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Town of Danville
Board of Selectmen
Monday, April 15, 2024
7:00 pm

Meeting is Video-Recorded

Selectmen present: Annemarie Inman, Chairman; Shawn O’Neil, Vice Chair; Dennis Griffiths; Joe Hester; Dave Knight

Others present: Kim Burnham, Selectmen’s Administrator; Kelly Main, Kevin Dube, Steve Woitkun, Jr., Sayra DeVito, Bonnie Bowley, Jim Grina Matt Griswold, Noel Gordon, Bianca Caillouette, Catthy Ellsey, John Hughes, Josh Manning, Carsten Springer, Jimmy Seaver, Stacie O’Connor, Steve Woitkun, Sr., Coreen Woitkun, Ashley Woitkun, Sharon Woodside

Annemarie called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a moment of silence. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shawn suggested that the order of the agenda items be revised so that the Board could first discuss the topic that is the obvious reason¹ certain audience members are present. Dave suggested that anyone present as a delegate address the Board first so that they may leave. Annemarie asked if there are any delegates in the audience.

I. Delegate Session

Mr. Brown said the income/expense comparison is missing from the 2023 Town Report. He said it’s on page 35 of the 2022 report and contains information from all town departments. He finds this informative and interesting and usually reviews this before elections. He asked that it be included in the 2024 report and requested a copy of last year’s information. Shawn said it was just an oversight and he supports having it in this year’s report and asked if Mr. Brown can leave his name and number so the information can be given to him. Mr. Brown said he’s not picking on anyone; he likes to compare this information to neighboring towns. He thanked the Board.

No one else in the audience volunteered to speak as a delegate.

II. Agenda

Chief Woitkun’s Retirement

Shawn recommended to the Board and made a **motion to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) and (c)**. Shawn addressed Steve Woitkun telling him he can waive his rights to a non-public session, then the discussion would be in public, but it’s up to Steve. Steve said he’s willing to waive his rights to last

¹ It was determined in a non-public meeting held Monday, April 8, 2024 that Steve Woitkun would not continue as a member of the fire department at this time.

Monday's meeting, April 8th. Shawn said the Board would like to add the rationale for their decision to that discussion; the Board would like to explain to Steve but discussing that in public is up to Steve. Steve said that when he asked for a reason last Monday, he was told it was because they didn't want to negatively impact the new fire chief. Shawn said that was in the letter that Annemarie was authorized to sign, but the Board would like to explain further. Steve said that if this will bring up a thousand past sins then he declines. Shawn said there's a strong rationale for last Monday's decision, but the decision is left to Steve to waive his rights.

Dave said he didn't hear a second to Shawn's motion to go into non-public session. **Dennis seconded the motion** previously made. Annemarie, speaking to the Board, said the chance was given to Steve last Monday if he wanted to waive his rights to a non-public. We, the Board, did not have a discussion, and we cannot speak to it, and it's up to Steve whether he feels comfortable having a non-public to discuss it now.

Dave suggested an alternative: read the letter that was given to Steve and see if that satisfies the general public before going further. Annemarie said with sealed minutes there is no discussion, and Dave said the minutes can be unsealed at any time. Annemarie said the Board cannot unseal last Monday's minutes for legal reasons. Dave said he wasn't at the meeting so he has a hard time imagining what those reasons are, therefore, he cannot challenge that decision nor make a motion to unseal the minutes. Annemarie noted the minutes haven't been approved yet either; they will be reviewed tonight.

Matt Griswold asked if Steve could give the Board authority to unseal the minutes. Dave said the Board does not need Steve's permission to seal or unseal the minutes. Annemarie disagreed. Dave continued that because of what he was aware of as the reason for the non-public and the letter that he was informed about, he is not aware of any negative issues to protect anyone from. Annemarie strongly disagreed, said there is an issue, and Dave said again that he was not present at that meeting.

Sharon Woodside asked if the non-public meeting minutes were only about Steve Woitkun. She was told they were. Sharon asked if Steve has the right to ask for the minutes, and she was answered that he does. Annemarie reiterated that Steve was just now given the floor and he had asked for an answer. Steve said that, given Shawn's earlier statement, he will decline.

Steve continued with the following statements: the major reason for him to get involved in the social media "dog and pony show" was that with his years of experience, he knows the town and knows the fire department, and he just wanted to remain as a call member. The Board of Selectmen has the ultimate power now and has said no. He's not pleased with the decision but has to accept it. The last line of the letter stated he can reapply in six months, but he will decline doing so. He's already missed one EMT training course and will miss the others in the next six months while he's not a member of the department. Without an EMT ticket, with the Board reviewing his application, he knows it will be declined so why bother.

Dennis said he disagreed with Steve's last statement, saying Chief Aliberti will be the foremost person who hiring in the department.

Steve asked why Chief Aliberti won't hire him as on-call. Dennis said that reason is in the non-public minutes, and we won't unseal them. Annemarie addressed the Board saying, we cannot discuss a lot of the issues that we're being pulled into right now simply because we can't. She said it's a mechanism that they cannot undo.

Sharon said that, if Steve wanted to unseal them, he (pointing at Shawn) will bring up every little speck of dirt. She said Shawn said he would [bring up every speck of dirt] when Steve asked if unsealing the minutes will open him up to everything in his past. Dennis disagreed. He said that Sharon is perpetuating a huge problem in this town. Sharon said she's defending Steve. Annemarie said Sharon does not have all the information and has slandered the Board members. Dennis told Sharon that what she will find out tonight with last week's non-public minutes, if Steve agrees to unseal them, is that Sharon is completely wrong. He said he'd appreciate it if Sharon would "pipe down".

Several people spoke at once and a point of order was called. Dennis said that in addition to the reasons within the sealed minutes, there's a very specific circumstance that dealt with a lawsuit in this town. The rationale for his decision made last week was based on that.

Steve said he can get beat up about that lawsuit and has admitted his mistake in a public forum. He said, "watch out", that if attacked, he will come back swinging because there are a lot of things that he was never afforded during that lawsuit, and there are a lot of things since then that he's not been afforded in this town. He said he's been discriminated against and harassed, and he wants the "dog and pony show" done. He told the Board to not open up anything and began to ask the question: with the vast fire training the Board members have, if they don't want a 40-year veteran responding to a few calls....

Several people began speaking simultaneously. Annemarie addressed the Board members, saying we can't defend ourselves because we're hidden behind a non-public.

John Hughes said, if Chief Aliberti wasn't part of the decision, he believes Chief Aliberti would support having Steve on the department. Annemarie asked if John is speaking for the new chief. John said no, it's his opinion as a resident and department member for 19 years under Chief Woitkun that Steve wants to continue his service to the town. John asked what the difference is between now and six months from now. Annemarie addressed the Board saying they can't talk about this. Dennis said that six months absent Steve will give Chief Aliberti the ability to set his own policies and tone and put his own restructure in place without any outside influences. Steve said that is fine and he doesn't mean to be insulting, to which Dennis said he doesn't either. Steve said that what the Board is perpetuating and showing to the public is that Rob Aliberti is a weak chief.

Annemarie said that if we can't have an open discussion, she is ending the meeting because it's evolved into name-calling, and she will have none of that. Several people spoke simultaneously, and Annemarie called the room to order. Shawn reminded the Board that there was a motion to go into a non-public meeting and if Steve does not agree, there's no reason for the non-public, therefore he **withdrew his motion**. Shawn said he wants the record to show that a motion was made and seconded, and Steve declined to have it in open public discussion.

Sharon said that she spoke with Chief Aliberti and that Rob wants Steve on the department. Annemarie said she was glad Sharon can speak for the new chief and Sharon said she could.

Dave explained the following: He hasn't been part of all this and has been away from town business for the past four years. He had spoken with several people involved with the town past and present who all said they wanted him to come back to town politics. He doesn't know the history, nor does he want to know, the history. His reason for the former chief to step away is because in his, Dave's, vast experience, with every change of command, the new commander eliminates the prior commander for six months to a year. He said that's his sole reason. He can see something is wrong after watching the energy in the room and with the fire department, and that after years and years, just eighteen months ago the chief and the Fire Wards asked for a change in how we do business. He doesn't know what's going on, but he knows something is wrong. Everyone voted, but he did not, to eliminate the Fire Wards and have the Board of Selectmen choose the fire chief.

Dave continued explaining his experience with changes in leadership after working in 33 countries on five continents: the leader steps aside and becomes a quiet mentor on the outside. That's his reason for the vote and there is no history attached. That's why we have a new chief. We have a department that's in trouble or we wouldn't have made these changes. You don't make change unless something is really wrong, or you have an ideal image. The Board of Selectmen is not the ideal image that brought everyone here; it was that something is wrong, and when something's wrong you remove the leadership. It's none of the history. He's a pro and he knows what it takes and this is what it takes. Whether it's personal, private, friends, or family he will do what's in the best interests of Danville and the fire department. He stands with this Board because it was in the best interests to have this chief step aside. He ended by stating this is his opinion.

Sharon said she has a bad heart and her lungs are dying and wanted to know if something goes wrong and she's on her floor, which one of the Selectmen will help her. Dave said he's not sure who would help him if he's in trouble. Sharon said the Selectmen won't let Steve help. Dennis asked Sharon how many applications have arrived at the fire department for new positions and Sharon said she didn't know. Dennis told Sharon didn't have the answers and was only throwing accusations. Sharon said she's here to find the answers, particularly why a 40-year veteran would be fired. Dennis said a person cannot be fired from a job he didn't have. Sharon said Steve was fired as an on-call and Dennis said he wasn't an on-call employee. Steve said he was hired as on-call in 1984 and he's never resigned from that position. Dennis asked Steve if he's always held two positions in that department, Steve said yes, and Annemarie asked if he only resigned from one, and Steve said yes. Annemarie said that when someone retires, it means they are no longer in the workforce. Shawn suggested that Steve release all his rights [to the non-public minutes] so that all these issues can be addressed. Annemarie said it won't matter.

Matt Griswold asked how many applicants are Danville residents. Matt said the current chief told the department members if they wanted to leave, he had 15 applications to fill vacancies. Dennis said that this town's fire department is the highest paying department in Rockingham County. Matt said that's because Steve Woitkun took care of the members. Dennis said that's only relevant from the viewpoint of the town not having a difficult time finding new members.

Several people spoke simultaneously, and Annemarie called the room to order. She asked Steve if there is anything else he'd like to say. He said, "God bless this town and I hope everything turns out well."

Steve continued with the following statements: his only issue is being a department member for 40 years and knowing the demand, he felt he'd be a plus to the call force. His son is resigning after being there for 20 years and is the best pump operator and a valued EMT. He doesn't think this will go in the right direction and feels this is a slap in the face and he will never come back. He hopes Rob does a great job, gets the personnel he needs with the Board's cooperation, and the needed funding.

To Shawn's "throwing the lawsuit in my face," Steve said he went through hell and does not want to open that door. He will probably say something he regrets and does not want to expose people he feels has a right to privacy. He's old school, a man, and doesn't hide, and, speaking of the lawsuit, when that independent person made that decision and explained to the Fire Wards and him in a closed session, he agreed with her that he made a mistake. This town never provided any training on how to deal with this situation. In hindsight, he would have handled the situation differently but that's irrelevant. He worked hard to get Rob Aliberti where he is today, he feels hurt and unsupported. In the old fire services, we die for each other but now it's dog eat dog. The Danville Fire Department t-shirts should have knives in the back.

Steve continued: I hope the Department can do their best and hopes Rob can run well. Another problem Steve has been working on is the ambulance transport. This is a huge problem the town has to face. He hopes Rob is supported in this and believes Rob is the man to bring ambulance transport to this town. He's sick of the dog and pony show that's been going on for two years. He had a cardiac arrest, went on workman's comp, but then had to sue to get the medical bills paid. The person who brought him back after the cardiac episode was one of his Salem buddies he recruited for Danville. People come here for the high rate of pay. He fought years ago at Deliberative Session to get the men and women in his department a fair raise.

Dennis said he supported that. Steve said he's had the pleasure of having the Selectmen supporting that. Shawn said these are the good things he wanted people to remember about Steve. Shawn said that Rob Aliberti deserves the job, he's been under Steve's tutelage for over a year, attended Chief's and ambulance meetings, was endorsed by Steve, this Board, and the Fire Department. and spent over two hours in a grueling interview with the Board. Everyone wants Rob to succeed but Rob won't have success in an environment where everything is scrutinized because of changes he will implement, especially if it's unwinding some things Steve put in place that Steve thought were good, especially if Steve is still there. Steve said he'll walk out the door if he thinks Rob is doing things that aren't good. He would never undermine any of his superiors.

Joe read from a social media post which he said came from Steve: "Everyone is not capable of doing this job. Stop hiring them. Stop promoting them." To that, Steve said he may have shared something from someone else, but that has nothing to do with Rob Aliberti. Joe said that's not how it was received. Jim Grina asked if the Selectmen are operating on what they see on FaceBook. Joe said he's showing a pattern and Jim walked out of the meeting.

Corinne mentioned the \$5,000.00 spent on the party for Steve and then three days later was fired. Dennis said Steve retired as Chief and that was the only employment known by the Selectmen. Annemarie referred to the letter Steve wrote to the Fire Wards, saying a copy did not go to the Selectmen. She said it was up to Steve to share with both sides because he knew a transition was happening. Steve said he thought the Fire Ward chairman would have shared a copy with the Selectmen and Annemarie said the only information they got was from Steve's email stating he would retire as Chief on March 30th. Steve said he had emailed Dennis regarding his plans to give to the Fire Wards, on March 1st, a 30-day notice of retirement. This notice would be that on March 30th he'd give a letter of resignation to the Fire Wards. He said he was under the impression that he worked for the Fire Wards until March 12th.

Annemarie pointed out that Steve knew the retirement date was falling under the next line of oversight which was the Board of Selectmen. She said that during the whole application process, Steve agreed to hire his successor and Steve concurred, saying he was the one who laid out the hiring process. Annemarie asked why that same process wasn't used when the retirement letter was submitted to the Fire Wards. Steve said Shawn was the liaison to the Selectmen and attended the Fire Ward meetings. Shawn said he doesn't recall being at that meeting.

Steve said he made several copies of his retirement letter in which he stated he wants to stay on-call. Annemarie asked again why the same process for hiring a new chief wasn't adhered to during his retirement process. She said there was a transition from Steve to Rob, and also from the Fire Wards to the Selectmen. With those two changes happening, everyone should have been communicating and it was up to the Fire Wards to speak with the Selectmen. Everyone should have been talking to everyone and that is where the breakdown was. Annemarie stated that Steve told the Selectmen he would retire, and the Selectmen thought that meant from the workforce because that is the definition of retirement. She then received a copy of the letter from Rob, the same letter from Steve to the Fire Wards, which alerted her to the fact there was a breakdown somewhere. Matt said the Selectmen had a liaison with the Fire Wards during the last two months and Annemarie said no one shared with the Selectmen; there was a breakdown by three different people and the Selectmen were not aware of that. Regardless, the Fire Wards should have shared the letter with the Selectmen. Steve said that at the time, he was still working for the Fire Wards. Annemarie pointed out that at the time of his retirement, he was under the Selectmen since the transition occurred mid-March.

Sharon asked about Steve's retirement party and Dennis answered that the Fire Association paid for it. The Selectmen authorized a gift for Steve. Steve said he wishes Rob and the fire department and the town residents the best. Mr. Hughes asked where to send resignations and he was told to the Chief.

Annemarie adjourned the meeting for a brief recess.

Committee Appointments

Community Center Management Committee

Shawn said that for the five Community Center members, the appointments should expire two at a time in two consecutive years, then one in another year. As it is, there are three appointments expiring this year. Kim explained they've never had to request reappointments because they've never been given term expirations. Dennis said the expirations can be set up to rotate that way. There are three applications for

one open seat. Shawn suggested Kim Burnham be reappointed for three years, Matt Bean for two, and Gail Turilli for one. This will put the resignation cycle in sync.

Kim was asked if there are recommendations regarding whom to appoint. Kim said Sayra DeVito came to a meeting asking about being appointed. Shawn made and Joe seconded a **motion to appoint Sayra DeVito to the Community Center Management Committee**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Heritage Commission

Joe asked that appointments to Heritage Commission be postponed until that committee can meet to discuss it. Kathy Dennis has decided to not renew. Sayra DeVito and Jon Haskell have applied, and Joe will continue as the Selectmen rep. Shawn explained that Heritage Commission is a land use board, there cannot be two members of the select board as members. Judy Jervis's term needs to be renewed. Joe will bring back recommendations at a forthcoming Selectmen's meeting.

Dave pointed out that the only time the Selectmen have any say in what the other town committees do is when the appointments are made. It's a courtesy to take recommendations from the committees. Carsten asked about the timeframe for making appointments after town elections. He was told that there are no laws specifying the number of days or timeframe for making appointments. Carsten said it seems the committees wait until after elections to appoint committee officers. Dave said the only stipulation per RSA is to appoint someone who is qualified.

Conservation Commission

The Board discussed the Conservation Commission. There was not a reappointment paper for Bobby Loree. Carsten will follow-up on that. Shawn made and Dennis seconded a **motion to reappoint Bobby Loree and Ed Lang as full members, and Vince Edwards as an alternate, all three appointments expiring in 2027**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Forestry Committee

Forestry Committee was discussed. There was a question regarding the number of members and that it appears there are four voting members when it should be an odd number. Carsten confirmed that he's the chairman, Chip Current is the vice-chair, and Sayra DeVito and Josh Manning are alternates. Bobby Lorree is a full member. Shawn said he believes this is a five-member board with alternates available. Carsten said he was told it's a three-member board with two alternates. Carsten said there was another application for membership, and they were just going to hold onto it.

Carsten read from the Forestry minutes that a motion was made to reappoint Chip as a member. Motions were also made to appoint Jon Haskell to the committee and to accept Bobby's resignation if the Selectmen accepted Jon's appointment.

Dave said he'd like to see a resignation letter from Bobby and Carsten said he may have one. The application for Jon was reviewed. Dave said that years ago when he was on the Forestry Committee there were five members and he believes it is still five. This will be looked into to verify. Shawn made and Joe seconded a **motion to reappoint Chip Current to the Forestry Committee with a term ending in 2027**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Shawn asked Carsten to clarify the appointments for Forestry and to get back to the Selectmen. Dave said Mr. Haskell has a good background for being on the Forestry Committee. Carsten said George Nelson, Jr. has expressed interest in being a member. Shawn said there are typically two alternates. Carsten said they will readjust the member appointments if necessary and Shawn said these will need to be taken to Chris Tracy as Town Clerk.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Annemarie said there's one application from Kim Farah to continue as an alternate to the ZBA. Dave said the ZBA has their annual meeting in May and that Chris Stafford is a good chairman who follows the rules to the letter. He said Chris would likely appreciate giving some input on who is appointed. Dave said the ZBA can be expensive and tough. Roger Whitehouse is not reapplying. As there is no urgent need to appoint to this committee, it will be tabled until later.

Website Committee

It was unclear if there is a website committee. Dennis said he met someone who is interested in helping. Shawn suggested he be invited to a Selectmen meeting. The website could be updated and the Board can start appointing people to a committee.

Storm Water Contamination

Dave said there have been opportunities to apply for grants. He's aware that there recently were six opportunities. He asked Jimmy Seaver of the highway department and Carsten if they were aware of them. The idea that one of the grants could be used for beaver control had been mentioned previously.

Carsten said his first thought about a grant is what strings are attached. He said it isn't free money; it's all tax dollars being moved from one place to another. He said the issue is also if the grant funds a project now, but the maintenance is not funded, that's a problem. Shawn said he didn't look at the details of the grants. Stacie said she can review the details of each grant next week. She asked that the grants be sent to her for review.

Carsten explained the following: The NHDES is not taking part in EPA testing. Years ago they were testing parts per million, then parts per billion, and now it's parts per trillion and something can always be found at that level. NHDES is trying to administer this under a greater EPA umbrella or oversight. Bartlett Brook is listed as impaired due to having dissolved aluminum. This is a byproduct of granite decomposition, which may be an issue in Idaho, but is hard to get away from in New Hampshire. Worse still is the level of dissolved oxygen that's been found. The brook is less than 2' deep and gets warm, this increases the level of dissolved oxygen. There's a point that these details may or may not be important.

Carsten also explained that in Gloucester, MA about ten years ago, the city residents were required to boil their water. The reason was that in Massachusetts, they have a policy of not disturbing beavers. Subsequently a large beaver dam backed up a reservoir and when that dam broke, all the septic material including heron droppings, washed into the city reservoir. Perhaps there is a way to tie beaver control with cleaner water. The beaver problems in Danville need to be dealt with and the Forestry and Highway

Department are planning to talk to the Selectmen next budget season about this. The Planning Board is more actively engaged with this issue when reviewing development plans.

There was a brief discussion about beaver dams impacting roads. Dennis said he saw on social media that someone had removed a beaver dam on their property. Some suggestions online were that the property owner should contact the NHDES. Carsten said there is an RSA regarding removing dams. Annemarie read from RSA 210:9, that a property owner may destroy a dam if it does not cause the neighbor's property to flood.

The RSA mentions getting a special permit from the Fish and Game executive director. Carsten said that a few years ago he spoke with the executive director specifically to obtain a permit. He was sent the NHDOT, who then told him to go back to Fish and Game. That law was written in 1973 and no special permits have ever been issued and he does not believe any ever will.

Email Addresses for Appointed Committees and Elected Officials

Kim said she's been asked several times by several people if the town can provide @townofdanville email addresses to facilitate communication, especially adding these to the website. Dave did not recommend that, as it can be a back door for some to wreak havoc. Kim said it costs about \$95.00 per year for each @townofdanville address. It was suggested that those requesting it can obtain email addresses from other sources specifically for their position on a town committee. A committee can have a single account that would distribute to the members' addresses. Carsten said he appreciates messages being filtered through the town hall staff and does not want to create another email address for himself. Dave said he encourages the old-fashioned method of sending a letter in the mail or attending a meeting.

Budget Committee Delta

Dave asked if Kim received an answer from Casella regarding not having a bulk pickup. Annemarie said we're not bound by contract for this. Cancelling the fall pick-up can be discussed in July.

Kim said she got no response from anyone regarding cutting back 2%. Shawn said the biggest delta is the COLA put in for salaries. He believes the 2% is going to be self-corrected in their respective budgets. Annemarie suggested being more diligent in reviewing spending. Shawn suggested that Dave, as the Budget Committee representative, review that information. Dave said that he believes that committee intends to look at monthly budget reports, which would be the first time he's aware of.

Joe said he attended the last meeting on the 9th. The chairman of Budget Committee plans to review expenditures monthly and share them with the Selectmen. Joe was asked to find out who uploads minutes to the website. Dennis said there's no law requiring minutes to be uploaded to it. He and Kim were going to talk again with CivicPlus about an upgrade to the website. The last he spoke with CivicPlus, he was told that the company is planning to migrate its existing customers to the new format and Danville was possibly on the list for last November. Dennis had not thought about this again until recently. Once the website is refreshed, it comes with a new management interface that should make things easier for committee members to upload their own minutes.

Kim reminded Dennis that she forwarded an email about this from CivicPlus and the expectation is that the town will have a new website by the end of 2024. Dennis said the dashboard mentioned by CivicPlus is the administrative tool that allows access to certain entities to use the website.

Joe said an additional request from Budget Committee is that if there's a contract known to continue through the next year, and needing to be in the default budget, place a note in the comment section. This will allow that committee to make appropriate additions when the time comes. They also have asked that when a town committee speaks with the Selectmen regarding their budget, and if the Selectmen revise the numbers, the Budget Committee would like to see both numbers. Shawn said that column has always been included in the spreadsheet.

Kim said the spreadsheet from Budget Committee is difficult to read and requested that it be broken down. She'd like a simpler version that does not have information from five years ago that is no longer relevant. An issue is that the Selectmen will review a budget and the Budget Committee won't get to that budget until a few weeks later. Annemarie said the spreadsheet has a lot of detail and tabs can be created for different information. Dave said the Budget Committee's intention was to speak with the department heads for each budget and explain how to submit budgets, including how and what to communicate. Shawn mentioned there are fundamental things that need to be done.

There was a short discussion about the DRA portal and uploading the final budget. Per warrant article, the Budget Committee is in charge. Kim said the process for accessing the portal is difficult, but Tom Billbrough has all the passwords and permissions to do this. Dave said he will relay to the Budget Committee that it is on them to take care of this. Speaking of the portal access, Kim said that DRA does not like that at all. Shawn said that per RSA, they are allowed access. Dave said he wants to show complete cooperation with DRA. Dennis said that per RSA, it's Budget Committee's role to upload to the portal so they should do it. Kim said that they were under the impression that they would do it, but at 4pm when it was due, it hadn't been done. Shawn said they were aware of this a year ago and had enough time to get ready.

Kim explained the current process for reviewing budgets with the Selectmen and Budget Committee and that it takes several steps over several weeks. She asked if the two committees can meet together to discuss budgets with department heads. Dennis said some ground rules can be made because we'd be working with ten opinions rather than just five at a time. The meetings could be held at the Community Center. Everyone could hear all the input and hopefully cordially arrive at the same number, or if the Selectmen and Budget Committee have different numbers, at least everyone would know right away. Annemarie said department heads will know where their budgets have been cut. Shawn said that part of last year's problem was that Budget Committee minutes were not posted and sometimes the meetings were not videotaped. Annemarie said communication can be improved. Dennis said two tables can be set up just like Deliberative. Dave was asked to present the idea to Budget Committee. There was a short discussion about how the two boards could meet together with the several town departments. Shawn suggested that during budget season, the Selectmen can still meet weekly. However, one week will be with Budget Committee to only discuss the budgets. This could be on a Monday or Tuesday. Then the other week could be for Selectmen business.

Procedural Defect

The town attorney has emailed Kim regarding the timeline for the corrective meetings. It was agreed that the public hearing will be held on May 6th, which is seven days prior to the special meeting to be held May 13th. The moderator, supervisors of the checklist, and town clerk need to be notified of the special meeting and a notice needs to be in the newspaper. Kim has arranged for the notifications. Dave suggested also informing the town election officials of the public hearing also.

Dave said he won't meet with Budget Committee before those two dates. They asked to meet on May 14th but the ZBA will be meeting that night, and Dave has not heard back from Tom after telling him that.

Community Center Tables & Chairs Donation

Robert and Kim Chaisson have donated tables and chairs to the Community Center and the management committee has agreed to accept them. There are about 30 chairs and ten tables. Kim said there are older chairs and tables that they can get rid of. Shawn asked Kim to draft a thank you letter to them for Annemarie to sign. A thank you can also be sent to Kim's son who helped unload the furniture.

Safety Complex Generator Replacement

Shawn explained that with a recent storm, the 37-year-old generator stopped working. This is critical equipment as it powers the entire safety complex and town hall when there is no power. The generator is 30kw. Steve Voitkun used to help, using his expertise with these systems, and had gotten some quotes. The quotes need to be reviewed sooner rather than later as the generator is an important part of infrastructure. Completely installed, the cost is in the \$35-45k range. Shawn suggested using infrastructure funds to replace it. He was looking at the Caterpillar brand and said the timeframe for installation is about six months after ordering. The quote from Caterpillar is for the machine only as they don't do installation. A local electrician will need to be hired. This will be on the next agenda.

New Police Department Updates

Shawn said that the more he's thought about this, he's realized these discussions may need to be held in non-public sessions. They will be talking about purchasing property and discussing that in public will put the town at a disadvantage. Dennis said he was going to call a non-public specifically to talk about that. Dave said it's not just land purchase but contracts on buildings that should be non-public.

III. Signature File

Several papers from the assessor were signed.

Shawn made and Dennis seconded a **motion to authorize the chairman to sign it. ???** The motion **passed** unanimously.

IV. Minutes

The public minutes of Monday, April 1, 2024, were reviewed. Dave made and Shawn seconded a **motion to approve the Monday, April 1, 2024, public minutes as amended.** The motion **passed.**

The non-public minutes of Monday, April 1, 2024, were reviewed. Shawn made and Dennis seconded a **motion to approve the Monday, April 1, 2024, non-public minutes as submitted.** The motion **passed.** Dave said these are the minutes that he'd like to have made public because it shows that no one was

looking to work as just a basic EMT or just on-call. It lays out the job that's three-quarters of the chief's pay with less than half the time while still being eligible for all the other parts. This is the part the town should know about. Dave said he didn't want to do this without Chief Aliberti's input regarding whether or not this is ok to do. Dave said this part shows it's not as altruistic as some may think, and we wouldn't need to go into the history. This shows its about ego and price. Shawn made a **motion to unseal the minutes**. Dave said he doesn't see anything in here that harms the fire chief, in fact it shows how much he was trying to support this. It shows there's a lot more than just \$7.00 on-call. Joe **seconded the motion**. Dave suggested letting the Chief know there was a vote to unseal the minutes. Annemarie said she has nothing to say.

Rhe minutes were reviewed. Dennis pointed out one paragraph that may be harmful to a fourth party. Shawn said he supports disclosing everything and that he's been dealing with this for years and is tired of it. There was a short discussion about redacting a part of the minutes. Annemarie said that's privileged information. Shawn said there was no vote on the motion, so it is **withdrawn**.

The non-public minutes of Monday, April 8, 2024, were reviewed. Shawn made and Annemarie seconded a **motion to approve the Monday, April 8, 2024, non-public minutes as submitted**. Dave abstained. The motion **passed**. The Board discussed releasing these minutes also. Shawn said that Steve did not authorize unsealing these minutes and to do so would not be advantageous to any future legal endeavor. Dennis said he was willing to release the minutes from one meeting and nothing else. Shawn reminded the Board that Steve has the letter, and he can post that if he wants.

V. Old/New Business

Joe said the last Dungeons and Dragons game night was very successful. There were four tables with five people at each table, ranging in age from five to over 40.

Dave said he drove to Concord for the Selectmen training during the snowstorm. When he arrived, several others had also arrived, but a notice in the window stating it was cancelled. Dave said no other notification was sent and he's since heard it was rescheduled to May 1.

Dennis asked if there's a deadline to apply for elderly exemptions. Per RSA it is April 15.

There was a short discussion about upgrades Barry Hantman is hoping to implement, including getting rid of a DVD player. It was mentioned that Barry always researches what's best and gets the best price. Dave made and Dennis seconded the **motion to put full faith in Barry to do what needs to be done and put together the design to do it**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

VI. Announcements

Friday, April 19: Recreation Department hosts Dungeons and Dragons game night, 6pm-8pm, Community Center

Saturday, April 20: Rabies Clinic, Kimball Safety Complex, 10am-12pm

Friday, April 26: Senior Coffee Hour, Community Center 10am-12pm

Saturday, April 27: Household Hazardous Waste, Plaistow Highway Dept., 145 Main Street, Plaistow, 9am-12pm

Saturday, April 27: Bulky waste pick-up. Sign-up deadline is April 19th.

Monday, April 29: Board of Selectmen Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm

At 9:51pm, Dennis made and Shawn seconded a **motion to go to a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (d)**. A roll call vote was taken:

Annemarie:	yes
Shawn:	yes
Dennis:	yes
Joe:	yes
Dave:	yes

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Annemarie stated the public portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Denison