

Town of Farmington  
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 5, 2024  
Selectmen's Chambers  
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator  
Scott Orlando, Police Chief

**1). Call to Order:**

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

**2). Non-Public Session A:**

**Motion:** (King, second Morin) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) Hiring passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples, Morin-aye) at 5:01 p.m.

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

**2). Non-Public Session B:**

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

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 5:51 p.m.

**3). Non-Public Session C:**

**Motion:** (King, 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 5:51 p.m.

**Motion:** (Morin, second King) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 6:13 p.m.

**4). Reconvene Public Session:**

Chairman Vachon reconvened the public session at 6:20 p.m.

**5). Pledge of Allegiance:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**6).Public Input:** None

**7).Review of Minutes:**

**January 29, 2024-Non-Public Sessions A, B, C, D, E-** No errors or omissions

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



**8). Old Business:**

**Police Cruiser Update-** Police Chief Scott Orlando said he previously spoke to the board about the cruiser involved accident on Main Street which occurred on New Year's Eve and he wanted to talk with the board about what is occurring. He said they were able to secure a reimbursement from Primex and they received 2 checks and the first one was for \$17,191.80 that is for the equipment and install and for the cruiser itself they received a check for \$31,400 so that would be a total of \$48,591.80.

He said he talked to Finance Administrator Kelly Heon and he was hoping to have a discussion with the board regarding motions so it is clear for her on how the Town wants to proceed with accepting the Primex reimbursement and how it is allocated to the purchase of a new Police cruiser. He said the cost of the new cruiser from Claremont Ford is \$44,915 and the cost to outfit a new Police cruiser from Adamson Industries is \$18,442 for a total of \$63,357.

Chief Orlando said Fund 08 is where they purchase their Police cruisers through and it currently has a balance of \$36,683.13. He said the insurance total was \$48,591.80 so if you add up Fund 08 and the insurance you get a total of \$85,274.93 so if the Town was willing to accept the Primex reimbursement checks for the total Police cruiser into the general fund and then release the total for the purposes of purchasing a new cruiser they could go ahead and purchase that. He said he talked to Mrs. Heon for clarification that helps with the auditors and gave Mr. Vachon a copy of the sheet containing a combination of what they talked about and that she feels a motion would help make everything clear rather than understanding one's intent.

**Motion:** (Morin, second King) that we accept the Primex check in the amount of \$17,191.80 and additionally the second check for \$31,400;

**Discussion:** Chief Orlando said there is a \$1,000 Primex deductible and Claremont Ford also provided a Purchase and Sales Agreement and the total was \$44,915 which is the same but that may reflect the sticker price.

Mrs. Morin asked if they ever get gap insurance for the difference.

Mr. Vachon said gap insurance is on a loan we pay outright for them. He said they would have been better off doing it that way over the past year or so but then they would be paying interest on it. He said there probably is a binder for insurance for the difference but we obviously don't have one through Primex.

Chief Orlando clarified that Fund 08 is \$36,683.13 the insurance is \$48,591.80 for a total of \$85,274.93 and to purchase the cruiser at Claremont Ford and outfit it is \$63,357 and that would leave a balance of \$21,917.93 in Fund 08 to go towards a cruiser in the future.

Mr. King said this is the same make and model car and asked what they are able to reuse out of the cruiser that is totaled to put into this to reduce that amount.

Chief Orlando said from cruiser accident 1 they have taken the radar detector out which is about \$2,700 and the radio but the cable he could not so they got the computer and the head mount that goes for around \$6,000 all the other parts they would not be able to use.



Mr. King asked if the cage and so forth is not able to be moved over by them.

Chief Orlando said that is correct and it wouldn't offset the cost from Adamson's. He said the second accident that just occurred a few days ago because of the steel shortage in talking with Primex and there is no damage to it he would remove the Walen speakers which are intact and on back order, the steel push bar because it's not damaged, the radar detector, the face plate of the radio and the computer system in the back. He said the wiring that goes through you can't remove so you have to splice it just to get that off and they're not going to retrofit it. He said you would have to spend about \$2,000 to have it professionally uninstalled as they did in the past and he found that not to be a smart investment when they did it a couple of years ago. Mr. King asked on the \$16,000 to outfit the cruiser he is referring to is with saving the other pieces. He then said that's not the full list that's the cost after we supply some of these items. Chief Orlando said yes.

Mr. King asked for the total cost and if it was approaching \$20,000.

Chief Orlando said there are luxury packages, the middle ground and then just subdued lighting where you see a couple of lights in your rear view mirrors, the dash and in the back middle tier so it can get very costly.

Mr. King asked if there was anything else they could take out of that-gun storage items or mountings or holders.

Chief Orlando said not for the first one and the second one they are going to try to do that.

Mr. King asked why it wasn't done on the first one.

Chief Orlando said damage for one and inside the cruisers there are release buttons and that was damaged that connects to the bracket and he didn't want to get too much into the specifics of where the buttons are and how it can release firearms. The overall damage didn't allow us to he said.

**Vote:** the motion passed 5-0.

**Motion:** (King, second Titus) to purchase the new cruiser from Claremont Ford for \$44,915 and those funds to come from the reimbursement from Primex on the damaged cruiser along with the balance coming out of Fund 08 and also to outfit that vehicle for the sum of \$18,442;

**Discussion:** Mr. Vachon asked if they had to spell out the \$36,683 (in Fund 08) for Mrs. Heon. Chief Orlando said he didn't think so it was just to make it a little clearer that the Primex reimbursement checks go into the general fund which holds them, the Town is accepting it but also then allowing the Primex reimbursement funds to be withdrawn from the general fund for the purposes and the intent of purchasing the replacement cruiser and any remaining balance to be paid through Fund 08.

Mr. King said initially there will be a \$3600 balance that will stay in the general fund until they buy another vehicle.

Mr. Vachon said that has to go towards the outfitting of that vehicle. He said the \$44,000 is just to buy it and then it's another \$18,442 in equipment to outfit it when you take that \$3678 off of



that \$18,000 it leaves \$14,765.20 to come out of Fund 08. He said they didn't want to leave that \$3600 in limbo in the general fund and pay for \$18,000 out of Fund 08.

Mr. King said his motion is for those checks to be forth for purchasing and outfitting the cruiser and the balance to come out of Fund 08 so they will be spending all of the insurance checks and then the \$1,000.

Mr. Vachon said that is the intent and that is correct.

**Vote:** the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. King said that is readily available and asked for the lead time for it to be outfitted.

Chief Orlando said currently they have a cruiser at Adamson's that was dropped off in Oct. or Nov. and they haven't received that back. He said they have made some calls to ask why and that is where they learned about the steel shortage and they're waiting on the push bar and the Walen box. He said then they called a different organization and they said they are having the same problem.

He said they are anticipating receiving it in March and since the board motioned that they can go get it they will pick the new cruiser up Wed. and they will have it at the Farmington Police Dept. to be used for administrative duties such as controlled interviews, lab runs up to the state and things like that. He said once Adamson's says their car is ready for pick up they will take the new one up there receive their new one and come back that way they don't have 2 of them sitting up there unavailable. Perhaps we can let them know we have another one we'd like to get outfitted and we'd like to do the swap and if they don't we will go to another vendor in NH and see if that puts a fire under them he said.

Mr. King asked if he has started looking for a replacement for the latest cruiser that was totaled.

Chief Orlando said yes and Claremont Ford has an exact same model and they will honor the exact same price of \$44,915 but it is white and they cannot find another black one. He said they have the option to purchase another one and after they purchase the cruiser this Wed. and have it outfitted they should have approx. \$21,917 in Fund 08. He said if the checks mirror what they just received today and they deposit them that will bring it to a balance of \$70,509. He said theoretically they could purchase that white one and have it outfitted with the board's blessing but they would have to have it wrapped which is roughly \$1,500-\$2,000 to the best of his knowledge.

Mr. King asked if they have to have it wrapped and he brought this up before when the Highway Dept. said they have to have red trucks and asked if it's white and we get a red one what the difference is.

Chief Orlando said they don't have to it's just uniformity, being consistent and so that people in town can recognize their vehicles and if one is white they may get confused until they realize it but they do not have to. He said that would be a board decision and if they would like a white one then that's fine too.



Mrs. Morin asked if they are only looking for brand new cruisers.

Chief Orlando said in the past when they were in a situation similar to the one they're in today they purchased 2 used cruisers and he could probably argue it cost them more money out of their maintenance line because of the repairs. He said but if you get a used cruiser with limited miles but they're not like personal vehicles and people just don't turn them over until they're costing the municipality too much money and then they want to unload them.

He said he looked at used ones and they see them at 60,000, 70,000 upwards to 100,000 miles and he didn't know if that would work out. He said one of them they had to replace a transmission on, the front end and things like that but it's not out of the realm of possibility.

Mr. King asked if the Ford Explorers they're buying are with the Police package.

Chief Orlando said it's the Interceptor package and they have 2 different models 1 with a turbo with a large digital screen but they get the small screen and he thinks it's called the Eco Boost.

Mr. King asked how many of those they have in the fleet and if they still have some Chargers.

Chief Orlando said they have 1 Dodge Charger that is being operated by the School Resource Officer and to be used for details to increase Fund 08. He said they have a 2019 Ford 4 door sedan with 78,091 miles, a 2014 Dodge Charger with 115,000 miles, a 2016 Ford Explorer SUV with 106,864 miles and a 2022 Ford Interceptor SUV with 19,347 miles.

Mr. Vachon asked if he got mileage on the cruiser involved in the New Year's Eve accident.

Chief Orlando said it had approx. 13,000 miles on it.

Mr. Staples asked for the mileage on the other cruiser that was just totaled.

Chief Orlando said it has approx. 14,800 miles on it. He said the battery is disconnected currently and when it was with the appraiser he didn't feel comfortable hooking it back up because it could cause a fire.

Mr. King asked if the Charger being driven by the SRO is 2 wheel drive or 4 wheel drive.

Chief Orlando said its 2 wheel drive.

Mr. King asked if the old Charger at the Highway garage is still there.

Mr. Dickie said that got scrapped.

Mr. Vachon asked which one of them was the Chief's car.

Chief Orlando said he was driving the 2016 Ford Explorer with 106,000 and that has been put back into the fleet so they have 3 vehicles operating.

Mr. Vachon asked if Claremont Ford is holding the white cruiser for us due to our relationship with them where this would be the 5<sup>th</sup> car we've bought from them in the past few years.

Chief Orlando said he can call them and ask them to hold it or do a purchase and sales agreement with them if the board wishes to make a motion that once we get the second reimbursement or once the Primex checks come in he can come back to the board.

Mr. King said his preference would be to ask them if we can put down a refundable deposit that is contingent upon reimbursement from Primex. He said it would be pending on coming to a settlement with Primex which hopefully is quick but it could take a few weeks to make sure we



have the funds to purchase it from whatever funds we're going to take it from. As long as it's refundable I don't have any problem committing to it and whether we wrap it or not is a later discussion he said.

Mr. Vachon asked if they put a \$1,000 deposit on the black one.

Chief Orlando said that was their last discussion at a Board of Selectmen's meeting and when he called to do that they said there was no need.

Mr. King said they could offer to do that as long as they are going to hold it for us.

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Morin) to authorize the Chief to put a \$1,000 deposit on the cruiser at Claremont Ford pending receipt of the Primex reimbursement checks from the most recent accident;

**Discussion:** Mr. King asked if they want to tie that to their ability to purchase it through various funds because they don't know what that check is yet.

Mr. Vachon said the Chief would have to bring it back to the board because it would just be a \$1,000 deposit to hold it until he comes back with all of his numbers.

Mr. King said it is also contingent on the board making the purchase not so much getting the checks back in because if they can't get sufficient amounts they need a way out.

Mrs. Morin asked if they wanted to take the reimbursement out of it and just make a deposit pending approval of the board.

Mr. Vachon then amended his motion as follows:

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Morin) to put a \$1,000 deposit on the white cruiser at Claremont Ford pending board approval of the purchase passed 5-0.

**Tighe & Bond New Rep-** Mr. Dickie said Dana Huff has decided to retire so he is going to send him a letter on behalf of the Town and thank him for working with us. He said the new person taking his place is Dennis Moran and he was with Dana when they came in for the interview when they hired Tighe & Bond and he did most of the speaking and then Dana took over in the interview.

He said he wanted to let the board know we are continuing to work with Tighe & Bond and they just got the check in for \$90,000 for the drainage study so they will have to have a public hearing for that to accept the unanticipated revenue but it will be Tighe & Bond doing that study for us so they will continue to do that. He said they are working with T Buck and their engineering firm to assist them with the permitting through NH DES for the Hornetown Road Bridge.

Mr. King said but they're working for T Buck.

Mr. Dickie said yes not the Town for T Buck they're getting the check from them not from us.

**Kearsarge Energy Term Sheet-** Mr. Dickie said he had Att. Keriann Roman reach out to Kearsarge Energy and they worked together using the presentation they pitched to them that night they were before the board to get a term sheet drawn up. He said Att. Roman actually drew it up and Kearsarge Energy approved it today. He said if it matches what was presented to



us and the board was okay with it he was looking to get it signed so they could present it at Town Meeting because in order to have the warrant article on the ballot they need to have a term sheet or a lease agreement.

Mr. King asked if the amounts listed are the same as the presentation.

Mr. Dickie said everything is the same and actually one amount is a little bit sweeter than what they presented.

Mr. King asked if the taxes and the lease amount is the same as what they presented.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Mr. Vachon said it says all maintenance and that once we sit down for a lease agreement and figure that out the lease will supersede the term sheet. He said it spells out what they maintain but it doesn't say anything about the actual grounds up there because we have to keep the grass mowed down and do the Superfund site and asked if that's something they're going to deal with as they mentioned using sheep vs. goats.

Mr. Dickie said they could deal with that because he didn't feel comfortable mowing around it because they could damage it.

Mr. Vachon agreed and said if they're taking over that piece they should maintain the grass which they said they could use sheep for.

Mr. Dickie said sheep were used there once before and the guy was for getting them.

Mr. Staples said there is an RSA for the closed landfill saying it has to be cut at least once a year so he didn't know if they would be able to get a waiver for that through DES or not. It strictly says "mowed" he said.

Mr. King said they're familiar with doing solar on landfills so he was sure they're familiar with that requirement.

Mr. Vachon said he wanted to make sure that gets spelled out so we don't have to go out there and mow it to stay in compliance for the Superfund site. He said besides that everything looks like it lines up with the original.

**Motion:** (Morin, second King) that we allow Ken Dickie to sign the term sheet in lieu of the lease agreement to come at a later date passed 5-0.

Mr. Vachon told Mr. Dickie that he is now authorized to sign that.

**Vote on 3 New Warrant Articles-** Mr. Dickie said there are actually 4 new warrant articles because he just received another petitioned warrant article this morning. He asked the board to go to Warrant Article #30 on the second to last page of the handout he gave the board. He said last year Mr. King made a motion on the floor to change the Highway Motorized Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to the Highway Dept CRF which where they wanted it to land. He said with that wording it allows them to expend on any equipment for the Highway Dept. and not be restricted to any particular type of equipment. He said the problem is when it was established in 1993 the original intent was for heavy highway equipment CRF so they need to put a warrant article on the floor to allow them to repurpose it to line up with the motion on



the floor from last year after Att. Roman did some digging backwards.

Warrant Article #30- "To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously created as Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve to include the purchase of any Highway Department equipment and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund (2/3 vote required)."

**Motion:** (Morin, second King) to accept the article;

**Discussion:** Mr. King asked if they are currently the agents to expend from this fund.

Mr. Vachon said yes.

Mrs. Morin and Mr. King asked if they need to have that in there if they are already the agents.

Mr. Dickie said the Selectmen are already the agents to expend under the current CRF.

Mrs. Morin asked if they could take that out.

Mr. Dickie said for transparency they should include it in this warrant article and so it doesn't get left out.

Mr. King said they should state at Town Meeting that they currently are the agents.

Mrs. Morin asked what happens if this fails because they don't want the Selectmen to be the agents to expend but they are already the agents to expend.

Mr. King said they would still be the agents to expend because if it fails they would go back to what they currently have.

Mr. Vachon said because the only change is to make it any Highway Dept. equipment not just heavy equipment.

**Vote:** the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Dickie said he got 3 petitioned warrant articles 2 of them he received on Friday and that has to do with the Budget Committee and the membership on the Budget Committee. He said they did some research on the first one and we did adopt RSA 32 but it wasn't colon 14 because colon 14 was not written until 1993 they did adopt RSA 32 back in 1953 in Warrant Article #26 during the Town Meeting. He said it was a petitioned warrant article and the voters opted to go with a regular Budget Committee that we have today.

He said they checked with legal counsel and were told there is no harm in getting it on the record that we officially adopted RSA 32:14 so it's on the ballot and on the record. He said there's no harm in re-doing that but they don't have to because the Bud Com was established in 1953.

Mrs. Morin said but this is to reduce the number from 11 to 7 members.

Mr. Dickie said from 9 to 7 members.

Mrs. Morin said plus 2 with the Selectmen's rep and the School Board's rep.

Warrant Article #31: "To see if the town will vote to adopt RSA 32:14 establishing a Budget Committee. Also to see if the town will vote to determine the number of members-at-large will be seven (7) as provided RSA 32:15, I and shall be elected (Submitted by petition)."



Mrs. Morin asked if they need to vote on petition warrant articles.

Mr. Dickie said they don't have to but it is recommended that they do.

**Motion:** (Morin, second Titus) to recommend;

**Discussion:** Mr. King said they are recommending this because they believe they only want 7 plus 2 instead of 9 plus 2.

Mr. Staples said about half the time they don't have enough members present to have a quorum so if they can cut the number of members maybe it would cut down on the members required to have a quorum and they could actually have meetings. He said they talked about this last year and then they decided to see what the election would do and they are still struggling to put together a quorum.

Mrs. Morin said there is only 1 person that signed up to run for the Budget Committee and he is a returning member.

Mr. Staples said when they presented the Town budget they didn't have a quorum so there wasn't anything they could have done when the Town presented it.

**Vote:** the motion passed 5-0.

**Warrant Article #32:** "Should the previous warrant article fail to see if the town will adopt an advisory Budget Committee and determine the number of members-at-large will be nine (9) and shall be appointed by the Moderator. The Board of Selectmen would create the final Town of Farmington budget to be submitted for voters' approval. The School Board would create the final Farmington School District budget to be submitted for voters' approval (Submitted by petition)."

**Motion:** (Morin, second Vachon) to recommend;

**Discussion:** Mrs. Morin said she was recommending this because they don't have a choice but to do it in the positive and for discussion.

Mr. King asked what this was going to change.

Mr. Dickie said it would change the structure of the Budget Committee as we know it today not to be the official Budget Committee and it would be advisory only.

Mr. Staples said so they wouldn't have the authority to make cuts.

Mr. Dickie said the Budget Committee would just be there to advise it's not their budget so it would reside back to the Selectmen and the School Board.

Mr. King asked why they would want to remove fiscal oversight from the Budget Committee.

Mr. Dickie said he personally wouldn't want to.

Mrs. Morin said if they don't have a full on Budget Committee they can't make decisions anyway.

Mr. King said they just recommended reducing it to 7 so without this check and balance whatever the Town wants would go on the ballot with no oversight from elected officials because they would be appointed by the Moderator not the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Morin noted they wouldn't be appointed by the School Board either.



Mr. King said right now when the Budget Committee is missing a member they appoint their own members. He said this would be putting it the Moderator and he didn't see that as an improvement. He asked shouldn't the Budget Committee whose purpose is to oversee appoint someone they feel is there to oversee.

Mr. Dickie said yes and that's why he thinks it should stay the same as it is now.

Mr. Staples said Article #32 would pretty much gut the power of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Dickie said they need to remember we already have RSA 32 in there.

Mrs. Morin said having both articles on there is going to be confusing and there is going to be a lot of discussion at Town Meeting but they don't have a choice.

Mr. King said it says should the previous warrant article fail which is only to reduce the membership then they want to gut it and he is opposed to it.

Mrs. Titus said she agreed with Mr. King and that the Budget Committee should make their own choices for whom they need or want on the Budget Committee and interview them like they have in the past.

Mrs. Morin said she could see where this is coming from the need to have members though she didn't necessarily agree with it. She said they can't get people on the ballot so they're not going to get elected so this is another avenue in which to get...

Mr. King said but they have the ability to appoint which they have always tried to do.

Mrs. Morin said at some point they may need to look at some sort of stipend for Budget Committee members if they want to have a committee just like every other elected board member.

Mr. King asked who determines that.

Mrs. Morin said she would imagine it would be the Selectmen and the School Board and it might be something they need to do jointly.

Mr. King said they recommend the Selectmen's salaries and it hasn't changed that he could remember. He asked whose authority determines that and if it needs to go to the voters.

Mrs. Morin said she thought it should go to the voters that they have a stipend for them.

Mr. King said unless they take it out of their budget. He said he brought it up regarding volunteers and they can't get volunteers for the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Economic Development Committee and asked if they should consider a stipend in that area. He said the question for Att. Roman is if they have the power as the Board of Selectmen to do that.

Mr. Dickie said he would ask her if they have to put a warrant article before the voters.

Mrs. Morin said the only way she was making a difference is every elected board has a stipend and the Bud Com is elected and they don't so that's where she would draw the difference.

Mr. King said maybe it makes sense for the Bud Com and the Moderator is elected and has a stipend.

Mrs. Morin said it's compensated but it's a daily rate.



Mr. King said there's no compensation for these elected officials but he is still opposed to the warrant article.

Mr. Staples asked if this motion was to move it forward or for them to approve it.

Mr. Dickie said it is a petitioned warrant article so it has to go forward to the voters.

Mr. Vachon said it's whether the Board of Selectmen would recommend it or not.

**Vote:** the motion failed 0-5.

**Warrant Article #33:** "To have the town vote to have (9) streetlights located on Skyview Dr. and Whippoorwill Ridge Rd. recognized as infrastructure within the 50 foot right-of-way of a public road and to have the Town of Farmington, NH accept ownership, utility costs and maintenance of the streetlights" (Submitted by petition).

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Morin) to accept;

**Discussion:** Mr. King asked if they have verified all the signatures on all of the petitioned warrant articles are registered voters.

Mr. Dickie said the Town Clerk's office has verified all of the signatures.

Mr. Vachon asked if there was something with those lights and Eversource. He said Eversource didn't want to maintain them because they weren't within their specifications or something with those streetlights.

Mr. Dickie said he didn't recall that but that doesn't mean it didn't happen.

Mr. Vachon said it might have been years ago that that was discussed.

Mr. King said he was sure they were not currently what they had replaced-the LED's so these aren't up to that standard.

Mr. Dickie said it didn't sound like they were when Mr. York made his pitch before the board last week.

Mr. King said they aren't at the standard they have for the rest of them so they are going to be at a higher rate as determined by Eversource and Mr. Vachon's concern is they may not maintain them because they don't meet one of their requirements.

Mrs. Titus asked if they could research this and call Eversource and get a statement from them.

Mr. King said originally they were proposed as a private development but the developer probably purchased and used what he wanted to that maybe was not up to the accepted standard because it was more decorative or less illumination or not too much light pollution he didn't know but he does know it was not a requirement to use Eversource approved fixtures.

He said we'd have to maintain them or replace them to Eversource's standards. Based upon not having that answer I can't recommend this article. I'm not saying I'm opposed to adopting it but we don't know what the cost of the acceptance is and whether or not Eversource will maintain them or if we will have to subcontract that he said.

Mrs. Morin said they should look into it further so they can defend their position at Town Meeting.

Mr. King said they need to look into it to be able to speak to it but at this point he can't



recommend acceptance until they have that information and deal with it on the floor. He said maybe somebody from the association can get them that information and then maybe they would consider a different opinion at Town Meeting.

Mr. Vachon said he has a guy that he deals with as their point of contact at Eversource for streetlights that go out that he could reach out to if the board would like him to. He said he may be familiar with it or maybe he would familiarize himself with it.

Consensus of the board was to ask Mr. Vachon to ask his Eversource contact for more information.

Mr. Vachon said he would e-mail him at the end of this meeting and ask him to get back to him with more information for the board.

**Vote:** the motion failed 0-5.

**Firearms Activity on Town Property?**-Mr. King said he received another complaint regarding the shooting, target practice and excessive amount of firearm activity on Town owned property down by the wellhead and he was bringing it to the board's attention again. He said he received a text message and a call on Saturday from the same resident about what's going on potentially on Town property.

Mr. Vachon asked if there is anything the board would like to do.

Mrs. Morin suggested Mr. Dickie could meet with Chief Orlando about this matter.

Mrs. Titus suggested putting up cameras.

Mr. King said he didn't want anyone to rush to a decision and they should have it on the agenda for their next meeting with a couple of options that people could come up with such as some signage to start with and making sure this complaint is valid that it was on Town property and not on an adjacent property and the resident couldn't tell.

Mr. Staples asked what their complaint was and if they were upset that they were down there shooting or the caliber of the weapons being used or what.

Mrs. Titus said or the noise.

Mr. King said he thinks it is the excessive amount and he would have to re-listen to the voice mail. He said the term used was "machine guns are going off again" and the first complaint said at times it felt almost like cannon fire. He said they know they will have to deal with this but there may be some legwork needed to validate that it is on our property. Maybe start with some signage and then confirm it is on our property not on an adjacent property close to ours he said.

Mrs. Titus asked if there is a way the cops could go down there and patrol it.

Mr. King said there is a gate at the access area and it was open the other day but he thinks that was somebody doing snow removal and usually it's shut almost all the time.

Mr. Staples said usually if it's open some of the Town's guys are in there.

Mr. King said they maybe accessing the Town's land from another area or it's not on the Town's land where they are doing the shooting.



Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Dickie to include this matter on next week's agenda.

**Spring St. Crosswalk**- Mrs. Titus said the crosswalk light on Spring St. is still not working and somebody told her the school district was responsible for it but somebody else said the Town is responsible for it.

Mr. Dickie said the Town is responsible for the crosswalk light.

Mrs. Titus said it's still not working and she is concerned about safety.

Mr. Dickie said he would check with Highway Dept. Supervisor Ed Brannan to see if he ordered parts for it and that they may not be in yet.

#### **9). New Business:**

**Abbey Road**- Mr. Dickie said he sent the board the information from Planning Director Kyle Pimental and he is looking for board approval to work with E-911 and just abolish Abbey Lane so there are no things on the current land owners.

Mr. King said the way he read it he was looking to correct the 911 addresses to reflect Ten Rod Road.

Mr. Dickie said yes and that it eliminates Abbey Lane.

Mr. King said Mr. Pimental mentioned that would be through some Planning Board process but he was looking for the Selectmen to allow him to proceed with using their current mailing addresses as the E-911 addresses.

**Motion**: (King, second none) to use their current mailing addresses as their E-911 addresses;

**Discussion**: Mr. King said the development was approved 15 years ago and because of the frontage required it was supposed to use a shared access and that was never installed fully and that the ownership changed probably 10 years ago and the current owners shouldn't take the burden of the non-compliance because they bought it the way it is. He said they've always used those 2 addresses for their mail but when E-911 comes out for the compliance their addresses were listed as on Abbey Lane which was never put in.

He said the first step is to correct it because they would be responding for E-911 calls to 52 and 54 Ten Rod Road instead of Abbey Lane which doesn't exist. He said the other part of it would be dealt with by the Planning Board.

Mrs. Morin asked if they were just taking Abbey Rd. out of this or if there is still going to be an Abbey Road.

Mr. King said that could require potentially an amended subdivision plan but they have to set the E-911 addresses and they were set to be put in 15 years ago and it was never put in and they discovered this upon reviewing the E-911 addresses and that is why it's to their attention.

Mr. Vachon said the plans are from 2005 almost 20 years ago.

Mr. King then amended his motion to:

**Motion**: (King, second Titus) to change the E-911 addresses to the recommended addresses in Kyle's e-mail to be 152 and 154 Ten Rod Road passed 5-0.

**Winter Parking Ban Ordinance Proposed Changes**- Mr. Dickie said he made the changes to the



ordinance as the board recommended to make it the Select Board and/or their designee all the way through as they requested. He said once he made the changes they were looking for he read it out to the Highway and Police Depts. as they had motioned. He said he wanted to let the board know that he made all the changes, it is out there now and he will have it updated and put on the website.

**Deliberative Session-** Mrs. Morin said they were not represented at the Deliberative Session and somebody mentioned that none of them were there.

Mr. Vachon said he was unable to attend due to a previous engagement.

Mr. King asked if they were required to be there.

Mrs. Morin said she was referring to the Budget Committee reps not the Selectmen.

**Road Issues- Dick Dame Lane-**Mr. Staples said he had a complaint about Dick Dame Lane up by the turn around and the road is getting extremely bad. He said they went through and put dirt or something on it and due to the plowing it has all blown back out and there are a bunch of craters up there. He said there are also a couple of them on Spring St. that he has seen.

Mr. Vachon said they have been out patching and he saw the cold patch in the Spring St. one and he saw some others that were filled.

Mr. Staples said the lady that called said the lower part of Dick Dame Lane held up pretty good but right there before the turn around has taken a heavy toll.

Mr. Vachon asked when he received that information.

Mr. Staples said she messaged him on Saturday.

Mr. Vachon said he knew they were out last week because he saw fresh cold patch in several places and asked Mr. Dickie to ask Mr. Brannan have someone swing up that way with some cold patch when they are out there patching.

**Meaderboro Rd. -** Mrs. Titus said she had 2 people call her saying that the road was really bad and she contacted Mr. Dickie who gave her some information and she gave that information to those people.

Mr. Dickie said they opened a pit today and started loosening the gravel and they will try to start working on that tomorrow. He said they will try to have a split crew with one crew out doing the patching and filling up holes and the other will be out there with the grader trying to attack as many of the dirt roads as they can.

He said the problem with patching is they're not grading and eventually it will be pounded out and we'll be right back into potholes but it will give us temporary relief. He said in the meantime he is working with Mr. Brannan to get another serrated tooth for the bottom of the grader and he has found that same company has rake with a serrated tooth with carbide teeth that are replaceable so he asked him to get him a quote on that and see how much it is because he would rather have one with replaceable tips than to have to keep buying the whole blade. He said once they get that they can start knocking down and minimizing the depths of the potholes which worked great last year but they actually wore that blade right out.



Mr. Vachon said another option is to reach out to Don Vachon who retrofitted theirs in New Durham with the mounts and the teeth from a milling head for paving that are carbide.

Mr. Dickie said he mounted the teeth on our York rake and Mr. King milled the adapters for us.

Mr. Vachon said depending on the cost it might be an option to retrofit an old grader blade because the blade should last once they get the teeth on it.

Mr. Dickie said they are starting with Poor Farm Road first and then move on to the others. He said Dodge Cross is pretty bad too so they would put a crew on each end of town and try to attack both ends of the town.

#### **10). Town Administrator's Business:**

**Cartwright Property-** Mr. Dickie said the Town now officially has the deeds to the Cartwright property and they talked about rebating and abating taxes for Cheryl Harper. He said he needed to get those values from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office and soon as he gets them he will put it on their next meeting agenda. He said the board voted to hold off until we actually have it in our hands and now that we have it they are going to have to take action on that.

**Investment Policy-** Mr. Dickie said Mrs. Heon gave him a copy of the Investment Policy and she and the Town Treasurer are recommending that they transfer \$3.5 million from the Town's general fund checking account into a 3 month certificate of deposit at Profile Bank. He said the current rate of interest is 4% and there is no early withdrawal penalty and the current balance in the general fund as of the end of January is \$7,695,074. What that does is give us higher interest and no penalty even if we have to take some of it out the money that is in there will keep earning 4% interest. This is per the investment policy so I am bringing this before you and looking for your approval he said.

Mr. King said this is a 3 month CD at 4% and asked if it stays in there for 5 months would we still get 4% or if it ends at 3 months.

Mr. Dickie said if at the end of 3 months if they don't need it they can work with them to keep it in and still get 4%.

Mr. King asked if that was with no withdrawal penalty at any time.

Mr. Dickie said that's right.

Mrs. Morin asked if the minimum is 3 months.

Mr. Dickie said that was the only thing that Kelly and Deb felt comfortable with to make sure we had adequate funding to keep paying our bills and to keep paying the school and they didn't want to go any further than that.

Mr. King said \$3 million at 4% would \$120,000 for a year so in rough calculations that would be about \$40,000 in interest for 4 months.

Mr. Dickie said they did about \$35,000-\$40,000 in interest last year.

Mr. Vachon said that was what they got on the account and they didn't put it into a CD last year.

Mr. Dickie said that's right.



Mrs. Morin asked for the current rate for leaving it as it is.

Mr. Dickie said he had no idea.

Mr. Staples recalled when they signed that it was 1%.

**Motion:** (King, second Titus) to allow the transfer of \$3 million from the general fund into a 3 month CD with no early withdrawal penalties at Profile Bank;

**Discussion:** Mr. Vachon asked if the \$40,000 was the total amount of interest they got last year. Mr. Dickie said he believes so.

Mr. Vachon said that would make sense if the interest rate was 1%. He then asked if there was no risk of losing any money on this.

Mr. Dickie shook his head no.

**Vote:** the motion passed 5-0.

**Public Hearing-** Mr. Dickie said the public hearing on the Town budget would be held on Wed., Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. He said the meeting has been posted and also it was posted that the Selectmen would be here.

Mrs. Morin asked where the 3 places are where meetings have to be posted.

Mr. Dickie said they post on the Town website, at the Municipal Office Building and at the Town Hall/Rec. Center.

Mr. Dickie said he asked to have it posted also as a Selectmen's meeting because tomorrow is the last day to submit petitioned warrant articles and if anything comes in they may have to meet to vote on whether to recommend or not recommend it.

Mrs. Titus asked if they should come in before 7 p.m. in case something comes in.

Mr. Dickie said he would see what was posted for the meeting and if he gets one tomorrow he will send out a text message to the board.

Mrs. Morin said the Selectmen's Secretary posted their meeting for 7 p.m.

Mr. Dickie said if another petitioned warrant article comes in he will re-post the Selectmen's meeting for 6:30 p.m. so they can vote on it before the public hearing with the Budget Committee.

Mr. Vachon said it is not the presentation of the Town budget they did that last Tues. He said this is a public hearing on the budget but it's posted as the presentation of the budget.

Mr. King said it is a requirement for the Budget Committee to post the public hearing and they are just posting that the Selectmen are going to be there. He said it should be corrected but the burden doesn't lie on this board.

Mr. Vachon said they are going to be there to answer questions and asked Mr. Dickie to have the posting corrected with the correct terms.

**River Road Bridge-** Mr. Staples said the River Road Bridge is closed off to cars but is used for foot traffic and they allow snow machines to use it and he was told that a groomer had tried it and he went and looked at it. He said there is a snow machine trail there and they are using our bridge and there is a whole Jersey barrier gone and he could squeeze his truck around it if he



wanted to. He said the real problem is and he sent Mr. Vachon a picture of where they go around the Jersey barrier that whole guardrail is gone so if they turn too hard they are going off the bridge right into the river. He said he didn't know if they wanted to get with the snow machine trail club and see if they want to fix that guardrail or they just want to shut the bridge off completely. There's a huge liability there he said.

Mr. Vachon said or to move the Jersey barriers or install another Jersey barrier.

Mr. King asked if the groomer is allowed to go over that.

Mr. Staples said no but supposedly they have.

Mr. Dickie said it's supposed to be open for walking only.

Mrs. Morin said she saw that guardrail down the last time she walked down that way.

Mr. Vachon said the trail always went over that bridge and they could continue to use it for snow mobile traffic but he didn't know if the groomer should be using it. He then asked how much that groomer weighs.

Mr. King said they weigh at least 10,000 lbs.

Mr. Vachon said he thought there was a 5 ton weight limit on the bridge before they closed it.

Mr. Dickie said he would reach out to the Powder Mill Snowmobile Club and tell them to shut that groomer down from going over that bridge because that isn't safe.

Mr. King said the issue is they go around it and there is no guardrail on that side so they need to put some Jersey barriers there so they don't go off the side. I'm not saying they can't but they would have to knock over a Jersey barrier he said.

Mr. Dickie said they would have to go in from the Hornetown Road side.

Mr. Staples said he could drive right up to it from the river side and drive the trail with his truck if he wanted to. He said they are using both sides but the problem is on the side where the houses are they are coming down that lady's driveway and looping the corner with no guardrail at all and headed for Peasely's.

Mr. King asked who moved the Jersey barrier.

Mr. Staples said he didn't know and it wasn't just moved it's gone.

Mr. Vachon said that he didn't know that it was gone and when they closed that there was always a gap for snowmobiles. He said they may have to open it in the middle and move that Jersey barrier over to block the side where there's no guardrail to allow them to continue to use it.

Mr. King said they should work with the club and not allow the groomer to use it or if we do allow it they're going to have to sign a waiver and they might want to post it.

Mr. Vachon said if they make it wide enough for the groomer to get over it then it's going to be wide enough for vehicle traffic.

Mr. King said but then he didn't know how they would get from one side to the other to groom both sides of the trail and they would have to turn around and go back. He then asked Mr.



Dickie to see what the alternatives are.

Mr. Dickie said the bridge isn't safe for the groomer and he would reach out to Powder Mill.

**11). Next Meeting:** Monday, February 12, 2024

Mr. Vachon reminded everyone that the Selectmen will be in attendance at the Budget Committee's public hearing on the proposed Town budget here on Wed., Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

**12). Non-Public Session D:**

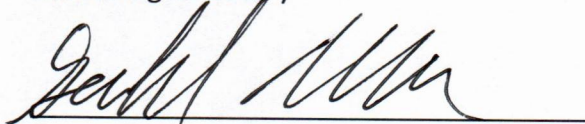
**Motion:** (Vachon, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples, Morin-aye) at 7:40 p.m.

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Morin) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:08 p.m.

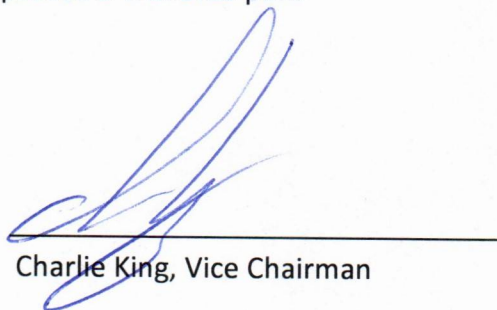
**13). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Morin, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 8:09 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon  
Recording Secretary



Gerry Vachon, Chairman



Charlie King, Vice Chairman



Ann Titus



Douglas Staples



Penny Morin