

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 7, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Penny Morin

Others Present:

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator
Scott Orlando, Police Chief
Ed Brannan, Highway Dept. Supervisor
Bill Fisher, resident

1). Call to Order:

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

2). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) Compensation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples-aye) at 5:30 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 6:11 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the minutes for 6 months as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 4-0.

3). Reconvene Public Session:

Chairman Vachon reconvened the public meeting at 6:16 p.m.

4). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

5). Public Input: None

6). Review of Minutes:

July 31, 2023-Public Minutes- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to accept the minutes as written passed 3-0-1 (Vachon abstained).

July 31, 2023-Non-Public Sessions A & B- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to accept Non-Public A & B as written passed 3-0-1 (Vachon abstained).

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the Non-Public meeting minutes A & B for a period of 60 days as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of

the board passed 3-0-1 by a roll call vote (King, Titus, Staples-aye; Vachon-abstained).

July 10, 2023- Non-Public Session A (amended)

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

Mr. King asked if this employment issue has been resolved and if this person is in employment by the Town.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Mr. King said then they don't need to seal it because it has been resolved.

7).Old Business:

Highway Dept. Update- Mr. Brannan said they got all the catch basins cleaned Eastern Pipe did it this past week-199 basins. He said it took about 38 hours to get them done and they are just shy of the \$13,300 limit by 5 basins and it wasn't worth it for them to come back for 5 basins.

Mr. King asked if he came up with any basins that upon inspection are in desperate need of repair or if everything looked pretty good.

Mr. Brannan said he knew there are a few out there in need of repair but he hasn't reviewed the paperwork yet. He said they will be looking to do something with those in the near future.

He said he was waiting for the mowing to get scheduled and they would probably have some grading going one day a week with Paul Barron on some of the smaller roads that will hopefully take some pressure off of them.

He said the RFP for the road construction is pretty much done there's a few finishing touches needed to get them sent out. He said they would probably end up rebidding the paving and patching and the shoulder gravel work because he didn't think they would be able to get MBG to do it. He said part of it is the \$5,000 limit on the shoulder gravel really isn't worth it and they would be lucky to get a day out of it.

Mr. King asked if he was talking about the re-paving.

Mr. Brannan said the patching and they have a couple of spots they need to fix one on Richard's Way that they're going to have to do something with and they're probably going to try to do something on the Rt. 11 end of Paulson Road where there is one low spot just before you get to the main road that's pretty rough above the culvert by where the recycling place used to be.

Mr. King asked if that actually went out for a formal bid or if it was request that they had gotten some quotes on.

Mr. Brannan said they didn't put any of that out to a formal bid so they are probably going to have to put something together and see if they can get some paving companies to look at it and see about getting that taken care of.

Mr. Vachon asked for his thought on Richard's Way and if it would be to mill it out or to reconstruct that section.

Mr. Brannan said he would say to try to get it out of there somehow and he didn't think it would be cost effect to mill it.

Mr. King asked if this is a failure of the base coat or the top coat.

Mr. Brannan said the top coat it delaminated.

Mr. King asked if that was on the southerly portion on the entrance as it goes down the hill.

Mr. Brannan said yes. He said he hasn't looked at it close enough to see if the road base isn't good and it looks like the top layer just delaminated because you can see where huge sheets have just pushed down the road so they definitely have to do something there.

He said they brought up a truck last week and they still have a little more information to get together for that before they present it to the board again. He gave the board an updated quote and said the truck in this picture was actually available.

Mr. King noted that it is an International truck and asked where it was located.

Mr. Brannan said it's at Fairfield. He said that truck has a stainless steel body on it which is an extra \$5,000 but over the life of the truck it's definitely worth it. We'll get some more information try to get some other quotes and see where they are in regards to the price and so forth and make sure we know where we're getting our money from he said.

Mr. Vachon asked if they have a spreader for that truck that they could put in it.

Mr. Brannan said they have an electric spreader they can put in and see how things go and if they have the funds it may be worth purchasing a hydraulic unit but it will be plumbed for a hydraulic unit either way. He said they will have to buy the harness for the truck side for an electric spreader which he didn't believe would be too much money. He said they could order it with a spreader in it but that's another \$11,000.

Mr. King asked how good is the spreader they have that they're going to put in there.

Mr. Brannan said it's decent and if they end up taking the one off of the 5500 that's a good one. He said the one that's in the one ton is a poly unit and they put some money into it and it's still in decent shape and it will work.

Mr. Vachon asked if that's to replace the 5500.

Mr. Brannan said yes.

Mr. Vachon said so we'd be taking that shaker off because if they're replacing that truck it means it's no good anymore.

Mr. Brannan said he was going to run the 5500 until it dies but not put any money into it. He said if it's still running then they might as well at least try to get what they can.

Mr. Staples asked what he thought the harness was going to cost.

Mr. Brannan said with the controller he'd be surprised if it's over \$1,000 and guessed that it would be in the \$500-\$600 range.

Mr. Vachon said it would be \$500-\$600 just for the controller.

Mr. Brannan said then it's probably in the \$1,000 range. He said the board saw the quote for the truck at their last meeting (approx. \$147,000) and it would be \$154,000 with a stainless body and he thought they were well worth it.

Mr. Staples said so it would be \$166,000 with a new spreader and a stainless steel body.

Mr. Brannan said they would wait on the spreader and see where they are at the end of the

year. He said the first thing he was going to do is see if they can get a truck.

Mr. Staples asked where he where he would find that money in his budget.

Mr. Brannan said from the Capital Reserve Fund, the Block Grant and the American Rescue Plan Act funds. He said there is enough money in the CRF to just about buy it and it's probably about \$5,000 to \$7,000 shy.

Mr. King asked what they are looking at, what are the competitive bids of competitive trucks compared to this one. He asked if they were going to spend \$170,000 shouldn't they be looking at what the other options are. He asked Mr. Vachon what else is out there that's competitive that they should be considering.

Mr. Vachon asked if the base price for that truck was included or if it was just for the total package and doesn't break it out.

Mr. King said it doesn't break out the base price it's just for the totally outfitted truck.

Mr. Brannan said the 550 is about 17,000 GVW and this thing is 23,000. He said the only problem with 550's is they are probably a year or so out. He said these guys actually go out and buy a large quantity of these trucks and he was not sure what else they had.

He said when he was in Contoocook they had some 550's but he thought those were already purchased by other municipalities so he didn't think they were trucks that they had purchased.

Mr. Vachon said he wasn't a fan of a wing on F550.

Mr. King said he wasn't a huge fan of a Ford.

Mr. Brannan said they do the job but they're right at the limit.

Mr. King said that was the issue with the 5500 they bought. He said he was listening to the people that complained about that truck that he was on the board when they bought it because it was sold to them as it would be great for in town. He said they bought it and he heard everybody complain about that set up after 2 years of owning that truck and asked why would we buy the International version with a Chevy drive train not that the Chevy drive train is an issue but as far as is it able to take the abuse that we're doling out on it are we signing up for the same thing. He said he agreed with the DPW Director at the time that it made sense but he heard a lot of complaining about that truck and now they are looking to replace it with something very similar.

Mr. Brannan said if that truck does the job that's all matters if they don't like the truck-oh well.

Mr. King said but as far as it being durable enough and the maintenance record.

Mr. Brannan said it's a 2007 and it's still running. He said there have been issues with it but that thing is still moving. He said the Town has done a lot of business with Fairfield over the years and that most of the trucks came from them.

Mr. King said he didn't think they bought any trucks from them they had them outfitted there.

Mr. Brannan said he was not a big fan of mixing up your gear and he would try to stick with one.

Mr. Vachon said for the newest one they went to the Viking dealer and asked if he has any turnkey trucks.

Mr. Brannan said he would check with the dealer and find out.

Mr. King said he would like to see some competitive options so they can make an informed decision if they're going to spend that amount of money.

Mr. Vachon said the newest truck we have is a Viking and if they are going to standardize the fleet they should stick with that or decide who they are going to go with because there are a couple more trucks they plan on looking at in a couple of years. He said if they start replacing trucks in the next 4 or 5 years they will have 4 trucks that are less than 10 years old with mismatched gear or are they going to standardize and put all the same gear in all the same trucks. For inventory and knowledge of the equipment we should probably standardize he said. Mr. Brannan said if he had been in on that one he probably would have pushed for Everest because that is what they already have.

Mr. Vachon said that truck is only 2 years old so they are going to replace 4 trucks.

Mr. King said that doesn't mean they can't leave that one as a stand-alone and buy Everest on everything else.

Mr. Brannan said part of it was they seem to have a pretty good working relationship with Fairfield.

Mr. King said he was not disputing that. He asked if they have or are going to apply under the Clean Diesel Grant for a truck.

Mr. Brannan said he is working on that now but it's called Clean Fleets. He said it is a different one that is based off the Volkswagen settlement that they will be putting in for and he thinks there is \$10 million available in the state.

He said they prepped out the Fernald Park playground on Friday so it's ready for the installation company. He said if the weather is decent they will get out with the grader on some of the dirt roads and they need to do some more work on Ten Rod Rd. and Meaderboro Rd.

He said he hasn't heard from Dodge Cross Rd. which he thought was odd.

Mr. Staples said the top side is pretty brutal and right where the swamp is, it's pretty rough.

Mrs. Titus asked for an update on Bunker Street.

Mr. Brannan said once the RFP's go out they will see to it and that's part of the road construction and they are trying to encompass all three-2 roads plus that. He added that they can get the squash culverts with a 75 year life span.

Mr. Vachon asked if they were CMP.

Mr. Brannan said yes.

Mr. King said then they should divide the lifespan by 2.

Mr. Brannan said regular galvanized is good for about 25 years and they can show you all kinds of studies on the polymer coated ones.

Mr. King asked if its polymer over galvanized or just polymer.

Mr. Brannan said he wasn't sure if it's over galvanized or right over bare steel.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Brannan to take a look at Sheepboro Rd. and Reservoir Rd. because a

resident has reached a couple of times about those roads and some of the potholes up there.

Mr. Brannan said that's where the grader was when it broke down.

Mr. Vachon asked if it was back up yet.

Mr. Brannan said the scarifier isn't but the grader is usable.

Mr. King asked if he had any luck finding any parts.

Mr. Brannan said no.

Mr. King said to keep looking.

Mr. Brannan said he didn't know if replacing was going to be an option as much as repairing would be.

Mr. King said if they can find the part and it's reasonable they should probably buy it because getting somebody to fix that is going to be expensive or they're going to use up a lot of favors.

Mr. Brannan questioned if there is any case hardened steel available and that fixing it is the easy part.

Mr. King said he looked at it and he would disagree with that to some extent and explained what materials he would use and the steps he would take to fix it. He said part of the problem would be finding someone to do the welding and somebody to do the turning work because most people are not going to do both at that size. Either way keep looking we're not in desperate need yet he said.

Mr. Brannan said he has a feeling the part will get repaired not replaced because he doesn't think they will find one.

Mr. King asked him to keep looking around because he doubted that all of those have been broken.

Highway Mutual Aid- Mr. Dickie said after they talked about this last week he talked with Mr. Vachon and Fire Chief James Reinert and Farmington is one of the few towns not on the list and pretty much everyone around us is on it. He said the pamphlet says they would get 2 years free and subsequent years are \$25 a year for the mutual aid.

He said he didn't see where it would hurt us especially where we could be down on crew members and have a catastrophic event happen when we just don't have the horsepower to be able to do everything like what happened in Alton.

Mr. Vachon said Mr. Dickie told him the board had discussed this when he was absent last week and it is more or less like the Fire Dept. mutual aid only for the Highway Dept. He said if there's a catastrophic failure and we don't have the manpower or equipment to deal with it you can put it out and surrounding communities all over the state can provide vehicles, equipment or whatever it is. He said today he got an e-mail from Atkinson looking for 10-wheelers to haul gravel for them because they have roads to rebuild. He said they put it out there and one community doesn't have to provide everything and the towns that didn't get hit haul equipment in there and do what they need to do for them.

Mrs. Titus asked if the fee is only \$25 to sign up.

Mr. Vachon said yes.

Mr. King said they are signing up to participate so right now based on being short staffed we may be limited to participate but on the other hand if we get into another 100 year storm we may need some help.

Mrs. Titus said it's more people there's no more money to...

Mr. Vachon said the only funds is just like the Fire Dept. where if someone comes to our community that community that came pays it.

Mrs. Titus said she asked that because \$25 seems low to her and if the fee is going to be going up or they're going to ask for more money.

Mr. King said if somebody calls for this service and we go out on overtime on a weekend we're getting the bill.

Mr. Staples asked if they are going to pay for our men and all that.

Mr. King said no they provide it to us free and we provide it to them free just like in the mutual aid we have with the Police and Fire now. He said we go out to assist and it's beneficial at times and at other times it's a drain on our budget. I'm not opposed to trying it and I think it could help us if we had a big issue but just like our other mutual aid we're going to have to be very cognizant of what we are spending on it so we make sure that we're not giving more than we're taking he said.

Mr. Vachon said you don't have to provide if you can't. He said if somebody calls and says they need 10-wheelers and we have 2 of them sitting there we don't have to send our 10-wheelers. If we cannot provide it due to workload, manpower, equipment or whatever it is you don't have to. There are 200 communities on the list he said.

Mr. King asked if at times they provide the equipment say they have a couple of trucks they can loan us but they don't have drivers.

Mr. Vachon said the ones today specifically asked for drivers but that's they only one he has ever seen that said drivers and normally it's send a truck and a driver because they're short. He said Alton did it with those ones and it was hauling from their pit back to the highway garage. He said it's not just equipment one of the communities is looking for 126 cones, 15 barricades and something else along that line to borrow because they got hit so hard they had to cone stuff off and close roads.

Mrs. Titus said so it could be time, equipment or it could be anything.

Mr. Vachon said pretty much and as he said they don't have to provide it if they can't afford it or they don't have the manpower or the equipment. But for catastrophic failures it's not a bad idea in my eyes to have it because one e-mail goes out to 200 Public Works Directors, Town Administrators and Highway Foremen saying we need this in this community and you just e-mail back yup, we're on the way he said.

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to authorize Ken Dickie to enroll the Town of Farmington in the Municipal Mutual Aid Program passed 4-0.

Drinking Water Protection Grant Application- Mr. Dickie said Rich Seracka is the one that gave us the information about this when they did the auction. He said he roughed out the application and then it got tweaked by Underwood Engineering, they sent it back, he validated and filled in some more numbers to add for the insurance and the total cost for lawyers so that all got totaled up so the final amount that they're requesting is \$166,749.

He said that was submitted to the state and they sent him an e-mail that it had been submitted and they recognized it and sometime in Oct. they will let us know if we were accepted or not.

Selectmen reviewed the application and then Mr. Vachon asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions or comments on the application.

Mr. Vachon said so now they just wait and see.

Farmington Water System Update Meeting- Mr. Dickie said there was supposed to be a meeting next week but it got pushed out to August 22. He said they will have an update from Underwood Engineering and from Emery & Garrett Ground Water Investigations, Rich Seracka will be here and it will be held in the conference room that was formally the Town Administrator's office. He said they are still waiting for the state to sign off on the \$7.3 million and the \$1.44 million in ARPA funds and he hasn't gotten anything back on that yet.

He said when he gets the meeting invitation he will forward it to the board and if they are available and want to participate they can come in. That will be the update on the new well going in he said.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Dickie to verify the date for the board.

Mr. Dickie said as soon as he receives the invitation he will forward it to the board.

Cartwright Land Donation Follow Up- Mr. Dickie said Planning Dept. Director Kyle Pimental asked him to put this on the agenda and he received it on Thursday so he didn't have a lot of time to review it. He said there was some back and forth between our legal counsel and Mr. Pimental when she did the title search and they sent it to Primex and the bottom line in the paragraph that Mr. Pimental sent to him was he felt it was a low risk to take on the Cartwright land with the issues that they disclosed but he asked for the board's input.

Mr. King said he went over most of this stuff with Mr. Pimental prior to this and he agrees with proceeding. He said it's not 100% perfect some of these things they've uncovered are 37 years old and it talks about a discharge of a mortgage from Arlington Trust which they couldn't find but Arlington Trust changed hands about 5 times in the research that was provided. It is unlikely there is still any lien that is shown anywhere against that parcel he said.

He said there is also a discrepancy of some work done by Orvis & Drew in 2004 as far as the conveyance of deeds and he thought as they suggested it was part of the original transfer and he didn't feel that was an issue either.

He said there was another one about an acreage discrepancy but that is common on old deeds which haven't been fully boundary surveyed and have recent history that the acreage is correct and a lot of these parcels are inside of this entire parcel. When you own all the abutting parcels

and you have one in the middle that might have an issue you're the abutter. So when you're the abutter on all 4 sides and there's a boundary issue it's not really an issue he said.

Mr. King said nobody has come forward that he has heard is staking a claim to any of this property over the past years or any rights or monies owed so really there's been nothing new that has been found in the search. He said it's a lot of smaller issues that are difficult to resolve because they're almost 40 years old.

Bill Fisher said he was curious about the deeded right-of-way off of Spring St. and they think it's Coyote Drive but he hasn't seen the memo.

Mr. Vachon said there is no mention of it.

Mr. King said that may be something they will have to work through.

Mr. Fisher said because the property wraps around that it comes down to Spring St. on the other side which is closer to town he didn't see why we need a r-o-w thru there because we can go thru our own property once we have it.

Mr. King asked if he was saying this property has a r-o-w thru that.

Mr. Fisher said he is not sure what the r-o-w is because nobody has been able to find out exactly if it's a r-o-w or do they just have access down Coyote Drive.

Mr. King said but it's a r-o-w that potentially would be going to us not taking away from this parcel so it may give us additional access or it may not.

Mr. Fisher said but it's only a few hundred yards down the road and he didn't see what good it would do us to be honest. He said he would give it to the landowners it's a private road and he would give it back to them.

Mr. King said they would first have to figure out if in fact they have it, what the extent of it is in order to determine to use it. He said he didn't see that as an issue to not go forward.

Mr. Fisher said he didn't see it as an issue but it's something they might want to clear up.

Mr. King said with this amount of land and this number of parcels there's going to be minor unresolved issues that are going to have to be vetted as they come up. He said they will have to work through as a landowner whether it's getting that boundary surveyed or a total boundary survey but that's going to be time consuming and pricey and he didn't know at this point if they need to do that. I think we need to go through, honor our commitment to accept the property and do what we said as far as abate the taxes and cover whatever we were going to cover for legal expenses and just move on and when we come across something we'll deal with it he said.

Mr. Dickie asked if the consensus of the board was to proceed.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to proceed with the closing to accept the Cartwright land from the donors;

Discussion: Mrs. Titus said it didn't sound like there's any money problem or other issues there.

Mr. King said as long as they do what they said they were going to do. He said he didn't believe there was any issue on our side that hasn't been presented.

Mr. Fisher said there was a study being done for EPA standards but he was not sure if they've

gotten anything back on that on whether the land is clean.

Mr. Dickie said he thought the tier one study from the EPA came back clean.

Mr. Fisher said BH Keith did the initial survey of the land and then it was going for a second round and he would have to talk to Mr. Pimental to get the exact name of it.

Mr. King said that's not a requirement for us but they can do that. He said typically a Level I site assessment is a requirement on lending but we're not borrowing any money to buy this property and they are assuming some risk but none of this property was ever developed that we know of.

Mr. Fisher said there were a few pieces of property along Bay Rd. that were sold off to private individuals that were developed about 20-30 years ago when the New Dam project was in full swing but since then none.

Mr. King said some of these parcels are individual parcels that don't have any restrictions on them as part of this package. He said once they accept it the Town will have to decide what they will do with those parcels.

Mr. Fisher said there are 5 or 6 parcels that have been subdivided out that could be sold by the Town along Bay Rd. and that could give us quite a bit of funds to put in parking lots, benches, clean up along the Cocheco River and put in a boat ramp at the new property off of Rt. 11.

Vote: the motion passed 4-0.

8).New Business:

Police Dept. Update- Chief Orlando said the siding is complete at the Public Safety Building from the incident during the winter. He said they were able to order the exact same color and it is a perfect match and looks great. He said Salmon Falls Construction did a great job and he would like to thank Nick and it was very clean. He said the good news is you can't order just 1 piece you have to order a box and it was discontinued but they remanufactured it so they have a full box at the Public Safety Building in case another incident happens.

The Chief said he was looking for the board's blessing on the Portsmouth Police Dept. contacted him and asked if we would be able to provide assistance to them for details. He said the city is experiencing a lot of growth a lot of construction and road work and they don't have enough officers or surrounding towns to fill all their details. He said he was looking for the board's blessing to send officers down there on their day off with a cruiser to participate in their details.

Mr. King asked how that would work as far as if they are getting compensated from the time they leave here or when they get there because Portsmouth is about 30 minutes from here Chief Orlando said he didn't think of that and right now he would say they wouldn't get compensated until they arrive. He said the travel time in the cruiser would be on their own time not part of the detail. He said he will follow-up and ask them but he would err on the side of no. Mr. King asked if typically that's how it's done on a detail and it's standard practice to get paid from the time they show up at the detail and it's just a little further traveling than it would normally be.

Chief Orlando said yes and usually it's in-town or within Strafford County. He said outside of Strafford County when they do the concerts it doesn't require a cruiser they just drive there and driving there is on their time.

Mrs. Titus asked if this would affect any of our shifts.

Chief Orlando said absolutely not covering calls for service and having a full staff is the priority. He said it's just option for officers if they would like to make extra money to participate in that and also to increase their Fund 08 to purchase new cruisers. He said they have seen a significant decrease in the past 2 months of details within our community and usually they're averaging 100 to 144 hours as a high to 14 to 18 hours so they've seen a big drop off.

Mr. King and Mrs. Titus said they don't have an issue with it.

Mr. Vachon asked if we bill Portsmouth for the time or if they are billing the contractors.

Chief Orlando said it would be billed to the contractors and they would fill out a slip, we get it and it would go right to the contractor.

Mr. King asked if it is possible to have staff check with Portsmouth to make sure those contractors are in good standing before we accept details from them meaning assuming that all these contractors are in good standing as far as paying Portsmouth for the details. We wouldn't want to start doing details for someone we're not familiar with that has trouble paying their bills he said.

Chief Orlando said that is not good for anybody and he can look into that.

Mr. King said the last thing they want is to have staff chasing detail pay. He said they just want to ask some questions down there so we don't get somebody that has a management issue.

Consensus of the board was they were okay with Farmington Police officers participating in details in Portsmouth.

Mr. King asked if they were all set for Hay Day.

Chief Orlando said he is ready to go with his operation plan and everybody has signed up.

National Night Out- Mrs. Titus said the event was very successful and all the depts. were there and the Rec. Dept. did a great job. She said there were other organizations that came out and they ran out of ice cream so that was a good sign. She said the Fire Dept. had their trucks there and the Police Dept. had cruisers there and the kids and the staff seemed to have a great time and expressed her thanks to everyone for the great success of the Night Out.

5 K Walk- Mrs. Titus said someone asked her about the 5K Walk/Run at Hay Day and they used to have this and she didn't know what happened to it. She said some people are interested in having a walk or a run and asked if that is a Rec. Dept. decision or a board decision.

Mr. King said they had it in the past and he participated in it one year when it was a walk/run whichever you chose to do. He said he didn't know when it stopped and that maybe it was because of COVID.

Mrs. Titus said it was successful and brought a lot of people to town and she knew that they did it on Hay Day and that there is a walk/run mapped out already.

Mr. King asked if she was referring to doing it this year.

Mrs. Titus said there is not enough time to do it this year but to maybe bring it back next year and that maybe she would join the Hay Day Committee.

Mr. King said people will come when you have an event that has official timing and registration because they want to do an event that meets the requirements.

Senior Activities- Mrs. Titus said they used to do senior trips all the time and she didn't know what is happening with that and if it was because they don't have somebody to drive the vehicle that has a CDL license. She said they are opening the Senior Center but people have told her it's not advertised and it is not consistent for people that wanted something weekly and asked if that was something that was available and if they could look at it.

Mr. Dickie said he would check into it. He said regarding the senior trips the bus that was bought is over behind the highway garage and he didn't know if it is worth fixing. He said the seniors are not going to crawl over the seats in their van as they just can't do it. He said they looked into going into trips with New Durham but the cost was \$75 per person just to transport people to Foxwoods and did not include anything else. He said Farmington didn't participate and New Durham went ahead with it and they "lost their shirt" with it.

Mrs. Titus said she wasn't thinking only about Foxwoods but also to shows and other activities.

Mr. Dickie said he has asked about senior trips several times because his aunt used to be a big advocate of them and maybe C & J or someone with a bus could come in and if they had enough participants it would be worth it.

Mrs. Titus said the school district supplies a bus for when the kids go on lake trips and she know if maybe the school could supply a bus to the Rec. Dept. once a week or once a month.

Mr. King suggested Mr. Dickie could ask the SAU if it's possible for the Town to rent a bus and a bus driver for a senior trip and what that would cost instead of us providing the bus and driver. We could ask them if they would be willing to do it and we could reimburse them for whatever the cost is he said.

Suggestions Wanted- Mrs. Titus suggested having a suggestion box at Hay Day because there will be people from all age groups there and there may be things they want to see if the Rec. Dept. can do. She said they have come up with a lot of things that they're doing and they're doing a great job but there might be something that somebody wants that they haven't thought of so she thought of having a suggestion box at the Hay Day booth.

Mr. Dickie said they are going to do that and they are doing a survey about moving Hay Day to Sept. as they discussed 2 meetings ago.

Mrs. Titus said she used to bring her kids to Little Miss Hay Day and they don't do that anymore and there are some old things where you can put old and new together. She said some of the old things for different age groups maybe should be brought back. This year is going to be a whole new thing and I hope it works out well it seems to be on the right track but I'd like to see some new things too and maybe having a suggestion box out there people can bring ideas and

the Rec. Dept. will say yeah that's what we want to do that sounds like a great idea she said.

Fixed Price Oil Supply Agreement- Mr. Dickie said per a suggestion from a Bud Com member he contacted the SAU 64 Superintendent in Milton so they combined Milton, Wakefield and Farmington and included our library and our school system and they locked in a price and he contacted Mr. Vachon and he didn't think they should do it so he pulled out. He said he got a call back from the Superintendent who said they moved forward at \$3.22 a gallon, Irving had to go back out for a second bulk buy and we're coming in at \$3.27 a gallon but we also have to add some other fees as shown in the documents they received in their packets which comes down to \$3.29 a gallon.

He said they did go out to Eastern, Fielding, Dead River and some of them didn't reply. He said they got a reply back from Eastern which was at \$3.60 and Irving came in later at \$3.22 and he told them he couldn't lock it in without the backing of the board Chair and he would bring it to their Monday meeting and they said they would probably have to go out for another bulk buy with a different price but it would be better than \$3.60 a gallon.

Mr. Vachon said Mr. Dickie called him with this and they had until 2:30 p.m. that afternoon and he was in Maine and Mr. Dickie was on his way to Pittsburg and it didn't constitute an emergency meeting and he felt he did not have the authorization to go ahead with it and that it has to be a board decision. He said it was cheaper than the original price he gave him but it did go up a little more than the other communities that could sign that quickly but he told him that as soon as he gets in on Monday to get another fixed price for their meeting because that price was only good for 4 hours on Thursday.

Mr. King asked what they budgeted for heating oil last year.

Mr. Dickie said we paid \$4.05 a gallon last year.

Mr. King said that is still obscene pricing for heating oil and it's double what it should be.

Mr. Vachon said unless they want to convert everything to propane because propane is cheaper.

Mr. King said propane has less BTU's per gallon so it's not better.

Mr. Dickie said the school has the same thing and they are voting on it tonight as well.

Mr. Vachon asked how many gallons this is for.

Mr. Dickie said he reserved 14,000 gallons for the Town and 3,000 gallons for the library.

Mr. Vachon asked for that budget line for this year.

Mr. Dickie said he couldn't remember the dollar amount but there is 30% left in that budget.

Mr. King said the Town's portion is \$46,000 for 14,000 gallons.

Mr. Dickie left the meeting to get the numbers then returned and said we budgeted \$54,600.

Mr. King said and there is 30% left so there is \$15,000 left so they would be over budget by \$30,000.

Mr. Staples noted the budget starts over on Jan. 1.

Mr. King said they would still be over budget but not by \$30,000. He said there is \$15,000 left

so they have enough for 1/3 of this heating season. It's going to be close but we might make it he said.

Mr. Vachon said going by the numbers they have in front of them for the gallons used for Sept. thru Dec. it puts us just over \$20,000 to get to Jan. 1 at that price.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract with Irving for fuel oil for this season at the prices given which is \$3.275 plus associated fees and to sign it on behalf of the Town passed 4-0.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Dickie to make sure he gets that signed and delivered back to them by 11:59 p.m. tonight otherwise it will probably go up again.

DOT Highway Block Grant- Mr. King said they received notice of the Highway Block Grant Aid available in their packets.

Mr. Dickie said that was an FYI for what we will be awarded for next year.

Mr. King said it is for 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) but we will receive some of the payments this year and asked if this is typically how those payments come.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Mr. King asked when they are going to officially accept this amount and if they have to have a public hearing to accept this.

Mr. Dickie said he didn't think they need a public hearing because it is already in the budget but he will check with the Finance Administrator.

Mr. King asked how it could already be in the budget when it is a 2024 award.

Mr. Dickie said it is in our projected revenues so it would be in the budget.

Mr. King said so we will receive most of the 2024 award \$100,000 of the \$160,000 in 2023.

Mr. Dickie said that's correct.

Mr. King said that means we received last year's payment early too and spent it last year.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

9). Next Meeting: Monday, August 14, 2023

10). Adjournment:

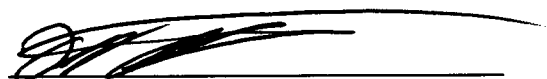
Motion: (Staples, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 7:23 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary


Gerry Vachon, Chairman

Charlie King, Vice Chairman


Ann Titus


Douglas Staples