

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
March 26, 2018  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

5:30 pm – Vice Chairman Pitman called the meeting to order

**Present:** Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman; Andrew Robertson, Fred McGarry, Jeff Shute and Cindy Wyman, Selectpersons.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Vice Chairman Pitman asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that the first order of business was to swear in the newest select board member, Cindy McHugh.

Ms. McHugh was sworn in by Vice Chairman Pitman.

Vice Chairman Pitman stated that the next order of business was the Board's organization. Vice Chairman Pitman asked if any board member had any discussion of leadership roles.

Selectman Robertson stated that he has had no discussion with any of the board members about leadership roles and therefore doesn't know if anyone is dying to be chairman or not but he would be happy to nominate whoever is.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked if Selectman Robertson would like the chairman role and he stated that if nobody else wants to that he would be happy to but he is happy to nominate Vice Chairman Pitman if he was interested to which he stated that he would give it a try if he would be willing to be the vice chairman. Selectman Robertson stated that he would.

**Motion:** Selectman Robertson moves to nominate Vice Chairman Pitman to be Chairman of the Board of Selectman

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries**

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to nominate Selectman Robertson as Vice Chairman to the Board of Selectmen

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Pitman stated that now that the elections have been held and because of the newest member being on the fire department and the rescue squad, please make sure that anything in the future that involves them financially or whatever, that we're transparent about it and discuss it. Chairman Pitman stated that he knew that Selectwoman McHugh would be.

Chairman Pitman asked if anyone else had any discussion regarding this issue.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't have any discussion about that but that the Board should probably solidify a few of the other Board positions. Typically, right after the chair is picked, the chair would determine who is going to be on the Planning Board. The Budget Committee could probably wait until later.

Chairman Pitman asked if assignments could be kept as they were last year to which Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he certainly would recommend keeping it like it was but if people have any objections to let everyone know.

Selectman McGarry stated that he would like to continue to serve on the Planning Board to which Chairman Pitman stated that this would be great. Selectman Shute stated that he would continue with Parks and Rec. Vice Chairman Robertson stated that they should make it official.

Selectman McGarry stated that he had a couple of items.

He continued that the Board had a Safety Complex Committee that had worked for at least a year or so and they've discussed it a bit last year. He thought that the Board should be seriously considering reestablishing that committee and trying to get volunteers to be on it and proceed with looking further into both a site that we've identified as a possible location for the safety complex and then getting input from that committee on any other issues associated with the Safety Complex and particularly at least the police department at this point.

The other issue Selectman McGarry brought up was with regard to the noise ordinance. The Board pulled it from the ballot this year and he thought that we had a couple of people that were concerned about the fact that we had nothing at all as far as a noise ordinance is concerned and he thought that we should probably have a committee to look at that also.

Mark Young had generously volunteered to be on that committee if the Board has one and he Selectman McGarry thought that we could look into getting some volunteers for that committee as well.

Chairman Pitman asked Selectman McGarry to look into a noise ordinance committee and maybe put together a couple of ordinances and get back to the Board.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that regarding the noise ordinance committee in particular, and he stated that he was sure by virtue that you were talking with Mr. Young, and was well ahead of the game but he thought that the Board needs to include, very definitely, forestry people, local contractors and members of the farm community that are running big equipment too because of the people that he heard from in regard to the noise ordinance. It was basically those folks, particularly contractors, that were running dump trucks and that type of thing that were concerned about hours that they might be able to start up and that type of thing. He continued that they have more than a vested interest in what the ordinance would say.

Chairman Pitman asked when they thought that they would have more information back from Jim Franklin regarding the land that was being targeted as a safety complex?

Selectman McGarry stated that Mr. Franklin was supposed to get a plan back to the Board with 50 and 100-foot setbacks from the wetlands and it wasn't going to be that much of an issue to get that on the drawing. Selectman McGarry stated that we could contact him to see what the status is on the plans.

Chairman Pitman ~~stated~~ asked ~~to~~ Selectman McGarry to follow up on that since he understands it and maybe at the next meeting the Board could talk about it.

#### **Fire/Rescue Update – Chief Fisher**

Chief Fisher notified the Board that the Fire/Rescue Department was having their annual Oyster Stew next Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and was extending an invitation to the Board. They are certainly more than

welcome and Chief Fisher would just like to know how many would be attending and if you would like oyster stew or some sort of pasta dinner that we are coming up with for an alternative.

Chairman Pitman asked what time he would like people to arrive to which Chief Fisher answered that it starts at 7:00 p.m. so if everyone could arrive by 6:45 p.m., that would be great. He would hope that he could get R.S.V.P.'s so to get a head count before the end of the week in order to get the appropriate amount of oysters.

Chief Fisher continued that a couple of items to update the Board with is that at the beginning of the year, he had applied for a cascade system grant that they had talked about. This had been identified in the Primex Report as needing to be replaced. This is the second year that the department has applied for the grant. Cross your fingers that we get it. A grant was put in as well for the replacement of a piece of equipment for Tank 2 and Engine 3.

A couple of years ago, we went for the tanker in a warrant article which failed. Last year the department wrote another grant for a tanker and that failed. Chief Fisher stated that he reached out to FEMA who administers the grants for the government and tried to get some feedback from our local representative as to how we might be able to improve on both the cascade system grant and the grant for the replacement apparatus.

Chief Fisher also reached out to two different garage door/overhead door companies. One was "Overhead Door Company" and the other "Fimbal". Fimbal was a little more reactive as they actually came out and gave us a price and went over a few things. This touches on the Primex Report to increase getting some safety devices for the doors.

The devices at Central Station, the openers themselves, need to be replaced in order to add safety sensors. Their recommendation was to add a photo eye that goes 18 inches above the ground, but also either go with a secondary system which would be more photo beams going across or to use some other doors which have a sensor on the bottom so when the door would come down and hit something, it would go back up. This other secondary eye which he was a little more in favor of which I included, basically will catch a fire truck going in or out so as to not close the door.

Where the sensor is 18 inches off the ground, the larger trucks at the station, once the tire goes by, will probably miss until the second axle so instead of the door coming down then stopping, it would actually hit the truck, if we have the secondary eyes which are 3-foot sections, it might catch the side of the truck instead.

This will cover Central Station and South Station. The openers at South Station are new enough where they don't need to be replaced. We will just need to add the safety devices to them.

Chairman Pitman stated that for the record, the amount is \$1,380.00.

Chief Fisher stated that \$1,380.00 is for South Station and Central Station which would be the four openers for the four main doors facing Church Street would be an additional \$5,700.00.

Chairman Pitman stated that would be for new openers and eyes to which Chief Fisher agreed and added it also included remotes because it probably was ten years ago when the remotes stopped working, the few remotes that we had, fell apart, stopped working and that's where they ended up.

Chief Fisher continued that if the Board were to move forward with this, he would ask that the funds be removed from the town's building maintenance fund.

Vice Chairman Robertson asked if a motion was needed to move forward or just a recommendation of the Board.

Chairman Pitman asked Chief Fisher if this is what he is recommending.

Chief Fisher stated that he would like to see the Board move forward with this and in regards to funding it, he would prefer it not come out of the fire budget but that is up to the Board.

Chairman Pitman stated that it is a building issue.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to proceed with Fimbal Doors as outlined by the fire chief for new door openers and sensors and remove the money from the Building Maintenance Fund as opposed to take from the operating budget. The total amount is \$7,080.00.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:** Selectman McGarry asked how old the operators are at Central Station? It was thought that they were very old. Selectman McGarry stated that he had some new operators put in and when he had some new doors put in and it definitely worked better.

Chief Fisher stated that the ones at South Station have a 2012 sticker which is when the doors were modified before the town got Engine 4 and we had to raise the doors. The operators are a little older than that but they're still able to take the contacts for the 18-inch, off the ground standard photo eyes and then the 36-inch secondary protection.

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries**

Chief Fisher continued that he and Ms. McHugh have been working on getting a new accountability system and getting some ID's made up with the Town Administrator. Currently our members don't have town ID's but more importantly, looking with a more standard ID system, probably a thicker material for an accountability system.

The one that we have now relies on us using a third party to purchase. This way if we're able to maintain using the existing ID machine we have now, would be a little more replaceable. People lose them or things need to change on them.

Chief Fisher stated that a few things we have going on. There's been, that I've seen this year, five members who've applied to either come back or unrelated in the past of the fire department on the fire side, have looked to join. ~~Two~~ Two of them are currently going through the background process.

Chief Fisher stated that he was contacted by Rockingham County Sheriff's Office who does our dispatching. They are going to be or they have started the process of upgrading their radios for dispatch. Part of that process has changed. The radios that Deerfield got on the federal grant probably 14 years ago are no longer going to be able to monitor the police side of dispatch. Over the past few years, we've started to replace the mobile radios we had because at the time they were 15 years old and so now there are about 30 years old and parts aren't necessarily available and no longer supported by Motorola.

Because of the change, Motorola is actually providing Deerfield with a 50% discount on all mobile radios we purchase. In the budget there's money for one and I'll probably be buying two as we continue to upgrade our existing radios which will help with the interoperability between police and fire and with whatever sort of incident we have.

I would be starting with more of the front-line pieces who will be at more incidents to be able to at least monitor the police transmissions. We don't typically talk on the police channels but it's still a benefit to be able to hear what they have going on in regards to any sort of situation we may run into.

Chief Fisher stated that he had talked to the Town Administrator to reach out to the Board a couple of months ago about possibly salvaging the old generator at the fire station. Speaking with Mark Young, he has offered to take that off the fire department's hands which will free up one of the rooms out back so we can continue with our reorganization of the station.

Chief Fisher stated that was all that he had to which the Chairman stated that it was a good report and asked the Board if they wanted to deal with the generator at this time.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated yes, but the only question he would have is that he thought that it was wonderful that we have someone that will take it but I think we probably, but trying to remember the exact protocol, we would probably have to post or declare it salvage before we even.

Chief Fisher asked if this was so even between departments?

Vice Chairman Robertson asked if Mr. Young was taking it for the Highway Department to which was answered yes. If it is going in between departments, then it doesn't have to be posted.

Chairman Pitman asked for a motion to make it official.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to surplus the excess fire department generator to the Highway Department as outlined by the fire chief

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries

#### **ZBA Report – Josh Freed**

Mr. Freed stated that it was good to be here ~~there~~. He stated that he had very little to report. They've had more cases, more applications for variances ~~variants~~ and special exceptions this first quarter than we had in all of 2017 so he's expecting that with the increase in building activity, we'll continue to see more cases coming through.

We have several veteran members and some newer members who are doing a good job. We currently have only one alternate and we've been at that one alternate for over a year. He didn't know what he had to do to get people to sign up to volunteer for the Board. We've offered all the enticements. He would encourage anyone who knows anyone who's interested in public service or future career in town government to volunteer. A person just needs to be a resident of Deerfield and over the age of 18 and you can help your government function.

#### **Regular Business:**

##### **Review of Outstanding Minutes – March 12, 2018**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to approve the minutes of March 12, 2018 as written

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

##### **Payroll Manifest - \$58,407.82 (gross), \$45,453.54 (net)**

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to approve the payroll manifest

**Second:** Vice Chairman Robertson

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

##### **Account Payable Manifest - \$58,175.88**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to approve the accounts payable manifest

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Personnel Action Request – Kelly A. Roberts, Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to approve the Chairman to sign the Personnel Action Request form for Kelly A. Roberts, from an hourly rate of \$17.13 per hour to a salary of \$45,760.00.

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that for the record, this is just moving Ms. Roberts from where she was as the as the deputy town clerk/tax collector to the full-time town clerk/tax collector's salary.

Chairman Pitman stated that the MS-232 and Vice Chairman Robertson added that there needs a motion to sign and accept the MS-232 and return it to the State within 10 to 15 days of the election.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to approve and sign the MS-232 and return it to Concord.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Pitman brought forward Eric Berkland, Jr.'s application for the office of Conservation Commission until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to reappoint Eric Berkland, Jr. to the Conservation Commission

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Another application brought forth for Sarita Frey with the same term on the Conservation Commission.

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to reappoint Sarita Frey to the Conservation Commission

**Second:** Vice Chairman Robertson

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Pitman stated that he had a refund request from Kelly Roberts, Town Clerk/Tax Collector to MC Express, LLC. They overpaid their vehicle registration by \$3.00.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to grant the refund as requested by the town clerk/tax collector.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Mr. Harrington stated that they had an agreement before them with R.V. Lewis Fire Control Systems and the agreement states that they will inspect the building fire extinguishers which include all the fire extinguishers in all the buildings including the patrol cars and any other town cars that have extinguishers. They will test and inspect the building fire alarm system and test and inspect the building emergency lighting and exit system.

They've indicated a price of \$5.00 per fire extinguisher, \$12.00 per emergency exit light and \$340.00 per system inspected. This is separate from the pump and sprinkler maintenance system which would be over at the Town Hall. They have priced that out at an annual fire pump performance testing at \$675.00 per year and a quarterly inspection at \$550.00 a quarter or \$2,200.00 for the year.

Mr. Harrington stated that he has had the fire chief review this and he is in agreement that this is acceptable to him and Vice Chairman Robertson is correct, it is less costly than the current agreement that we have.

Chief Fisher would like a baseline inspection of all of the lighting, exit and emergency signs and fire extinguishers but that ~~his~~ he thinks that the fire department may be able to take over some of the work going forward but he would like it done professionally the first time.

**A motion to have the Chairman sign the agreement is needed.**

**Motion:** Selectman McGarry moves to have the Chairman sign the agreement with R.V. Lewis Fire Control Systems

**Second:** Vice Chairman Robertson

**Discussion:**

**(The vote was not taken)**

**Vote: Yea, Nay, Abstained**

Selectwoman McHugh asked if the town already had a contract for 2018 for these inspections.

Mr. Harrington stated no. For the fire pump and the sprinkler system, that's renewed every spring. The town has one more quarterly inspection with Simplex that they do in April but Mr. Harrington's recommendation is not to renew and go with these folks. They are aware of the current contract as well.

Selectman McGarry stated that it would be good to have the fire department do the fire extinguisher inspections in the future. He stated that when he was working in the private sector in Concord, the Concord Fire Department would come by and check the fire extinguishers in the commercial location so I think this would be good to have the fire department pick that up.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that in talking with Chief Fisher, that is the intent and this would give a baseline to go forward.

Chairman Pitman leaves the meeting.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he was going to step in for the Chairman.

He stated that he didn't need motions on these but he has three notices of intent to cut.

**Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – Ann Marchio, LLC – 217 Middle Road, Map 413, Lots 13, 14 and 15**

**Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – Nancy Mathes – 110 Raymond Road**

**Intent to Cut Wood/Timber – David Gazzola – 31 Range Road, Map 414-70**

Chairman Pitman returns to meeting.

Chairman Pitman stated the next item is from Cherie Sanborn, Assessing Clerk from the Assessing Office for an abatement refund for New Hampshire Optical System requesting a computer adjustment of abating the second tax bill in the amount of \$549.00.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to grant the abatement refund as recommended by the town's assessing official and Ms. Sanborn

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Request for Abatement - John and Janice DeFranzio, 5 Woodcrest Drive**

Chairman Pitman read a letter regarding their 2017 abatement request for 5 Woodcrest Drive. The taxpayers did not provide appraisals or comparables to support their request. Taxpayers believe that the house was only 25% complete however pictures and information collected by the data collector in March, 2017, shows the house was 65% complete. Assessors believe these assessments are correct and recommends that the Board deny this request.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to follow the Assessor's recommendation and deny the DeFranzio's request for abatement.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Request for abatement - Dean and Donna Wolf, 126 Hartford Brook Road.**

The letter states that in order to qualify for current use wetlands, the area must meet the definition under RSA 79:83. The area in question is considered to be poorly drained and not inundated or saturated by water and is capable of growth. It therefore does not meet the requirements for current use wetlands.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to deny the request for abatement as recommended by our assessing officials.

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

A letter to Dean and Donna Wolf, 126 Hartford Brook Road stating that the abatement request was denied. Taking into consideration the comparables list, the recommendation is to deny the request. The taxpayer is comparing his 1537 square-foot ranch to two-story house with square footage of 1,664 to 2,300 square feet, all of the acreage between his house and the comparables is similar, this property has a paved driveway and good landscape and compared to other mentioned in this abatement request which have gravel driveways and average landscaping, there is a zero change. The assessors recommend denial.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to deny the abatement request as recommended by our assessing officials.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Timber Tax Levy - \$1,232.92 – John Currier, 94 Mammoth Road, Hooksett, NH and the property is on Old Candia Road.**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to levy the timber tax

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Timber Tax Levy - \$1,574.43 – Ann Marie Lawrence, 59B South Road**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to collect the timber tax

**Second:** Selectman McGarry



**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Timber Tax Levy - \$2,387.47 – Charlie Huckins, 515 Fourth Rand Road, Pembroke, NH**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to levy the timber taxes as read

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Application for Property Tax Credit Exemption – Andrew Boudreau, 109 Old Centre Road for \$500.00**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to grant the tax exemption

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**Application for Property Tax Credit Exemption – Timothy Giberson, 9 Scott Lane for \$500.00**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to grant the tax exemption as requested

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

**For the record last week there was an Accounts Payable Manifest - \$59,057.11 which was signed by three select people that were present on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.**

Chairman Pitman stated that the town administrator asked the road agent to look for “non” red signs that need to be “red” around Pleasant Lake and he came up with seven.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that at the last meeting, the Board had discussed ordering those from our state outlet for non-green street names to stay in compliance with our 9-1-1 road naming and signage.

Mr. Harrington stated that one thing he wanted to mention that when talking to the road agent, there was some cost involved that may be substantial given the number and the price for each sign, so just a reminder that we are in a default budget and we’d have to make sure that we are looking as to where we’re going to expend those dollars.

Vice Chairman Robertson asked Mr. Harrington what that expenditure might be to which Mr. Harrington stated that it would be \$50.00 a sign.

Chairman Pitman stated that the Board had received a letter from Jack Hutchinson thanking the Board for the town report dedication and that he had enjoyed his time as moderator.

To finish up regarding the purchasing of the signs, Vice Chairman Robertson made the following motion as he couldn’t remember if a motion was made at the last Board meeting.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to go ahead with replacing the seven signs identified that are green now and need to be red.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Pitman asked if anyone else had any correspondence. No one did.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Harrington stated that he had just a few items.

Just to make sure everyone knows that the town clerk/tax collector office will be beginning new hours starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a sign on all the doors and it's been posted on the website and Facebook.

Monday is no longer going to be the late evening, it's now going to be Wednesday. She will be open from 8 to 7 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, she will be open 8 to 2:30 p.m.

Also, wanted to mention that the Swap Shop will be opening April 7<sup>th</sup> through October 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 3 on Saturdays and that they are looking for volunteers for 3-hour shifts, 9 to noon and noon to 3. Interested people can contact Rebecca Hutchinson at 463-7692 or Patrice Kilham at 463-3046.

Mr. Harrington also mentioned that from a request from the last meeting, he had a draft request for bid for the town mowing with the detail. Mr. Harrington didn't know if the Board wanted to look at the draft and approve it or talk time.

Chairman Pitman stated that he wanted to take time to read it so that maybe at the next meeting the Board could act on it.

Mr. Harrington stated that the draft was in their packets.

Chairman Pitman asked if anyone had anything for the Town Administrator.

Selectman Shute asked if the deputy clerk position had been posted. Mr. Harrington stated it is posted on the town website, Facebook, in the buildings and around town. Ms. Roberts is collecting applications and resumes as we speak.

Chairman Pitman called on Mr. Young, Highway Agent stating that he had exciting news for the Board.

Mr. Young stated kind of exciting. Mr. Young handed out paperwork to each of the Board members.

Mr. Young stated if the Board remembered last fall, we received some additional block grant money from the state and it can be used on unplanned road projects or equipment so Mr. Young was able to find the town a replacement backhoe for the highway department.

As you can see, it's a 2015 Case with 1,200 hours on it and it's going to replace the 2000 LB90 with 11,000 hours on it.

Mr. Young continued stating that you can see that they are giving us \$22,900.00 for our old backhoe. It will be our old machine and \$66,050.00 to trade.

He thought he just needed the approval from the Board to sign the Purchase and Sales agreement. This would be at no cost to the taxpayers. This is out of that federal grant money.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he would certainly make a motion that we move forward with authorizing the road agent to do this and quite frankly he was amazed that they would offer the town \$22,900 for our present unit and Mr. Young agreed.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Robertson moves to authorize the road agent to sign the Purchase and Sales agreement

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:** Selectman McGarry asked how much money would there be left in the grant money. Mr. Young stated that he thought that there was \$122,000.00 in the account so it would leave around \$60,000.00.

Vice Chairman Robertson asked if the highway department would be able to mount some significant repaving on Mt. Delight Road to which Mr. Young replied yes, absolutely.

Chairman Pitman stated that ~~he~~ it was amazing that the road agent found a two-year-old machine with that few hours on and the condition that it is in.

Mr. Young stated that they are also going to put four new tires on it. Just a little history on the machine. It came off a lease from the Maine DOT so it was used for a wheelbarrow basically. If Mr. Young calls the dealership tonight and tell them that we signed the Purchase and Sales agreement, we'll have it by the end of the week.

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Pitman asked if there was any other New Business.

None mentioned.

#### **Tax Abatement Request – 141 South Road**

Vice Chairman Robertson asked if the Board has gotten a direct request from the property owner for action on the abatement to your knowledge Mr. Harrington to which he answered not directly to me. This is something that he had said over the phone. He was looking to see if the Board would consider anything but he has not, other than talking to Mr. Harrington, both forth anything in writing.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't know how the rest of the Board felt but he looked at the request and we've got the total amounts. I might be interested in working with the new property owner on back interest but I think that I would like to see that broken out and it's probably more math than I can do quickly and easily at the top of my head.

There is a sheet broken out after the first page.

Selectman Shute asked if this was a new owner for the property to which Vice Chairman Robertson answered that it was. The property is the house that is in disrepair on the corner of Birch Road and South Road.

Chairman Pitman stated that the town has been trying to get it back on the tax rolls for eight years.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he couldn't recollect exactly what the Board has done in the past but if push comes to shove and they've got a specific deal they're looking to work to pay back taxes on this, I would be interested in talking to them about the interest and penalty and not talking to them about the principal. They're not responsible for the interest and penalty. They bought the property obviously knowing it was there but it's not an action of theirs that led to that \$15,436.00 (interest and penalties) buildup. The principal \$30,695.00 is and I think we should definitely go after the principal. I don't know how the rest of the Board feels about the interest and penalty.

Chairman Pitman stated that he thought that he didn't want to bend a penny on the principal. In the past, we have taken a little bit of the interest and written the rest off to get it back on the tax ~~map~~ rolls.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he thought his course of action would be to ask them what they're looking for before we decide anything. If they haven't make a specific request to us or requested an appointment with us, I'm not going to start the process by saying.

Chairman Pitman recognized the property owner in the audience and invited him to the microphone.

#### **Jerry Sears – 141 South Road**

He stated that he bought the property at 141 South Road. He had been talking to Mr. Harrington regarding the amount of taxes that are due on it and he had mentioned about seeing about getting an abatement for the interest.

At this point, that is all that he is looking at is seeing what we can do with the accrued interest.

Chairman Pitman thanked Mr. Sears for speaking.

Chairman Pitman asked if there was a dollar figure to which Vice Chairman Robertson stated that the figure indicated on the paperwork was as of March 21, so it has probably changed a little bit.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to abate \$15,436.98 from the outstanding taxes due on 141 South Road.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:** Chairman Pitman stated that it would be zero interest, just principal. Vice Chairman Robertson stated that this is the intent of his motion to be zero interest.

Selectman Shute stated that he thought that this is what has been done in the past. All agreed to that statement.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he has certainly heard from enough community members to know when something was going to happen to that property.

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman Pitman stated to Mr. Sears that the Town Clerk would handle the paperwork with him.

#### **Other Business:**

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that first of all, he would like to welcome Select woman McHugh to the Board. He also thought that the Board should send a letter of thanks to former Selectman Berry who, although Vice Chairman Robertson couldn't recall exactly, had been a selectman for probably 16 years and he could get that number. He thought that it would be fitting if the Board sent him a letter thanking him for his service over the years as selectman.

#### **Citizen's Comments:**

Chairman Pitman started by saying that there was something that he wanted to bring up to see if they could change it from "Citizen's Comments" to, if the Board agrees, "Citizen's Comments and Questions" and then we can get back to people if it's something that we can act on instead of letting them just hang there wondering why were not acting on something.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he would be in agreement but I wouldn't give up the right to change that. We had gone from Citizen's Comments and Questions to Citizen's Comments a number of years ago because the

business of the meeting was basically getting sidetracked by people with specific issues. We were just answering repetitive questions and basically trying to have a conversation with the Board instead of making questions or instead of making comments or simple questions.

Chairman Pitman stated that he would cross that off to which Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that the Board could start with it but that the Board didn't want it to get out of control.

Chairman Pitman asked for any Citizen's Comments.

None recognized.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 2, 2018 at 5:30 pm**

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary  
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*