

**Minutes**  
**Selectboard and Joint Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road**

Present for the Selectboard: Phil Kantor, Chair, Bob Armstrong, Erica Goleman

Others Present: Rhyanna McLeester, Finance Committee; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator, Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

**Meeting Called to Order** At 6:00 p.m. Phil called the Selectboard meeting to order.

**Minutes** **On a motion from Erica to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2022, Phil seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Warrants** **On a motion from Bob to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant W22-22 for \$81,055.58, the Payroll Warrant WP22-22 for \$117,450.77, the Payroll Deduction Warrant WD22-22 for \$29,646.47 and the Student Activity Warrant W22-SAF-03 for \$1,251.75, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Meetings Attended by Select Board Members** Erica had no meetings. Bob went on-site to see the Vertex proposed tower on Ashfield Road, which is quite a way up the hill and overlooks the valley. He also had a Frontier Capital Meeting mostly in regard to the failing boiler. There was some discussion on doing a ‘cheap’ replacement now with the idea that a more climate-friendly replacement would be installed in the near future. Phil also attended the Frontier Capital Meeting. The two large boilers are in a very small room, and if one needs to be replaced, a lot of the ductwork and other portions of the room would require replacement. This would be very expensive. Phil attended a school committee meeting on Tuesday, and he attended the Flag raising on Friday, which was also attended by State Senator Adam Hinds and Representative Natalie Blais.

**Public Comments** None

**Unfinished Business** None

**New Business** The agreement is between the Planning Board and Fred Goldstein, Principal, Interisle Consulting. Vertex is paying for the consultant. **Vote to approve and sign the consultant contract with Fred Goldstein/Interisle Consulting for the Planning Board and Vertex** **On a motion from Bob to approve and sign the consultant contract with Fred Goldstein/Interisle Consulting for the Planning Board and Vertex, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Discuss and vote to approve letter to National Grid re: spraying** **On a motion from Erica to approve the letter to National Grid re: spraying, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**6:15 Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee** No quorum so the joint meeting was not called.

**Juneteenth options discussion; paid holiday or unpaid day off** Discussion ensued as to whether it should be a paid holiday or an unpaid holiday.

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| <b>Discussion on FY23 Cost of Living Allowance</b>              | There was a brief discussion concerning the amount of the FY23 Cost of Living Allowance.  |
| <b>Discussion of budget as a whole</b>                          | Those in attendance discussed the budget as a whole as it has been submitted by the Town Administrator as of this date.   |
| <b>Discussion of warrant articles</b>                           | Those in attendance discussed the warrant articles as they have been submitted by the Town Administrator as of this date.   |
| <b>Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting</b> | <p>Bob said that an email came in about the construction on the Shelburne Falls Road. It's important for people to know when the road is closed, so they don't drive a long way on Shelburne Falls Road only to find that the road is closed. He said the detour on Bray Road is not recommended unless you have all-wheel drive. We should add a link to the Buckland website where they will keep the information current.</p> <p>In another email, Craig Warner has concerns about the Town's process for buying equipment that we don't use much. One example is the over-the-fence mower. The alternative is to put money in the budget to rent equipment instead.</p>   |
| <b>Town Administrator update</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today the new well was dug at the Public Safety Building and it came in at 140 feet deep with 80 feet of casing and 35 gallons per minute of flow! This is fantastic news, and the next step will be for Ron and Ken to work on the pump and the plumbing to the building.</li> <li>• On Friday Phil and I attended the Children's Advocacy Center flag-raising ceremony in honor of child abuse awareness month (April). A big thank you to Chief Baker for doing the actual flag raising! The flag and blue pinwheels will be up through the end of the month. Senator Adam Hinds and Representative Natalie Blais were on hand for the ceremony and read the declaration, and Conway natives Samantha Staelens and Abby Bliss, who both work at CAC, and gave lovely speeches about their organization and about having grown up in Conway.</li> <li>• On Tuesday I had a training through MIIA for injured on duty Fire, Police and Ambulance personnel, and I have signed up for the Human Resources 101 'bootcamp' on May 17 in Wrentham, put on by MMA/MMHR.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Select Board member comments/concerns</b>                    | None  |
| <b>Mail</b>   | None  |
| <b>Announcements</b>  | None  |
| <b>Next Meeting</b>   | April 19, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Zoom access.  |
| <b>Adjourn</b>  | <b>At 7:30 p.m. on a motion from Erica to adjourn, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.</b>  |