



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Randy Bunnell, Laura Malloy, Vaughan Morgan, Steve Smith, Paul Stanley

Staff Present: Paul Sanderson, Town Administrator

Also Present: Dennis Malloy, State Representative; Marge Morgan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Officer Wayne Bertogli, Police Department; Members of the Energy Committee

Chair Smith opened the Board of Selectmen meeting at 6:30 p.m. A roll call was taken, and it was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Community Choice Aggregation Program

This was the second of two required public hearings. Stuart Ormsbee, Colonial Power, reviewed the Community Choice Aggregation Program. Residents currently with a utility supply would be considered in the program unless they opt out. The advantage of an aggregation program is that a large buying group is formed and typically is focused on residents and small businesses.

Benefits of Community Choice Aggregation include providing a valuable opportunity for utility supply, leveraging a large buying group allowing the program to attract suppliers who will bid competitively, and price stability. A key element of the program is local control: the Town can make its own decision on the products offered to residents, contract terms, etc. The program is entirely self-funded; no funding from the Town is required. Administrative fees are built into the rate and paid by residents enrolled in the program. The program is designed with 'hold over rates': when the initial contract term ends, the resident could have an extremely high rate; savings earned in the first six months disappear in month seven.

Residents would still maintain a relationship with their utility company. Any services, energy assistance, budget billing, etc. would continue and not be interrupted. The billing would be done through the utility company. Savings are not guaranteed through the program.

Residences with solar are considered net-metered and will not be automatically enrolled. Eversource currently gives credit to residents who generate more than they consume. This program is unable to do that; a representative from the Community Choice Aggregation Program will discuss with the homeowner if it would benefit them to join the program.

There will be a dedicated website for the program that will include current information. Residents will be able to opt in or opt out of the program on the website. There is no penalty for exiting the program and no fee to join.

There are statutory requirements to launching the program. Part of the public hearing requires posting a plan that they have prepared with the Energy Committee and taking public comments and answering any questions on the plan. Once the public hearings have been held, the Board of Selectmen can move to the next step, which is Town Meeting on March 12, 2024. If the vote is favorable, the plan will be filed with the NH Public Utilities Commission; that process can take several months.

The program will be available to launch after NHPUC approval is received. Colonial Power will not launch the program unless they could offer savings relative to what was offered by the utilities. There will be an information session prior to program launch. Opt-out notices will be mailed prior the launch to eligible consumers.

S. Smith opened the hearing to public comments. TA Sanderson noted that the enabling warrant article was included in the warrant for the Town Meeting on March 12th. There being no public comments, S. Smith closed the public hearing and returned to the Board. The Board had no further comments or questions.

II. APPOINTMENT

1. Susan Parker – Greenland/Newington PDA Representative

Susan Parker, Greenland/Newington PDA Representative, provided a brief PDA update to the Board. S. Parker stated that Pease is 'cleaning house'. An administrative clean up was done at the end of the year in the Division of Ports and Harbors. She explained that division has many holdings and jobs, including maintaining the wharfs, deep water harbors, etc. S. Parker discussed PDA purchasing thresholds.

Projects

- 68 New Hampshire Avenue, LLC: There is no end user; it is small manufacturing and a concept approval. They are now including the transportation aspect of what is happening in development: the number of vehicle trips are in the pm peak hours. This location has been developed for 23 passenger trips in the morning and peak at 35 in the afternoon. Permitting will not need to be done. There are two tiny wetland areas on this acreage; the acreage is under the limit required for a conditional permit.
- 165 Arboretum Drive: Came in with a revised concept plan for property that has been mentioned at several Selectmen meetings. It is a warehouse modification with offices; the square footage of the manufacturing is 190,200 with a 30,000 square foot anticipated office space, which has increased from 15,000 square feet. The trip generation has increased to 213 passenger trips (peak afternoon).

US Air Force and Asbestos Removal: S. Parker briefly mentioned a meeting in Washington, DC between members of the NH delegation and the US Air Force. The indemnification needs to be approved by the lawyers for Sig Sauer and Two International and approved by the PDA. A site review will be done by the Town of Newington. S. Parker has offered to provide any information to Greenland.

Stormwater Management: The PDA is concerned about the quality of the runoff due to the recent rains and increased transit aircraft. They are always looking for changing substance as measured by chemical analysis of the stormwater runoff. They are extremely concerned that the numbers are not where they should be. There is an EPA division that controls the water standards, and they are pushing hard.

What's Coming

- Study: PFAS levels at Pease were elevated.

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- 360 Corporate Drive: Proposed three story medical building with multiple tenants.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Tuesday, January 02, 2024

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, January 02, 2024. Second – L. Malloy; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Comcast Franchise Agreement

TA Sanderson explained that the copy of the Comcast Franchise Agreement received in their packets was based on a 1974 law when cable systems were the primary method of providing anything other than over the air broadcast TV. TA Sanderson explained the provisions of RSA 53:C. Comcast is the only franchise in our community. The internet has made cable TV less important; cable TV is important because it provides internet. The Town receives approximately \$16,000 per year in franchise fees, which is collected from users within the community. The Town no longer uses 'peg' channels; Town Hall Streams is used.

The franchise agreement with Comcast needs to be negotiated. The existing agreement was in effect from 2007 to 2017 and extended to 2019 when it officially expired. The most important parts of the agreement are the usage of the Town's rights-of-way and the ability to have service provided to public facilities.

Assistance has been requested from Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella (DTC). One of their partners is a telecom expert who has renegotiated franchise agreements in several different communities. They have requested a waiver of any potential conflicts of interest. TA Sanderson suggested the Board sign the waiver, allowing them to assist through the negotiations. Goals of negotiation would be improving the ability to know what is happening in the rights-of-way and improving service to public facilities in Town. Negotiations will start in late January, taking months to complete; TA Sanderson is hoping to finish during 2024.

R. Bunnell asked if the Town had any leverage to have Comcast do updates; he has not seen them do any fiber updates for a number of years. TA Sanderson explained that most cable TV would not be provided over fiber. They do have the ability to use fiber to transmit cable signal primarily on high-velocity trunk lines. It is not economic to bring fiber to the home. Fiber is primarily internet and is not their primary service in this agreement. For areas served by the franchise, there is a universal service requirement: if anyone requests it, regardless of the distance from the right-of-way, they have a right to cable service; that is not true for internet or fiber.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the Special Counsel Conflict of Interest Waiver and Representation Agreement with Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella to represent the Town in negotiations with Comcast. Second – L. Malloy; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. Wage and Classification Survey from Municipal Resources, Inc.

The Town has a contract with Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) for the wage and classification study. The request for information has been emailed to each department head; TA Sanderson is working with

individuals in the Town Office as well as the Transfer Station. Information will be collected and sent to MRI as soon as possible in order for that part of the study to move forward.

L. Malloy questioned how long MRI estimated it may take for the results to be known. TA Sanderson stated that if there was good compliance, and basic data was returned to MRI by the end of January, information could be available in March.

It was noted by V. Morgan that there was a suggestion to discard the old Personnel Policy. He questioned if there were any facets of the old policy that might be used. TA Sanderson responded there may be some that survive; however, there have been continuing and ongoing difficulties with the current policy: USERRA and military leave were used as an example. TA Sanderson stated there are certain aspects of the Personnel Policy that go well beyond what the Fair Labor Standards Act and New Hampshire labor law require, which has impacted overtime costs. The Fire Chief requested that the Personnel Policy be discarded, do the wage and classification study, and do a policy that works for all employees. It is at the Board's discretion to do that: there are federal and State laws that provide minimums. Policies do not have to be in place; the Town is highly regulated with respect to minimum labor laws.

Asked by V. Morgan if the Personnel Policy should be discarded, TA Sanderson tried to convey a sense of urgency to the Board. If the Board made that decision, it would create a sense of urgency to receive information on the wage and classification study and to draft a new Personnel Policy. L. Malloy agreed it was urgent and important; the Board needed to decide how to handle it. S. Smith did not want to scrap the Personnel Policy; it would be ill-advised. He would like MRI to provide information before the Board decided. L. Malloy clarified that MRI would craft a policy; S. Smith stated that MRI had the Personnel Policy and were going to 'throw it out'. She recommended that when it came back, the Board could review and make revisions as necessary. TA Sanderson stated that he could give the Board different issues that have been dealt with and policy suggestions that could be used in the interim. He will be bringing the problems to the Board to try to deal with them in the best way possible with a sense of urgency and emergency. L. Malloy suggested a work session to resolve some of the issues rather than 'keep going down the line'. P. Stanley stated the Board would be less likely to keep 'going down the line' if they voted to discard the current policy and then there would be no choice. He added that it sounded like the current policy was ineffective; if there were laws protecting everything that was needed, and the Board knew it needed to be changed, what was the benefit of keeping the policy? R. Bunnell agreed with S. Smith and preferred to keep the policy until MRI proposed a new one.

The current policy will remain in place.

3. Other Old Business

Audit Update: A draft audit report for the year 2022 was received on December 29, 2023, from Plodzik & Sanderson. A draft governance letter has also been received. TA Sanderson stated that the Board needed to consider a Finance/HR position. Crafting that position is the Selectmen's responsibility: is the position going to be finance, HR, or a combination of the two? MRI or another source may be able to provide assistance filling that position. A work session should be scheduled with MRI. The Board should define that position, the cost, how and when it would be advertised, who would be considered, how to do the interview, and how to arrive at filling the position. The work session would be an extremely important step in moving forward. TA Sanderson will contact MRI to schedule a work session. It can be a non-public session because it is a personnel matter.

Other aspects of the governance letter included progress on the accounting system. Progress has been made on moving to the DRA chart of accounts. Plodzik & Sanderson strongly recommends an accounting manual. Additional training is needed for the individual operating system. TA Sanderson told the Board the issues would not go away until they actively work on them and make them go away.

V. NEW BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Budget Public Hearing Review

The Budget Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, January 09th. 28 citizens were present, not including the people who had to be there. When the School review was finished, there were 19 citizens present. The comments were generally favorable toward the Town's budgetary presentations, with a couple of exceptions.

One individual discussed the need for data driven analysis. It was also his feeling that capital reserve accounts were inappropriate: he stated it would be sequestration of taxpayer funds. TA Sanderson noted those accounts are not created unless that majority of the Town votes to create them; the amounts appropriated are also voted on by the Town.

There were many comments regarding rescinding the Budget Committee, none of which supported that warrant article. There was a similar discussion relating to rescinding SB2. The same individual who mentioned sequestration of funds supported SB2 rather than Town Meeting. The Budget Committee met a few days later and recommended all those warrant articles.

2. Deliberative Session Preparation

TA Sanderson received pre-review comments from DRA regarding the proposed warrant articles (copy on file). The Board could remove any warrant articles, but nothing else could be added. There were no petitioned warrant articles received by the School or Town. TA Sanderson explained that at Deliberative Session the voters could offer amendments, to either increase or decrease. Decisions made at Deliberative Session by the voters will appear on the final warrant that will be voted on at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 12th.

- **Article 01 – Elections:** No action required.
- **Article 02 – Zoning:** No action required.
- **Article 03 – Operating Budget:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to forward Article 03: Operating Budget to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – R. Bunnell. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 03 at Deliberative Session: S. Smith

- **Article 04 – Police Station Maintenance:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

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MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to forward Article 04: Police Station Maintenance to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – V. Morgan. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 04 at Deliberative Session: L. Malloy

- **Article 05 – Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to forward Article 05: Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – V. Morgan. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 05 at Deliberative Session: L. Malloy

- **Article 06 – Ambulance Billing:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to forward Article 06: Ambulance Billing to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – R. Bunnell. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 06 at Deliberative Session: V. Morgan

- **Article 07 – New Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to forward Article 07: New Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – L. Malloy. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 07 at Deliberative Session: V. Morgan

- **Article 08 – Change of Purpose, New Fire Station Capital Reserve:** No action required.

Selectman discussing Article 08 at Deliberative Session: V. Morgan

- **Article 09 – Retirement Liability Capital Reserve Fund:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to forward Article 09: Retirement Liability Capital Reserve Fund to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – V. Morgan. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 09 at Deliberative Session: P. Stanley

- **Article 10 – Town Equipment Capital Reserve Fund:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to forward Article 10: Town Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – S. Smith. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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Selectman discussing Article 10 at Deliberative Session: P. Stanley

- **Article 11 – New Firefighter Position:** Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to forward Article 11: New Firefighter Position to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024. Second – L. Malloy. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 11 at Deliberative Session: V. Morgan

- **Article 12 – Modify the Municipal Transportation Improvement:** No action required. A public hearing will be held on this article.

Selectman discussing Article 12 at Deliberative Session: S. Smith

- **Article 13 - Rescind Adoption of the Budget Committee:** No action required.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to delete Article 13 from the ballot. Second – L. Malloy (for discussion)

Discussion: L. Malloy stated that it was more divisive than helping. The whole idea was because there were redundancies. If the Selectmen and Town Administrator are responsible for creating the budget and behold to it, L. Malloy was unsure why it had to go to 11 people to determine the same things; it had to be explained to the Budget Committee. It had nothing to do with people at the table and if they were capable. She would not like to see it on the ballot. P. Stanley stated the handful of people at the public hearing were against it; however, it is out there for consideration and there has been a lot of talk in the community. Removing it would be disingenuous. V. Morgan stated they should keep in mind that one of the big issues was that the Budget Committee represents checks and balances for the Board of Selectmen; they are advisory. The Board works closely with the Budget Committee during the budget season. V. Morgan understood the redundancy and tried to speak for R. Bunnell, stating R. Bunnell felt it was redundant and he wanted to shorten the cycle. V. Morgan did not think this would pass. R. Bunnell wanted to let the public vote on this article. This is an opportunity to streamline the process. He felt checks and balances were very false: the School presentation on a \$14 million budget was not debated; there were no checks and balances with a \$14 million budget. It was all defined by the School Board working with the School Administration, which is similar to the Town. The Budget Committee is advisory and has no power. R. Bunnell felt they mislead the public when they give their recommendations; they do not know the budget like the Board does. They definitely do not know the School budget because there is no discussion on it. There are no checks and balances when they are misleading the public. V. Morgan disagreed with R. Bunnell that there was no discussion on the School budget. L. Malloy stated that there were not many items on the School budget that could be debated. The contracts cannot be negotiated. P. Stanley felt the public should have a say and vote on it. He was not advocating voting one way or another. People deserve the right to vote on it.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to delete Article 13 from the ballot. Second – L. Malloy; roll call: R. Bunnell, no; P. Stanley, no; L. Malloy, abstain; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, no. One in favor (V. Morgan), three against (R. Bunnell, P. Stanley, S. Smith), one abstained (L. Malloy). MOTION DENIED

Selectman discussing Article 13 at Deliberative Session: R. Bunnell

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- **Article 14 – Creation of Greenland Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund:** No action required.

Selectman discussing Article 14 at Deliberative Session: S. Smith

- **Article 15 – Discontinue the Library Future Growth Fund:** No action required.

Selectman discussing Article 15 at Deliberative Session: P. Stanley

- **Article 16 – Readopt the Solar Exemption:** No action required.

Selectman discussing Article 16 at Deliberative Session: R. Bunnell

- **Article 17 – Community Power Authorization:** No action required.

Selectman discussing Article 17 at Deliberative Session: R. Bunnell

- **Article 18 – Rescind the SB2 Form of Town Meeting:** No action required.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to delete Article 18 from the ballot. Second – L. Malloy (for discussion)

Discussion: V. Morgan stated that many of the people at the public hearing did not like the idea. Bringing it to the Town at this time is a lot. V. Morgan added that he loved the old Town Meetings and would love to go back to that at some point, this may not be the year. P. Stanley wanted the people to vote on it.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to delete Article 18 from the ballot. Second – L. Malloy; roll call: R. Bunnell, no; P. Stanley, no; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, no. Three against (R. Bunnell, P. Stanley, S. Smith), two in favor (L. Malloy, V. Morgan). MOTION DENIED

A public hearing will be held on this article.

Discussing Article 18 at Deliberative Session: TA Sanderson

- **Article 19 – Modify the Blind Exemption:** No action required.

Selectman discussing Article 19 at Deliberative Session: S. Smith

- **Article 20 – Salary Adjustment Expendable Trust Fund:** Removed from the warrant.

TA Sanderson stated that based on DRA technical advice, there is no requirement for a public hearing, written findings of fact, or that it will lapse on December 31, 2024, and could be extended for another year to be used for salary adjustments. It can be removed because it no longer has the type of controls the Board felt were important for this warrant article. People were worried about those types of controls at public hearing. Referring to the wage and classification study, TA Sanderson stated there are funds in the operating budget but that will not give the Board the resources it may need even if the operating budget passes and is not amended at Deliberative Session. This warrant article provides a measure of flexibility. DRA has removed the controls that would prevent it from being used inappropriately.

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P. Stanley leaned towards removing Article 20 due to lack of controls. L. Malloy stated that this warrant article is not being done 'behind the curtain'. She did not want the perception that the Board was not doing its best; they were.

MOTION: P. Stanley moved that based on the recommendation from DRA, Article 20 be removed from the warrant. Second – R. Bunnell; roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

- **Article 21 – Recreation Capital Reserve Fund:** Recommended by Selectmen 5-0

Referring to Articles 21 and 22, TA Sanderson explained DRA stated that funds cannot be transferred from one fund to another. A separate appropriation would be needed to create these funds. The money in the Revolving Fund would have to stay there. If Articles 21 and 22 were removed, nothing would happen to the Revolving Fund. TA Sanderson noted there were concerns about the advertising monies and creating a capital reserve fund for recreation improvements in the future. The intent was fine; transferring funds will not meet with DRA approval. TA Sanderson stated funds could be from taxation or the Unreserved Fund Balance. Or the Board could work with the Town Attorney to find the appropriate way to move forward.

TA Sanderson further explained that the Board did not want to include advertising fees in the Revolving Fund because those are not program fees. The other problem they were trying to solve was to save for larger capital improvements they wanted to make in the future.

Responding to P. Stanley, TA Sanderson stated a capital reserve fund can be created without funding. P. Stanley clarified that creating it without funding would give future advertising monies an account to go into. It would be funded by what the Board was trying to accomplish. TA Sanderson stated the financial tools would be created and no funding provided.

The Board will leave Articles 21 and 22 on the warrant and remove the movement of money as suggested by DRA.

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to forward Article 21: Recreation Capital Reserve Fund to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024, as amended. Second – V. Morgan. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 21 at Deliberative Session: R. Bunnell

- **Article 22 – Recreation Advertising Revolving Fund:** Recommended by the Selectmen 5-0

See Article 21 above.

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to forward Article 22: Recreation Advertising Revolving Fund to Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2024, as amended. Second – V. Morgan. Roll call: R. Bunnell, yes; P. Stanley, yes; L. Malloy, yes; V. Morgan, yes; S. Smith, yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Selectman discussing Article 22 at Deliberative Session: R. Bunnell

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TA Sanderson explained the Deliberative Session process. He reiterated that Deliberative Session is incredibly important. This requires thought and preparation; TA Sanderson is available to help, if needed.

3. Storage Trailer: 36 Waters Edge

The residents at 36 Waters Edge are doing major renovations on their house and have requested a storage trailer on their property. The permit would expire January 17, 2025.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the storage trailer at 36 Waters Edge. The permit will expire January 17, 2025. Second – L. Malloy; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

4. Abatement: 1575 Greenland Road LLC

An assessment agreement has been reached with 1575 Greenland Road LLC (Consolidated Communications building). This is an abatement from the 2022 taxes. They have agreed to take the equalized value of the Town's new assessment. The interest will need to be amended: it was submitted at 6%; the statute is 4%. Settling to the 2023 equalized amount, they have waived the right to appeal 2023 and will not be doing this again next year.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the abatement for 1575 Greenland Road LLC in the amount of \$5,047.11 plus interest. Second – L. Malloy; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. Veterans Exemption

The assessor has approved the Veterans Exemption for the resident at 18 Cushman Way in the amount of \$4,750 (Veterans Tax Credit: \$750, Service-Connected Total Disability: \$4,750).

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the Veterans Exemption in the amount of \$4,750 for the resident at 18 Cushman Way. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

6. Other New Business

A major repair was averted on Sunday morning, January 14th. S. Smith was in the building doing an item of business and the water heater had let go in the equipment room. He was able to shut it down before major damage occurred. With the help of firefighters, they were able to disconnect and take it outside; arrangements were made with Hart Plumbing and Heating to replace the water heater on Sunday. The water heater was dated 1994. Leak detection will be installed.

Information has been received from DOIT that the Town has been approved for one employee to take the Comp TIA Security Plus course, a very significant cybersecurity course. That course is at no cost to the Town. It is a five-day online course. TA Sanderson is in the process of determining which employee should take the training. Part of the training will be to move from '.com' to '.gov', which has been universally recommended for security purposes.

Marge Morgan, Town Clerk, reminded the Board that the election is Tuesday, January 23rd. Board members will need to be present. She recently attended a session with the Secretary of State Office. The Attorney General's Office will be on-site. It was noted that counting would be 'daunting' due to new requirements.

VI. APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS

1. General Fund Manifest: \$238,888.37
 - NH Retirement: \$52,710.04
 - TD Card Services: \$5,353.82
 - Weeks Library: \$108,660.09

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to approve the General Fund Manifest in the amount of \$238,888.37. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. Payroll Manifest: \$82,527.06

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$82,527.06. Second – P. Stanley; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debbie Beck: Concerned about the amount of money being spent. She did not understand why the Board got rid of the snowplow contractor. The roads were horrendous with the major snow fall. It used to be a practical Town. Taxes have gone up. D. Beck did not understand why 10 full-time cops were needed. She questioned the vacation pay to three cops last year. She did not feel the Board was as informed as they could be. D. Beck stated the Board caters to TA Sanderson and he runs the show and is very knowledgeable. Decisions were being made for the Town. D. Beck mentioned the amount of money spent on roads. She requested that someone on the Board explain why Jimmy Jones was let go, and specifically asked V. Morgan. V. Morgan stated that he has known J. Jones for a long time, and he has not been communicative with the Board. V. Morgan stated the Board went out to bid; he was corrected by D. Beck and J. Jones that they did not go out to bid. V. Morgan stated that someone else came in and presented an offer the Board could not refuse. D. Beck 'called him' on that as an absolute untruth. V. Morgan stated that he drove the roads after the plowing; it was not perfect, but it was never perfect. S. Smith ended this public comment after the allotted time of three minutes.

J. Jones stated that he was the previous contractor for the last 20 years. He stated there were no communication issues. There was not a problem until the end of the season. Until that time, everything was dealt with immediately. He received texts or phone calls during the week with any problems. He did not receive phone calls very seldom because they dealt with problems as they went. The past storm in question: the roads were covered with snow until Wednesday when the weather changed. No salt was applied past the initial end. The roads should have been black fog line to fog line by Monday afternoon, noon time to 1:00 at the latest. The Board put the people in peril for that. V. Morgan noted that J. Jones did not stand up to the qualifications that the Board needed to have the roads plowed. V. Morgan asked TA Sanderson if J. Jones was certified to do everything in the Town that needs to be done. TA Sanderson responded that to the best of his knowledge, Mr. Jones was not Green Pro Certified. J. Jones stated he had been Green Pro Certified in the past; it lapsed last year. He continued it did not do the Town or him any benefit. There has not been one case in the State of New Hampshire where anyone Green Pro Certified got a benefit by being in that program. It does not take the liability away. Responding to a question from V. Morgan, TA Sanderson stated that the Town is required to have Green Pro Certified contractors as part of the MS-4 under the USEPA permit. J. Jones responded he should have been told it needed to be done by September 15th. He was told by TA Sanderson he would be able to bid; it did not go out to bid. J. Jones stated this contract will cost three times what he was ever paid. S. Smith responded that was not true, and the Town was under contract for less money than he was paid, and it was a much

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better job in his opinion. J. Jones commented: 'You think that's better than I ever did? Then you gotta get your head examined. Sorry Steve, but the day after a snowstorm we had the roads black fog line to fog line'.

VIII.ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Second – L. Malloy; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 29, 2024 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By – Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant