

Town of Farmington  
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 19, 2019

**Board Members Present:**

Paula Proulx, Chairman  
Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman  
Dave Connolly  
TJ Place  
Ann Titus

**Others Present:**

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator  
Fire Chief James Reinert  
Bill Fisher  
Adam Giles  
Angela Hardin  
Gerry Vachon  
FF Ali Lagasse, Student Intern

**1). Call to Order:**

Chairman Proulx called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**2). Pledge of Allegiance:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). Public Input:**

**Truck Replacement Recommendation** - Somersworth Highway Foreman Gerry Vachon told the board that Somersworth is standardizing their fleet with Peterbuilt vehicles with Cummins engines due to the issues with the engines in the International trucks. Last winter they had a 4 year old truck go down with only 30,000 miles on it because of the engine and it cost \$7,600 to repair it he said.

He said they are getting Cummins engines with Allison transmissions in extremely heavy trucks. He gave the board some line cards (brochures) that list the names, descriptions and manufacturers of heavy duty trucks, plows and sanders and the costs for those vehicles. He said they looked at all of the manufacturers and the warranty requirements for 4 wheel drive heavy trucks and if anything happens to the 4 wheel drive Peterbuilt in NH is authorized to do the work instead of having to return it to the manufacturer who is located in Michigan.

Chairman Proulx asked if Peterbuilt is willing to work with municipalities.

Mr. Vachon said they do offer a municipal discount but do not do state bid vehicles. He gave an example of the street cost for the cab and chassis of \$136,000 and that Somersworth is purchasing a cab and chassis for \$95,000 and the total cost depends on how the truck is outfitted.

Mr. Capello asked if the "bumper-to-bumper" warranty lasts for 4 years.

Mr. Vachon said the warrantee is for the entire truck and is for 5 years. He said they have a 6 truck fleet and the city has just ordered their 4<sup>th</sup> Peterbuilt truck and that he plans to recommend they replace the remaining 2 trucks with Peterbuilts as they come due for

replacement.

He added that by standardizing the fleet they are also standardizing the parts needed such as the same oil filter for all of the trucks instead of having to stock a stockroom full of different sets of parts used by each vehicle.

Mr. Capello asked if the trucks have stainless steel bodies.

Mr. Vachon said they have standard steel bodies and that they wash them once a week to remove the salt and then grease them.

Mr. Capello said the materials provided by Mr. Vachon will be great information for when the DPW Director comes before the board next week to discuss if some of the existing equipment is worth fixing.

Chairman Proulx thanked Mr. Vachon for taking the time to bring the information to the board.

Mr. Vachon said he is a Farmington resident and would like to see the fleet maintained and in good shape. He said if the board has any questions Mr. Place knows how to reach him.

**Master Plan Survey** – Mr. Capello asked people to please fill out the Master Plan survey and that a link to the survey can be found on the Town website and on the Face book page. He said that as of 3 p.m. that day there were 366 online responses and there are hard copies available at the Municipal Office Building.

**Fireworks Display**- Mr. Capello then reminded everyone that the fireworks display usually held on Hay Day will be held on Sat. August 24 behind the Henry Wilson School due to scheduling conflicts. He added that he wanted to give a “shout out” to Rec. Director Rick Conway and the Rec. Dept. staff who did a fabulous job with Hay Day.

#### **4). Review of Minutes:**

**August 12, 2019** – Non-Public Sessions A-E – Session E- 8<sup>th</sup> line- change “has” to “was” and “Friday” to “Monday”.

Sessions A-D- No errors or omissions

**Motion:** (Johnson, second Titus) to accept Non-Public Sessions A through D as written and to accept Non-Public Session E as amended passed 5-0.

#### **5). Request for Improvement at Sarah Greenfield:**

Mr. Capello said Adam Giles is the owner of MBG Cabling located in the Sarah Greenfield Business Park. He said Mr. Giles went through the site plan process and has started construction of his building on the lot.

He said it has been discovered that the concrete pad and transformer for the lot have been damaged over the years by pushing and winging back snow to the point where they both have to be replaced.

Mr. Giles said the pad seems to have been hit by a good sized truck as it was moved out of place and the corner of the pad was cracked causing Eversource to fail the pad inspection.

Mr. Capello said it was his understanding that Mr. Giles was before the board to request that he

and the Town split the cost to replace the transformer and the concrete pad.

Mr. Giles said that he is being asked to pay for the line that goes to feed electricity to the rest of the development. He said it is more of an upgrade to extend it to the next 2 lots and if their facility was less than 300 feet from the road the lot owners could just walk and pay nothing to hook up to the electric service while he is being asked to pay for a line that will extend 500 feet up the road.

Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Giles to give a little more detailed explanation of what needs to be done at his lot.

Mr. Giles said the 3 phase power line ends at the first 2 buildings in the park and he would have to pay to extend the lines it to his (cracked) power pad and have a transformer installed which would then feed electricity to the other lots as well. It's not just for me and if I pay for that I would be buying the other people's power for when they build their businesses he said.

Mr. Capello and Mr. Johnson said they were confused.

Mr. Giles said there are no underground power lines between the existing transformer and his cracked pad but there is conduit on the other side of the road from when the road was put in. He said that because he does utility work Eversource allowed him to open the existing transformer and clean out those lines so there would be no charge to him for that work. To get the lines run to his concrete pad it will cost him \$21,000 while S & S Paving at the end of the road can hook up for free as the utility will just have to install a pole box there he said.

Mr. Capello said that he and Mr. Johnson each went to the lot and looked at it but during their discussion about the location of the concrete pad it seemed as if they may have looked at two different things. He then asked if there was a picture of the site available.

Mr. Giles said he did not take any pictures and that he thought someone from the Town would do so.

Mr. Johnson asked about the vertical brown box at the back right hand side of the pad.

Mr. Giles said the box is the telephone service installed by Consolidated Communications.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Capello to clarify what he looked at.

Mr. Capello began to explain that he saw concrete and concrete pieces in front of Mr. Giles' lot. Chairman Proulx then interjected that it sounded to her like they need to do some more research on the matter.

Mr. Capello said he would go to the site this week and take photos.

Mr. Johnson then drew a picture of the pad site on a sheet of notebook paper that showed the location of Mr. Giles' building foundation, the telephone box in the back right side corner of the cracked pad, the existing pad at the other property and said there was nothing directly in front of Mr. Giles' building.

Mr. Giles said what they saw in front of the building that day was trash dumped there which he has already picked up. He said dumping has been an on-going problem there including concrete pieces and pads.

Mr. Capello said he misinterpreted the concrete dumped in front of the property as the cracked pad Mr. Giles was referring to.

Mr. Giles said he was not trying to get out of having to pay anything for it but that he would like to split the cost with the Town. He noted that the owner of the S & S property has just bought the land and he did not know when he planned to start construction at the site or if he would be willing to pitch in for the electrical work.

Chairman Proulx asked if the abutting lot has any electricity currently.

Mr. Giles said it does not and that he will have to pay more than he had planned because the heavy concrete pad which weighs 11,680 lbs. will have to be removed by a large crane, pay for its disposal and to put a new pad in.

He said speculated that the pad was not moved from being hit by a pickup truck and had to have been hit by a big truck because the concrete is buried 3 feet into the ground and weighs almost 12,000 lbs. The pad was pushed back 3 feet into the telephone box and is now decaying and falling apart and Eversource won't put a transformer on it. I bought the property thinking it was ready to go but it is not and this is an unexpected added cost he said.

Chairman Proulx asked if the board should take Mr. Giles' request under advisement and do some more research to have a better discussion. Right now there is some information we're missing she said.

Mr. Giles said the construction process is quickly picking up and that he expects to be occupying the building by October and then this issue will be the only thing holding him up. He added he did not mind meeting with someone on site if needed.

Mr. Capello said he would have the information the board is looking for at next week's meeting.

Mr. Johnson asked if Eversource has been told to proceed and if he was placed on their waiting list.

Mr. Giles said he had a site meeting with Eversource and they will not proceed until the new pad is installed. He said that he was told that as soon as he informs Eversource the process with the Town and the pad installation is completed it will take from 6-8 weeks for them to install a new transformer on the pad.

Chairman Proulx said they would look into this and get back to Mr. Giles as soon as possible.

#### **6). School Resource Officer MOU:**

Mr. Capello said the board received the preliminary draft of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the Town, the Farmington Police Dept. and **School Administrative Unit (SAU) 61** regarding the **School Resource Officer (SRO)** Program and that he was looking for feedback from the board before sending it to the Town Attorney for review. He said the Attorney has been working with the Police Chief, the Captain and the Lieutenant and when they come up with the finished product the Chief and the Captain will go over it with the board. Then we will present it to the School Board he said.

Mr. Johnson began by asking if the current agreement has expired.

Mr. Capello said the current agreement is in effect until the end of the grant period in 2022.

Mr. Johnson asked what promulgated this new agreement.

Mr. Capello said it was due to the issues that came out of the Town's piece of the investigation and discussions about the MOU and the need to tighten it up.

Mr. Johnson asked if they wanted to change the existing agreement to cover the issues that were disclosed over the past few months.

Mr. Capello said that is correct and to also make the agreement more clear.

Mr. Johnson said he had some issues he would like to discuss in non-public session and then turned to Page 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> line which states "The SAU will notify the SRO or the Police Dept. prior to undertaking its own investigations"(concerning allegations or suspicions of criminal acts or serious wrong doing). He said this is one of the faults they had in the initial investigation that things weren't being reported to the SRO. He asked how they would ensure that things are going to be addressed at this point.

Mr. Capello said there is no way to 100% ensure it and that ultimately if the SAU chooses not to report it to the SRO the Town may hear about through the grapevine but at least there will be written documentation stating that they need to do it (report it to the SRO).

Mr. Johnson asked what is new or different in this draft compared to the current agreement.

Mr. Capello said he would request a copy of the current agreement and "red line" the changes in the draft agreement for the board. He said one of the changes is that the current agreement is 3 pages long (the proposed new agreement has 15 pages).

Mr. Johnson then moved to the third paragraph on Page 5 and read aloud that the parties agree to work cooperatively in meeting the need for prompt, effective and efficient investigations in situations where misconduct or allegations of misconduct occur where criminal acts or serious wrong doing are not suspected or alleged. He said that this is also something that was disclosed in the initial investigation and he did not know how they would ensure that it would be done. One of the clauses for termination of the agreement should be the failure of either party to perform and I think this has to be added he said.

Chairman Proulx agreed and said this might be part of a conversation between the Chief, the Captain and the SAU and the building Principals and that there would be minutes taken of the meetings.

Mr. Capello said if the Chief and the Captain were meeting with the Superintendent they wouldn't keep minutes as it is a meeting among dept. heads and not a public meeting.

Chairman Proulx suggested that maybe the meeting should be with the School Board and the Superintendent so there will be assurances that Mr. Johnson's concerns are addressed and so there is full documentation.

Mr. Capello said once the agreement is finalized they can request a meeting with the School Board to go over it.

Mr. Johnson said it is one thing to put something on paper and another thing to actually do it. If

it wasn't done before I see no reason that it will be done now he said.

He said after Mr. Capello gives the board's suggestions to the Chief to get them incorporated in the agreement and it comes back to the board the Chief may be able to answer some of their concerns.

Mr. Johnson said on Page 7, Duties and Responsibilities of the Parties, As an Educator, Item #4 directs the educator to provide supervised classroom instruction with lesson plans if required by the SAU on a variety of law enforcement related education and other topics deemed appropriate and approved by the Police Captain and a School official. He asked if during the previous 3-4 years that the SRO has been instated if that has ever occurred.

Mr. Capello said he thought this item is referring to the D.A.R.E. Program that is conducted at the schools.

Mr. Johnson said item #7 which requires the educator to attend meetings of parent and faculty groups to solicit their support and understanding of the SRO Program and to promote awareness of law enforcement functions and asked if they have ever been invited.

Mr. Capello said this happens very rarely and they weren't invited to such a meeting until after the recent investigation was begun.

Mr. Johnson noted that on Page 9, Responsibilities of the Police Dept. Captain (SRO Supervisor) that item #6 requiring quarterly reports to the Board of Selectmen and to the School Board about the SRO's activities has been added to the proposed agreement. He said he knew this was new because they have not seen any quarterly reports yet.

Mr. Johnson said one of his recommendations was regarding Page 10, Responsibilities of the SAU #5 (to contact the SRO or Police Dept. for allegations or suspicions of a criminal act or serious wrong doing, definition of serious wrong doing), (a) physical assault resulting in injury to a victim and that this should include no matter how minor the physical assault was as some people have made the judgment that it was a minor issue and decided not to report it.

He suggested that the middle paragraph on that page requiring the SAU to report allegations or suspicions of a criminal act or serious wrong doing to be reported to the Police Dept. *before* the SAU begins its own investigation should be stressed more stringently and highlighted. He said there have been past instances where the Police Dept. investigations into these activities have been thwarted by School entities by giving the parties a "heads up" or by independently investigating the issue before the Police got involved.

Mr. Johnson then turned to Page 15 (signature page) and said this agreement should be between the SAU Superintendent, the School Board, the Police Chief and the Board of Selectmen (the draft agreement shows signature spaces for the Superintendent, the Police Chief and the Town Administrator). He said there have been too many excuses of "We didn't know about this" and there won't be any excuses with the agreement signed by both boards. Chairman Proulx agreed and said that to carry it one step further on Page 13, Section X (10) Notice that the intended recipients of written communications should also include at least the

School Board Chairman if not the School Board itself.

Mr. Johnson said the Selectmen Chairman should also be added to that list.

He said that on Page 10, Responsibilities of the SAU, item #7 requires the SAU to provide all administrators, staff members and teachers with copies of the SRO MOU and the Safe School Zones MOU and to sign a document stating they have received, read and understand the MOU's each year. He asked if this is a new addition to the agreement based on the recent investigation or if it was included in the existing agreement.

Chairman Proulx said she thought this is a new addition to the agreement.

Mr. Johnson said it might be a good idea for the School Dept. to give a presentation on the responsibilities for reporting these incidents, under what conditions, who they are supposed to report it to and to make sure that it is clear.

Mr. Capello then received a text message from Police Chief Jay Drury saying that this item is new to the agreement.

Chairman Proulx said that during the days right before school starts when the teachers are required to report to school it may be a good opportunity to give such a presentation.

Mr. Capello said it has been requested but he did not know if it has been fulfilled.

Fire Chief James Reinert was present and said the Fire Dept. is doing a presentation on Aug. 25 and suggested that may be a good time to hold the SRO MOU presentation.

Mr. Capello said Chief Drury is watching the meeting and is aware of Chief Reinert's suggestion.

Chairman Proulx said the responsibilities of the SAU include providing a secure private office space containing a telephone, desk, chair, computer and filing cabinet (Page 9, iii #1). She asked if the Police Chief has had any feedback regarding this requirement.

Mr. Johnson asked if this is a new requirement.

Chairman Proulx said she thought they were supposed to grant this request previously but she didn't think that they ever did.

Mrs. Titus said there was a room at the high school when Officer Tilly was the SRO.

Chief Drury text messaged Mr. Capello and said the dept. did have a room at the Henry Wilson School last year and that he thought they will have it again.

There were no other comments or questions from the board.

## **7). Discussion on New Fire Apparatus:**

Fire Chief James Reinert introduced Ali Lagasse who is the current live-in student intern for the Fire Dept. to the board and noted that on her first day with the dept. she was called on to assist with fighting a fire.

Mr. Capello said one of the reasons Chief Reinert was before the board tonight was to discuss the possible purchase of a new fire apparatus. He said that the board had received 3 rough quotes and once the board makes some decisions on what they are looking for they will send the potential purchase out to RFP (**Request for Proposals**). He advised the board to look at all options including a lease/purchase plan as well as the outright purchase of a new truck.



Chief Reinert said Mr. Connolly had previously requested some preliminary numbers so a request was sent to 3 vendors and their responses were “all over the place”.

He said they received a quote from Minuteman Fire & Rescue who is a vendor for Pierce products which is a top of the line truck and a little more expensive than the others (approx. budgetary numbers from \$550,000 - \$725,000). He said Autotronics is in the middle of the pack (est. prices for 3 options from \$531,000 - \$565,900) and Eastern Fire Apparatus who is a vendor for Toyne trucks manufactured in Michigan and is trying to expand into New England gave them 3 options for trucks (ranging from \$450,000 - \$600,000).

Chairman Proulx asked if Pierce is the company that works with Peterbuilt.

Chief Reinert said that Peterbuilt does not manufacture fire trucks. They build chassis and commercial style 2 man cabs and other companies use their parts to build fire trucks. He said depending on the manufacturer, if the Town was adamant on using a Peterbuilt chassis on the new truck that is what they would get and then they would build it out from there.

He said that Peterbuilt does not make custom cabs such as the traditional 4-6 person cab found on most fire trucks.

Mr. Capello said once they decide on the specs they can send them a RFP.

Chief Reinert said most of the trucks are multi-piece trucks (with parts made by various manufacturers) such as the dept.'s truck manufactured by Ferrara made with a Spartan cab.

Chairman Proulx said it sounds like there are still more options out there.

Mr. Capello agreed but asked the board to narrow down exactly what they are looking for so they can develop a RFP and get it out to bidders and get harder numbers.

Mr. Johnson said he didn't see what they had to choose from as all they received were prices.

Mr. Capello said the critical piece for the board to decide would be the gallons of water the new truck would hold and then they could narrow it down from there.

Chief Reinert said the giant price increase from when you go from 2,000 to 3,000 gallons is due to having to extend the frame and chassis. He said he found it “mind boggling” with the way the manufacturers charge anywhere from a \$30,000 increase to a \$200,000 increase for extending the chassis for more water capacity.

Chairman Proulx asked if the board had enough information.

Mr. Johnson said they are basing their decisions off one factor and asked at what point a truck would need an extended frame.

Chief Reinert said a truck with over a 2,000 gallon capacity tank would need an extended frame and a tandem axle added because of the weight of the water.

Chairman Proulx asked if that was the only thing that changes when the water capacity is increased.

Chief Reinert said the truck would have the same cab and pump but once you put more water on it is the weight that is the issue and drives the cost up.

Mr. Johnson asked why a 1,500 GPM (gallons per minute) pump is needed as opposed to a



1250 GPM pump stated in one of the truck quotes.

The Chief said he requested information on trucks with 1500 GPM pump and he did not know why Minuteman Fire & Rescue provided a quote on a truck with a 1250 GPM pump. He said he could go back to them and request the price for that truck with a 1500 GPM pump and he didn't think it would be that much more than the price quoted for 1250 GPM pump.

Mr. Capello asked if the board had narrowed it down to going with either a 1,500 or 2,000 gallon capacity tank and have eliminated the 3,000 gallon tank.

Mr. Johnson suggested the RFP request a range of 1,500 to 2,000 gallons to avoid the extended frame.

Chairman Proulx said she liked the idea of the range and that she would also like to see what is standard on fire trucks.

Chief Reinert said the trucks are all custom-built.

Mr. Johnson said he was not going to say "Here's \$500,000. What can I get for it?"

Chairman Proulx said she was talking about a standard rig with that water capacity range and if he (the Chief) wants anything other than that he would have to sell the board on it.

Chief Reinert said he planned to compare it to what they have and are replacing so they are not taking a step back. We should have at least what we had or bigger he said.

Chairman Proulx said if that is what is needed on that particular truck and that they have done things before where we have replaced one engine and brought in another piece of apparatus and then found they shouldn't be carrying something on that truck and that it should have been put on another truck.

Chief Reinert said for the record he wants to replace Engine 1 with what Engine 1 currently is or with a larger water capacity.

Mr. Capello suggested that the Chief put together a spec sheet and bring it back to the board for review.

Chief Reinert said that is the same as was done when they purchased the new ambulance-they put a spec sheet together showing what they are looking for and the manufacturer will respond that they can do it or mark off the things they can't do.

Chairman Proulx said she didn't want to build in over capacity (not just for water) into the truck just because this is the time to do that. She said she didn't want to include 2 extra compartments with 10 adjustable shelves instead of 8 because someday we might use them.

The Chief said he was looking for one-to-one similarity between Engine 1 and the new truck without taking a step back.

Mr. Capello said when the Chief completes the spec sheet he will put him back on the agenda to discuss it with the board and then put the RFP together once they settle on the spec sheet.

Chairman Proulx requested that any options the Chief feels are needed be specified separately on the side so they can see what the extra costs are and then he has to sell them to the board.

## **8). Mutual Aid Discussion:**

Selectmen received copies of the e-mail response from New Durham Town Administrator Scott Kinmond and a spreadsheet of the mutual aid calls between New Durham and Farmington for 2017 – 07/28/19.

Mr. Capello said the numbers were a little skewed and as with any good statistics he could make it say anything he wants. He said the call volume of what New Durham does is not even half of what Farmington does so the percentage (of calls from New Durham to Farmington) would be higher.

Chief Reinert said Farmington does about triple the call volume of New Durham and that most of Farmington's requested mutual aid is because they are tied up on another call as opposed to not being staffed at all or having no responders.

Chairman Proulx said it is also not the result of the Selectmen not budgeting for the Fire Dept. to be staffed because we are going to rely on other communities.

Mr. Capello asked that since this has come to light if the Chief has seen a decrease in the non-mutual aid calls to New Durham.

Chief Reinert said from Aug. 1 to Aug. 19 they went once to Middleton for mutual aid to a structure fire and were requested once to New Durham for a medical emergency which was canceled en route. That was a true mutual aid call because they were tied up at Frisbie Hospital but they cleared Frisbie, canceled Farmington and responded to the call in their town he said.

Mr. Johnson asked if he felt that New Durham has taken note of the board's issues.

Chief Reinert said he had a brief conversation with the New Durham Fire Chief about his concerns with budgets and staffing and that he is trying to break up the mutual aid requests between Farmington and Alton to relieve some of the burden on Farmington. He is getting some preliminary budgetary numbers and wage studies, etc. and he understands that while Farmington may not say no to a non-mutual aid request there could be issues with billing and charges for the responses Chief Reinert said.

Chairman Proulx said that as long as they understand that Farmington is not doing this for free.

Chief Reinert said that Mr. Kinmond had mentioned EMS billing in his e-mail and noted that not all of the patients transported have insurance or pay their bills so it is not always 100% paid.

Mr. Johnson said that wasn't the issue and that the issue is New Durham using Farmington to balance their budget which they have tacitly agreed to or are aware of by readjusting their budget to compensate.

Chairman Proulx said this has been going on for years. She said at some point Alton will get tired of it and begin to holler too. I don't expect the taxpayers to pay for New Durham she said.

Mr. Capello said the last time this came up in Farmington they shifted everything to Alton and Alton got tired of it.

Chairman Proulx said Alton taxpayers don't want to pay for New Durham and that they should pay for their own Fire Dept. but that she did not mind helping out for true mutual aid.

Mr. Capello said he was a little bothered by Mr. Kinmond's comment about how Farmington could say no to a call.

Chief Reinert said that technically he could refuse a call because the dept. doesn't have the adequate resources to respond but if someone's family member was requesting help and no one was coming- I have to be able to sleep at night he said.

Chairman Proulx said she would rather request that they pay for it and then we add more help.

Mr. Capello said they will keep an eye on it and see if it continues to stay low.

Mr. Connolly said if New Durham doesn't staff their dept. they can refuse every call.

Chairman Proulx said they are refusing by not staffing and toning out Farmington for a call.

Mr. Johnson said Farmington could refuse but wouldn't and he wouldn't want to have to make that decision. We can't expect Farmington residents to pay for New Durham service calls he said.

Chairman Proulx said she would hate to have a family member in trouble and not have an ambulance available because they are over in New Durham because they are not staffing (their own dept.).

Mr. Connolly said Mr. Kinmond stated he would be happy to meet with Mr. Capello to discuss what Farmington's aspirations are and to tell him exactly what Mr. Johnson said.

Chief Reinert asked if Mr. Capello has had any dialog with Mr. Kinmond other than this e-mail.

Chairman Proulx said their aspirations are if they don't stop using us in the way that they are we are going to start charging them-plain and simple.

Mr. Johnson said as a taxpayer he would love to have the ability to not staff the Fire Dept. 24 hours a day and rely on other towns to support us.

Chairman Proulx said Chief Reinert has been very good about trying to figure out how to staff the dept. for 24 hours and working the schedules. I think others could do that she said.

Mr. Capello said if New Durham had budgeted for staff and couldn't get staff hired that would be an entirely different discussion than saying they weren't going to budget for it because we know Farmington will respond.

Chief Reinert said their call volume is minor to moderate with a potential for 1 call per day and that the reason behind not staffing their dept. may be because they are still relying on the call volunteers being in town during the day.

Chairman Proulx said if they have to call out of town this many times it is time for them to step up their game.

Mr. Capello said the Chief puts this information in his monthly report and will keep the board posted.

#### **9). Dry Hydrants Discussion:**

Mr. Capello said the Chief has gotten some additional information regarding the NH Dept. of Environmental Services permitting process for dry hydrants. He said this is a topic the board has had some discussion on and that it is also in the Town's Emergency Management Plan to start

installing them within the next 5 years. As we are coming into budget season and if we are going to look at the DES permitting then we need to budget for it and maybe do 1 dry hydrant a year he said.

Mr. Connolly asked how many dry hydrants the Chief thought was needed.

Chairman Proulx said it would depend on the number of people they get to sign up to allow them to be put on their property.

Chief Reinert said he did an e-mail blast out to the Chiefs of 45 towns in the Seacoast Chiefs Assoc. to see if any of them had recently conducted any dry hydrant projects. He said the only response was from the Town of Epping and they installed 3 dry hydrants last year through the Tighe Engineering firm and the cost just for the permitting process was approx. \$4,000. This didn't include the firm visiting the proposed sites to view the locations or water supply, etc. which would be an added cost he said.

He said he has a handful of places that he would deem as ideal for the dry hydrants but we would have to wait to get someone out there to do measurements and review the water supply. Then we start looking at if it is on private property if there is adequate access to the dry hydrant, if the ground around it would support a fire truck that is pumping for 3-4 hours and developing an agreement between the Town and property owner where the Town would maintain the hydrant so it is a bigger picture than just installing the dry hydrant he said.

Chief Reinert said he was looking for direction as to where the Town would like to go with this and that it would only benefit those residents in the areas without municipal water supply.

Chairman Proulx asked if there was any kind of grant money available such as for Rural Development that may be a possibility for this type of project.

Mr. Capello noted that grant awarded to the Town for the Scott Air Packs last year has yet to be distributed.

Chief Reinert said he has an e-mail out to the USDA but hasn't found anything specific to dry hydrants.

Mr. Johnson said he would like to see where the Chief thinks the best locations would be.

Chief Reinert said that Baxter Lake, Scruton Pond, the Reservoir on Reservoir Road, at a pond owned by resident Bruce Bridges, on River Road and on Chestnut Hill Road near Golden Circle Road are potential locations for dry hydrants. Most of the streams are only seasonal he said.

Chairman Proulx said there are some spots that if at some point more development was to take place there has been previous discussion that they would like a second option for the water supply and this might alleviate some of these situations.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the Chief come up with the top 3 locations where the dry hydrants would be the most beneficial.

Mr. Connolly said he wouldn't be opposed to choosing the top 6 locations and they wouldn't have to act on all of them. If they are on Town property they would be prime locations for a dry hydrant he said.

Mr. Johnson said that a couple of residents have volunteered their properties for a dry hydrant and whether they are suitable or not is another question. He said it may be a good place to start because the residents have agreed to it verbally and overcome some of the right-of-way issues.

Mr. Capello suggested that when the Chief returns to the board to review the spec sheet for the new truck that he bring a map with him with the potential locations for the hydrants noted on the map.

Mr. Johnson said they could still budget for the installation of a dry hydrant without knowing the exact location at this time and estimated that the cost would range from \$7,000 to \$10,000 for each dry hydrant.

Chairman Proulx said if they were aware of the proposed locations they could see which ones make sense and if there is one spot that sticks out they could consider pursuing it.

Mr. Capello asked if one location is enough for next year or if the board wanted to see more than one.

Mr. Johnson said one is enough for discussion at this point.

Mr. Capello reminded the board that the first payment is coming up for the Scott Air Packs.

Chief Reinert said their website has been updated to “coming soon” and that it would be a quick process once they start to distribute the funds. He said this year he planned to apply for a grant to help with the purchase of a new fire truck.

#### **10). Fire Dept. Radio:**

Chief Reinert said the repeater transmitter up on Chesley Mountain is approx. 30 years old and it would cost about \$25,000 to replace it. He said he has been talking with Strafford County and they have prepared a quote to replace it. They have money set aside for infrastructure and are willing to replace the transmitter at no cost to the Town but there would be a MOU where they would take over the Farmington Fire Dept.’s radio frequency he said.

The Chief said the dept. would then lose control over the radio channel and the County would maintain it, have to do all of the licensing for it every 5 years and they would be responsible for replacing any of the equipment that goes up there.

He asked the board if they would give him the “green light” to move forward with the plan at least with the MOU to see what the County will propose for an agreement.

Mr. Johnson asked what the down side would be for this plan.

Chief Reinert said he would lose control over the radio frequency.

Mr. Johnson asked if that would keep the Chief up at night.

Chief Reinert said it would not.

Mr. Capello said the down side of the plan would be that the County will raise their tax rate to pay for it.

Chief Reinert said the part of this plan is that the County is trying to build out a multi-channel fire side dispatching program similar to the one in the Mirror Lakes region. He said he has a

meeting with the County Commissioners on Sept. 5 and the Sheriff's Office is proposing an \$800,000 project to start this program but they will still take over the radio frequency and the transmitter if that part of the project doesn't get approved. This would be the first step to getting that process and the program put in place he said.

Chief Reinert said he is a proponent of the plan but doesn't have the authority to tell the County to move ahead with their plan as it is Town equipment.

Mr. Johnson asked if they would lose any functionality.

Chief Reinert said he did not think so but wanted the opportunity to see what is stated in the MOU and that he had a few ideas about what should be included in the agreement such as this channel would remain as a fire channel and doesn't get absorbed into the Police side because we have better coverage from the Chesley Mountain site than the PD does over on Blue Job Mountain.

He said it will be a 7 site repeater system and part of the program would be the new towers going up in Milton and Middleton in addition to Chesley Mountain site so there should be pretty robust coverage and very few spots in Farmington where there would be issues with the radio transmissions. I see it as a win-win for the Town financially and building out a bigger and better product that will assist the Fire Dept. he said.

Mr. Johnson said he did not want to make this decision based on finances and asked if this would be beneficial or neutral at the very least with no negative down side to it and that the Town would get something out of it.

Chief Reinert said he sees it as being beneficial to the Town.

Chairman Proulx asked if the board was okay with giving the Chief the green light to talk to the County about establishing the MOU.

Consensus of the board was to allow the Chief to talk to the County about developing a MOU.

Chairman Proulx requested that as soon as the MOU is ready that it be brought to the board for review.

Mr. Johnson asked the Chief to note anything he deems as being negative in the MOU so that the board can weigh it.

Chairman Proulx asked that he note if there is anything he would like to see added to the MOU.

#### **11). Town Administrator's Business:**

**Steering Committee Meeting-** Mr. Capello said the committee would meet on Thursday, Aug. 22 and that he planned to speak with the members about getting the Master Plan surveys out to residents by putting hard copies in various locations around town as well as the index cards with link to the online survey for those who wish to complete the survey on their computers.

Mr. Johnson suggested the materials could be handed out at the Transfer Station.

Chairman Proulx she heard that Mr. Arnett (of ADG) was allowing non-residents to participate in the visual display at Hay Day and asked how they would know that the information received from the surveys put out in various areas is only from Farmington residents.

Mr. Capello said they would not know for certain and on the survey there is a place where the respondent can say if they are a resident, own property, work for the Town and they can also sign it. There is no possible way to know if they are getting answers from residents only unless they went door to door and asked residents to fill it out he said.

He said link to survey is out there now but the hard copies have not been distributed publically. The people who have responded to me that have completed the survey are Town residents. I'm not putting much weight on the results from the board (at Hay Day) and only 44 people participated he said.

Chairman Proulx said they don't have controls over who responds and that when you are collecting data you like to have controls. The data collected can't be looked at as non-skewed she said.

Mr. Capello asked if the board did not want him to distribute the surveys at any locations other than the Transfer Station.

Chairman Proulx expressed some concern that there is more potential for non-residents to take the survey from locations on Route 11.

Mr. Capello suggested they could concentrate on locations in the downtown area.

Mr. Johnson said that if the surveys are made available at in-town locations such as the library and the Rec. Dept. there would be someone there to say they are available to residents only. That way we could try to reduce the potential of the data being skewed he said.

Mrs. Titus said she was bothered by the fact that only 366 surveys have been done when there are over 7,000 people in town. She said she did not think they were hitting all of the people in town.

Mr. Capello said they can't force people to fill them out and asked how they get people to do it. Chairman Proulx said the reps from ADG need to do what they said they planned to do which is more outreach to the groups in town.

Mr. Johnson said that was mentioned in the e-mail they received that day and that at Hay Day or at the fireworks is not the time to do it.

Chairman Proulx listed some of the groups in town and that there are a lot of people who are busy and unless they go to them they are not going to get their responses. We went to 12 or 14 different associations and groups the last time this was done and presented it to them in their groups. If you really want to know what the people think you have to go to them or if you don't want to know and make decisions on your own this is a great way to do it she said.

Mr. Capello said this is why he wanted to use the Steering Committee-as boots on the ground but he needed to know what those organizations are and would come back from the meeting with a list of the organizations from the Steering Committee.

Chairman Proulx said this (the Master Plan) is a big deal meant to provide direction to the town and the Town boards about how to make this happen for the next 5-10 years.

Mr. Capello said the request to fill out a survey went out on the Town website, the Face book



pages and by e-mail that day.

Mrs. Titus said there is also an open house event being held at Valley View School on Aug. 27 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. with several entities in town participating. She suggested that Mr. Capello contact the school to see about setting up a table there to get people to fill out a survey.

Mr. Capello said once he gets the list together he planned to bring it to the board for review and to see if there are any groups missing from the list.

## **12). Additional Board Business:**

**Hay Day Report** -Mrs. Titus said she only heard good comments about Hay Day and that there seemed to be more people attending it this year. People seemed to be having a good time although they would have liked to have had more food vendors she said.

Mr. Capello said some of the scheduled vendors did not show up because of the weather.

Mrs. Titus said there were some people with issues about the delayed fireworks but that she explained that it was out of the Town's control (due to staffing issues at the fireworks company). There were some issues with the car show as they were blocked and had to go down to the dirt road to enter the parking lot after a certain time she said.

Mr. Capello said using that entrance was the plan from the beginning and that only 3 cars showed up.

Chairman Proulx said that was a start and that car shows usually run on a circuit and plans usually have to be made a year in advance to get them to attend your event.

Bill Fisher said he was at the Conservation Commission's booth that day and heard complaints about there not being any games for the kids as there have been in the past.

Mr. Capello said that was incorrect and that there was a video game truck there and several other things for children during the day. He said part of the reason is that the 500 Boys and Girls Club didn't participate in Hay Day this year.

Mrs. Titus said there was also a fishing game for the little kids. She said these were some things the board could discuss when the Rec. Dept. Director meets with the board.

**Any Suggestions?** – Chairman Proulx asked if there were any suggestions in the suggestion box.

Mr. Capello said he thought there are 4 or 5 suggestions in the box and that he would include them on the agenda for next week's meeting as he just got the box back from the Rec. Dept. Director that morning.

**Town Well Replacement** – Mr. Capello said the consultants from Emery & Garret Groundwater Investigations and the Cemetery Assoc. members would be first on the agenda at next week's meeting to discuss issues regarding the potential location of a Town well on cemetery land. Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Capello to e-mail the Association president to confirm the time for the discussion and to inform him that the discussion will take place during the public portion of the meeting for informational purposes and there will be no contract/agreement negotiations taking place at that time.

Mr. Capello said he would e-mail Cemetery Association President Don Fuller the next day.

**Contract Vote-** Mr. Johnson said the board needed to vote to accept the DPW contract in public session. He asked if the board had any questions or issues that needed to be discussed in non-public session before the vote. Nothing has changed and I wanted to make sure that there weren't any issues or questions after the board had a chance to go through it he said. There were no questions or issues raised by the board.

**Motion:** (Johnson, second Connolly) that the Board of Selectmen ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town and the Teamsters' Local 633 which is the DPW Wastewater and Water Treatment Plant personnel for the period of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023 and move this forward to be placed as warrant article on next year's ballot passed 5-0.

Mr. Capello said once the board signed the contract he would scan it into the computer and send a copy to the union representative.

Chairman Proulx asked the union had signed off on the agreement.

Mr. Johnson said they ratified it 10 days ago.

Mr. Capello said he received e-mail confirmation that the contract was voted on and ratified by the union members. He said they would sign it once he sends them a copy of the contract signed by the board.

### **13). Non-Public Session A:**

**Motion:** (Johnson, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (I) Consideration of Legal Advice passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Connolly, Place, Titus-yes) at 7:50 p.m.

**Motion:** (Johnson, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:12 p.m.

### **14). Non-Public Session B:**

**Motion:** (Johnson, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Connolly, Place, Titus-yes) at 8:12 p.m.

**Motion:** (Johnson, second Place) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:30 p.m.

**Motion:** (Johnson, second Titus) to seal the minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Connolly, Place, Titus-yes).

**15). Next Meeting:** Monday, August 26, 2019 at 6 p.m.

### **16). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Place, second Johnson) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 8:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted  
Kathleen Magoon  
Recording Secretary

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Paula Proulx, Chairman

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Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

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Dave Connolly

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TJ Place

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Ann Titus