

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Joseph Conroy, Morris Klein, James MacDonell, Mike Darcy (selectmen's rep), Peter Zavorotny. Excused: John Hartnet and Lewis Major; Absent: Michael Carrier.

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall.

He said the committee had minutes to accept--619, 620, and 621. He asked if the committee wanted to accept them individually or together as a group. The committee wanted to accept them one at a time, so the process began with Mr. MacDonell making a motion to accept 621 with revision of one word ("update" for "updated"). He was seconded by Mr. Klein and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bellville made a motion to accept the minutes of 619. He was seconded by Mr. MacDonell. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion to accept the minutes of 620. Seconded by Mr. Conroy, the motion passed with Mr. Klein abstaining.

Mr. Zavorotny said the committee had a few things to go over.

A workshop on topics related to budgets and creating a budget is planned for Sept. 10 (Bartlett) and Sept. 17 (Manchester). The cost is \$75/person; there is money in the budget for one member of the budget committee to attend. TA Collins and Finance Director Alicia Marshall plan to attend the Manchester session. Mr. Conroy expressed interest in the workshop and will check his calendar; he will contact TA Collins if he can attend.

Mr. Darcy updated the committee on the selectmen's activities.

In his capacity as chairman of the committee, Mr. Darcy said he signed the purchase and sale agreement for the vet's office. He was not sure of the exact date the two properties would be demolished.

The police department has a new police cruiser; it is an all-wheel drive vehicle. The police department has four full-time officers and three trainees. The Police Academy is opening another class; all the town's officers will be trained by the end of the year.

Mr. Darcy wrapped up his briefing by noting that from a budgetary standpoint, the police department is high in overtime, low in salary expenses.

Mr. Zavorotny said the Zorn building on Monument Road was sold.

Moving to budgetary matters, Mr. Zavorotny noted that on page 18 of Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrance for Period Expenditures removing the expenditure of

\$454,378.60 paid to the Hinsdale School District leaves \$338,772.47 in the General Fund.

In terms of Current Year Expenditures, the General Fund sees \$3,330,518.98 (after payment of \$5,371,893 to the school and \$1,079,021 to Cheshire County).

With these items removed, a balance of \$187,557 (or 5.2% of the original budget) remains. This can be used to offset taxes, depending upon how the Selectmen decide to use any surplus, Mr. Zavorotny said.

Mr. Klein asked about Emergency Management's \$12,335.45 equipment purchase (page 9), wanting to know what equipment was bought. Mr. Bellville noted that most of the money came from the state. Mr. Zavorotny pointed out that the equipment purchase for the current year was \$17,112.44.

Moving to Wastewater Treatment, he said sludge disposal is getting expensive (page 22). Mr. Bellville asked if the town changed haulers. Mr. Darcy replied the selectmen will "talk to them soon."

Mr. MacDonell observed that 100% of worker's compensation remains to be paid.

Mr. Zavorotny asked committee members if they had anything else related to the town expenditures they wanted to discuss. Hearing members had no additional questions, he told the committee the school board would be meeting that night. Mr. Klein asked if budget committee members could get details on their meeting; Mr. MacDonell said that the school board would perhaps be sending something out that night.

Mr. Zavorotny said "The town, overall, did a good job of holding the line on expenses." Revenues came in higher, spending was kept under budget. Money had to be spent on safety projects related to the school--"unfortunately, that is the way of the world today."

The good news, he continued, is that \$370,000 is potentially returning to the town.

The bad news is the issue of the first grade being on the second floor of the school.

The Fire Chief said the first grade students must be on the first floor. There are four classes of first graders. Given the fact there is no space for additional students on the first floor, a compromise is being discussed: A fire escape on the north side of the building. Regulations stipulate it must be covered. The cost is anticipated to be roughly \$225,000.

Discussion arose on financing; the decision is that a stand alone warrant article is appropriate.

Mr. Klein asked if the building is fully sprinkled. It is, but this is not enough to have the first graders on anything but the ground floor. The state fire marshal noted the town does

not have to rearrange the building and that a fire escape is sufficient. Given the cost, Mr. Bellville noted there is lots of space in the high school; Mr. Zavorotny agreed that "things could be squeezed." Mr. Klein noted that "fire escapes aren't the best things." Mr. Conroy noted that once the sprinklers failed at Kollmorgen.

Mr. Darcy pointed out that when the warrant passes, the first graders will be in second grade, making the fire escape a moot issue.

Mr. Klein asked if bids are being secured; Mr. Zavorotny replied that he did not know.

According to Mr. Zavorotny, work is being done the high/middle school's roof. Perhaps the elementary school will be next where "a few things remain."

An additional \$50,000 was authorized for the roof; Mr. Zavorotny said that "an excellent bid" had been received, one that was \$75,000 less than anticipated. A consultant had been brought in.

Mr. Zavorotny wrapped up his updates on the school with noting that security at the school is "elaborate"; however, "you have to do it as the minute something happens" lawsuits will be filed.

With no more business to discuss, Mr. Klein made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bellville. The meeting concluded at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorianne Almann  
Recording Secretary