



**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OFFICE, 85 MAIN STREET  
PITTSFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03263**

---

**MEETING MINUTES OF Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

Carl Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked everyone to please join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carl Anderson, Chair  
Gerard LeDuc, Vice Chair  
J.C. Allard  
Jim Adams  
Carole Richardson

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Cara Marston, Town Administrator  
Noel Gourley, Superintendent of Public Works  
Fire Chief Peter Pszonowsky  
Deputy Fire Chief Rob Freese  
Police Sergeant Devon Rego  
Marc Smith  
Mark Riel  
Charles Mewkill, III  
Charley Mewkill, IV  
Brooke Weldon

**PUBLIC INPUT – agenda items only**

None

**AGENDA REVIEW**

JC – information item

**PUBLIC HEARING – 6:30 p.m. proposed Health Ordinance**

Carl

The public hearing for the proposed health ordinance was posted for tonight to receive public comment regarding the adoption of the health ordinance. The proposed ordinance can be viewed at the town office or on the town's website. The intent of this ordinance is to establish consistent procedures for the investigation of complaints of nuisances and other causes of danger to public health. Has everybody in the audience who's here to discuss that seen the proposed health ordinance? Is there anybody that needs it? I guess where I'm going with this is, do you need it read aloud? Or has everybody seen it and has what they want to say locked and loaded? I'm going to take that to mean everybody's seen it. Everybody's had a chance to review it. And if there's public here that wants to address it.

Mark Riel

Is there currently a health department? The website didn't list the department. Who is the health officer?

Carl

Fire Chief Pszonowsky. Anything else?

Mark

Yeah, so it says, it lists deputies in here too, so you're overseeing, you'll make the decisions based upon the complaints.

Chief Pszonowsky

If I'm not available, then they can go and do it.

Mark

Okay.

Carl

We rarely get a complaint. Usually, when we do, it's pretty well justified. But we get nowhere without any teeth for enforcement. We just end up throwing money at lawyers and courts and at the end of the day, we have nothing that brings about enforcement of any kind. There are few and far between, but we have some issues in town that really need to be addressed.

Mark

I get the complaint-based, but the health officer certainly is in a position to make a complaint himself if he wants to.

Chief Pszonowsky

If I see something grossly, like health-oriented, or safety, obviously, but it happens to be when someone doesn't know the answer, it's the health officer's problem to figure out. So when I take complaints, then I go and knock on the door. I'm just, I say I have a complaint. I can't, they can kick me off the property, but if I have a complaint, I just ask nicely, and they say, alright, this is what's happened, ends up being, depending on the situation, it can be up to almost 30 days as just a verbal warning. Next warning would be a written one, I go right to the written certified letter one, and then the third time then I have to ask them verbally please again, and it goes on. We have no teeth, but it helps that the state has its own health officer set of guidelines which I work off of. And if we merge them together, then I can have like a \$35 fine if you don't do this per day.

Carl

We've had some instances where there's been trash piled up to the point where there's rat infestations that really have got to have something done about them. And like I said, if we... We've got Pete trying to do a job that basically his hands are tied for all intents and purposes for drawnout timeframes. I mean, we've been to court, we've spent money on lawyers, and ultimately if we don't have something in place that gives the authority to the health officer to expedite these decisions, they end up not making changes and we spent money trying to do something about it. Anybody else? Anybody got anything they want to say? Yes sir. Please identify yourself.

Charley Mewkill

This paragraph right here on unsheltered storage of old, unused, stripped junk, all that.

Carl

Wait a minute, where are you?

Charley

Under the nuisance section.

Carl

Okay, yeah.

Charley

So it lists on here, other vehicles, machinery, implements, and/or equipment and personal property of any kind, no longer in use for its intended purpose of manufacturing for 90 days?

Chief Pszonowsky

If I could speak, Carl, can I answer that? I'm not taking one complaint on anything like that.

Charley

I understand that, but it says here... It could be someone else. You say you might not, but the next guy that comes in gets a paragraph.

Carl

And the rest of that paragraph that you're reading says, any other vehicles, machinery, implements, and/or equipment and personal property of any kind, which is no longer in use for the purposes for which it was manufactured, for a period of 90 days, but it still is, the purpose that it was manufactured for, if it's a hay rake, the purpose it's manufactured for is to rake hay. And so even if it's not actually in use, it's still fit to use for raking hay. Just because it hasn't moved for 90 days doesn't mean that it's not still able to serve the purpose it was manufactured for.

Chief Pszonowsky

The complaints that I've taken in the past weren't for like that, obviously that's what you've got to do for a business. It does take some common sense to say that's a business. Or for a scrap metal yard, and then you have different rules.

Charles Mewkill

But it's just that, well the building code covers that anyway, under property maintenance.

Carl

We don't have any property maintenance in the building code.

Charles

Yeah. The state building code, which the entire state has adopted and used.

Carl

But our use of the state codes falls flat on its face, as Pete's found out a number of times, if we don't have something at the local level that addresses it.

Brooke Weldon

Can you expand on that?

Carl

Yeah. Pete, speak to the cases in court that we've had that theoretically have a state ordinance that prohibits it. But when we go in to make a complaint, they say, well, what's Pittsfield got, specifically? And we get nothing. So we end up nowhere.

Chief Pszonowsky

Right. It's just a matter of time of using the state website or the state health officer's manual, which that's what we're using. And then that takes at least 30 days to start enforcement, but if you're living by a house that has a dumpster that's full, and then there's scrap metal, and there's more garbage right next to the side of it, that's most all my complaints. And most of the time it's been landlord-tenant issues. Not a junkyard, a legal junkyard, which you know that it's a junkyard, it's just scrap that people are scrapping and nobody wants to do that.

Charles

But that's you, you understand it. Somebody replaces you, and they might not.

Chief Pszonowsky

Yeah, I understand, that would have to be dealt with if an issue. Even the state code and for the junkyards is just as vague.

Jim

And to the point, what we're running into is the judge or the magistrate will sit there, and Carl hit the nail on the head, and they say, well, if Pittsfield doesn't have an ordinance, I guess people don't care. And that's how they, it's crazy, but we had a, what was it, a year and a half? On a certain road in town that we had at the end of the day, after spending a fortune, and there was no way to enforce on the place.

Carl

And we still got the boot.

Jim

Exactly.

Charley

But it was probably garbage, it wasn't farm equipment.

Jim

It was scrap metal, it was whatever junk they found, and they just had it everywhere.

Carl

If you think about it, there's almost no law or rule or code or ordinance that can be written that doesn't have some opportunity for abuse by somebody if you've got the wrong person in that position, you want and read a certain section of it and say, well, they could invade me here or there.

Charles

I dealt with a problem in Canada where it took 18 years to get it straightened out and then spent a fortune on it and then they spent a fortune on cleaning and got it jarred up. I understand where you're coming from. But, you know, I don't think that's a good idea.

Carl

There's a lot more abuse by people who are truly violating the ordinance than there are enforcers of the ordinance picking out somebody.

Mark

When there's a complaint, is it anonymous? Or does the property owner know who filed the complaint?

Carl

How do you deal with that fee when you get a complaint?

Chief Pszonowsky

Well, it should be in writing. But from the complaints through, like, the police department to check on, and then some people ask me not to say who complained.

Mark

So it doesn't have to be in writing, or it does?

Chief Pszonowsky

I like it to be in writing.

Cara

If it rises to the level of court, it's all public.

Chief Pszonowsky

Like the time I come out and talk to you, and it's a verbal warning, I still have to put that in writing. And then the second is a written one with time frames, and then the third is then, hopefully, a fine to do something to get it resolved.

Carl

I mean, and there's always what ifs. I mean, take the case of a hay rake, or a baler, or whatever it is. And you get 90 days written into the ordinance. And you get a baler, and it's been sitting there, and it's fully capable of being used, but the next June you decide, I'm gonna buy a new baler. So your other baler now, if we, let's say we change that to 120 days or whatever it is, six months, then you've still got a piece of equipment that's capable of being used for what it was intended to use. Now it's gone over six months, it's gone over eight months. At some point you have to make a decision on a line and I've never heard of anybody complaining about a baler or a hay rake. I mean if you want examples of the things we really need to enforce I'd be happy to take you on a private tour without naming any addresses and say this is the kind of thing that we've got nothing to cure. And we've got plenty of places where we can ride around and look at farm equipment all day. And the last thing this board has any time to do or any interest in doing is running around picking fights with taxpayers, we just don't.

Charles

But there are people that do do that.

Carl

Well, and there's going to be, no matter where it is there's the potential for that kind of abuse.

Jim

Now fortunately this board appoints people with a large dose of common sense. Now I mean Pete's not, he grew up in this neck of the woods, he's not going to say that baler's got to go or this has got to go. So there's a lot of that and and this board, I mean for let's say Pete gets a big job somewhere else, this board will appoint a like individual like him because you're right, we don't have time to bother, we shouldn't be bothering you and we don't have time to pay the...

Carl

There's nobody on this board that's trying to hold the rest of town to their standards either. It's a health or nuisance situation.

Charles

What about, I have a parts baler, if I break down in the middle of haying season...

Carl

There's going to be what-ifs, you can go around in circles as long as you want, and there's always going to be what-ifs. And about the best you can hope for is that somebody with a little common sense is on these Selectboard or in these positions. And if there isn't, then you get it addressed some other way. Though like Pete says if it's being over-enforced, you go to the state or whatever it is. But you almost never hear of anybody having to go to somebody's state or otherwise because an ordinance is being over-enforced. It's almost always under-enforced. Stuff piling up, and to the point where people are screaming, why can't the Selectmen do anything? We look at them and say, we've got nothing. Our hands are tied. The health officer, why can't you do anything about the rats? Well, half the time, your hands are tied. You got to do something, and you got to make some, you know, draw some lines. I didn't get hung up on the period of 90 days for actual equipment that is, even if it's a parts machine.

Charley

Then just out of curiosity, why was the wording machinery implements and equipment put into it? Carl

Because machinery implements and equipment, you can also have a skidder or a crane or something else that's sat for 25 years in somebody's front yard and whether it's leaking something or it's got, you know. You know, we could probably do this with a 40-page document, giving all the exceptions you want to see. Or we can try and keep it to a two-page document and hope that there's a little common sense going around. Are you really worried that somebody would try to enforce this over a baler?

Charley

There's a lot of red plates that have moved up here in the last few years. They like to file complaints about stuff.

Carl

Well, filing a complaint is one thing, but we get... but the complaint goes to the health officer who then decides whether or not it's going to get pursued at all.

Charles

Well, you had a building inspector here for a while, that went after me, because I failed them on a house when I was the building inspector in this town.

Carl

And you don't find that building inspector here.

Charles

I don't.

JC

You know that, that's the solution.

Carl

So the solution to a problem like that is to have the right people eliminating the source of the problem and putting in, because the new building inspector has not given you any problem. And I'm going to bet money on that without ever discussing it.

Chief Pszonowsky

There's more than one with me, I usually have the code enforcement with me when we do these investigations. So we all have eyes on it. Or if I think I need the PD to come out and do this too. So you have three officials. I know there could be bad things, but it's not happening. I use common sense. I know exactly what to do. I grew up with everybody around this town in that same thing. I do see the other side of that, but I've got to have something to fix the other problems.

Carl

And for the foreseeable future, we can't get rid of Pete. He's here.

Jim

He's too young to retire.

Carl

That's who we're going to have for a long time. I think that, in my opinion, and correct me if I'm wrong, but we have far more of a need to have something like this than to continue on without something like this. Is that fair to say or not?

JC

We've been stopped in our tracks numerous times for a lack of it.

Carl

Why can't you people do something? Why can't you people do something?

JC

And we've certainly, we didn't produce the ordinance, the two page ordinance, in 20 minutes either. We've agonized over this verbiage for years.

Carl

Years

JC

Several years.

Carl

I don't know if I answered your question, but I know I didn't answer to your satisfaction, but...

Charley

No, just an expressing concern.

Jim

Duly noted.

Brooke Weldon

I just have a question.

Carl

Okay, just identify yourself.

Brooke

Yeah, Brooke Weldon.

Brooke

From what I understand, this was originally brought up four years ago, in August 2020, and in the notes it stated that it was pretty much a copy paste repeat from what was done in Bristol, New Hampshire. The legal counsel used the same verbiage there. Has that verbiage changed from 2020 to now?

Carl

Yes. This is not anywhere near the same document.

Brooke

Ok. So were the considerations taken? There was quite a bit of commentary in the notes about vague stipulations. And obviously I think we're all kind of getting at the government overreach part of that. Can you cite any points in which you've taken those under consideration, or made changes in this document?

Carl

Well, the changes that are in today's document are certainly more specific than the broad brush that the original Bristol ordinance suggested. For example, 90 days. I mean, there's a time limit in there. It's not just open-ended. This is more specific, more concise, but doesn't have the overreach that the Bristol ordinance suggested.

Brooke

As a follow-up to that, it seems as though it's up to interpretation, by Pete, to decide if something is pursuable or not, and if to fine or not, what are you using to determine that quote unquote common sense?

Chief Pszonowsky

Correct. And then obviously if I do see, let's use the example rats, feces, unhealthy conditions, when I do the inspection that is grossly, that needs attention. And I have other people with me like I just said, but then I have the Health Officers Association in Concord that I can run by them as well.

Brooke

Are there definitions in regard to any of that that you adhere to? Because, you know, again, you're in this role and you've got common sense and you're not trying to do over the top things.

Chief Pszonowsky

If you look up the Health Officer Manual right on the state website, that gives you the point by point and how you can do it and use it as a resource for what you've time to do. Any questions come down, I just, I can't just name a ordinance for you and decide.

Brooke

I'm not asking for that.

Chief Pszonowsky

But it's right online, you just book up health officer manual and you can breeze through it. Not breeze, it's some good reading.

Brooke

I'm sure its lengthy.

Cara

Any further comments?

Mark

Just to follow up on my first question, should on the town website, should we list the health officer under as a department? It's not listed now, it might be nice to add that.

JC

That's a good idea.

Jim

We can do that.

Carl

No further public comment. We'll close public hearing at 6:52.

Charley

Mark asked a question.

Carl

Another?

Mark

I think he answered it.

Carole

Yeah. We're going to add it to the website.

Mark

Yes, thank you.

Carl

All right. Public hearing closed at 6.52. Thank you for all coming out.

Carole

It's great to hear from the public. Thank you for all coming out this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. Organization of the Board**

Carl

We're half an hour away from the public hearing, so let's move right on to new business action items. Number one, organization of the board. First position up for discussion is chair. Anybody want to see a change?

Jim

Let's leave her the way she is.

Carl

Everybody okay with that? Somebody wants to make a change, now's the time to do it? Going once, going twice. Okay, that's done. How about other positions? While I'm running my mouth, I might as well keep talking. As for the planning board, I'm fully prepared to stay in that position. If you guys want me out, speak right up. There's members of the board that want to see me stay there, of that committee, but it's not their decision. So, anybody who wants to make a change in the planning board?

Jim

I fear if we did, we'd have some vacancies. So let's leave it right where it is.

Carl

I don't think it's going to be, it's not that, to that degree. But I kind of, I gave my word that I wouldn't quit. So if I get removed, that's something.

Carole

We will leave the vice chairman of the Selectboard the same?

Carl

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Vice Chair of the Selectboard, anybody want to make a change? Everybody good? Gerard, you still on?

Gerard

Yeah.

Carl

Okay. Let's see. We've also got Budget Committee.

Carole

I'll go ahead and do it.

Carl

You sure? No one wants to saddle you with a job.



Carole

Yes. I will. I'm in it, I'm for it, I'll do it.

Carl

Okay.

Carl

So let's see. We've got union negotiating reps. You haven't got any contracts to negotiate, but you still do have personnel matters that kind of come through you guys first. Anybody want to make a change there? Are you two happy with continuing on the way you have been?

JC

I'm fine with it.

Jim

Yes

Carl

Okay. What else we got?

Jim

I'll be your backup on the planning board like I have been.

Carl

Okay. The way we left it with the planning board was technically all are alternates.

Jim

Okay, that's good.

Carl

So I call you first because you got to get hooked. You were the first person to get hooked. But at the end of the day, we're all down as alternates. So it could be any one of the five of us on the planning board.

Carl

Anything else we should consider?

Cara

BCEP.

Carl

Oh, BCEP. Oh, how can I forget BCEP?

Gerard

I'll stay on it. Because I want to make sure we get a proper administrator hired, which is not what I'm seeing, and they are trying to push.

Carl

OK.

Cara

CIP

Carl

Oh yeah, CIP.

Gerard

I'll stay on it.

Carl

You'll stay on it, all right.

Cara

Okay. Community Development Committee.

Carl

Yeah, you're just gonna stay with that, Jim (JC)? Or you're gonna... if you quit, there isn't anybody left.

JC

Right, and so... I would just as soon make a change.

Carl

But anybody want to fight for Jim's position on CDC?

JC

We haven't changed anything else.

Carl

Well, that doesn't mean we can't.

JC

Well, but you can't move one without moving another.

Carole

You're doing such a good job.

Carl

Well you kind of hold the thing together, I think.

JC

Well we really need the business community to pony up somebody, more than one somebody, two or three somebodies who speak the language of business.

Carole

Is somebody in the chamber that's interested?

JC

That's been on my mind lately, of going directly to the chamber and saying, hey, chamber, suggest somebody. If you don't want to do it yourself, suggest somebody we can talk to.

Carl

Yeah, I think you ought to be on the same boat anyway.

JC

And so, yes, I'll do it.

Carl

And thrilled to have the job.

Cara

Foss scholarship.

Carl

Foss scholarship.

JC

That's me, too.

Cara

The trust has two components, the trustees and then the committee that the trust dictates how it is made up. The committee reviews and makes the scholarship recommendations to the trustees.

JC

The good part is the kids, I've enjoyed studying the scholarship applications, but I'm not sure of all of the other scholarship committee.

Carl

If I was trying to expect one member of the board here that would speak up, like Dick Foss would, it would be looking at Jim Adams.

Jim

Well, that would be a conflict of interest. Because my wife, who is now the new chairman of the school board.

Carl

What's that got to do with the trust?

Jim

Well, that's... she'll be a member.

JC

That hasn't got anything to do with you.

Carl

Well, you can have two members of the same family sitting on the board of selectmen.

JC

Yeah.

Jim

Well...

Cara

As long as you don't have a financial benefit coming from it it's not a conflict.

JC

And if you don't want to, I mean, I'll keep doing it. I'm just not a happy camper.

Carl

Would you consider it?

Jim

Sure.

Carole

I think every member of this board should serve one time on that committee. I'm telling you. It's important.

Carl

Well, what's the story then? Jim, do you want to take it?

Jim

If Jim (JC) wants to do it one more year, then I'll relieve him next year.

JC

That's fine.

Carl

Anything else?

Cara

Suncook Valley Regional Town Association. Every once in a while, all the towns go out to bid for health insurance review and we just have to have a few meetings. It's been years since we've done that. But we do have to have a contact, just in case.

Carl

How about that Jim?

Jim

Sure.

Cara

So to go back to the CIP, the planning board will have to do a rep as well, if you just want to remember that. Technically, the planning board is supposed to have a rep to the CDC, too.

JC

That would be nice.

Carole

Didn't they use to?

Carl

A while ago, yeah.

Cara

We don't hear much from the regional planning commission for the transportation advisory, representatives, or the brownfields. But if we do hear from them, it can be taken up then.

Gerard

I've done the transportation thing before, but yeah, right, it just went silent with COVID.

## **2. Consideration of volunteer appointment – BCEP & Welfare Fair Hearing Board**

Carl

Okay. Let's move on. Consideration of volunteer appointment to BCEP voting position.

Cara

Which has already been appointed to Dan Schroth.

Carl

Apparently we appointed Dan some time ago.

Carole

Because Mike wasn't going.

Jim

Yeah.

Carole

We wanted someone there.

JC

But does that, that ended with town meeting.

Cara

No.

JC

No?

Cara

It was to be effective after town meeting.

JC

Ah.

Jim

So we've got our voting members. We get one voting member, him, and this person, the person that we have voted. So we've got our two voting members.

Carl

Well, no.

JC

No.

Carole

No.

JC

Only one of our members votes.

Jim

No, no, no.

Jim

Dan, oh, he votes and then this person (Gerard), two.

JC

And then we have a budget person who doesn't vote.

Jim

Right.

Cara

And we have no one for that because that expired with town meeting.

Carole

We have no alternate.

Cara

That's correct, no alternate. So we need an alternate and a budget.

Carl

I figured Dan would be here. He been here the past two months. Dan told me that he doesn't care whether he says I'll be a voting member or not. He said I don't care, I took it that night because you've got to have somebody. Mike wasn't showing up. But he said if Fred wants to do it, it's fine. He said I can be the budget rep again. Anyway. So, the circumstances surrounding Fred not being appointed last year were...

JC

They never filled out the form.

Carl

Well, right. In my opinion, that's understandable when you've been on a board for a hundred years and you forget to fill out the form before the date of appointment. And in fairness, we also appoint

people after the deadline is supposed to have been in the past. So it's up to you guys. You want to give me one?

Jim

Well, the bottom line I have is that I would never vote for anyone who does so much to undermine this town, this board, the fire department, I would have nothing to do with an individual like that. Because that person, he's one of the reasons that on Saturday, Jim's got to get down there before 2:30. And that's the only day of the week that 90% of our citizens can go to the dump. It's the day they close it early. And he was a very instrumental in that. So I think we've got a voting person. We're in good shape. We've got two.

JC

I thought I heard her rumor that he was going to quit.

Carl

No, I don't know that he was going to quit. He thought that he had only been appointed for the rest of the year. He wasn't aware. Apparently, he was voted for this year too, but he didn't know that when I was talking to him.

Carole

I think we're in a pickle, myself.

Carl

Well, it is kind of embarrassing.

Carole

We don't want both of these people showing up and making a scene over there at the next meeting.

Carl

Unless I can be the fly on the wall.

Jim

Freddie wants to be in charge, obviously, when he writes in here voting member. Sorry, we've already got one.

Carole

And he doesn't want to be an alternate.

Jim

Of course not. Because if he can't have it his way, he don't want to have it anyway. And that's, as I said, that's a sad story. Just remember, 9 to 1 on our budget. Was it 9 to 1 or was it 8 to 1?

Carole

Eight to 1.

Jim

There you go. And we can always count on that. Anybody that undermines what we as a board are trying to do, I don't think we need them. I certainly don't want them in my canoe. Because you might. You might pull out the second...

Carl

All right. What we're going to do is address whether or not to appoint him or not. I'm going to make a motion to appoint Fred to BCEP. If I get a second, we'll vote. If I don't get a second, we'll align our views. So I make a motion to appoint Fred to BCEP.

Carole

I'll second it because I think we have to have the discussion.

Carl

Okay. Further discussion?

JC

I'll discuss that I'm confused. If the office is currently occupied.

Carl

By somebody who didn't know he was the voting office.

JC

Well, it does matter.

Carl

The whole thing is a screwed up mess. It's been like this since last year.

JC

Well, and part of it goes right back to when we thought Fred wasn't interested before because he didn't put in his application. But technically, the position is occupied.

Carl

Technically, we do have something.

JC

But now we're calling a vote to, in effect, oust the occupant and put in somebody new. Well, I think at best that's a two-step process. I mean, first you gotta oust one before you can elect another. We can't elect two. All right. I don't think.

Carl

And I'll rescind the motion. Do I have a second?

Carole

I second, yes.

Carl

Okay, then I make a motion to oust Dan from the position of voting member of the BCEP.

Carl

No second.

Carl

So Dan remains the voting member on BCEP. The action on the motion.

Gerard

Fred put in saying voting member. That's an ultimatum, and I don't sit well on ultimatums. Sorry.

JC

Well, but he's, and I agree with you, Gerard, but he's volunteering, he's being specific about what he's volunteering for.

Carole

You either check A or B, you check voting or non-voting. So we check the voting number.

JC

Well, there isn't a check, either way. He wrote it in to be clear which of the positions he wanted.

Carl

I don't see a problem with that.

JC

I don't see a problem with that.

Carole

He said no, he won't serve as an alternate. He checked no. And he checked yes. For are you willing to serve on a subcommittee, he said yes.

JC

Right.

Carole

So in other words, he doesn't want the alternate position.

JC

Right. Correct.

Carole

You said he didn't check anything.

JC

Well, I meant up here there's no check to say the rep is a voting member or not.

Carole

Oh, I see. He wrote, I see what you're saying. But did you notice he also checked the welfare fair hearing board?

JC

Yes, I was going to ask about that.

Carole

So maybe if we put him there instead of on BCEP.

Cara

We only have one person on the Welfare board.

Carole

Yeah. Why couldn't we put him there then and that way he's getting that position and then we'll keep Dan where he is.

Carl

Is that a motion?

Carole

Yes.

JC

Well, can I still discuss?

Carole

Well, if there's a second you can.

Carl

Oh, you mean on the prior motion?

JC

Yeah.

Carole

I thought we withdrew it.

JC

I'm not sure, or at least to my knowledge, and I'm asking for edification here, is our incumbent willing to serve?



Carole

You mean Dan?

JC

Dan. We don't, he's not here, and I would have thought he'd have been here too, and we could have asked him, but we haven't asked him straight up. Given this confusion, are you willing to serve?

Carole

Do we have to decide this tonight? Yes?

Carl

The point is that we've got to appoint somebody before the 1st of April.

Cara

Was there an actual second to Carole's motion for the welfare fair hearing board?

Carole

I don't think so. I think it fell between the cracks. Not yet.

JC

Yeah, we may get to that. But do we have a vacancy?

Carole

We do.

Cara

We only have one member. Bonnie could use a few more.

Carl

He doesn't have a cell phone, does he?

Cara

No. Well, if he does, I don't know.

Carl

Let's put off further discussion on this appointment until the end of, until after the hearing and when we get to the end of the action items. And then we can kick it around some more. In the meantime, maybe we can find out if Dan's willing to serve another year or whether he does not want to.

### **3. Consideration of request from Rotary for 2024 Rally – vendor license waiver & use of Chestnut Street lot**

Carl

Consideration of request from Rotary, the 2024 rally vendor license waiver and use of the Chestnut Street lot.

Carole

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

Further discussion? That Chestnut Street lot is one we're going to have to take up here pretty soon and figure out what we're going to do about it, because it's half-paved over. But for the Rotary for

a vendor license waiver and for use of the Chestnut Street lot for parking for the Balloon Rally, say aye. Aye. Opposed? None. That's approved.

#### **4. Consideration of acceptance of remainder funds from SV Regional Development Corporation**

Carl

Consideration and acceptance of remainder funds from the SV regional development corporation.

Carole

So moved.

Gerard

Carl

For \$222.41 from the SVRDC. All those in favor of accepting math checks, say aye. Aye. Aye. Passed. And where is that deposited, in the general fund?

Cara

Right now it will be, but I was going to ask if you all would like a next year warrant article for town meeting 25 to go back into the fund that came out of, the property acquisition and redevelopment expendable trust, as that's where it originally came from.

JC

Yeah.

Carole

Yeah, why not?

Cara

Okay.

Carole

We got our other amount back from the sale of the property, right?

Cara

Yes, minus a very small portion of the closing cost of it.

#### **5. State Form MS 232 – Report of Appropriations Actually Voted**

Carl

State form MS232 report of appropriations actually voted. So this is for signature on the document that has all of the appropriations voted?

Cara

Yes, this reflects what was voted.

Carl

All those in favor of approving the State Farm MS232 say aye. Aye. Opposed? None. Motion passes 5-0.

JC

Did we have a motion?

Carole

No, we didn't have a motion.

Carl

How about one?

Carole

So moved.

Jim

Second.

Carl

All in favor, say aye. Aye. So moved.

*\* The public hearing was held in between these two agenda items.*

## **6. 2024 non-union employee wage adjustments**

Carl

2024 non-union employee wage adjustments.

Cara

So this would be for the custodian for now police and town hall. For the animal control portion of Anne Taylor, so she has the same wage. But public works employees and also the elected stipend people like the treasurers, supervisors, anything that was in the proposed budget that is non union. And the only one I can think of that didn't have that would be Erica, but she didn't put in for that.

Carole

Right.

Jim

She usually puts her raise in on the warrant.

Carole

Yes

Cara

Well, that's what she did last time.

Carole

Yes.

Carl

So is there anything that we need to do with wage adjustments that we've already approved.

Cara

I just wanted to make sure because we're in a default budget. So that begs the question of, you know, the default budget.

Jim

And to that end, I contacted the Department of Labor. And in fact, I was lucky. I got the same guy that when they left the union. And I told him, I said, if you recall, you reminded us that, and I know you hate the term, but he said, did you give them a Me Too? And I said, yes. I said, whatever the AFT folks got as close as we could, they got the same. He said, that's good because if we do not do that, then that's an unfair labor practice because of past practices. You know, you remember that very well. They gave us a knuckle sandwich.

Carole

I don't think anybody on this board has an intention of doing that. I think they, the public works people should be getting a raises because I think they should be first on the list, because we owe it to them.

Carl

Well, we've said what we're going to do. We need to do it.

Carole

We need to follow through.

Carl

Okay

Jim

So moved.

JC

Second

Carl

All right. All those in favor of continuing with the 2024 non union employee wage adjustments, say aye. Aye. Opposed, none. Motion passes 5-0.

Cara

So there is a technical question, though, as far as retro pay goes. So with Teamsters, it went back to January 1st. But with AFT, it started as the pay period after town meeting. That's just how it was bargained.

Jim

Mm hm. Yep.

Cara

So we've got public works, which the scale was adapted off of Teamsters, similar, but both unions had similar percentages.

Jim

Right

Cara

So what are we going to do retro pay-wise for public works, what methodology?

Carole

What did we do last time?

Cara

I'd have to go back four years and look.

Carl

Well shouldn't we use the method the same way as the union that they had previously belonged to?

Jim

That is a very good straight line that the Department of Labor can say, hey, you guys are doing the right thing.

JC

Good

Carole

Yeah.

Cara

Ok. So, uh, to March 17th.

Jim

Perfect.

Supt Noel Gourley

So when they ask me, are we going to be back to Jan 1st?

Cara

March 17th.

Jim

March 17th.

Cara

Because that's the first pay period starting Sunday after town meeting.

Carl

Jim

Which is the union that was representing them.

Noel

Yep. Thank you.

Carl

Before I go over the rest of the action items are there any other items you need taken care of Noel?

Noel

I wanted to go over projects this year.

Carl

All right.

Noel

I can wait.

Carole

These other items we can do with one motion.

Jim

Just cleaning it up.

Agenda items 7 through 12 for the trust fund transfers were considered with one voted motion.

**7. Funds transfer – to Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable trust - \$500**

**8. Funds transfer – to Cemetery Maintenance Expendable trust - \$10,000**

**9. Funds transfer – to Property Acquisition & Redevelopment Exp. trust - \$25,000**

**10. Funds transfer – from Public Works Light Equipment Capital Reserve Fund - \$40,000**

**11. Funds transfer – from PD Drug Awareness Expendable trust voted close out - \$10.63**

**12. Funds transfer – from JC Library Expendable trust voted close out - \$0.05**

Carole

Okay, so I just want to move items 7 to 12 in the request for transfer funds for various trusts.

Jim

Second.

Carl

All those in favor of granting the request for funds transfer say aye. Aye. Opposed, none. 7 through 12 approved.

Cara

And there are three different transfer forms for those. I'll send two this way. Thank you.

JC

We haven't even begun to discuss the overall budget ramifications of going back to the default budget. Are we piecemealing this?

Carl

Noel is going to have some information for us tonight.

JC

Well, I guess what I'm asking, are we making a decision based on that, or are we just taking information?

Carl

Uh, what kind of decision? The decision's been made for us.

Jim

We better come up with something.

JC

But we have to decide how to implement that decision.

Carl

Right, but we don't have to project that tonight.

JC

Right, well, that's what I'm asking. We're suddenly saying, well, this is all on the highway department, or? We got lots of ways to figure out how to get to the default budget.

Jim

Chief Collins had already spent a lot of time prior to his emergency, and he's worked out some pretty good numbers. And I know that the fire department is doing the same. But you're right, we don't need to have a rush to judgment and we need to have a good...

Carl

No, we've got to continue on as long as the money holds out with the non-controllable expenses and as the controllable expenses come up, we've got to figure out whether or not we can deal with them in any way, shape, form, or manner. But...

Cara

I have a document for that, for when it's time to discuss it.

Carl

Alright, Noel. Let's hear your plan.

Supt Noel

Okay, well I can start with projects, I guess, to get out of the way. I do have some things on my bucket that I was going to talk about. I'll just tell you what my thought was. So the projects, originally I was going to do Will Smith, Karacull, and stuff like that. I'm taking Will Smith out of my project list because it's just shy of 100 grand to do that project and it's coming out of pavement and recon. I think that that can wait. I mean, if it floods, it floods. But I wanted to keep Karacull in because that project has to be done if we can ever in the future pave it. The drainage has to be done. And I got a really good number from Hall to do that. And we supply the pipe of our paving

and recon, which come out to about, I think it was 38,000. That includes the pipe we supply, and they do it for 31. And that'll get the big pipes that are all rotted, the little pipes in that neighborhood done, so that we could move forward and pavement in the next year or two or whatever. That has to be done prior. So that was the first project I'd like to see done. The sidewalks, we got a really good number. The voting showed that they really wanted it done. So I was asking around 175, but they gave me a really good price. Merrill did for 155,600. That includes all of Elm and Depot around, all the curb, everything was fixed. We supplied some flagging as needed to keep that price down. I agreed to that because, you know, especially when you're down towards the end of the fee vote. So I felt that was a very good price. And that money we have, even with the budget I have, a hundred of it, we have 75 out of that line item, 25 out of what they voted, which was high. And then we had some other encumbered money, so I think we only have to use about 30 out of the paving and recon. In the end, it leaves about \$130,000 left in paving and recon that we can use for places that, like you said, we can't have control over. And it's only that \$130,000 plus for that. I don't know if it's all you guys can agree with that part of it. The easy thing to do for paving, I got last year's prices from Continental to hold in it, which that's all grant money, so it has to be that. I want to try to get Swett and Shackford, which we didn't do last year because we got flooded. So that money is there, it's grant money, so we can still move forward on that. And that's pretty much it for this year. Cara kind of laid it out, I don't know if you guys have it, but that's where I'm at with projects this year, for paving, sidewalks, and just get some drainage done.

Carl

So you're looking at being able to take how many dollars out of what your proposed budget was?

Noel

Remaining, my numbers from the lines was about 145,000. And that's more than just taking out a hundred of it was from Will Smith. But that was decreasing uniforms. I've already decreased how many uniforms we have. I got rid of the rug. We won't do any safety training this year.

Jim

What's that cost?

Noel

That's only \$340.

Jim

I think we don't want to do that.

JC

That's wrong. That sends the wrong message.

Noel

Well, that's what I thought. I'm trying to find items.

Jim

No, no, I know. See, the one thing we can't do with all of this is we can't jeopardize the safety of our people. If we're gonna cut money, we can't do that.

Carole

For \$340, that's a small one.

Noel

I was just going through it.

Noel

So, 133,600 is left over from paving if we don't do the drainage on Will Smith. That was what that, 100,000 of that, and 33 of it was like, you always want to have some safety. Crack sealing, a lot of these are, is because I'm taking one day out of all my outside services, and they add it up to like 15 grand. So if I do three days of crack sealing instead of four, that saves us, I have about 2,800 left over. Outside services, which is sweeping and doing one less day, that saves us about 1,280. We'll do the immediate downtown.

Carole

Can we go back to the crack sealing?

Noel

Yep.

Carole

So you will not do one road?

Noel

Oh, so the parking lot.

Carole

Oh, the parking lot.

Noel

I'm not going to stripe or do Town Hall parking lot this year. I had put money in to do it, that's where I took it from, so we won't be doing the parking lot, unfortunately.

Carl

Because, you know, good as it sounds, 145 town wide, we still gotta come up with 600. So there may be another big expenditure that we're not gonna be able to do.

Noel

Right, like, for care of trees do one day instead of three. That leaves like seven grand left in the air. Storm drains do one day, that leaves another 1,200. So all these outside services we usually do two days of because, honestly, it's cutting services. It's doing, yes, we'll do the emergency stuff, because I was already running on a minimum budget, like minimum. And then all of a sudden you're like, well you gotta do less than minimum. So that's what I'm trying to do, is less than minimum. These are where I just, I came up with about 145 out of my budget.

Carl

Which we appreciate.

Carole

That's great.

Carl

Well, we may get to a point where the money's used up, and what's left has already obligated, and we got no choice with it, I guess we hang a sign on the door that says gone fishing.

Noel

A lot of this stuff happens early spring. Sweeping, catch basins, crack sealing is later in the year. Line striping, I took out downtown because it's holding up pretty good, but we still got to do the outside. I can break even on that if I don't do downtown stuff. And I still do all our yellow. And that's safety, I can't cut out, but I can break even. I won't go over if I don't do the hand stuff this



year, because a lot of it fell out. Those are things like that. So I guess my thing is I need to know if we're gonna cut it out completely, because those are all spring items.

Carl

Well, I mean, that's kind of what we gotta do, is address these things as we need to, and these spring items, we need to figure out.

Cara

So I've gone through the entire budget, and with what Noel has worked out with his reduced plan, and we would be able to have him go forward with what he said, and the overall general fund budget would still be, have a wiggle room of \$74,000. So we are all set. Keeping in mind the \$600,000, more than half of that was wastewater and it was a grant offset. Take it right out. The rest, so it really looked bigger than what it was. But because we have to appropriate on a gross basis, we can't put in the warrant article, hey, it's really not that bad.

Carl

Which of course, made it so we probably would have got voted down.

Carole

We should have been better to get that out there.

Carl

But, but you...

Carole

I should have done a better job doing that.

Carl

You did fine. What are you going to do? You got 400 people come through the door and only 100 of them listen.

Carole

And they might not even, yeah, they might not even, they might not even get to the...

JC

And 300 of them you didn't recognize, so it never comes to anything else.

Jim

And the 18 who took ballot voted on everything except the budget. You can't make that step up.

Carole

But anyway, let's move on.

Noel

So I guess my thing is, if you guys are good with the project part of it, I can reach out to those people over the next two weeks or so, where we have, I'm not, I'm obviously leaving a pretty good chunk on the table. These are all great prices. I, you know, I've got to afford on some things.

Carole

He's saved \$145,000, so I think he's done his thing. That's my opinion. We're going to be looking at the other budgets also.

JC

We've got to look at the other ones.

Carl

And Noel has done a great job, but in the other budget's defense they don't have the huge expenditures for single items like Noel does.

Carole

Right.

Noel

And I'll keep the outside services down. We'll just do the exact stuff we have to get done. Not that the other stuff doesn't need all these to be done, but you're on default budget. You've got to cut and do something different. I can't predict tomorrow that I'm not going to lose a rear end or a truck. But don't you ever put these things that happen, and it's like I can't cut it out of the vehicle expenses. Like \$1,200 today day for a rear hub, and that's horrendous.

Carole

We don't expect you to, but I think you've done a great job in looking at that with Cara. I think that's a great, if we can, like I say with one department, if we can do that, I think it's wonderful. And I'm thrilled with this paving thing, if we can carry through with this.

Noel

Yeah, yeah, I really think that's the deal.

Carole

These two sidewalks have just been, it's been my baby for the, if we could get that done, I think people in town would be very pleased with having those sidewalks fixed, because they are one mess.

Noel

And the curb crew gave us a good price, and Terry's been really good to work with. I was around 170 and he came at 155. So I was thrilled when I saw that number because with the fall, I added an extra 10, which I didn't get much, but we still had, we've been really good with the money as far as rolling it over, so it's a good price. The asphalt they're holding, even though we didn't use them last year.

Jim

What is it?

Noel

It's 115. I didn't think I'd live long enough to see that. It went from 70 for years, to 80, to 90, to 100, 115. And you know, once you get paying those prices, how does it go back?

Carl

It doesn't go back.

Jim

That car has no reverse.

Noel

So, yeah, this is, you know, it's not as, you know, and then the pipe prices are good. We get, I buy the pipe, and we hire a contractor that we trust. He's been doing all our drainage. He's been giving us, you know, bigger stuff, and he's been giving us great prices. I think we should go with that and just get something done. We'll try again next year to try to get some issues done. But I just think this is the year to not do it, unfortunately. I really want to, but you've got to take something out of it. That's the big one.

Carl

Well, and ultimately, residents will have to accept the fact that the budget got voted down, and

you get just, you either pay for everything with more money, and if you don't get the more money, you don't get everything.

Noel

So the other thing was, I can switch back to mag liquid, they just, and it'll save us five cents cheaper than last year. So I'll break even on that, where before I was gonna go over, so it was good to see that they brought a liquid magnetic bag. We'll just do less tree cutting this year. Things like that. We'll try to keep limbing, you know, do the emergency stuff. That's how I came up with those numbers.

Carl

So, we appreciate it Noel.

Noel

So I'll reach out to those contractors if you guys are good. And start tomorrow with some of them. Thank you.

Carl

Keep plunging ahead. Best we can. Thank you.

#### **ADDED ITEM – Sewer User Fee Warrant 2024 Quarter 1**

Carl

Sewer user warrant 2024 Quarter 1. Anybody want to pay the sewer?

Carole

So moved

JC

Second

Carl

All those in favor of approving the sewer user warrant, say aye. Aye. All those not. None. Motion passes. 5-0.

#### **ADDED ITEM – Release of lien 96 Fairview Drive**

Carl

Okay, release of lien, 96 Fairview. We've got our money. Release of our lien needs to be signed. Everybody's happy with the wording it can be signed.

Jim

So moved.

Gerard

Second

JC

We do have the money?

Cara

Yep

Carl

Motion has been made and seconded to approve the release of lien for 96 Fairview. All those in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed none. The motion passes 5-0.

#### **ADDED ITEM – Application for property tax credit, Veterans Tax Credit, map U3, lot 24**

Carl

Application for property tax credit, Veterans Tax Credit, map U3, lot 24, recommended.

Carole

So moved

Gerard  
Second

JC  
Did we skip one?  
Carole  
Yeah.  
Carl

Map and lot looks familiar. So move on this one. All those in favor of approving the veterans tax credit for a map U3 Lot 24, say aye. Aye. Opposed none, motion passes 5-0.

**ADDED ITEM – Application for property tax solar energy exemption, map R31 lot 11**

Carl  
Application for property tax exemption, solar energy exemption, and that R31, lot 11, recommended.  
Carole  
So moved.  
Gerard  
Second.  
Carl  
Motion has made and seconded to approve the solar energy exemption for R31, lot 11. All those in favor, say aye. Aye. Aye. One abstention. Motion passes 4-0-1. Carl abstained.

**ADDED ITEM – Application for property tax elderly exemption, map U3 lot 24**

Carl  
Let's see, one application for property tax exemption, elderly exemption, that would be map U3 lot 24, and denial recommended. Can you expand on that?  
Cara  
Their income exceeded the town's limits, so they didn't qualify.  
Carole  
So this one has to be denied. That's because they don't qualify.  
Carole  
So moved as denied.  
JC  
Second  
Carl  
All those in favor of denying the property tax exemption for U3, lot 24, say aye. Aye. Opposed none. Denied.

**ADDED ITEM – Quote for Town Hall gutter system**

Carl  
Okay. Okay, so in an effort to get a start on correcting the water drain issues on the front of this building, Rob was good enough to fly the helicopter over the building and take a bunch of pictures and identified that the fact that what I thought was a culvert up there isn't a culvert at all. No, a gutter. So, clearly we got nothing up there and the water just dumps on us.  
Jim  
Niagara Falls.

Carl

Right by the door and down into the cellar. So, obviously the first thing we gotta do is get a rain gutter up there and get the water going.

Carole

Do we have any money left in our building expendable trust?

Cara

We haven't had to utilize that in several years because we only take money out of the expendable trust if the bottom line of the overall budget would be in jeopardy of going negative. So in previous years when we've done these other projects, it's just been absorbed. So we would have this 3,300.

Carole

Let's do it.

Cara

And Scott did ask another local company to see if they would give a bid, and they didn't. But he understands the optics of it.

Carole

And it sounds like he's going to do it right off.

Cara

Yes.

Carole

So I move we adopt this proposal of \$3,370.

Jim

Second. \$3,700, right?

Carole

\$3,370.

Carl

Motion made and seconded to put a rain gutter on the town hall as per the specs from Scott LaCroix LLC. Project cost \$3,370. All those in favor say aye. Aye. Passed.

Carole

Do you think we can include in the motion where the money's coming from, just in case if people are reading the minutes and they're saying, wait a minute, where did they get this 3,000 when we just took all of this money away from them? So I think that would be helpful.

Carl

So the \$3,370 will be coming from the building maintenance expendable trust. Not from the operating budget.

#### **INFORMATION ITEM – JC Library thank you letter**

Carl

We have a thank you letter from the library.

Carole

This looks beautiful. What a nice job.

Carl

Did you see it? Yeah.

JC

It's great until the next flood.

Jim

They haven't had any water in there.

Carole

Yeah. Good job. They can use it again and they're happy as can be.

Carl

Like clams. Aren't we all.

## **Resumed action item #2 Consideration of volunteer appointment – BCEP & Welfare Fair Hearing Board**

Carl

While we're still on action items, we better take up Fred.

Carl

Let me call, try and reach Dan once more and see if he's...

Jim

Why were you calling Dan if he doesn't have a phone?

Carole

Well, it's a landline. You always have to leave a message. And then they call you back.

Carl

Hi, this is Carl Anderson trying to reach Dan. We've got a selectmen's meeting going on. We miss his smiling face. We'd like to hear from him.

Jim

Sooner rather than later.

Carl

Hopefully before the meeting continues, we have a question for him. Thank you.

Carl

All right, we'll hold on for action items.

Jim

Why don't we take the original idea and vote on half of this thing, put him on the welfare.

Carole

Well, we've got to see where Dan is first, right?

Jim

No, we can do it one at a time. We can come back and do the other one.

Carl

As far as the other..

Cara

The welfare fair hearing board

Carl

Right.

Carole

I think we should put him there anyway.

Jim

Yep.

Carl

Well, I got scolded for jumping around. Somebody make a motion.

Carole

So moved to put him on the welfare fair hearing advisory board.

Gerard

Second

Carl

All right, motion's made and seconded to appoint Fred Hast to the welfare fair hearing board. All those in favor, say aye. Aye. Opposed?

Jim

Me.

Carl

4-1. Motion passes 4-1.

## 2024 (DEFAULT) BUDGET DISCUSSION

JC

We need to consider the budget committee's viability as a whole.

Cara

Yeah, we do.

Carole

Yeah, I think we don't need one.

JC

Right.

Jim

And I don't think you're going to back Larry into the corner again, are you?

Carole

No, Larry's not going to again.

JC

I'm getting constituent calls asking why do we have this?

Carole

I think with senate bill 2, it's not necessary. I really don't think it is.

Carl

We will have to go to town meeting.

Cara

Yeah, whether we go to advisory or reduce the numbers, one or the other. Either way, it's a town meeting.

Carl

Or just end it. You don't even have to have one.

JC

Right.

Carl

Why do it half way, if you're going to cut the snake off at the head, just do it.

Jim

Well you figure we and the department head spend four months hammering, and they, more than that, hammering out a budget that we put through the car wash backward and forward. And the budget committee at one point I believe was because there was a concern of trust from the people and the board. And they said the budget committee will make it, will hold their feet to the fire.

Carole

Well they've never had votes like they have in the last few years either to 10-0, 9-0. Budget committee and selectmen and school board.

Jim

Right.

Carole

So, I mean I think that says a lot.

Carl

Well, let's do this right now.

Carl

Cara has gone to the trouble of doing the budget recap.

Cara

So the legal size paper, it starts. So I took the budget workbook, and I added some columns in it so I didn't have to recreate the wheel. If you look under, there's a section that's under, it says 2024, it's titled DEF plus voted operating budget, that's our actual budget that we're working with. That's the default budget plus the voted articles that will be incorporated for this year's budget and for the operating budget going forward. That being the union warrant articles that are allowed to then

be part of next year's default. So that column is what we have to work with. The column next to that, to the right, is the anticipated to be spent. So I went through, talked to Noel, talked to Pete, Erica. I haven't had a chance to talk with Chief in depth about it, but I did go through all of the budget lines and it's a starting point for, I guess, kind of the most conservative approach to what I think will be spent. So the column to the right of that, the over under, is where we have deficiencies or where there's room for absorption. And I can show any of the actual individual budgets as to where the negatives and positives come from, but I thought you might want to just start line by line looking at where all the departments shake out. And if you would want to highlight some of them, I can kind of tell you why some are more over or under than others.

Carl

Legal expenses are projected to be \$5,000 over?

Cara

That is because we had to increase the legal budget because of that, this is the year we're hoping to settle out that public service case, and we have an extra \$10,000 addition for the utility appraiser, we encumbered five and we added five to the budget. So that 5,000 is really for the utility appraiser for that appeal. As it was last year, we were underspent on legal.

Carole

And how about the fire department?

Cara

Fire department

Carole

\$16,000 over

Cara

That is mostly because of mutual aid. And then you do have other costs for software and electronic communications and other some costs that are just insurance that couldn't go in the default budget.

Carl

\$70,000 on highways and streets is considerably under what Noel is talking about. Is there something we're missing or I'm missing?

Cara

Yeah, so... He's taking it from a line from paving and reconstruction instead of the highway block grant. And the highway block grant is something that we've encumbered from year to year if there's something that needs to be spent. And there's also some deferred revenue that didn't factor into this.

Cara

But even with the 70, that 70 reflects some of what he was talking about. There are other lines in his department that he was talking about one specific line, not the bottom line of his department. Because he still had diesel fuel, which will most likely go significantly over this year. About \$8,000 worth of raises, never mind almost \$6,000 worth of his raise. So there were things that we did have to make up for within his own budget. Even though his budget will be the significant one that's tiding over Town Clerk, Police, and Fire.

Jim

Now all of our personal service contracts, we had three last year, Scott, Peter, and Noel, those are in?

Cara

Okay, so Scott was in, because it was in last year's budget. He was all set. But Fire Chief and Superintendent, so Pete and Noel, their budget increase is not in the default budget. So we have to make up for that.



Jim

Right, but we need to honor the contract.

Cara

We have been, yeah. Their raises went into effect. And there is no, we just have to make up for it until we can get it approved.

Jim

Right. Because we, the board, do not need voter authorization for those, that's our purpose.

Cara

Yeah, you just have to find it somewhere.

Jim

Just have to find it.

Cara

Similar with the library. So I have to touch base with Melissa, because the library is due to go over pretty significantly. But again it's such a small department and they needed to give hefty wage adjustments.

Carole

Right, they gave the 18%.

Cara

That one should look better, Melissa is just so resourceful, the library I think it'll go in a more positive direction than that. I was just trying to be as conservative as possible so you could give Noel an answer for his starting projects.

Carl

Well, it looks like you're all pretty thoroughly.

Cara

So I still have to go line by line with the chief when he returns. And then, Melissa. Other than that, budget doesn't have a lot of fluff to begin with. We just have a handful of projects.

Jim

Squeeze the Adam's apple out of that thing a long time ago, I'm telling you. No pun intended.

Cara

Had we not had four elections this year, the town clerk budget would be spot on.

Carole

I wonder about welfare. I'm always looking at that.

Carole

Can we do something with that? A few thousand?

JC

Yeah, let's squeeze it out.

Carole

I think we could take a little bit more of that.

Cara

We certainly could. I was trying to be, again, conservative with, ok, we get a few cases that are going to, but as you've seen in the past, Bonnie doesn't usually spend all of the budget. So you have \$25,000 that was appropriated for assistance, last year we spent \$12,000 and \$5,000 the year before that was spent.

Carl

That's good.

JC

That's better than when we started.

Cara

So realistically, I think you could... it'll be at least \$10,000 that would be left over. But again, I was trying to be as conservative as possible.

Carole

Right. But I think everybody should take part in this.

Jim

Feel the pinch.

Carole

I think we should do a little bit for everybody, and I think we could easily take 5,000 out of there.

Cara

Okay.

Carole

That's only my opinion. I'm only one person here, but...

Carole

But it's made a big difference because some people are on disability.

JC

Right.

Carole

They're getting social security disability. They're not on welfare anymore.

Cara

But there have been several programs over the past few years with COVID that have now dried up. So that might change. And again, you can always get that one case that will blow this entire budget out. So yeah, sure, we can take 5,000, but if there is an application that warrants it.

Cara

And I certainly can print out all the rest of the department budgets too. I just didn't know if you really wanted to see them.

Carole

I mean, we're going to talk about it another night, right? So I think that's down the road, but I think we've done a lot for tonight. But that probably would be useful to all of us. Thank you.

## **COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Carl

You didn't get anything, Carole?

Carole

No.

Gerard

I have a BCEP meeting. And they do have a job description. I haven't got it. I couldn't print it out. I'm going to have to give me a copy of it to make sure we have it, what they're trying to look for, for an administrator. But like I said before, the way they've got that thing written up, it's not an administrator, it's an account manager. It's a form, it can call it an administrator, but it's really, he can't, he or she can't make decisions without the committee's know-how. And that's, he or she has to explain why they spent the money. They do have a capital improvements plan, they haven't had one, but they do have one now. And they have projects set up each year.

Carl

Nothing real critical on the planning board right now. Nothing we really need to beat up tonight. Anything from the CDC?

JC

Nothing tonight. I should have a meeting tomorrow afternoon, but things have been pretty quiet. I think I really do think we need some work on that committee. Me, Fred, and Louie are just.

Carole

You don't have the lady now? Is she gone?

JC

Well, no, she's not. And she's very creative and stuff, but she's only interested in the community power question.

Carl

Well, who's gonna reach, who do you propose reach out to the chamber?

Jim

Well, Louie's a member of the chamber. And I think he's the first one to.

Carole

But how about, I mean, there's got to be some businesses in town that belong to the chamber. I mean I don't know who belongs to the chamber.

JC

I'm thinking that what I've got running around in my head is maybe Louie and I need to go together to a chamber meeting and make a pitch for some volunteers.

Carl

How well attended is the Chamber of Commerce?

Carl

I don't even know when they meet.

Carole

Is it once a month or I don't know.

JC

Not what they once were, I'm sure. Because we just don't have the... And the businesses we have aren't of that scale.

Jim

Restaurants and pizza joints.

Cara

Is Fred Ender going to redo his appointment? Because he's up this year.

JC

I will certainly ask him. I didn't know he was up.

Cara

Yeah, his term expires this year, and then in addition to that, you still have three other agencies. Because you have Bill Miskoe as well.

JC

Oh, that's right, we did. But again, the interest there is the power question, primarily, and he's the engineering kind of guy, and it's all about the community power.

Cara

And solar too.

JC

And solar, yeah, we could pique his interest again.

Carole

Have we heard anything else on the Citizen of the Year plaques? It's been a month.

Cara

I was assured that it would be taken care of.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **1. Wastewater Treatment Facility reports**

Carl

Treatment facility reports. What is the facility treatment plant doing?

Cara

Right. Let's see. What's going on with that? Um, there's another issue at Barnstead Road pump station. First there was a gate valve issue, then it was a lift valve, or the other way around. And the

compressors had another issue, they were just working on getting them fixed. And then the engineers are trying to figure out what sort of compound we can use to continue to mitigate the phosphorus, because the most recent one is now causing other issues with the sludge, trying to keep in compliance within the permit parameters.

Carl

It's pretty much like a disease being treated. You treat the disease, but then it causes something else, and you're in just as deep as you were before.

Cara

And the four different lagoons are just one big organic cesspool.

## **2. Notification of donation to Police Department (needs future public hearing)**

Carl

Notification of donation to the police department means a future public hearing. That was the Underground Railroad?

Cara

So that's the agency that has donated a Datapilot and it's just over \$5,000, so that's why we have to have a public hearing. And this is a device that you dump cell phone information onto.

Sergeant Rego

So essentially, yeah, every, almost every crime that we deal with nowadays has some kind of, like, electronic component to it. Right now we have to outsource the data dump and we have to send to a lab down in Manchester or Alton or Hillsborough. And that means somebody's gotta run it out there and bring it back when it's all done. This gives us the ability to just do those downloads ourself. And so it's a real cheap way to get a sort of similar result to what we're having to outsource right now. Operation Underground Railroad is a human trafficking organization. And they, because we're an ICAC affiliate, working on internet crimes against children (ICAC) cases, so because we're an affiliate with that, they basically bought this device for us and donated it to us to help work on those cases.

Carl

And what you're saying it gives us now a limited ability to do what you were outsourcing before.

Sergeant Rego

Correct.

Carl

Without making a career out of it.

Sergeant Rego

Yeah, too into it. So basically there's a couple different kinds of software that will examine electronics. So you get a thing called Great Heat, you have a company called Celebrate, and then you have this device, which is called the Data Pilot. And the Data Pilot, it was called Mobile Triage. So this town in particular has a large amount, for whatever reason, of child pornography cases. And so, yeah, so what that gives us the ability to do is instead of seizing, say, when we go to these houses, these people generally have a lot of computers. So the last one we did had 15 computers and like 10 cell phones that we had to seize. So this device will, right now we have to call Concord PD, and Concord PD has to send detectives out with their own computer equipment to basically analyze these computers before we seize them to determine if there's any, it's called CSAM, child sexual abuse material on them. And what this device will do is it'll basically eliminate Concord having to come out here and we can plug in and scan these devices briefly and say, hey, there's CSAM on here, or there's no CSAM on this device, we don't need to seize this device, or we do need to seize this one for further examination. Kind of cuts down on what we're doing, what everybody else is doing, because all those devices that we seized now have to go to the Homeland Security lab down in Manchester.

Carl

So it expedites your job?

Sergeant Rego

It makes everybody's life a lot easier, yeah.

Carole

Sounds like a great idea.

JC

So, wait a minute.

Sergeant Rego

Sorry, sorry.

JC

This requires a public hearing. And do you have this already?

Sergeant Rego

We will shortly. We don't have it yet.

JC

Well, OK. Because you should not have it before we've had the public hearing.

Sergeant Rego

We've got to wait for it. Right.

JC

Well, we're not paying for it, it's a gift, but we shouldn't take that money until the voters tell us we can take that money.

Carole

And is this something that's gonna have to continue every year, like \$5,000 every year?

Sergeant Rego

No, so there is a subscription fee with it of about \$1,000 a year, but that's for software upgrades, so as phones, computers get newer, they need upgrades.

JC

So \$1,000 a year you'll be putting into the police budget. Yes. That's another issue. Yeah, we just need to know those things.

Cara

A hearing will be scheduled for the next meeting.

#### **Added information item – Felix Island flag**

JC

Well, it's small and it's not even really information, but I was approached a couple days ago wanting to know what we were doing about the flagpole that had been damaged in a storm that's on an island in the Suncook River. My response was that's not the town. Well, then I was given this litany of these concerned citizens who erected this flagpole who all happened to be dead. So therefore the town should be fixing that flagpole. Well I went and looked but the flagpole isn't even there. I'm not sure if it's at the bottom of the mill pond.

Carole

I think Pete's going to have a solution over there.

Chief Pszonowsky

We went out there because it snapped, and we took the flag off. AJ is going to fix that. AJ O'Hara is going to take care of that.

Jim

He'll be able to admire it from his porch.

Chief Pszonowsky

He came right over when we were taking care of the flag. Because I took tons of calls to go save the flag.

Jim

It was headed out to sea.

Carl

That's how observant I am.

Carl

I never even saw it.

Chief Pszonowsky

Well, yeah, first the flag went, but then the pole. The pole was broken. The flag was almost hitting the water. But it was several days without the flag on it. It's still there.

JC

So I'm just bringing it up because I said I would, but I don't think it's the town's responsibility and it sounds like it's being taken care of, so we're all set.

Carl

We've got a concerned citizen taking care of it. We're all set.

Deputy Chief Freese

So the active members of Rotary that put that out there, it was for Felix Jenisch, who was one of our citizens and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

JC

Was he buried out there?

Jim

He was not.

Deputy Chief Freese

But these Rotarians claimed it as Felix Island and placed a flag on it.

Carl

So it does have a name.

Carole

That's a great history.

Carl

So, maybe you could be good enough to take some pictures when you're re-erecting the flagpole and the flag or get AJ to take some pictures.

Chief Pszonowsky

Yes, I will do that.

JC

Maybe the historical society could put on their billboard out there, joining in the retaking of Felix Island.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Perambulation of town lines (8/14/2018)**

### **2. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)**

JC

Can we check off the health ordinance?

Jim

We will have to hash it out the next meeting.

Cara

Or whenever. This ordinance adoption is not a time frame one. It's not one of the ones where you have to have a hearing then wait.

Carole

But Pete wants to be able to get going on this.

Jim

So moved.

JC

Second.

Carl

There's a motion and a second to approve the new health ordinance. All those in favor, say aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed, none. Motion passes 5-0. There you go, Pete, heavy artillery now.

### **3. Surveying of town owned property (4/27/2021)**

JC

Did we finish the survey?

Cara

I don't think so. No, because we don't have a recorded plan.

Carl

We need to have that so we can go ahead and start enforcing on the people that paved and are encroaching on our property. I will call Hank and I haven't had the pleasure of chatting with him for a couple of months so, I'll put a bee in his bonnet and see if we can come up with a plan for Chestnut Street.

### **4. Review of solar project proposal – CDC project (6/14/2022)**

### **5. Consideration of renaming of roads with separate, unpassable sections (5/23/2023)**

### **6. Discussion on Traffic Control Ordinance (6/27/2023)**

### **7. Review of the Street Numbering System Ordinance (8/8/2023)**

### **8. Review of the Pittsfield NH Nonstandard addressing report (8/8/2023)**

### **9. Town Clock winder (2/13/2024)**

Jim

I received a phone call this evening from our new moderator. And he said, Jim, please remind everybody that I'm interested in being the clock winder. And we've got a number of folks here, and I'm just spit balling here. And I'm thinking, you know, I don't want to speak for him, but maybe if you asked him, because you've got, looks like you've got six people here who are interested if he could kind of be the head coordinator.

JC

We should have at least one alternate.

Carole

Well, I think you should put them all on the list.

Cara

So how would you want to kind of organize this? Like get the names and contact information and then give it to Jack and then they can kind of set it up? Some people reached out by email, some people just told me in person. And I did give Chris an update to let him know that you were working on this, and it didn't just fall by the wayside. He was hoping it would just be one person, not several people.

Carl

Well, it probably makes sense to have one committee that hashes out who's going to do it when, and who's going to be on the call, and all that.

Cara

Well, I could reach out and see if, you know, if they all want to get together at one point to get the gauge of interest and timing on it and then get everyone in the same spot to have some sort of meeting and then from there they can kind of...

Jim

They can elect their own chief.

JC

Let them do their own organizing.

Jim

Yeah, okay. And decide who's going to be the spokesman for the bunch.

Carl

Yeah, and then let Chris come in and explain how to do the wind up.

## **10. Town Hall shoveling & maintenance (2/13/2024)**

Carl

Load up on the half ton of high speed calcium chloride on the walkway today, right?

Cara

I had hoped that we wouldn't have to have any further winter weather and then we could deal with it in the fall when we do the seasonal winter plowing for next year. AJ and Scott came over and took care of it, but there was just so much ice, they couldn't do it all. It doesn't get enough sun.

Carole

And will the gutters help that?

JC

Oh, sure, that'll be a big help, I would think.

Jim

Coming down like the Niagara Falls, that should help it.

Cara

But it does stay pretty dark there for a good part of the day.

## **11. SUO amendment – sump pump fee (2/13/2024)**

No discussion.

## **ACCOUNTING REGISTERS**

### **1. Accounts Payable**

Gerard made a motion to accept accounts payable.

Jim seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

### **2. Payroll**

Gerard made a motion to accept payroll.

Carole seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried. 5-0-0

## **MINUTES**

### **1. February 27, 2024 – Public Session Minutes**

Gerard made a motion to accept the public session minutes.

J.C. seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion carried.

### **BCEP appointment discussion continued:**

Carl

All right, so we've appointed Fred as the welfare committee member. And we already have, whether he'll continue with it or not, we have an appointed voting rep for BCEP.



JC

Yes.

Jim

Fred is not interested in the alternate position.

JC

So, the April 1<sup>st</sup> appointment deadline is not a problem because we have an appointed person. So, this can come up if Dan says he wants to step aside.

Carole

Right.

JC

Then we can revisit.

Carole

When's the next time you're on?

Gerard

This Thursday.

Carole

Oh, this Thursday. It's going to be interesting to see if Dan shows up.

Gerard

Oh, Dan always shows up.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Carl

Public input.

Marc Smith

You're looking at me.

Carl

You're the only qualified public.

Marc

I've lived in this town for 12 years. I've recently sold my business and I'm still working, but I'm going to volunteer more. I'm an alternate on the planning board now. I have a little bit of a business background, so if I can help with the downtown, I hear you talking about.

JC

Oh, we would.

Carl

That really, the CDC is really our only means of trying to come up with ways of restoring downtown. I mean, they're up against it. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out why Pittsfield now is not the business hub that it was when we were kids. Just things have changed, but we still gotta keep trying.

Marc

No, I mean, because since I'm the alternate for planning, I mean, it's a good fit. I've got some history behind that, and so I wouldn't mind doing that at all.

Carl

Okay.

JC

Yeah, good.

Marc

So, but that's why I'm here, I'm just, I'm gonna help out, that's all.

Carole

That's wonderful, thank you.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Approved:

  
Carl Anderson

4/23/24  
Date



**MEETING AGENDA**  
**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**TOWN OFFICE, 85 MAIN STREET**  
**PITTSFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03263**

---

**TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024**

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m. – call to order**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC INPUT – regarding agenda items only**  
**AGENDA REVIEW**

**PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 p.m. - proposed Health Ordinance**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Organization of the Board
2. Consideration of volunteer appointment – BCEP & Welfare Fair Hearing Board
3. Consideration of request from Rotary for 2024 Rally – vendor license waiver & use of Chestnut St lot
4. Consideration of acceptance of remainder funds from SV Regional Development Corporation
5. State Form MS 232 – Report of Appropriations Actually Voted
6. 2024 non-union employee wage adjustments
7. Request for funds transfer – to Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable trust - \$500
8. Request for funds transfer – to Cemetery Maintenance Expendable trust - \$10,000
9. Request for funds transfer – to Property Acquisition & Redevelopment Expendable trust - \$25,000
10. Request for funds transfer – from Public Works Light Equipment Capital Reserve Fund - \$40,000
11. Request for funds transfer – from PD Drug Awareness Expendable trust voted close out - \$10.63
12. Request for funds transfer – from JC Library Expendable trust voted close out - \$0.05

**COMMITTEE & DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Wastewater Treatment Facility reports
2. Notification of donation to Police Department (needs future public hearing)

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Perambulation of town lines (8/14/2018)
2. Proposed Health Ordinance (8/11/2020)
3. Surveying of town owned property (4/27/2021)
4. Review of solar project proposal – CDC project (6/14/2022)
5. Consideration of renaming of roads with separate, unpassable sections (5/23/2023)
6. Discussion on Traffic Control Ordinance (6/27/2023)
7. Review of the Street Numbering System Ordinance (8/8/2023)
8. Review of the Pittsfield NH Nonstandard addressing report (8/8/2023)
9. Town Clock winder (2/13/2024)
10. Town Hall shoveling & maintenance (2/13/2024)
11. SUO amendment – sump pump fee (2/13/2024)

**ACCOUNTING REGISTERS**

1. Accounts Payable
2. Payroll

**MINUTES**

1. February 27, 2024 – Public Session Minutes

**PUBLIC INPUT** - The Board of Selectmen may accept the public's input that is addressed directly to the Chair in a courteous and respectful manner in a time frame of three minutes or less.

**NONPUBLIC SESSION** - The Board of Selectmen may enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3