the red. She said the same thing for water where we're sitting at right now at \$139,000 in revenue multiplying that by 2 gets you up to \$278,000 for 2023 with a \$394,000 budget.

Mr. King said with the usage that they have with the current rate that budget is upside down \$170,000 for the Water Dept. He said if he takes the \$298,000 times the usage that they have here it only comes up to \$265,000 in revenue at that rate. Your budget is \$434,000 so it's off by

60% so we have \$170,000 that's negative and Wastewater is \$400,000 he said.

Mrs. Heon said not to forget that there are other revenues that come in that will offset that deficit a little bit and she will bring those back to the board. It's not going to cover it she said.

Mr. King said say the revenues were \$50,000 the board can decide they're going to allocate half of that to the rate and the other half they will consider as potential extra or they may take it all. He said it may be \$5,000 and then asked what the number is.

Mrs. Heon said on the water side it's probably not a lot but they will get that to them.

Mr. Vachon asked for the current sewer rate.

Mr. Tiffany said the current sewer rate is \$7.69 and that's to treat 748 gallons of water.

Mrs. Morin asked for the current water rate.

Mr. Tiffany said the current water rate is \$2.98.

Mr. King said he looked at the sewer rate from 2018 and the costs have gone up about 5% every year. He said someone asked how it got so far out of whack and it got out of whack 5% every year without doing anything about it and it compounds to 28% but in 2018 it wasn't being fully funded.

Mr. Tiffany added that it wasn't fully funded before 2018.

Mrs. Heon said she and Mr. Dickie went back quite a few years and they couldn't find a year where it looked like it was being fully funded.

Mrs. Morin said Mr. King has been on this board the longest and asked if he remembered ever having conversations about the sewer rates.

Mr. King said typically when it came up it was this is what we have and this is what we're going to make for an adjustment but we really don't want to make too big of an adjustment for the users so it's always been not enough. He said the discussion has always been we're going to move the rate up and it only gets moved up half as often as it should and it only gets moved up close to covering the cost.

Mrs. Heon said they looked back and they couldn't even find where there was a definitive formula for how do you calculate a rate. She said to her this is common sense but she didn't know if there's another way to approach it. She said she looked at it in the same way the tax rate is set-we have an assessed value and we have a budget and the tax rate is the bridge between the two.

Mr. King turned to the Wastewater budget and said the proposed budget is \$793,000 and the current budget is \$712,000 so that's almost a 10% increase over last year's budget. He said like he said it has been going up 5% and that the cost of everything is going up.

He said it looks like there is a big jump in health care probably for a similar reason.

Mr. Tiffany said Steve's buyout and Personnel Liabilities are big ones.

Mrs. Heon said we have a long time employee in the wastewater treatment plant who will be retiring and he also doesn't take our health insurance he takes a buyout so they budgeted for the following year the potential of replacing him with somebody who would take health

insurance so that's why there is so big of a jump in health insurance. We're just anticipating what those costs would be she said.

Mr. King said this is the total cost but this is not subtracting the 50% cost sharing for the plant upgrades.

Mrs. Heon said no and when you look at page 2 of the wastewater budget there is something that says Bond Principal and Wastewater Bond Interest that is only 50% the other 50% shows up in the Town's budget.

Mr. King said this number is the users', it's twice this amount and the other half is on general taxation.

Mrs. Heon said that's right.

Mr. King said that number means that basically the sewer rate has to double.

Mrs. Heon said yes.

Mr. King said with that last number he was under the impression that that was the total cost.

Mrs. Heon said it is not that is the 50% allocated to the wastewater responsibility is on that budget.

Mr. King asked where the other one is shown in the general budget.

Mrs. Heon said it is under the long term debt line for principal and interest in the Town budget and there might be other things added into that like the Public Safety Building. She said it is not broken out loan by loan it's just one lump sum. When we get there I'll make sure you have the detail on that she said.

Mr. King said he sees fewer questions on this one but they need to go back and look at them to see about getting it as tight as they can and this may be it and it will only be a little bit on this one. He said what they are claiming for the health care is correct and he wouldn't change that. He said this is also under contract and asked if that wage increase is the number.

Mr. Tiffany said yes.

Mr. King said they have Specialized Labor showing a \$2,000 increase but their expenses last year were half of that line item (2023 budget-\$6,000; expended-\$2,404; 2024 request-\$8,000).

Mr. Tiffany said that's for IT Tech Eric Miles' price increase for tech services and that's also...

Mr. King said last year his budget was \$6,000 and he spent \$2,500 and this year to date he has spent \$2,400.

Mrs. Heon said she would dig a little bit deeper into that line and find out exactly what they're expensing to that line.

Mrs. Morin said for Diesel Fuel last year he budgeted \$800 and spent \$4 and this year he budgeted \$1,200 and spent \$254 and he is budgeting \$1,200 again.

Mr. Tiffany said that is for emergencies and the only thing they use diesel fuel for at Sewer Dept. is the generator and the little backhoe they have and Town's big backhoe. He said they keep that much money in that line for if they have a bad power outage because if that generator has to run for a few days it's going to be a lot of money filling that generator up. He

recalled that when we had that ice storm the power was out for a week in some places and that he always keeps it in there even though they don't spend it for emergencies.

Mrs. Morin asked if that should be under emergency management under the general budget.

Mr. King said no because this is a user account so it should they should have their own.

Mrs. Morin asked if the telephones went up in cost because it was \$1,000 to date and he has \$2,400 (requested for 2024).

Mr. Tiffany asked Mrs. Heon if all the expenses are not in there yet.

Mrs. Heon said it may not be and she would have to check to see where they are with that.

Mr. King said last year he budgeted \$2,400 and spent \$2,000 and are still budgeting \$2,400 so that doesn't look that far off.

Mrs. Morin said that's right but they've only spent \$1,000 so far.

Mrs. Heon said she would have to check and see why and there's always the possibility that you can't expense it and you're off by one number and somebody else is getting the hit for it. That's why when these things look a little odd we just have to go back and check to see why she said.

Mr. Staples asked if the Sludge (Processing) line was for the tipping fee.

Mr. Tiffany said yes and that stayed the same and they were right on track with that this year.

Mr. Staples asked if the rates are not going up.

Mr. Tiffany said no not that he knows of.

Mr. King said Mr. Tiffany mentioned about the septage.

Mr. Tiffany said they have to take a hard look at septage and the septage rate hasn't been raised since they put the septage in. He said that a lot of towns now are 15 cents for their septage and the ones that are lower getting less for their septage is because they have vacuum trucks and they can clean out their own tanks and we cannot so he has to hire Bellmore to come clean out our tanks of the grit and the rocks that the septic trucks bring in. He said there has to be a meeting on that where they have to raise that rate because right now we're probably paying more to run it than we are getting from using it. He said they are at 10 cents a gallon and it's been 10 cents a gallon for 10 years and as they know things have gone up.

Mr. King said they will need to factor that in because that's going to be additional revenue and if they go to 15 cents they have to come up with some research and a recommendation to go to 15 cents where what you take in could drop 40%. He said if we're going upside down we should change the rate.

Mr. Tiffany said we were paying Bellmore \$1,000 a few years ago to pump the tank and now we're paying \$1,600 every time they come down.

Mr. King asked how often that is being done.

Mr. Tiffany said that has to be done about 3 times a year for the septage receiving tank but there are 2 tanks. He said they pump out of the septage receiving tank into the digester so they have sand in the septage receiving tank and they also get it in the digester so they have to pump out and clean out both tanks.

Mr. King said that's almost \$5,000 a year and asked how much they are taking in for septage revenue.

Mr. Tiffany said he didn't have that in front of him and he didn't know.

Mrs. Heon said they will get that and the offsetting revenues for the board.

Mr. Tiffany said they have electric in that, they have polymer, alum and alum is a lot of money and there is many a cost to treat it and they treat it with the Town's sewage because that is the only way they can do it. He said they have how much they bring into septage but it's very hard calculating it.

Mr. King said based upon it being very concentrated compared to our septage that cost to process per gallon is much higher than a gallon of septage.

Mr. Tiffany said then they have Waste Management getting rid of the cans and they probably get rid of 8-10 cans a year if they weren't taking septage but they have to take it they run it so they have to figure in that cost too and we're paying \$1,400.

Mr. Staples asked if there is an RSA that says we have to take it.

Mr. Tiffany said that's \$1,800 per can to get rid of and they have to take it.

Mr. King said they made the decision when they upgraded the plant to take it and that was under the pretext that it was going to be profitable. He said we need to adjust our rates so it's profitable or covering the cost or we won't be taking it. And the easiest way we won't take it is we'll just have the highest price around. But we can't be going upside down on it and we have to look at the labor involved he said.

Mr. Tiffany said there's labor involved too and they have to look at the whole 9 yards so 10 cents a gallon is not covering it anymore. He said they have the electric that just went crazy on everybody, those pumps cost a lot and the centrifuge costs a lot to spin it.

Mrs. Heon said when you look at their budget of \$793,000, \$111,000 of that is electricity which is crazy. It's almost as much as the personnel cost she said.

Mr. Tiffany said a solar field would be huge if we can get one.

Mrs. Heon then asked what their homework is.

Mr. King said they have to come in with the revenues on both sides, what the septage revenue should be, fine tune the water and sewer budgets and the average household usage.

Mrs. Morin added what the actual deficits are.

Mrs. Heon said the actual deficits can be given to them at a moment in time it's this because there are always bills coming in and there are always revenues coming in. She said she could give them what it was at the end of 2022 and it's not too hard to predict what it will be at the end of 2023 because you're taking in as much as you're putting out.

Mrs. Morin said she wanted to know what they need to cover for the deficit and what the actual deficit is.

Mr. King said it's over \$500,000 for both depts. it's 414,000 on the Sewer Dept. and \$170,000 on the Water Dept.

Mrs. Morin said that isn't just this year's deficit and they've had years past that there has been a deficit that's the question she is asking.

Mrs. Heon said that deficit doesn't include any offsetting revenues so the actual...

Mr. King said they have the offsetting revenues and they can figure that in because that could reduce these potential rates. He asked what the septage revenue is and the cost to process the septage is already in the budget. He then asked what the other revenues are as far as the connection fees and all that stuff.

Mr. Tiffany said he didn't know if when they take in fees like that if that gets broken up.

Mrs. Heon said she broke them all out this year because they weren't they were just being dumped into one lump sum and that does not give us an illustration of what is really going on. She said she broke it all out this year so they have revenue for just the usage, revenue for any connection fees and revenue for any service work, etc.

Mr. Tiffany asked if the water turn-on fees, the backflow fees and the new one (final readings) that they just passed a couple of weeks ago were broken out.

Mrs. Heon said yes.

Mrs. Morin said she was looking for the past year's deficits and we owe those lines somewhere, those monies so she didn't it was fair to ask the rate payers to pay all of it but it needs to be some way of recouping some of those lost funds.

Mrs. Heon said it's really what the sewer owes the town and what the water owes the town and by the end of 2023 they will know exactly what that is. She said she could look up the 2022 audit and tell them what it was at the end of 2022.

She said when you look at it in any moment in time in 2023 the water could owe the town "x" but then the next week a whole bunch of people pay something it's kind of an in an out thing. She said there is no doubt the deficit has been going for many, many years.

Mr. King said the total potentially is \$584,000 which is \$1 on the tax rate or around \$5.57.

Mr. Dickie said the new one is \$5.67.

Mrs. Heon said they could take a 2 or 3 year plan and chip away at it but they have to at least cover the costs with whatever rate they set going forward. She said they can't set a rate that knowingly isn't going to cover your budget.

Mrs. Morin asked them to look at surrounding towns too and see what their rates are.

Mr. Tiffany said all plants are different and they're all run different. He said in Rochester he pays \$7.00 for water and he pays less for sewer because they have a lagoon and they have no treatment there so it costs a lot less and on the water side they have a treatment plant where it costs a lot more. He said we are an SBR plant and there are hardly any SBR plants in NH and it's totally different and it's so hard to get a clean comparative quote for each dept.

Mrs. Heon said the usage could also be different and there could be so many more users on the system that drives a rate down so there are a lot of different variables that go into it. She said a more interesting question would be asking how they come up with their rate and what formula

they use to come up with their water or sewer rate. She said some of them may have the fixed fee on the bill plus usage and that could be something that we could look at if that would impact what the rate needs to be.

Mr. Tiffany said he looks at other fees like in Alton, water turn-on and turn-off fees and Mrs. Dickie checked some rates out in different towns. He said sometimes we're higher and sometimes we're lower. He listed some of the rates in other towns and said he didn't know if it's based on the number of people in the town or the population on the system but a lot of places are different.

Mrs. Heon said the point is we have to have some kind of a formula that makes sense mathematically to cover the expenses that we're asking to be covered. She said whatever that may be the rate has to raise the amount of money that is being budgeted.

Mr. King said they need to go through a couple of these lines and look at the incomes are and look at what the impact of a minimum charge might be because if they institute that that would be a potential increase in revenue. He said to consider the cost and if they are not charging that at a minimum then they are not covering our costs. He asked how much of an impact that would be and if it would effect it by \$20,000 and if there are 1,200 bills how many are inactive.

Mrs. Dickie said she could get that number for the board.

Mr. King said once they have the rest of the information they could schedule a public hearing and discuss it at that. He said they don't need to discuss all the information before the public hearing this is the stuff we need and they would want a public hearing as soon as possible so they can make the adjustments to the bills.

Mr. Tiffany asked what their timeframe was looking like.

Mrs. Heon said they will work on it this week and decide by Friday if they would be ready for it next Monday.

Centrifuge- Mr. Tiffany said today when he got to work the guys told him the centrifuge wouldn't run and it was tripped out when they tried to run it so he checked things out and they showed him that it was tripped out on the panel and the breaker was tripped and Steve said when he went to reset the breaker and turn it back on they heard a loud bang and their drive (Power Flex 700 drive) got shot and there is a picture of it on the back side of their copies of the e-mail they received.

He said he had to shut down all the septage because he can't run the centrifuge so they have to keep as much sludge out of the tank as possible and all he can take is town sludge for about a week when that will be right up to the top.

Mr. King said in this e-mail it says that drive is no longer available and it looks to be slightly undersized to the application. He said they say there is a new version and asked if the new version is properly sized.

Mr. Tiffany said he was informed today that that was undersized and that wasn't his decision and that drive has been in there since Wright-Pierce built the plant. He said you can't get this

model anymore and he looked it up on the computer and you can't get this type anymore. He said they do have a better revised model.

Mr. King asked if that is going to have increased capacity and not be undersized.

Mr. Tiffany said the new one is not undersized and it's big enough to handle the centrifuge and it is on a shelf in NY right now. He said the cost is there (\$9,870 for materials) and the install cost is there (\$2,300) and that includes wiring it up and programming it.

Mrs. Morin asked if this is the only quote they got.

Mr. Tiffany said we only have a week before that is coming over the walls. This is the only one I got he said. He said this is an emergency and it happened today.

Mr. Dickie asked if they had another electrician but he doesn't deal with those.

Mr. Tiffany said no and that he called Ewing to come down and look at it and they're busy in MA right now.

Mr. King said they don't know what went in the drive controller and asked if they have anybody that they sent these out to for repair.

Mr. Tiffany said no and you can buy refurbished older ones on EBay but he was not sure that they were the exact same as this one and this one was undersized. He said they said it has used its whole life in the 10-12 years it has been in there and they go for \$12,000-\$15,000 on EBay or remodeled refurbished ones and that is not the new one that's the old one that's undersized.

Mr. King said they would have to have a motion to authorize having it fixed but they could at least ask some other questions.

Mrs. Morin asked what they are replacing it with as it doesn't say.

Mr. King said he meant as far as other options and if they approve a motion to cover this amount of money they have another day or so to see if they can find a better solution and if not to go with this one. He said he could give him the name of 1 person that might deal in this and he could contact him and see if he has any familiarity with this or they may point him to a repair facility to get that serviced. He said he could get that information to Mr. Dickie in the morning.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to authorize the repair or replacement of the PowerFlex 700 drive from the Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed \$12,170;

Discussion: Mr. Staples asked if they were going to waive the Town policy for having 3 bids.

Amendment by Mr. King: and to waive the Town bidding requirement because it is an emergency

Mrs. Morin accepted the amendment.

Mr. King said even if he was to buy a used one someone still has to program it.

Mr. Vachon asked if there was any type of warranty on the new one.

Mrs. Morin said it says they have to place the order by Tuesday at 2 p.m. for it to be here for a Thursday installation.

Mr. Tiffany said he would check on it and he was 100% sure something like that would have a warranty on it.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

DPW Updates- Highway Dept. Supervisor Ed Brannan gave the board some information on the truck repairs and work orders and asked if that is something in line with what they want to see on a monthly basis.

Old Range Rd.- He then gave them some information on Old Range Rd and said he went out and took a look at the pipes and showed the board some pictures of 2 runs that are 40 ft. each. He said the first picture shows the outlet side of the pipes and you can see some cracks in the road where there was a lack of cover and you can see where they're moving.

He said the second picture shows the pipe in the middle of the driveway with a hole and the third picture is the inlet side. He said you will see some cracks, one pipe is torn up and on the inlet side when they went there to do the work there is a rock sitting on top of the pipe right now that was pushed off and was probably the culprit that caused the problem because it blocked the inlets to the pipes which most likely caused them to pop out of the ground.

He said their work was to get that rock back up on the pipes and get them down with enough dirt so it won't wash by them and if there is any emergency response they could get in there.

He said they did this on a number of driveways under the circumstances with the type of event that caused all the damage he didn't think it was unwarranted but he also didn't think the little bit of work they did constitutes maintenance of the road. He said if they look at the other paperwork he gave them there is a highlighted area and when the original subdivision was brought to the Planning Board (Tax Map R67, Lot 01, 09/14/99) it was noted that it was a Class VI road and the maintenance responsibilities were the responsibility of the property owner. He said unfortunately they didn't record that but if you look on the bottom of the second page Class VI roads RSA's say if that road hasn't been maintained by the Town for 5 years or more it falls into a Class VI status if it was a Class V to begin with. He said the people that live out back have a recorded easement to utilize the road and are responsible for their maintenance.

Mr. Brannan said looking at the culverts he wouldn't use them again. He said you can see where the cracks are in the road that is where the culverts are actually flexing. He said if you look up through the pipes you can see depressions where the traffic has gone over them and the inlet sides are bent pretty good and he didn't think they would ever get them straightened back out again. One of the culverts has a pretty good tear in the top he said.

He said when he did the numbers on it he used the FEMA rates and our hourly rates for labor. He said he put in a round number for gravel and stone of \$500, culvert pipes are going to come in around \$1,600, equipment and labor is going to be about \$3,750 which gives you a total of \$5,850.

Mrs. Morin asked how it is recorded as a deed and if the driveway is recorded as coming out onto Range Rd.

Mr. Brannan said by law it's supposed to be recorded and the forward lot closest to Meaderboro Rd. doesn't have anything recorded but that's also the one that's mentioned

through the Planning Board.

Mr. King said prior Planning Boards may not have had a requirement that that notice be recorded.

Mr. Brannan said he is not sure when the laws changed. He said it has been noted whether or not it was disclosed when the property was transferred he doesn't know. He said typically something of that nature would show up on a disclosure form and he didn't know if it did but the Town hasn't maintained that road for a very long time. If we were to fix it I think the cost should still be borne by the people that are utilizing it. It is a Class VI road and it is open to the public but it's not a maintained road he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if this is something they could pre-bill the homeowners or give them what we would charge and let them make the decision as to whether or not they want to pay it.

Mr. King said there is no mechanism for that.

Resident Arthur Williams said there are other people that live on their road and they wouldn't be able to afford to fix it because he probably would be the only one footing that bill and he doesn't have that kind of money to put into the road. He said it's been the road he maintained from his house down to Meaderboro Rd. himself but from the rain that we had last year before Christmas time because we had a ton of snow there at the time and unfortunately the water had no place to go and that was a big problem and that's why the culverts froze. He said that is when we got those torrential downpours and it actually washed the road down by the farm area down below.

Mrs. Morin asked if that culvert isn't repaired if the people behind him can get out.

Mr. Williams said eventually it's going to erode and it will be an issue.

Mrs. Morin said her thought was if there is a mechanism in which they can have it repaired and they can all pitch in for it.

Mr. Williams said they won't.

Mrs. Morin said but if they can't get out...

Mr. Williams said it's been an on-going problem that they've had for about 6 years now. He said they have the gentleman further up Meaderboro Rd. that utilizes that road to haul in his manure from up the street and he has big agricultural tires on his tractor and it has gotten to a point where in the past in the mud season it makes that road un-passable for them. I have asked him numerous times to make his own path to where he drops all his manure. He's got 70 head of cattle out there and that is a lot of manure. He did have it logged last year also but who did the logging I don't know he said.

Mr. Williams said he had a bulldozer up there over the summer time, he's stumping the property and this is something that he and his neighbor out back deal with all the time and they have approached him numerous times and he doesn't care. Unfortunately it's my only way to my home he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if it is their only way as well.

Mr. Williams said and for one other person out back yes and they had a medical emergency last year where the ambulances couldn't get out back there because it was so bad.

Mr. King asked Mr. Brannan what he had just for the cost of materials-the culverts and the gravel and so forth.

Mr. Brannan said the cost of materials would be \$2,100 and the labor is \$3,750 and that is using FEMA rates for the equipment our actual labor rates which if they did a FEMA event that's the way they would figure it. He said in regards to the farming equipment there are 2 farms on that road one being the one Mr. Williams just mentioned and also the Scruton farm. He said there is a tractor trailer that goes to these farms 2-3 times a week and we have no way to stop them they are an agricultural business and they have exceptions.

Mr. King said they have the right to use the road everyone likes to say it's the big truck but everything has an impact whether it's a bicycle or someone bringing in logging equipment. He said he is somewhere in the middle and he would say it's reasonable for them to potentially do the work out of the dept. but the majority of the board might not say that but the cost for the materials the taxpayers shouldn't bear the cost for that.

He said it's no different than in past administrations as far as culverts at the end of somebody's driveway the prior practice was if the resident paid for the culvert the dept. would put it in if they were out there doing work. He said that may not be the current practice in the last few years but during his prior time on the board that is how it was handled. That's how I analyze this one it's a Class VI road basically a driveway shared by others and it falls in our right-of-way and that's the amount that I feel is reasonable. If the people using it aren't willing to do that then I'm not willing to put it all on the town either way and if there's no mechanism for people to cost share we're at an impasse he said.

He said he could make that motion and it could pass or fail but for this person it needs to get resolved and they need to make a decision here so they can figure what they're going to do.

Mr. Williams said he has been up there for 17 years and he has done his best to maintain that road. He said he keeps it a lot better than most roads he has seen for private roads. He said he York rakes, he grades it and he does whatever he can to make it passable. What is past my driveway is beyond my control. I always maintain it all the way up the best I can he said.

He said he doesn't have the machinery or the time and he actually put a lot of work into that road and he has hauled in stone and fill and a lot of stuff to keep that grade up on that road the best he can and now it's beyond his control. Unfortunately it's Mother Nature that caused it to happen he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if there is an opportunity for him to reach out for insurance for his own.

Mr. Williams said it's a Town road.

Mr. Vachon said it's not his property.

Mrs. Titus asked if they could take the \$2,100, fix the culvert and bill the other residents on that road.

Mr. King said there is no mechanism to do that.

Mrs. Dickie asked if there is an association.

Mr. King said you can't do the work and just send somebody a bill.

Mrs. Dickie said there is something called a betterment assessment but she didn't know what that RSA says but she knew that sometimes they use it for specific reasons. She said she didn't know if something like that could be used she would have to do some research or Mrs. Heon may know because it would be an Assessing Dept. function.

Mr. King said say there are 5 or 6 landowners with a betterment assessment a portion of that could be put on every parcel on that road.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't know how it was done but they have done that before not here but it's been done.

Mrs. Morin asked Mrs. Dickie if she could look into that.

Mrs. Dickie said yes.

Mr. King said if they were to go that way there are certainly some notice requirements they should meet and notify every person on there that based upon the situation this is what the Town is considering, this is the day that it's set to be discussed and everybody who is going to get the bill can come down.

Mr. Williams wished them good luck with that. He said that's why he is the only one here the other 2 don't really have to deal with it. He said he is the one that has to deal with it because he is the one that maintains the road the others don't really care.

Mrs. Morin said they may care if there's a future bill in their horizon so maybe they'll show up.

Mr. Williams said he has tried in the past and he gave up trying. He said they sent letters to them asking them to take a break on the road when it's mud season. If you guys can't get out there for an emergency then it's going to be even worse he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if they would look into it and put it back on the agenda.

Mr. King asked if they could have an answer next week and if it's something they want to consider put everybody on notice. He said this may be the avenue that is reasonable to go forward with some of these situations because this is not the first time this happened. He said we have private roads, driveways, deeded right-of-ways in common, Class VI roads and there is a problem and it needs to get fixed a lot of the time the taxpayers have been paying for it because it has to get fixed or it would ruin a Town road.

Mr. Williams said that part of Meaderboro Rd. is pretty rough in that area and the hot top is just peeling off.

Mr. Vachon asked if they could get the cover on those pipes on that road and it looks awful shallow right now.

Mr. Brannan said it would be very difficult. He said if you go downstream about 15 ft. you may be able to get them down possibly get a foot of cover but it would be really close.

Mr. King said the other problem is what might be out there for ledge or a ditch line to install

that size pipe properly if you don't have enough cover which leaves it susceptible to damage like you have now.

Mr. Williams said the road was done over about 5 years before he moved in there.

Mr. King said they might have done the best they could but if they're not down far enough they're not going to want to stay in the ground.

Mr. Williams said he thinks that's what happened with all the water rushing underneath that it raised that one pipe and it pushed the sand underneath it.

Mr. Vachon asked for the size of that pipe.

Mr. Brannan said it's a 15 inch pipe. He said when the road was done prior to what Mr. Williams said it was probably done by the private owners and not the Town.

Mrs. Morin asked if it was a private road at one point.

Mr. Brannan said it's a Town road.

Mr. King disagreed and when he was here if they were fixing that road they probably could have put those in. He said if they were out on Meaderboro Rd. doing it in the past they would replace everything that needed to be replaced.

Mr. Brannan said it's a common practice if you're rebuilding a road usually you'll go through and do the culverts and so forth to driveways but he didn't think that constitutes taking ownership.

Mr. King agreed.

Mr. Brannan said they have to be careful if they start doing these it's not where you start it's where you stop. He said when they go out to do ditching it's not a matter of where do they start it's where they stop because we can just keep on going and going.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to research applying a betterment assessment to get this repair done and put the burden on the landowners on Range Road;

Discussion: Mr. Williams said there are other people that own property on that road but they are down in MA somewhere.

Mrs. Morin said they would still be the property owners.

Mr. King said every parcel that is accessed off of that road would be paying their share if we can go that way and that's the way they go to do it.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

2004 International- Mr. Brannan said they need to get this truck to DiPrizio's or possibly to Allegiance to get the computer they put in it synced to the vehicle computer so they can get the gauges functioning and things working.

Mr. King asked if they indicated that that is possible.

Mr. Brannan said it's possible.

Mr. Vachon asked if the whole truck has to go or just the ECM.

Mr. Brannan said the truck has to go because he doesn't believe they can just flash the ECM from the VIN number.

Mr. Brannan said it does run and it does move but speedometer and odometer don't work and some of the gauges are a little messed up.

Mr. King asked why they couldn't drive it up there with a chase vehicle.

Mr. Brannan said they could and it needs to go there.

Mr. Vachon asked if they want to chance driving it there and having a mechanical failure that the driver is not aware of because the gauges aren't working like a drop in oil pressure or the air tank goes. He asked don't they have a flatbed truck or a trailer and if that truck would fit on it.

Mr. Brannan said they have a trailer but height-wise is going to be an issue. He said if its 10'6" then they can get it on there but if it's over that then they can't. It's going to be very close to the top of the sander and the top of the dump cart is usually around 10' 6" or 11' he said.

Mr. Vachon said however he would like to get it down there he would just be concerned that if the gauges aren't working and something mechanical failed and the driver didn't know.

Mr. King said if they had John (Town mechanic) drive the truck he is the one that will have the best ear and nose or put it on a low bed. I'm not going to make it a requirement he said.

Mr. Vachon added if it will fit and be legal.

Mrs. Morin asked if DiPrizio's has the ability to come get the truck.

Mr. Brannan said they would call somebody to tow it.

Mr. Vachon asked if he said how much that was going to cost.

Mr. Brannan said he had no idea but he thought hooking it up to the computer and trying to flash it might be \$200-\$300. It's getting towards crunch time with it he said.

CEO Vehicle- Mr. Brannan said the estimate on the frame repair is \$980 and there is some brake work that needs to be done. He said John figures it is probably \$500 but he's not sure on that. He said they are probably looking in the neighborhood of \$1,500 to get it repaired.

Mr. King said let's get it done and to make sure they get it undercoated.

Mr. Brannan said he could talk to them and see if they can get some spray on the inside as it seems to be rusting from the inside of the frame out.

Mr. King said NH Undercoating is the one everyone is using and they use an oil based product that is readily available.

Mr. Vachon said there is a mobile guy who does that and he'll come right to the shop and do it. He said he would have to get the guy's number and send it to Mr. Brannan.

Bunker Street- Mr. Brannan said they did get to the 61-65 Bunker St. culvert that runs out through private property and they did get that pipe in and it's been run up to about 15 ft. of the street. He said the manhole is a barrel block manhole and they're very structurally sound when they have dirt all the way around them but if you dig out one side they tend to lose that.

Mr. Vachon asked about the condition of the mortar or if it was dry-laid.

Mr. Brannan said it doesn't seem to have any gaps between the blocks and he guessed that it was dry-laid. They tend to leach water out better that way and it's common practice but they're

a little sketchy when you start digging near them he said.

Mr. Vachon asked how deep they have to go.

Mr. Brannan said it's not real deep but they got that up to 15 ft. of the street so hopefully it will be good and it will drain. He said they may try to get somebody to do some culvert flushing and they may attempt to do that one as well just to help it out a little bit.

He said it's going to be a little more involved to get that catch basin changed out and at that time they will probably go right across the street with the new pipe to the inlet of the culvert on the other side and complete it. He said he wouldn't attempt it this year but next year or they wait until the road gets rebuilt but one way or the other it will get done at some point.

Screened Sand- He said they have got the screened sand all done and the bulk of it is at the Transfer Station and they have a little bit of clean up to do. He said the 5 inch gravel is crushed, the hammer work is done and they still have to do the 1 inch minus but that seems to be going fairly well now.

Mr. Vachon asked how the 5 inch gravel turned out.

Mr. Brannan said it's good but it's very rocky and that next year they would do it a little bit smaller and that 4 inch would be a little better. It definitely gives us something for base gravel if we go to rebuild a section of road and they are going to need it he said.

Potholes- He said the last month they have been working a lot on potholes and the guys were out pretty steady between 3 and 4 weeks and they put out a significant amount of hot top patching. He said they fixed some holes on the sidewalks on Central St. by the bank.

Mr. Vachon asked if he meant the old tree boxes.

Mr. Brannan said yes and that he was surprised that they have been like that for this long.

Mr. Dickie said something they may want to think about too is some of those trees are getting to the size where they are starting to disrupt the sidewalks. He said they may want to think about if they should take them out and put smaller ones back in or how they want to handle it. If you look over in front of the Town Hall you can see an upheaval from the roots going underneath so they are getting to a size where they're going to start disrupting the sidewalk structure he said.

Mr. Brannan said that is definitely something to consider moving forward and whether you want to take them out and eliminate them. He said it is one of those things that if you keep them then you're just going to have to plan on replacing them on a regular basis. He said there are a couple right by the old fire station that should be.

Mr. King asked if they typically cut the tree down and then try to auger out the stump and plant another one.

Mr. Brannan said you would have to auger out the stump and try to plant a new tree in there.

Mrs. Morin said that doesn't seem very "fruitful". She said if they are constantly cutting down trees and replacing them it seems like a lot of effort for a little bit of time.

Mr. Brannan said it's a good idea and it does definitely help the appearance downtown but it

comes at a cost to maintenance. He said the ones in the immediate downtown area aren't too bad one going up Charles St. across from the Rec. Center is really bad and will have to get done next year.

Mrs. Morin said the one at the Fire Dept. is a little askew.

Mr. Brannan said they've all got a little bit to them but when they do get rebuilt they will have to meet ADA standards so that throws a curve ball into it at times making sure you meet that. He said we have some other areas that worse that will probably need attention sooner like School St. and Charles St. and those are probably the 2 worst ones.

Mr. Vachon asked if they were patching with hot mix or cold patch.

Mr. Brannan said they were using hot mix.

Ten Rod Rd. - Mrs. Morin asked if they got down to lower Ten Rod Road this last week.

Mr. Brannan said they did that and did a section of Poor Farm Road and hopefully before winter they can get around and touch up all of them one more time. He said there doesn't seem to be anything in the immediate future with the weather but we're getting towards that point in time where it could change quickly.

Mrs. Titus asked if Bunker St. is open now or if it is still closed.

Mr. Brannan said Bunker St. is still closed and they applied for emergency authorization to replace that culvert but the Dept. of Environmental Services did not give us it.

Mr. King asked if they gave us a reason why.

Mr. Brannan said lack of maintenance. He said a failed culvert because its rusted out doesn't necessarily constitute an emergency and it should have been dealt with before it failed to this point.

Mr. King asked what they are going to do now.

Mr. Vachon said they will have to pony up the money and replace it.

Mr. King asked if it would start with an engineered solution.

Mr. Brannan said yes and a permit.

Mrs. Morin said that's like next summer.

Mr. Brannan said DES had a meeting on it and they have a DPW Superintendent that now works for the state so when you go for emergency authorization you get 1 or 2 things- you can get whatever you need to stabilize and take life safety risks or cause of damage away or you can get permission to replace the whole thing. He said if you get permission to replace the whole thing that does not relieve you from the permit process and if you put something in there that doesn't meet the required size you have to go back and correct that.

Mr. King asked how long the permit process for a standard permit process takes.

Mr. Brannan said its typically about 2 to 3 months.

Mr. King said that would be right in the middle of winter.

Mr. Brannan said ideally they would have everything in place for Town Meeting.

Mr. King asked if they would have to keep the road closed until then.

Mr. Brannan said the DPW worker that works for the state now suggested that they put plates across it narrow it down and traffic can get through for the winter until we can get our permits, funding and repair it correctly.

Mrs. Morin asked about plowing the steel plates.

Mr. Brannan said they could plow right over them.

Mr. Vachon said they usually pave a lip and pave right up to them.

Mr. King said if they pick up the plates the next thing you know you're driving into a hole.

Mr. Brannan said the trucks would have a hard time moving the plates they're pretty big and pretty heavy.

Mrs. Morin asked how much a steel plate is and if we have those.

Mr. Brannan said no.

Mr. King said its more cost to do this and asked about calling Rick at DES and tell him we need some help and we need to keep this road open and it's not like we can send our engineer out there, tell us what size we need, put it in and then go through the process. If they run the calculations to see what it is and then we put it in to the best chance there might be a 10% chance we have to redo it but I think we have to push back. It's not reasonable the road is closed, it's in town and winter is coming he said.

Mrs. Titus said it's a safety issue too for the people living on that road.

Mr. Brannan said if that was a dead end street that would be a completely different situation.

Mrs. Morin said it is a dead end street.

Mr. Brannan said not until you get past Blaine St. and if that was the situation they would probably get the approval but there are 4 other ways to get to that street. He said as far as life safety there's no issue but is it the best the way to get in and out-no.

Mr. King said he didn't think they were being reasonable and they want to slap our hands and say you should have fixed it it's rusted.

Mr. Brannan said they're not slapping our hand because of it, it's the fact that it didn't get taken care of properly.

Mr. King said they're punishing us for lack of maintenance because the punishment is coming with not being able to fix it and get the road open for the taxpayers that are serviced by it.

Mr. Brannan said it should have been fixed before now.

Mr. King said he understood that and these people work for the state and they should be working for everybody here not working against us. In my opinion they are working against us he said.

Mr. Brannan said he is not a fan of the cost to do this stuff.

Mr. King said if we have to have an engineer tell us how big the culvert needs to be before we go stick it in the ground we'll do that so we don't have to do it twice but that Mr. Dickie needs to see what he can do. I'm not accepting it because it doesn't make any sense he said.

He said every municipality is in the same situation if something doesn't get taken care of, it

constitutes an emergency for us and they disagree and he wouldn't disagree if his mother lived on that street. He asked what they would do if they just rip it up and put it in.

Mr. Brannan said he deals with the DES on a regular basis and he wouldn't be in on that.

Mr. King asked what the punishment is for us just fixing it.

Mr. Brannan said fines and fix it right and pay for the permit.

Mr. King said he was not opposed to getting an engineer to say what we need here let's get it in there.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to have Ken research relief of this overburdening requirement by DES;

Discussion: Mrs. Morin said she would like to see what their other options are and how they can do a little push back. She said they also need to have the avenue of what is the cost of the repair so they can be prepared for it.

Mr. Brannan said Dubois & King came out and looked at the other 2 on Cross St. and Dick Dame Lane and he had them look at Bunker St. just in case this didn't go the way we wanted and they should be coming back with a quote by the end of this week. He said Hoyle & Tanner is the other one that is supposed to be getting back with a quote and he has to get in touch with them because they never came out to look at it.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

DPW Monthly Report-Mr. Brannan then asked if the paperwork that John did is what they are looking for in regards to the truck repairs.

Mr. King said the chart looks nice but in some ways because of the cost of the repairs it looks like it's way out of whack with the \$5,000 item which skews it. He said he was fine with the format if this is the easiest thing for him to do. He asked what the repair on the excavator was.

Mr. Brannan said it was the radiator and it should be listed there.

Mr. Vachon asked him to add what the issues were and what the cost of the parts were for any repairs over \$1,000 on a separate sheet in the back of the monthly report.

Mr. Brannan said so he wanted to see a detailed report on anything over \$1,000.

Mr. Vachon said what was replaced and that type of thing.

Mr. Brannan asked if he wanted to see what the actual parts are.

Mr. Vachon said the major parts like if they had to buy a radiator, a clutch or a fan so they don't have to ask questions because if they get that and he is not around they don't have to ask Mr. Dickie to check on this with Mr. Brannan and find out what cost \$5,000. He said a couple hundred dollars for a pulley or a water pump on one of the one tons is just maintenance stuff but any big purchases he would like an idea on what it was.

Mr. Brannan said that radiator was \$2,300 and a new radiator is in the range of \$5,000 and it was in Sweden. He said the fan is held on with one bolt and it's a common problem.

Old Fire Station Test Pits Update- Mr. Dickie said they (Nobis Group) will put in 4 test pits Thursday (10/26/23) and they were digging the test pits to get some soil out of it and fill it back

in so they could use the parking lot again on Friday. He said they were tested and we have enough money left over to cover this test and then above and beyond if it comes back negative he and Planning Director Kyle Pimental will be writing for grants to get the soil taken out and what we need to do to take care of the contamination beneath the parking lot.

He said he already has it posted on Face book, on the Town website, they put flyers on the cars Friday and he asked the Rec. Dept. to put it on the bulletin board at the old fire station that the parking lot would be closed on Thurs. and to find alternative parking. He said it would be the same path that we took when we did the wells in there so it will be empty and that's all been taken care of.

Mr. Vachon asked if they got the results back from the testing they did last week.

Mr. Dickie said he hasn't seen the official results back and he only got back what the board got back. He said the only thing they had was based on the smell of fuel when they dug they want to do some soil samples of that.

Mr. Vachon said he thought the first round of ground water testing was last week and then read from an e-mail that the field staff will be returning to the site on 10/16/23 to perform ground water sample collection and asked if we haven't got any information back of the water sampling they did on the 16th.

Mr. Dickie said he hasn't seen anything back in his e-mail.

Town Administrator's Contract- Mr. Dickie said he updated his new contract with the updated dates and dollar values as requested and e-mailed that and his review to the board.

Mrs. Morin asked Mr. Vachon if he signed this last week.

Mr. Vachon said Mr. Dickie was out so he didn't bring it back to the board so the board hasn't approved it yet. He added that there is a spot for all of the board to sign it.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to approve the contract for the next 12 months passed 5-0. Selectmen then signed Mr. Dickie's contract.

Cartwright Property Update- Mr. King said the board received a copy of some draft deeds for the Cartwright properties and asked what the status of that was and if they are going to be closing on that soon.

Mr. Vachon asked if we heard anything back from them and if they received any comments because they as the board have to approve the deeds once they're finalized.

Mr. King said he didn't know if they were waiting for us.

Mr. Dickie said no and he hasn't seen anything back.

Mr. King asked him to check on it.

Fire Dept. Non-Emergency Inspections Policy- Mr. King said one thing they continued from the last meeting that wasn't on the agenda was the discussion regarding a policy for notification for Fire Dept. inspections and then made the following motion:

Motion: (King, second Staples) to have James draft that policy and submit it to us for approval;

Discussion: Mrs. Morin asked for the timeframe.

Mr. King said as soon as possible. He said he didn't know what the Chief's schedule is and it should be relatively quick and it could be as simple as one page.

Mr. Dickie asked if that is to notify businesses or residents of inspections.

Mr. Staples said of non-emergency inspections.

Mr. King said yes for non-emergency inspections, the annual inspections and whatever inspections they conduct. He said it sounds like from what Mrs. Titus said if it's a rental they are already contacting by mail.

Mrs. Titus said yes they give you a date.

Mr. King said so they are doing some of that now just formalizing a policy that they will approve and make sure it addresses their concerns.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

DPW Work Schedule- Mr. Dickie said at the last meeting the board questioned the four 10 hour work days (summer schedule) and they end next Thursday. He said next year if approved it will be much earlier pulling back in midway through this month so you are not getting into the dark. Mr. King said it is already in the dark.

Mr. Staples said that they were going to go until Nov. was in their contract and he and Mr. Vachon apparently overlooked it.

Mr. Vachon said they can start it or end it whenever they want with a 2 week notice.

He then returned to the Cartwright/New Dam property deeds on Spring St. and Bay Rd. and said he didn't realize they weren't forwarded to the whole board they were only forwarded to him and Mr. King. He said he forwarded them to the entire board and asked them to look them over and get their comments to Mr. Dickie because it looks like they may be waiting on comments from the Board of Selectmen so he can forward them to Mr. Pimental.

Fiber Optic Internet Grant- Mr. Vachon said the Consolidated Communications application they discussed last week he got all that information to Jeff McIver on Friday morning. He said he sent the application over on Tues. with no information for Farmington on it so he asked him to fill in the information for Farmington before he signed it not knowing the information and he got that back to him late Wed. night and he didn't realize that he had e-mailed it to him so he e-mailed him again on Thurs.

He said he looked over Thurs. night and got it printed out on Fri. morning, signed it, got it scanned back in and sent the meeting minutes and the signed application over to Mr. McIver for him to submit on Friday. He said Mr. McIver said he would keep in the loop on how it went. He explained for anyone who wasn't watching last week it's Consolidated Communications wanting to run fiber optics throughout Farmington to upgrade internet service at no cost to the town. They're going for a grant we just had to be on board with them to go for the grant. It's not the \$900,000 from the company he quoted us it ended up being \$1.2 or \$1.4 million and the grant was the other portion but it was quite a bit that Consolidated was putting up to

upgrade some of the stuff in town to get it the outskirts where there is no high speed internet he said.

10). New Business:

Police Dept. Monthly Report- Police Chief Scott Orlando began by asking if the board had any questions on his monthly report that he submitted the week of Oct. 9.

Mr. Staples said there was a comment about the fatigue of the officers and them being burnt out and asked if they are doing too many details and if they stop that for a little bit if that would help.

Chief Orlando said that's the increase in call volume with the increase in pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic throughout the summer. He said that's natural and they are coming out of it and their batteries are getting charged.

Mr. King said there was a chart that had motor vehicle stops, offenses, arrests and there were 243 offenses and asked what the "heavy hitters" are as far as volume and what is in that list. Chief Orlando said offenses are things that they need documentation on that are important or investigations where they are going to try to identify a suspect and establish probable cause to draft a warrant complaint. He said that can be anything from criminal mischief and suspicious activity and they wanted it documented in IMC to track if it's continuing to happen in that area.

Mr. Vachon asked if they got the grant for the bullet proof vests.

Chief Orlando said they did get the grant and it came in late. He said it's a 50% match and they had 3 officers due this year and they were sized and they have a line that will cover that. He said they will pay it all upfront and hopefully they will get it before Jan. if not he will see the revenue coming in in 2024. We'll have it for 2024 also so we'll have a couple more vests that are expired that we'll be replacing he said.

He said on each vest there is a date of purchase and a serial number and they have a spreadsheet so they know when they are recycling these who is due.

Mr. King asked if the new Prosecutor is starting next month.

Chief Orlando said she will be starting Nov. 1 and he anticipates a very smooth transition. He said they have had meetings and the system they are using now is consistent with what she likes and they only needed to buy some file tabs to add to a file. He said the office manager got trained on her Google document to upload when there are trials and it seems to be a smooth transition.

Mr. King said at the bottom there is a bullet point that says the BOS and the School Board should meet to discuss funding options to cover a 3 month period that's not covered under ESSER 3. He asked if the School Board is aware of this and if they have indicated a time when they want to do that.

Chief Orlando said no and that next week he would be asking to be put on their agenda and meet with them. He said he would like to meet with Mr. Dickie and discuss it and they have had conversations about it but there is funding currently going on all the way to Sept. 2024 so he

wants to gage where they're at for Oct., Nov. and Dec. and then funnel that information to Mr. Dickie and come up with an idea. He said he sees no problem with them continuously moving forward as it seems like they are very pleased and happy but he would like to have the Select Board Chair, the Town Administrator, the School Board Chair and their Business Admin meet and say this is what we're going to do whether it's through a handshake or a written contract so he can set it and forget it. He said that would make a difference to his 2024 budget and he would put in placeholders and have different drafts depending on if they pivot or something. PD Outing-The Chief then asked for the board's permission to have a PD outing. He said he would like all the officers in the agency to get together outside of work to strengthen the bonding and the partnership and also to thank them.

He said they have come a long way in a year and a half each one played a pivotal role in accomplishing their goals and they are moving forward and he would like to spend some time with them. He said he has extended family come in to meet them and build comradery and continuously build on the morale that they have.

He said one of the places he looked into he spoke with the owner of Strike 9 and they are closed on Tues. and he will come in and bring his entire staff and provide the 15 pizzas for every officer and it came out to \$364. He said that would cover his staff and the pizzas and anything beyond that the officers or their families would have to tackle that. I thought that was an opportunity to spend 3 hours together as a team he said.

He said as far as calls for service in this community they will be handled and he spoke with Chief George Joy of the Barrington PD and he volunteered to come here for a 4 hour period with 1 of his senior officers so there will be 2 officers on. He said he asked if he would be willing to the same for his community as he thought it was a nice idea and would like to do it as well. I said if my board approves we can accommodate you he said.

He said he has worked with Chief Joy and he feels very confident and he has well over 20 years a solid individual and he said one of his senior individuals so he is comfortable with that.

Mrs. Morin asked if there is any conflict with Primex having someone come in.

Chief Orlando said it's under the mutual aid agreement so they are our mutual aid community.

Mr. King asked what prep they would need before tackling that 4 hour assignment.

Chief Orlando said George Joy needs none he has lived in this community for a short period of time and he has been in Barrington his whole career so he is familiar with the community so there is no prep work.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) that we allow Chief Joy and his senior officer from Barrington to come and cover the station for the Tuesday outing and further to allow our department to reciprocate;

Discussion: Mr. Staples asked where the funds would come from.

Chief Orlando said if the board allows him he has it and it's not going to break a particular line item. He said his bottom line is fine and that's one of the reasons why he is doing that financial

projection for the board each month. He said if it's something that the board doesn't feel comfortable covering it he will cover it himself as long as he has permission to do that.

Mr. King said it should be in his budget but it was just whether he was going to put under misc. Chief Orlando said he has a misc. line that has \$21 in it and he has plenty of other areas but he didn't know if they wanted it in that particular line.

Mr. Dickie said his budget is fine and he is sitting around 40%.

Mr. Vachon said according to this he has 42% remaining as of Oct.

Chief Orlando said he did that budget projection so his bottom line is well within control.

Amendment by Mr. King: to add approval of the funding to come out of the Chief's budget wherever it's appropriate to be placed

Mr. Vachon asked the Chief how much he said this was.

Chief Orlando said it was \$364 and that includes the gratuity, his staff and the whole building.

Mr. King asked what town that was in.

Chief Orlando said it is in Somersworth.

Mrs. Morin asked if they will be getting together at that facility.

Chief Orlando said yes.

Mr. Staples asked if everybody else's budgets were in check to be able to do this because if they allow one, they are all going to want to do it.

Mr. Dickie said bottom line they'll be fine.

Mr. King said it would be on a case by case basis based upon how good their budget is.

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

Mr. Staples said now they would see backlash from the taxpayers.

Mr. Vachon said the backlash would only come because the Chief made it known because he asked their permission to have the Town cover it. He could throw them a pizza party any day he wanted to up there and just cover it under the budget. He came to ask to have all of his officers together and that is the only reason anybody even knows about it. He has a budget that he has to work within and he can do what he wants with it as long as the TA approves and we approve. Three hundred dollars doesn't have to come to us, \$300 doesn't even have to go to Ken and \$300 is well within the Chief's spending limit he said.

Mrs. Titus said it's good team building and he did a good job on his budget.

Emergency Management Performance Grant-Mr. Vachon said last week the board asked for a list of the crowd control stuff from the Fire Chief that was included in their packets and asked if anyone had any questions on that and there were no questions from the board on this item. He asked Mr. Dickie to verify that the 300 cones are dual banded for retro-reflective so they are appropriate for the road. He said it's implied when you're buying cones but they do sell cones without the 4 inch and 6 inch bands on them.

Transfer Station Recycling Building Update- Mr. Dickie said he got an e-mail just before the meeting for the estimate for the Transfer Station recycling building and he would send that to

the board and get it on the agenda for next week.

Mr. Vachon asked how it looks.

Mr. Dickie said \$338,000 is what he estimated and he gave them a breakdown and he will put it in their e-mail so they can look it over.

11). Next Meeting: Monday, October 30, 2023

12). Non-Public Session C:

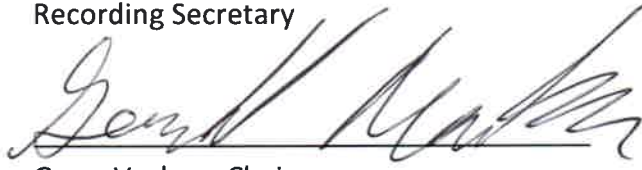

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Staples, Titus, Morin-aye) at 8:39 p.m.

Motion: (Morin, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 9:25 p.m.


13).Adjournment:

Motion: (Morin, second Staples) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 9:25 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary


Gerry Vachon, Chairman
Charlie King, Vice Chairman

Ann Titus


Douglas Staples

Penny Morin