

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator
Felicia McCowan, resident

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vote on Proposed Budget:

Mr. Dickie asked the board to turn to page 2 of the 2023 Possible Warrant Articles and read the following article aloud: "to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$8,795,981 for General Municipal Operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately."

Mrs. Morin said they can't vote on this until the Bud Com gives them their number.

Mr. Dickie said the Selectmen would have to vote on it and then the Bud Com would vote on it tomorrow night.

Mr. King said based upon Mr. Dickie's latest calculations and working with NH Dept. of Revenue Administration that's a potential tax impact of 42 cents.

Mr. Dickie said the reason he previously thought it was higher was because he didn't have the revenues in that figure and once, he put the revenues in it reduced the overall and for the amount responsible by the voters he was using the old figure that they estimated in the 2021 warrant which was approx. \$3.5 million and if you plug that in there the tax impact would have been \$1.06. He said but when they set the tax rate the actual amount the residents were responsible for was \$3.892 million so the gap between what we would have to raise and what was back in 2022 was less equals \$235,044 and you divide that by the assessed value of \$566,292,102 and when you multiply that by 1,000 it comes out to 42 cents.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to move \$8,795,981 as our budget number to the Budget Committee passed 5-0.

DPW Contract-Mr. Dickie asked if the board wanted to ratify the Teamsters' Union contract now while there is a full board present.

Mr. Vachon said yes and Mr. Dickie reviewed the changes they were asked to make based on the collective bargaining as follows:

Page 1- Recognition- changed to non-probationary person(s) so now it covers probationary and non-probationary staff; Wages & Hours- employees will receive a 20 minutes paid lunch that must be on-site and will receive \$10 for lunch if they worked more than 14 continuous hours per event.

Page 2- Water and Wastewater (staff) will be used (for plowing) secondarily depending on staffing levels and the needs of the town; paragraph 3.2- employees will receive a 3% increase in March 2024 and a 2.5% increase in March 2025.

Page 3-Wastewater and Water Dept. employees required to have state of NH licensing for in the areas of collection, distribution or treatment shall have the following added to their hourly base rate: 50 cents per hour per grade for water distribution license, 50 cents per hour per grade for water treatment license and \$1 per hour per grade for wastewater treatment license. Mr. Vachon noted the additional pay for licensing is what they have already been doing and that they just wanted it put in writing.

Holidays-"Juneteenth" (June 19 commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans) was added to the list of paid holidays with a note stating any holiday the Town adopts will be added to the holiday schedule; Vacation time- vacation days will count toward overtime hours from Nov. 15 to April 15 (plow season).

Page 4- paragraph 8.3-documentation of verbal and written reprimands shall be removed from the employee's file after 3 years providing there is no other discipline imposed during those 3 years; paragraph 13.3 – additional days could be granted if approved by the dept. head and the Town Administrator and the days shall be charged to the employee's bereavement leave.

Mr. Dickie said the last page was what the insurance cost was going to be but he already had a copy of that. He said he made the changes in the contract and submitted it and after a couple of back and forth exchanges it passed this afternoon at the Town garage.

Mrs. Morin asked if they could make a note that on 22 C that that is for plowing.

Mr. King said they couldn't change any of the language and that he would prefer for it not to be listed because it could be for other things so if they had some type of other need for additional staffing, they can pull from those depts.

Mr. Vachon said for instance, today Water Dept. employees were clearing trees from roads because of staffing levels.

Mrs. Titus said they get paid for Christmas and asked if it snows on Christmas if they get holiday pay, extra pay or overtime.

Mr. Vachon said municipal employees usually get time and one-half for overtime and they don't get anything special because it's a holiday. You get paid for the holiday and time and a half so

whatever their working hours are technically they make double time and a half because they're getting paid for that holiday whether they sat at home or came to work he said.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to ratify the agreement with the Teamsters' Union passed 5-0.

Public Input:

Resident Felicia McCowan said she was here because she came across in some of these free sites that have free seed packets, etc. a website call Rob Greenfield.org that is a tree by mail donation program and the Town has to be willing to provide stewardship and if he donates them, they have to be willing to take 50-100 trees and it's a long-term project with about 10 years' worth of maintenance.

Ms. McCowan said they're fruit trees and there are a number of ways to use them to promote betterment and enrichment of the community. She said she spoke to Conservation Commission Chair Bill Fisher and he said he had some room for some trees but you have to agree to 50 to 100 of them and they have a variety of fruits, nuts and berries available the Town could use. She said there are several spots that they would have to agree to the areas that they'd be willing to plant the trees and there would be 10 trees per species within the 50-100 trees and then it's the maintenance and what will not cost the Town from labor from downed branches in snowstorms unless they're placed in areas where it's not applicable to maintain them through regular maintenance avenues.

She said it looks like a really wonderful program and as long as they agree to it, she can send in the application and he will mail them. She said she hadn't designed the entire project as she wasn't sure the Town would even be willing before she sent in the application and wanted to ask the board first.

Mrs. Morin asked about the age of these trees and if they were seedlings.

Ms. McCowan said she didn't think they were seedlings and she thought they come as 1-2 years old and that's why they have to be maintained through soil and there are ways to acquire the maintenance tools it's the volunteerism or the labor that would entail the Town to maintain them. She said if they could get some local volunteers of any age or developmental group so whether its 1st graders doing a nature maintenance walk or an after school activity or its local place that they're bringing all of the retired individuals who are looking for something to provide them with a healthy activity in the community.

Mrs. Morin asked for the name of the website again.

Ms. McCowan said its robgreenfield.org/communityfruittrees and he has been doing it for a number of years all over the Unites States. She said it seems like a very friendly program and one that could bring people together and potentially bring value to the community especially if you allow for harvest flocks or allow local crafters to come and volunteer some time for maintenance and harvest hazelnuts and allow them to sell them or take the proceeds and put it back into the Town. There are all kinds of avenues you could use this program for and bring people in from other towns or give families a better in-town experience she said.

Mr. King said it was a good idea but they would need to see if the school would want to participate and what they would be looking for. He said they would need to get some information from this site because it might be placed over multiple spots and they would have to give a commitment through multiple organizations. He asked if they would have to take 50 trees in one year.

Ms. McCowan said her understanding of it was he sends the 50-100 trees all at once, however many you ordered and you have to agree to maintain the trees over a 10-year period.

Mr. King said at this point he had to step out but he thinks it's a good idea but they collectively have to put together a plan for who would do it and the potential locations such as downtown, school district property or on conservation land.

Mrs. Morin asked if they want the Conservation Commission to start researching this and bring it back to them or do their own research.

Mr. King said they could send the information out and see who steps up.

He then thanked Ms. McCowan for coming in and left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Mr. Vachon said he would discuss this at the next Conservation Commission meeting on Feb. 9.

Ms. McCowan asked if the board would have a problem with her being a part of the process of its development so she could keep track of where this project goes and volunteer to help maintain them.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't have a problem with that and asked if Con Com Chair Bill Fisher had her contact information.

Ms. McCowan said he should and that she has an e-mail from him. She said she would let him know that she spoke to the Selectmen and that they might be willing to follow through with it. She then thanked the board for their time and left the meeting.

Review of Minutes:

January 5, 2023- Public Session- no errors or omissions

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

January 16, 2023- Non-Public Sessions A-F - No errors or omissions

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

Old Business: None

New Business:

NHDES Brownfields Assessment for Cartwright Land Donation- Mr. Dickie said Planning Director Kyle Pimental provided an e-mail stating the items he would like included on the Selectmen's agenda and he was looking for the board's support of those items.

Mr. Vachon asked if this was just to do a Level 1 on the Cartwright property.

Mr. Dickie said Mr. Pimental doesn't feel there's anything up there and it should pass the Level 1 with flying colors because it's pretty much forest land but they need to do a Level 1

assessment to validate it. He recalled the assessment would be \$3,500.

Mrs. Morin said Mr. Fisher said it would be \$3,500 at the last Con Com meeting.

Mr. Dickie said the Con Com stepped up and said they could take it from their budget and they are looking for the Selectmen's support.

Mr. Staples asked if this is something they commonly do when people donate land to the Town.

Mr. Dickie said yes and they have to make sure the land is all set.

Mr. Vachon said for example they could find out they have been doing oil changes and dumping it in the middle of the property and then the Town takes it over and now everybody's wells are contaminated. He said it covers us to say there is an issue before we take it over and the current property owner has to take care of it. He asked if Mr. Fisher just wanted the Selectmen to be aware of this because if they're paying for it, it's on them so they don't need a motion unless the board wished to do so.

Mr. Dickie said yes and asked for a consensus of the board.

Motion: (Morin, second Staples) to move forward with the Phase 1 assessment of the Cartwright property and the Conservation Commission is handling the funding for that passed 4-0.

Old Fire Station Request For Proposals- Mr. Dickie said there was an RFP out and there were some designs done and a previous board had some "heartache" on the amount that was provided to the Town so there is still a residual amount of about \$2,000 owed to this company. He said Mr. Pimental wanted to put it before the board to see if the board wanted to pay this company because they have electronic files on these designs that he could use to make his life easier instead of taking print screen pictures and trying to plot it out on his side in planning.

Mrs. Titus said she thought the company was paid in full and the last time she was on the board the previous TA said it was paid in full. She said she didn't know if they have a contract or payment plan to find out if they did pay them in full or not.

Mrs. Morin asked if they have invoices from this company. She said if we owe them money, we owe them money.

Mrs. Titus agreed but in the past, they were told it was paid in full and here is our Master Plan like it or not. She said if they have documents to make Mr. Pimental's life easier to pay them if they say we owe them because we need that information.

Mrs. Morin said to pay them if there's proof that we owe them.

Mr. Vachon said that was all done before he got on the board and that property has been sitting idle since he got on and they should get rid of it as it's off the tax rolls.

Mr. Staples said he didn't recall this issue coming before the board since has been on the board.

Mrs. Morin said this was years ago and they had a big mock-up at one of the Town Meetings.

Mr. Vachon said that was in 2018.

Mr. Dickie said Mr. Pimental asked to bring it back to the current board and see what the flavor of the board is because he would like to get the electronic files of these drawings and use them

on his side. He said right now he has to take pictures of displays in the office.

Mr. Vachon asked why they need these if they are asking what they propose to use the property for.

Mr. Dickie said Mr. Pimental is laying out the old fire station landscape for the proposals for what to put there and potential planning.

Mrs. Morin asked if that would make it more "sale-able" and so there is a vision for what could be there. She said regardless of whether they get these or not if we owe them, we need to pay them.

Mr. Vachon said if we owe somebody money, we need to pay them but he didn't get why these were even done. He asked if they were putting these out as what is going there.

Mrs. Morin said no this is potentially what you could do there. Its visionary I think she said.

Mrs. Titus said the people that were hired pretty much wanted something like this and they were kind of....

Mr. Staples asked if they were forcing it down their throats.

Mrs. Titus said pretty much though she wouldn't have used those words.

Mr. Vachon said they definitely need to get the RFP going and get it done and get it out there and see who they get for people that want to buy that property.

Mrs. Titus said there are a lot of water issues on Garfield St. too.

Mr. Vachon said you can solve anything with enough money when it comes to land and buildings.

Mrs. Titus said they also need to know what is in the old fire station and if there is any hazardous waste or anything like that.

Mr. Vachon said they already had a level 1 assessment done on it that went back to the original gas station on that property but it is still full of junk.

Mr. Dickie said there was a gas station right where the sign is at the entrance to the lot.

Mr. Vachon said they wanted to do a level 2 assessment but the funding wasn't there and hopefully the funding comes through this year. He asked if Mr. Pimental is looking for the board to authorize an RFP.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to authorize Kyle Pimental from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission to draft an RFP for the old fire station lot;

Discussion: Mr. Staples asked if there would be any requests for what is going in there so they know what they're actually going to use the land for.

Mr. Vachon said that's what this is they're going to show us what they want to do with it.

Mr. Staples returned to the requested electronic files and asked Mr. Dickie if he was going to look up the minutes and see how much they paid and what the agreement was before that check is cut.

Mr. Dickie said yes and he would look at the invoice and make sure.

Mr. Staples asked if this was just to see what they get for bids.

Mr. Vachon said this is just to have Mr. Pimental to write the RFP so they can review and approve it first not to put it out yet. He is going to draft it, give to us and we can make changes or edits if we don't like something he wrote he said.

Vote: The motion passed 4-0.

Application for Conservation Commission- Mr. Dickie said the board should have copies of an application and there is a signature sheet for that in the sign off folder.

Mrs. Morin said she met this gentleman at the last meeting and he seems fairly knowledgeable and like he was going to really enjoy being part of the Con Com.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) for James Pollard to become a member of the Conservation Commission for a one-year term passed 4-0.

Farmington Children's Center Report- Mr. Dickie said he found the child care report in a stack of papers from the interim Town Administrator and he printed it off and provided it to the board.

Mrs. Morin said this is basically that they are up to date and they are doing the things they said they would.

Mr. Vachon said they had some questions one being with the Fire Chief doing a walk-thru inspection.

Mrs. Morin said it looks like that happened.

Mr. Vachon said this is what they have to give us to prove that they're keeping up their end of the deal because we lease that to them for \$1 or something like that.

Mrs. Titus asked if they got a number for how many kids are in the daycare.

Mr. Dickie said he didn't see anything and they gave us that back in September.

Mrs. Titus said its Town land and they have a clothes station there where people are dropping off clothes and asked if someone asked us if they could put it there.

Mr. Dickie said he didn't know.

Mrs. Titus asked if there was any liability to the Town with having that there.

Mr. Staples said the contract specifically said they are only to have a daycare there and that's it.

Mrs. Titus said she thinks it is nice but asked if they are allowed to have that there.

Mr. Dickie said he would have to look into it as he didn't know what's in the lease.

Mr. Vachon recalled they had a meeting on this because the guy came in and sat here for a while pleading his case.

Mr. Staples asked Mr. Dickie to get the board the number of kids in the daycare program and how many of them are from Farmington and make sure they are holding up that end of the bargain.

Mrs. Morin said on page 4 it says they receive 2 to 5 enrollment enquiries a week in Farmington but it doesn't say they're from Farmington. She said the report doesn't give them the enrollment for Farmington versus outside of Farmington. She said that's a Community Action

Partnership of Strafford County program and asked if the Town gets anything from the county for having CAP here and if they subsidize any Farmington kids that go there thru CAP.

Mr. Vachon said he was not sure.

Mrs. Morin said she would reach out to the Director.

Mr. Dickie said he needed to make an appointment to meet with them and try to understand more about the program.

Mrs. Morin asked if this information goes in the Annual Town Report.

Mr. Dickie said he would have to find out if they submit one or not.

Budget: Mr. Dickie said the board asked for information about the well and he had them break it out for a 15 year note and a 20 year note and 60% debt on the water users/40% debt on the general fund and 50% debt on water users/50% debt on the general fund and they would see that on the bottom of each chart he provided on the subsequent pages and he also gave us a list of talking points.

Mr. Staples said the interest rate is better than the bridge.

Mr. Vachon asked if the state is the one that funds it and the one we have the debt with so they set the interest rates or if they were still going through the bond bank and somebody is buying our bond.

Mr. Dickie said he understood it to be coming from the state as a low interest loan. He said the board motioned and seconded to go for a 15-year loan and they wanted 10 years on the bridge and 15 years on the well.

Mrs. Morn said they said 15 or 20 years.

Mr. Dickie said he had him do the 20 year note just so they could look at it and the interest rate is lower on the 15-year note. He said there is about 5 cents difference on the impact on the tax rate (20 year term 1st year tax rate impact 22 cents at 40% general fund debt, 27 cents at 50% general fund debt; 15 year term 1st year tax impact 26 cents at 40% general fund debt and 32 cents at 50% general fund debt).

Mr. Vachon noted there would be $\frac{3}{4}$ of \$1 million in interest for the 15 year note (\$767,693).

Mr. Dickie said this is if the full \$500,000 is going to be used for this project.

Mr. Vachon said this is the worst case scenario if they use the entire bond.

Mr. Staples asked if they are going to forgive 30% shouldn't that be in there.

Mrs. Morin said it can't be in because they don't know what the 30% is.

Mr. Dickie said \$4,032,000 is 30% of the \$5 million after they get the \$1.4 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Mr. Staples asked if they need to fund it and then they are going to forgive it. We can't tell them you're going to forgive that 30% so we're not going to get a loan for it we're going to have to pay it and then they're going to forgive it he said.

Mr. Dickie said up front they would borrow the full amount and then once the project is done 30% of that will be forgiven and then they will have the final amount they need to sign on for

the payments.

Mrs. Morin said she was more inclined to go with the 60%/40% split.

Mrs. Titus said it would be fair to do 60/40. She said she, Mr. Vachon and Mr. Staples pay for water and she doesn't want her water bill to go higher but we need to pay this and we need water. I think it would be fair to the taxpayers to do a 60/40 split and do a 15-year loan she said.

Mrs. Morin said that she and Mr. Dickie are not on Town water but they get benefits from it- their kids and grandkids go to school here and everybody benefits from the water so she didn't mind paying their share but she wanted to make it fair for the people who don't.

Mr. Dickie said they also have benefits if there's a fire and even as a taxpayer that doesn't have Town water, he thinks it is imperative that they try to get this through because they are never going to get a deal like this again. If we don't execute this or if it doesn't pass that problem is not going to go away and the cost is going to multiply, he said.

He said it couldn't have come at a worse time and it couldn't have come at a better time meaning because of the situation we're in now the state is willing to forgive 30% and give us a low interest loan and it's in the best interest of the town. If you pass this up you lose the \$1.44 million and you lose almost everything. I just feel this is so important for our town because it sets us up for water for years to come, he said.

Mr. Staples asked how other towns do major infrastructure like this because technically the whole town is going to benefit from it like the 500 Club and all the kids that play there that come from where they don't have Town water and the people on dirt roads aren't not paying for paved roads. He asked if it is common that big infrastructure is covered by the taxpayers not by rate payers.

Mr. Dickie said they heard the engineering firm say there were many applicants for this and there were 40 towns that got funds and we got the highest amount. He said based on the applicants they probably all apply for this but where we are a low-income town, we got the most out of it. He said the towns with a bigger tax base have to pay for their own or go out for grants.

Mr. Staples clarified that he was asking about paying for the cost itself like 60% to be picked up from the rate payer and the whole town is going to benefit and 60% would be covered by the rate payers. He said he could see that like in New Durham where they're their own little village and if water or sewer rates go down it doesn't affect the whole town.

Mr. Dickie said when they did the sewer upgrade it was a 50/50 split.

Mrs. Morin said she thought it was a 60/40 split.

Mrs. Titus asked if they were going to make a decision on this now.

Mr. Vachon asked if they need to put the worst case on the warrant.

Mr. Dickie said for the talking point on the estimated tax increase for the taxpayers he is looking for if the board wanted to go with 15 years and 60/40 split.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to go out for a 15 year low income debt for a 15 year note for the water work and to have it be a 60%/40% split with 60% on the users and 40% from the general fund;

Discussion: Mrs. Titus asked if the people we're getting the loan from the state would be at Town Meeting.

Mr. Dickie said they are coming on Jan. 30 to talk about this and they couldn't make it tonight.

Mrs. Titus asked if that meeting could be replayed so people can see it on Channel 26.

Mr. Dickie said the Select Board meetings and Town Meeting would be replayed and they need to keep repeating it when educating the voters.

Mr. Vachon asked if these were the actual numbers.

Mr. Dickie said this came right from the engineering firm and he just got it today.

Mr. Vachon asked if they were from NHDES or if it was engineers throwing numbers together.

Mrs. Morin said the paperwork says Underwood Engineers.

Mr. Vachon said the preliminary numbers for a 15 year note would be 23 cents per \$1,000 and the water budget would increase by 69%.

Mr. Staples asked what that would be per cubic foot of water.

Mr. Vachon said he would have to know what the rates are now. He said this would be to get information and actual rates so people don't think they are jumping in and taking out a loan.

Mr. Dickie said he was looking to see what tax impact to put on the warrant.

Mrs. Morin said they are not deciding for them.

Mr. Vachon said they are just clarifying for the people at home and then called for the vote.

Vote: The motion passed 4-0.

Mechanics St. - Mrs. Titus asked about the one-way on Mechanics St. and if Mr. Dickie talked to the Police Dept. about it.

Mr. Dickie said he talked to the Police and they are going to get together with the Highway Dept. and try to resolve it.

Dirt Roads- Mrs. Titus said a couple of people complained about the dirt roads even though we have snow but it was much better today for a ride. She asked if there was some kind of plan because all these people that live up there say there's always a problem and they're always telling us about it. She said she knows they can't go up there every week and asked if they are going up there every 2 or 3 months to check them.

Mrs. Morin said she hoped they are checking them if there are complaints coming in. She said her end of Ten Rod Road is still in a world of hurt but we've had storm after storm and it stinks.

Mrs. Titus said people have been complaining about the dirt roads for years and they need to have a road plan for the dirt roads, they need to be checked and need to be done right. We have new people on so I'm not throwing blame on anything but with all of the complaints we have I think we would come up with some kind of solution to the best of our ability she said.

Mr. Vachon said the problem is you have to cut to the bottom of the pothole and if you don't

that pothole will return because you can't compact the soil in that pothole when you compact the whole road so that one pothole may look compacted but it's soft on the bottom and as soon as there's rain or a car tire that's small and the roller drives over it they start blowing out and when you start getting wash-boarding that is caused by speeding. Hopefully we can get them cut to the bottom of the potholes and graded correctly so when they roll them it's one even surface, he said.

Mrs. Titus suggested a workshop be held for the new people and put signage up there that says the roads are like this because people travel fast on them. She said she wasn't saying that would solve the problem but to get the information out there, put signs up and maybe get some Police patrols because people do speed on that road too.

Mr. Vachon said we may see better dirt roads in the future with the experience of a couple individuals that were recently hired.

Mrs. Titus said they should have a plan that they can show people when they are looking at their road next and if needed to explain why they didn't get to it as planned such as an emergency on another street because people will understand if you were making an attempt. She said she had a lot of complaints today that Paulson Road wasn't plowed and some of the sidewalks but Mr. Dickie said he had a conversation and this is going to be taken care of.

Mr. Dickie said he spoke with Superintendent Ruth Ellen Vaughn and with Highway Dept. Supervisor Ed Brennan so for future storms Mr. Brennan will contact Mrs. Vaughn no later than 4:30 a.m. so she can make the call by 5 a.m. on whether to have a 2-hour delay or to cancel school. He said Mr. Brennan did get a call this morning but he didn't recognize the number so there was a gap there and he apologized to Mrs. Vaughn on behalf of the Town and to the residents because there are some "newbie's" behind the plows and we need to educate them. I'm not using that as an excuse it's our fault and I own it but I'm rectifying the problem he said.

Sidewalks- Mr. Vachon said this has been a constant problem with certain areas and they have the Tiger Trail for a reason and currently unless they've been there since he picked up his son at 4 p.m. there are still sections of the Tiger Trail that aren't plowed and there is school tomorrow so there's going to be another day where kids are walking in the street. He said he does this and he gets there are equipment failures, exhaustion but kids walking in the middle of Central St. because the sidewalk has 3 ft. of snow on it that's a problem. The school runs need to be done before the following day he said.

He said they need to have a meeting with Chief Orlando because it's come up before that you cannot put your snow on the sidewalks and right now there are at least 3 driveways on Central Street they plow the end of it and stuff the sidewalks.

Mr. Dickie said there are multiple examples of that everywhere.

Mr. Staples said there are places where people are snow blowing out in to the road.

Mr. Vachon said he notified the Chief about one of those this weekend because the roads were black and wet or dry and someone was snow blowing and the entire road was covered so an

officer had a discussion with that gentleman. One of my pet peeves in the winter time is stuffing sidewalks and if you stuff the sidewalks with snow now, we have to pound on the equipment to get it through there when before it would have been nice and easy to drive through but now you've pushed the snow into it so now it's a solid block. It's illegal in every community and you can be fined for it and if that's what it takes, that's what it takes and we upped the fine from \$25 to \$100 with the last Chief he said.

Mr. Vachon then asked Mr. Dickie to find out if they have gone back to the old, ridiculous idea of plowing School St. to one side. He said this was the idea back in the day because there is a sidewalk there but there is a sidewalk all through downtown and on other roads. He said that road is 20 ft. wide and if the guys get taught how to push back and not stop and leave 8 ft. of snow on the road you can put a wind row on a sidewalk which is safer for pedestrian traffic because if somebody slides, they're going to hit a snow bank and not a kid. A 6 inch curb doesn't stop anything but a 2 ft. tall snow bank is going to slow a vehicle down especially on the Tiger Trail on a pedestrian run he said.

Mr. Dickie said he spoke with Mr. Brennan that morning about why so much snow got put on the sidewalk it was because when the 10-wheeler went down they put the truck with the bigger hopper out in the country which is the one with the angle plow that usually does that and Mr. Brennan went through with his 6-wheeler that doesn't have that and pushed it all to that side. Mr. Vachon said if he did that he went the wrong way up a one-way because all the snow is to the even numbered side away from the sidewalk like they used to do and that's an issue they had corrected. He said if they are going to remove snow you have to have the right equipment and if they need to buy a new sidewalk tractor, he will make the motion. He said these are all old issues they had previously corrected and asked Mr. Dickie to rectify them or otherwise it's going to be a long winter because their phones will be "blowing up".

He then asked if there was an equipment failure with the sidewalk tractor.

Mr. Dickie said no.

Mr. Vachon said so it was perfectly fine and they decided not to clear sidewalks.

Mr. Dickie said he thought they were trying to work on the 10-wheeler.

Mr. Vachon asked how many guys they have there and if there is enough so they could throw somebody inside the sidewalk tractor and go snow blow sidewalks. You can only put 2 guys under a truck fixing something too many hands get in the way when you're a mechanic he said. He said the guys in the sidewalk tractor stay until after the plow because you can't successfully clear the sidewalks until the plows are done. He said it takes roughly 2.5 hours for John Radcliffe to clear every sidewalk in town so if they stopped plowing at midnight, he could have cleared them all and have been home by 3 a.m.

Mrs. Titus said he was still out there at 3 o'clock doing the sidewalks.

Mr. Vachon said if something is broken that they can't repair we need to buy a new one. We live in New England we have to have the right tools he said.

Thank You to Our 1st Responders-He said they received a letter from a resident who had a family member pass away and our emergency personnel responded and they wanted to thank them for their professionalism in taking care of everything that was involved with it. He said the nice letter was written to the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. with kudos and thanks for their reaction to the situation.

Next Meeting: January 30, 2023

Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, Titus, Staples, Morin-aye) at 6:09 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 6:17 p.m.

Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Staples, second Morin) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) Compensation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, Staples, Morin, Titus-aye) at 6:18 p.m.


Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 6:24 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Morin, second Staples) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 6:24 p.m.

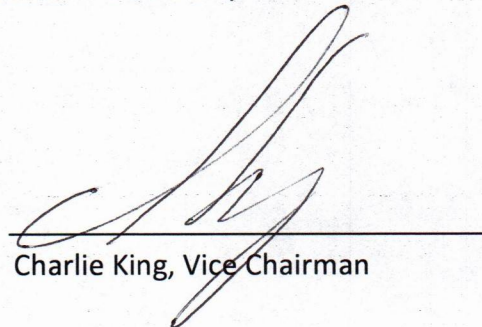
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Gerry Vachon, Chairman



Douglas Staples

Ann Titus



Charlie King, Vice Chairman

Penny Morin

