

Action:

Rick Walker regarding Fire-Fescue and Cemetery items:

1. **Tower RFP:** The bids have been opened for the repeater tower for Public Safety Communications. The bids are Two-Way (Newington, NH) at \$38,999; Allstate (KY) at \$94,650; and Green Mountain (Pembroke, NH) at \$59,795. Allstate did not do the required walk through the site. Two-Way does our radios on a regular basis. ***Does the Board accept our recommendation of Two-Way?***
2. **Per-diem Fire-Ambulance workers:** A number of neighboring communities are working at a per-diem list from which the towns can call for shift coverage. Each town would be itself responsible for workers compensation injuries that occur while working for the particular town (not the town from which the person came). In essence we would hire the person, however given the individuality of equipment and sizes the gear would be treated differently. The gear would be brought by the worker from the town in which they work and would be covered by the community from which the worker came under mutual aid. Our insurance carrier supports this arrangement. ***Does the Board support our participating?***
3. **Old Pine Tree by private Cemetery at corner Route 125 and New Plains Road:** It has been determine we are not responsible if there are injuries to the volunteers working within the private cemetery. The tree is on town property and would be removed only by a licensed, insured vendor. ***Does the Board have any objection to the removal of this tree?***
4. **Cemetery Expansion:** The cemetery trustees want to remove some trees that would allow future expansion and are a hazard to stones currently nearby. Since this would allow more graves, the Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees would like the Board of Selectmen to request up to \$5,000 for tree removal and stumping to come from the established Capital Reserve. ***Does the Board request the Trustees of Trust to authorize the money?***

Appointment: Peter Royce recommends the Board appoint Diane Cotter as the deputy treasurer. This is a position in which the treasurer has to make a recommendation on which the Board then acts (like deputy tax collector and deputy town clerk). It is an important position to have filled in case Peter is incapacitated or otherwise unavailable for some period of time. ***Will the Board make that appointment?***

Paving Library/gym: The school plans to pave their portion of the parking lot. It would make sense to also pave the town's end including library and gym areas. The cost for our end is \$36,000. This is not in our budget. There are a number of options of where we could find an appropriation. Government buildings line only has about \$16,000 left in the line and that is for maintenance throughout the rest of the year. The largest related line would be out of the Highway Paving line. A second option would be the Highway Department building maintenance line which started as highway garage floor or paving at the highway department. The alternative would be to leave the town's end of the lot with the current paving situation until 2016. ***What does the Board wish to do?***

Library: Since the Board is reevaluating whether or not to tear down the former town hall, there remains uncertainty about any possible location for a future library. The proposed location is sitting on the septic system for the former town hall and very close to that building. A location is essential to designing a building that fits a particular location. ***Given this uncertainty does the Board want to wait on releasing the money?***

Conservation Deed: A condition on the Cullen Wood subdivision off Smoke Street was giving the town a piece of land for conservation. The Board agreed to accept this earlier with a request for a right of way off Smoke Street which has been granted. It abuts the back side of the Clark Goodwill property. ***Will the Board vote to authorize John Scruton to sign the deed for acceptance by the Town?***

333 Calef Highway: The owner has indicated conceptual approval to provide an additional 1 year option at the same price and conditions as the current lease. We are working at getting the lease language revised (lawyer and insurance review). Signing the revised document does not require the town to extend from August 2016 to August 2017, but gives that option to the Town. ***Will the Board authorize me to sign the lease extension option?***

Solar discussion: It would seem the town needs to go to town meeting with the details of an agreement. I am not sure if this will meet the court's standard to call a special meeting. We have details from one of the vendors indicating his review of savings. Doug and I have talked about not spending a lot more time in review until the Board comes up with a decision on the Town Meeting issue. ***How would the Board like to proceed?***

Abatement: The town assessed a property in 2015 for having waterfront. It turns out the front strip of the property that was on the water is in Nottingham, which assessed at a lower rate for the waterfront. When we turn the grade of the house from waterfront to waterfront access (since the access is not in Barrington), it drops the assessment. If the person had applied for an abatement, it would result in a little over \$1,000 being returned. However the person did not apply in a timely fashion for an abatement. The law does allow the Board to go back to 2014 but does not require it to do so. If the mistake were the other way the Town could not go back to capture lost revenue. There is no legal requirement to grant this for 2015, however ***we would like to know how the Board would like to handle this type of issue.***

Deed: The Town sold a piece of land in the 1990's (less than ¼ acre) to an abutter, however the owner never recorded the deed and has lost the original. We have a copy of the deed but not original signatures. Our lawyer has reviewed and made minor changes. We request the Board sign the deed so it can be recorded.

Land Use Boards appointments:

Goals:

Solar: We have made progress on an escape clause/nonappropriation clause for the solar PPA. It would involve substantial damages. ***Does the Board wish us to continue analysis of cost for the different options?***

I request a nonpublic session on a personnel matter.

INFORMATION:

Former Town Hall: Several things have transpired since the vote. We have verified that the firm of Huddleston and Hershey designed the oldest part of the former town hall (found in 1939 audit). The town received about 45% WPA funds from the US Government (\$15,750), but no one has indicated that restricts what the town can do with the building. Of course there have been extensive additions since. The field representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation has confirmed that if you do not use federal funding, and if there are no federal permits or licenses required in the course of demolition, than federal regulations will not stand in the way of demolishing the building. That was cc'd to the NH Division of Historic Resources which has not indicated otherwise. I also asked what kind of grants might be available if the Town wanted to preserve the building as a Town Office. The amounts were a very small percentage of what is needed and part of very competitive programs. There is more money available through some other very competitive grant programs to convert it to nonprofit housing, but that leaves the town with a location issue for future buildings as well as how to come up with the match for nonprofit housing money. Any development for economic use would require a job creation guarantee.

I was also contacted by a builder who offered to do like Ricci did in the past, i.e. at their expense examine the building, come up with a plan and estimate costs to fix it. I indicated the Board might be interested in that at some point, depending upon how many times the Board wants to revisit the issue. I did not think the town would be interested in the other offer he made of a long term lease purchase as our interest borrowing costs are lower and it would still need a supermajority at town.

Abatements: Every time we do a major update we need to file a USPAP report with the state detailing how it was done. As I remember this is about an inch thick. This is a note that our assessor has asked for an extension to which I agreed. I will let you know when it is formally filed. Corcoran Associates has been working their way through the abatements. I will have more for the April meeting. One good spot of news is that unlike prior years and the experience of many other communities in the state, FairPoint did not appeal their assessment for 2014 in Barrington. (Appeals for prior years are still pending in court.) FYI, there are those in the legislature trying to again exempt Fairpoint from paying any taxes to towns.

Planning Board meeting went well. Tony did a great job trying to keep the Board on task and explaining the Planning Board's role. Marcia had done a very good job preparing points about the project. Ken Grant and Paul Mostella were there and contributed to the discussion. They voted that the minutes and Marcia's points will be the Planning Board's comments. As I explained this is just to gather information and if the plan changes substantially I will be back.

Website hits: While the home page has received 29,189 hits between October 1 and March 18 the page on Town Meeting only received 326 hits and the page for the proposed town hall only had 112 (although some of that information was on the home page including pictures).

Police Collective Bargaining Unit: We have received the request to start negotiations for a CBA to start in 2016. I plan to use the same attorney and proceed with ground rules. I will approach the Board about negotiation positions, probably in May.

Capital Reserve and Lease Purchase: An outright purchase makes sense given the current interest environment (we would pay for interest on the lease purchase than the Trustees are making on the investment). It is the only option with which we can proceed this year without a town meeting specific vote. As noted in the underlined portion below, the Town Meeting must vote to authorize a binding lease purchase.

RDA 35:15 Expenditures. –

III. (a) Notwithstanding the prohibition of debt retirement fund establishment in RSA 33:2, capital reserve funds may be used for multiple payments under a financing agreement for the purpose for which the capital reserve was established. If the financing agreement is a lease/purchase agreement the following shall apply:

(1) The lease/purchase agreement does not contain an "escape clause" or "non-appropriation clause"; and

(2) The lease/purchase agreement has been ratified by the legislative body by a vote by ballot of 2/3 of all the voters present and voting at an annual or special meeting.

(b) If agents have been named according to RSA 35:15, then no further vote is required to disburse funds following the initial vote which ratified the financing agreement.

Raises and COLA: When we did the major adjustments of grades two and three years ago it was determined that grade 17 was appropriate for the most skilled nonsupervisory highway employees. There was an employee, now retired, at grade 19 and one at grade 18, both at the top step. The understanding then was there would be no decrease to the top step in 17, but the pay would be frozen until the increases in the scale allowed it to be the same rate as the top step in 17. A similarly frozen position in another department has since had a vacancy so this is the only one left in that situation. As a result, I have not authorized the COLA adjustment for the employee on grade 18. I have indicated Peter Cook or the person can come to the Board to request a revisit of that decision.

Comments heard by the Tax Collector and her thoughts on the proposed building :

John, If you could let the Selectman know that the tax office has been getting remarks from taxpayers regarding the new Town Hall a. Townspeople were not happy about the flyer/postcard that went out – waste of money and didn't tell them what they needed to know to make an educated decision b. It was suggested that if a letter or flyer had been sent out in black and white, stating the numbers – projected out the savings over the next ten years, owning vs. renting, listing all the expenses we have now (rent for town hall, rent for storage, real estate

taxes, utilities and any other expenses related to this location) and what the expenses would be in a new, more energy, efficient building, listing the savings – no real estate tax bill, lower utility bills, lower maintenance costs, no more storage expenses, and a meeting room that is available for the public to use for meetings. Most likely discussed at meetings but not enough people attend those meetings. c. People feel that they did not have enough information on the dollar amounts, they don't care what it is going to look like as much as they want to know what the savings would be down the road, it was made to look all pretty so they thought we were trying to hide the costs by not mentioning the economic impact on the postcards ***This may have all been discussed at meetings but a lot of people do not attend those meetings, a flyer or letter would reach everyone and perhaps they would have read it and been made aware of some things that they didn't know before.(setting the record straight with facts, a lot of people stating things on the Barrington Connection that were simply not true because they didn't know the facts. Also something to explain in detail why we can't use the old building (example: mold/asbestos, health issues, the cost of remediation, remodeling, and the fact that it would be difficult if not impossible to get an insurance company to insure it). People are still stuck on renovating the old town hall, perhaps if they knew it could not be insured and that it would be a liability to the town to occupy that building perhaps they would understand why that is not an option. If they saw in black and white that it could possibly cost more to remodel and run the old town hall than a brand new town hall, sometimes people understand better if it is in plain sight, black and white, facts..., not the pretty pictures... Perhaps list all the other options that the Board looked into before presenting the possibility of a new building... Again this is what Jess and I are hearing from the taxpayers when they come in...just wanted the Board to be aware of the comments and perhaps the next go aroundperhaps approach how to inform the taxpayers differently.

Disaster Declaration: President Obama approved the disaster declaration for the January blizzard. We should be notified in the next week or so on what we need to do next. Assuming that everything we submitted is approved 50 cents on the dollar should get us a little over \$30,000 back.

2015 Town of Barrington Paving list ½" mix, 1 ½" thick compacted

Scruton Pond Road- Route 202 to last years joint	Length-9000' Width-22'
Young Road- Boat launch to Route 9 skip over big culvert	Length-6790' Width 22'
France Road-Hall Road to Merry Hill Road	Length-7240' Width 23'
Merry Hill Road- Young Road to Pole 371/18	Length-6133 Width 21'
Stagecoach Road-Town line to last years joint	Length-4230' Width 22'
Greenhill Road-202 to Hansonville Road	Length-5500' Width 22'

Oakhill Road-Route 9 to Muchado Drive	Length-3438' Width 22'
Ham Road-Route 125 to last years joint	Length 4530' Width 22'
Nute Road-Ham Road to Second House on right	Length 620' Width 20'
Sherbourne Road-Loop Hall Road to Hall Road	Length 4421' Width 21'
Winkley Pond Road- end to end	Length 3349' Width 20'
Mica Point Road-France Road to private section	Length 2198' Width 22'
Shady Lane- Mica Point Road to Mica Point Road	Length 2758' Width 22'