

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM /Public Hearing at 7:00PM

Quorum noted

A. 5:30 PM: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Donhauser.

B. Roll Call: Mr. Donhauser, Mr. Lytle, and Mr. McPherson.

Absent: Mr. Orestis (excused).

C. Pledge of Allegiance recited: Observed

D. Moment of Silence observed: Those Lost to COVID-19

E. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

5:31 PM Motion by Mr. McPherson, second by Mr. Lytle, to approve the minutes of June 16, 2020, as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. Lytle – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

G. Department Head/Committee Reports

1) Planning Board Appointment: Bill Olsen from Alternate to Regular

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Lytle, that the Select Board move Mr. Bill Olsen from Alternate to Regular position on the Planning Board, term to June 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. Lytle – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

2) Planning Board Appointment: Mallory Strange - Alternate

Mr. Donhauser said that Ms. Strange was present and asked if she would like to address the SB.

Ms. Strange said that I do believe I would be a great fit for this. I love this community. I just moved here and I'd love to see it grow in different ways. I'd like to think of myself as the next generation of that Planning Board.

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Lytle, that the Select Board accept the appointment of Ms. Mallory Strange as an Alternate member to the Planning Board, term to June 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. Lytle – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Appointment to Aging-in-Place Committee

Mr. Donhauser said that Francis Thomas would be moving from an Alternate to a full voting member on the Aging-in-Place Committee with a term to June 2021.

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Lytle, that the Select Board accept Francis Thomas as a full voting member on the Aging-in-Place Committee, term to June 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. Lytle – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:35 PM 3) Employee Recognition Program - Results

Mr. Lee said that my staff is really wonderful and I'm glad we were able to do an Employee Recognition Program. I asked each department to nominate one of their own who they considered to be an outstanding employee in some way; whether

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

moral, they're always there, they go 105%, whatever it might be. We had two nominated from the Administrative Department – Kristina Goodwin, who we just lost to the Naval Shipyard, with three votes and Wendy Rawski, Town Clerk, with one vote. That means that Kristina Goodwin would be the administrative representative even though she is now gone this covers the last six months. We felt she was a very important addition to our team, did an awful lot outside of her job description, and we really appreciated her very much. We're going to miss her badly. From the Police Department, Officer Ryan Manzur was nominated by everyone from the Police Department. The Highway Department nominated the whole crew because no one person is more important than the other. Most of ECSD is laid off, most furloughed because we don't have a recreation program. Only Ms. Muzeroll was there and she wasn't going to nominate herself. We didn't have a nominee this first time around from the Fire Department. My recommendation is to ask Kristina Goodwin, Officer Mazur, and the Public Works crew to our July 9th meeting for a presentation. On the second page, there is a ballot, if you will, and I was thinking that perhaps we could have all the nominees come in and draw the winner July 9th, with some sort of a plaque or photo opportunity, and I think there is a donor out there that wants to donate to this cause. If that works for the SB, I will make that happen.

5:38 PM Mr. Donhauser said that I am in full agreement.

All members agreed.

Mr. Lee said that I want to thank all of the departments. The Fire Department just recently had a big fire and did a heck of a job. I'm proud of all our departments and would give you all an award.

5:39 PM 4) PWD: Sale of Town-owned Equipment – Three Items/Bid Results

Mr. Donhauser said that we sold some Town equipment. There were three items and they were done by sealed bid.

Mr. Lee said that he would be the SB to approve the sale of two of the items. We had only one bid on the 1990 Cat Loader, which was for \$2,289 by Keith Snook, and we are recommending that be awarded to Mr. Snook. The second one had two bids on a 1977 Chevy Dump Truck, with the higher of the two bids, Robert Nichols, at \$2,600. \$100 more than Jason Rowe. The last one is a 2008 7300 Dump that has a pretty blown-out engine, which had one bid by Jason Rowe for \$200. I'm not recommending that be sold for \$200. I believe the scrap metal value and hydraulic system is worth more than that.

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

Mr. McPherson moved, second by Mr. Donhauser, that the Select Board sell the 1990 Cat Loader to Keith Snook for \$2,289 and the 1997 Chevy Dump Truck to Robert Nichols for \$2,600.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. Lytle – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:41 PM 5) Confirm Annual Appointment of Town Officials

Mr. Lee said that this is something the SB could do by consent agenda in one motion for all names. I am recommending the whole list but, if there is one you are concerned about, you can pull that particular one off the list and discuss it separately.

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Lytle, that the Select Board. By consensus, confirm the annual appointment of the Town officials that are listed before us for 2020 appointments.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. Lytle – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:42 PM 6) Bicentennial Committee: Extend Term of Ad Hoc Committee through 12/31/2021

Mr. Lee said that the State of Maine and all the towns have had to push this into next year. So, they are asking that they remain in existence for at least one more year so they can fulfill the mission that they started.

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board extend the term of the Bicentennial Ad Hoc Committee until December 31, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. Lytle – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

H. Administrative Department

5:43 PM 1) Town Manager Report(s)

There were no comments.

a. Financial Report

Mr. Donhauser noted that, as of June 18th, we are well over projected revenue y \$165,000 and under expenditures by \$1.9 million. Our budget was \$17,188,715 and we've expended year-to-date \$15,208,652.30. I imagine there are other expenditures that will go against that line.

Mr. Lee said that there will be some other expenditures but I looked it over with the Treasurer and, overall, revenues are going to come in above expectation. He clarified that the \$17 million figure included schools and county but I think the shut-down at the school is part of that \$1.9 million. We are not over on anything except legal, which was due to the unforeseen union forming. We do have a legal reserve so, in years we are over, we are able to use that reserve.

Mr. (Jim) Tessier, Johnson Lane, asked if that report got sent to the Budget Committee.

Ms. Albert said that I sent that to the Chair. She added that the entire SB packet was sent to the Budget Committee.

5:46 PM 2) Request HHW Payment Policy Change

Mr. Lee discussed a previous discussion that said we should have citizens pay their own way for household hazardous waste (HHW) and, so, that's the way the budget has been formulated. Everyone was in agreement with the policy that had been established a year or two prior. I had argued that I didn't think that was the right policy to encourage people not to dump their HHW into our storm drains 'back 40'. At the time, Mr. Tessier, who is on the Budget Committee and Chair of the Solid Waste Committee, said that we should have a discussion if we would change it in a future year. I would like to ask that the SB refer this matter to the Solid Waste Committee. I got on the Town Manager's Listserve asking them how they do this and, as you can see from this two-page summary survey, it is highly

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

the exception that residents pay. I only found five, with 30+ others who pick up the tab. Some only pick up to a certain number of units, and beyond that, it is on the resident, and that may be a way we might want to think about this. The first couple of units, or something like that, we take free for the small, normal user but if you have a whole bunch of this stuff, you probably ought to pay something toward it. I was hoping I could refer this to Mr. Tessier and his committee to see if they find this valuable and be willing to recommend a change in policy.

5:48 PM Mr. Donhauser said that I think that's a good idea that we could move forward and look at the other towns, what they're doing and what we should be doing, also.

Mr. Tessier asked if you anticipate that the committee would be able to meet physically over at Town Hall. Two of the members on the Solid Waste Committee don't have a computer so that really limits our interaction.

Mr. Lee said I do. The big meeting room at the Town Hall can hold up to 12 people and we've been having meetings in there, with masks and social distancing.

Mr. Tessier said that we only have 6 on the committee. If we could use the meeting room, our next meeting is on the third Thursday in July. Regarding the prior discussion, we recommended no change but, if there was a change, our recommendation was almost exactly what Mr. Lee suggested – residents would get 'X' number of units free and, beyond that, they would pay the remaining amount. If we make a change, that seems like a pretty reasonable approach.

5:50 PM Mr. Lee agreed that I would think that would be a pretty good compromise position for both groups. I know there is a monetary consideration but there is also the environmental consideration. I will send something for the Solid Waste Committee to review.

3) Updated Operation Plan for Boat Basin

Mr. Donhauser asked who wrote this update.

Mr. Lee said that I started the first draft. I then sent it to the ECSD Director and she filled in some details. This has been updated even since then. The reason we're taking a look at this is that, this year with the COVID, there have been many people using the Boat Basin. Independent Boat Haulers has been very busy and kind of taking more than their fair share of space and time down there. We're not sure we're catching enough revenue. Selectman McPherson has been kind enough to sit in on a couple of meetings and kind of monitoring the situation down there, which is getting very bad. We've been seeing them do sanding and

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

painting on boats and you can't do that down by the water body. I've sent out a letter to Independent Boat Haulers asking for a meeting explaining there's going to be some new rules down there and how they can use it. Namely, they are going to be limited to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. I want residents to be able to use it Friday through Monday and not have to wait for giant boats to launch.

5:52 PM We're also getting a shed that we will be putting at the top of the Boat Basin, right near the gate when you enter the facility, to collect fees from everybody that comes in there. We are going to man it more often. I think for as little as we pay for staff down three, we would make up that money in droves. The other item is that we put in the budget for a ticket system and that will go in at the top of the hill, too, so if nobody is staffing that day, you will have to slide in a credit card to get your brightly-colored ticket to put on your dashboard and park there for the day to launch your boat. It's gotten kind of out-of-hand and I want to bring it back under control. This is still a work in progress and is just an FYI that we are working on this operational plan.

5:53 PM Mr. Lytle asked how that worked. A lot of times I buy lunch and go down there to sit by the water and watch the boats. Do I have to get a pass.

Mr. Lee said not at this point, no. Every facility that we know of has some fee to go in and use it at any level, whether it's fishing, eating lunch, using the beach. Right now we're saying \$10 and \$20 on the boat launchers. I think we have to have a policy discussion if we want to charge people to just go down and enjoy the scenery, enjoy the beach, enjoy the dock. I don't particularly like that idea, especially for Eliot residents but maybe other residents could chip in a couple of bucks per person or \$5 a carload to come down to use the facility. I would have to go through the SB before any fees got changed.

Mr. Lytle said that I just don't want to see it taken away from the elderly or senior citizens, or whatever, that want to go down there and enjoy it.

Mr. Lee said that I don't want to see that. I don't think we need the money that bad. But I would like to catch some of the people that are coming from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, etc. because their beaches are expensive and they aren't going to their beaches; ours are cheap and they come here at the expense of our own people.

5:55 PM Mr. McPherson says that #9 reads: "65 and older for Eliot residents only at no charge. Must have pass." The pass will allow you in but there is no charge for the pass; so, that is part of the proposal now.

Mr. Lee said that that's right. I was also approached by the wife of a fire fighter who said that, given how little our volunteer Fire Department gets paid for what they do, couldn't you afford to give each for fighter a season's pass and thank

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

them for serving on the Fire Department. I would like to consider that, too, when we look at any fee changes.

5:56 PM 4) Request for FYE Carryover Funds

Mr. Lee said that the Treasurer and I met and looked at all the budget line items. We are doing fine on excise and taxes. We are down a little bit on excise but we think we're going to get that back. From an audit standpoint, any money that comes in through July we can back credit to the last fiscal year because of the COVID. Per our memo, as the end of the year approaches, I would like to bring your attention to certain reserves and operating expenses that I believe should be carried forward into the next fiscal year. I have attached a chart showing the proposed carry-forward amounts, which includes two items from the operating budget, and the rest in the CIP, or Reserves. Regarding paving, I think the best course of action is to forego the rest of the paving for this year, which will decrease spending by approximately \$100,000 and will offset a lot of the lost revenues due to the shutdown. Requested carry forwards are \$75,000 from the Salt Reserve and \$19,000 from unexpended Election Funds. After some additional reading from his memo, Mr. Lee is seeking a motion from the SB to approve that chart of expenses that we would like to carry forward into the next fiscal year and have you bless this plan we've developed.

5:58 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Lytle, that the Select Board approve the list of carry-forwards of amounts into the next fiscal year.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Lee said that we do not normally have this many carry-forwards. There are usually one, two, three. This is kind of an unusual thing but, because of COVID, so many things could not be done, could not be purchased, and it just went on and on. Months that we usually get things done was just paralyzed.

Mr. Tessier discussed the Salt Reserve and that it was intended to compensate for bad years in the future. He is a little bit confused as that would go into a reserve account, anyway, and the policy is still in place.

Mr. Lee said yes; however, it is better to have a formal vote to carry it forward to go into a reserve. The policy is in place and I love having it.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

Mr. Lytle – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:02PM 5) Approve Warrants

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. McPherson, to approve A/P Warrant #137 in the amount of \$148,646.74, dated June 4, 2020; A/P Warrant #139 in the amount of \$904,668.02, dated June 10.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. Lytle – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

I. New Business:

6:03 PM Mr. Lytle said that I noticed the skate park was all taken down and I don't remember voting to tear it down.

Mr. Lee said that in the budget just recommended there is \$9,000 to do improvements to the skate park. That bowl was completely dilapidated and was very unsafe. If the budget passes in July, it will all be cleaned up and ready to re-build. It will look better and be more functional, explaining the new structure and materials to be used.

J. Old Business:

6:04 PM 1) William Fogg Library MOU Proposal - Updated

Mr. Lee said that the one thing that was amended was the area of representation/oversight. He read the pertinent language change:

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

REPRESENTATION / OVERSIGHT: In order for the Town to be responsible for all Library Operational Costs, the Town must be allowed to weigh-in of operational decisions such as staffing, hours, wages, benefits and technology, to name but a few areas. To accomplish this end, a non-voting "Library Subcommittee" shall be appointed annually by the Eliot Select Board. This Library Subcommittee shall be composed of the Town Manager (or his / her designee), a Select Board Representative and a Budget Committee Representative, ~~who~~ shall be responsible for reviewing proposed library operational funding increases in detail, ~~and~~ to provide input and ~~as necessary~~, to recommend to the Select Board and Budget Committee whether the Library Subcommittee supports or does not support the proposed Library operational fiscal year budget, ~~and the reasons therefor~~.

ALTERNATE 2: If the will and trust of Dr. William Fogg can reasonably be amended to change the structure of the Trustees, then any additional Trustees that are to be added to the Board of Trustees, would be elected through a general election process.

In summary, a non-voting library review subcommittee would be appointed by the SB. Voting member(s) of the trustees, if allowed, would be elected by the citizens.

Ms. (Lydia) Goodwin, Library Director, asked if we hadn't already done this. I go to SB meetings. I go to Budget Committee meetings. I don't get to elections without thorough review. It seems kind of redundant, if they're not voting.

6:06 PM

Mr. Lee said that that's how we've structured it thus far. You had asked to float a question to see if people would generally be supportive so we had to come up with something that we're comfortable with if we're going to carry the operational costs if the Townspeople say they would like to do it and ultimately vote in favor of the MOU. We feel this is a level of safeguard that meets your needs and the needs of the Budget Committee and SB who want to make sure that it doesn't run wild. But, if it's going to be a voting trustee, you had said to please make it a general election and not make it an appointment. We tried to honor that. We do review the Library quite well. This would be a more focused group that would probably spend a bit more time with you and your trustees as it is being developed to have a chat about what the specifics are increases, and stuff, just so they can explain it back to the people that are going to support the operational budget.

Ms. Goodwin said okay. The only thing I can see that you might want to fix is that it is Dr. John S. H. Fogg. I take it that you will be sending a copy of this.

Mr. Lee said yes. I just wanted to make sure it was satisfactory to the SB before I send it out to you.

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

Ms. Goodwin said okay. I'll send it as soon as I get it.

6:08 PM Mr. Lee said that I am looking from the SB to see if there is any opposition to this. If not, at some time there will have to be a vote to placing a non-binding question on the November ballot about this MOU. I'm trying to come up with exactly what that MOU will look like, as you requested. I don't think we need any motion tonight as there may be other changes to this before it's all over. We still have some time to get it to the Town Clerk for mid-August. I will also send this to the Budget Committee for their input.

K. Selectmen's Report:

6:10 PM 1) Seeking Committee Members: New Building Committee/Combine with Capital Improvement and Energy Committee?

Mr. Donhauser said that we are seeking members for this committee, which has been combined.

Mr. Lee said that Ms. Rawski helped me reach out to the three applicants for the proposed Building Committee to see if they would mind combining the two committees and they didn't mind. At this point, we have six people who are all perfectly happy to do Capital Improvements plus any kind of building studies for the future of the Town office and the ECSD, in particular. I emailed to the SB my draft of the combined by-laws and asked the SB to review for the July 9 meeting.

There were no Selectmen's reports tonight.

L. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

M. Adjourn

There was a motion and second to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:14 PM.

VOTE

3-0

Motion approved

**SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)**

**Annual Town Meeting for Warrant Articles
Public Hearing
7:00 PM**

7:00 PM Public Hearing opened.

Mr. Lee moderated the public hearing.

Mr. (Gene) Wypyski, Creek Crossing, asked of the budgeted revenues for next year, what portion of those revenues are generated from property tax versus non-property tax. Just round numbers – 80/20, 60/40.

Mr. Lee said that I'm guessing that it's close to 50% that comes through non-tax revenue.

Mr. Wypyski said that your documentation speaks to the non-property tax revenues, \$3.3+ million. What is the property tax revenue forecast for the Town of Eliot.

Mr. (Jordan) Miles, Treasurer, said it is around \$3.1 million for the non-property tax revenues and it winds up being around \$12 million that comes with the tax property revenue. That is for the entire budget, which includes the school. The Town's actually budget is about 50/50.

Mr. Lee agreed. If you look at Article #3, it says, "To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit to \$3.85 million" and then if you go to the Article that you are looking at where we're projecting non-tax revenues at #3.3 million, it is nearly 50/50.

Mr. Wypyski said that in the school district, of our expenditures, what portion of those expenses are the school – so we can't control that, the school district controls that – what portion is the Town of Eliot non-school.

Mr. Lee said that county tax runs about \$500,000.

Mr. Wypyski clarified that, of our total expenses for the school district, all those expenses that those towns have, what portion goes to the school and what part of that expense goes to roads and bridges and salaries, etc.

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

7:05 PM Mr. Lee said that, of the total tax commitment, as I recall is about \$14 million, we need \$3.5 million. So, the balance of it, with the exception of \$500,000, just about \$11 million is school.

Mr. Wypyski said that the reason for my question is that I'm trying to get orders of magnitude, here, because there's a lot of conversation in Town over expected shortfalls in revenues because we're not going to get revenue sharing, etc., etc., and I'm just trying to put it in perspective of how much money we're really talking about, as far as a shortfall goes, given the fact that most of our expenses appear to be locked in. If our shortfall is a portion of where our remaining expenses are that we can control, we might have a problem that we have to have some talk about or it could be a nit in the greater scheme of things. I guess I see most of our revenues coming from property taxes won't be affected and, perhaps, right around the edges it might be affected with some revenue areas.

Mr. Lee said that I want to say that we are ahead on tax collections, right now, and doing very well on excise. We're able to actually put July's excise revenues back into the last year fiscal audit due to the COVID extension. We do believe we're going to lose some municipal revenue-sharing and one of the things we did in the meeting prior to this public hearing was that we're not going to carry forward \$100,000 worth of paving but let it drop through to fund balance to offset what we think we're going to lose in municipal revenue-sharing. One of the things that the SB and I have discussed is that, as we go forward, if revenues are not coming in, we are going to have to control equally the spending that goes with it; so, if we find ourselves half a million short half way through the year, some of these capital projects may not get done, there may be furloughs, there may have to be different actions taken. But because we couldn't really predict the impact of COVID when we were putting together the budget, and it was just such a condensed schedule to get the budget out, we just didn't feel it was practical to go back in and mess with revenue projections when we really don't know how bad we're going to get hit.

7:07 PM Mr. Wypyski said I agree with that because I think trying to plan this time, you can't.

Mr. Lee said that it could be that all of next fiscal year could be a disaster, if this COVID thing continues, in which case everybody's going to be scrambling to figure out how to make ends meet.

Mr. Wypyski said that my sense going into it right now is that it's not as dire a situation as some might feel it is.

Mr. Lee said that we have a lot going for us in the Town of Eliot that a lot of cities, particularly in Maine, don't have going for them. They do take in a lot of

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

non-property tax revenues and they are getting killed on these things. If part of your budget is beach revenues, parking garage revenues, and when everybody gets evicted and everybody comes in for General Assistance, they're going to get killed. Eliot is a relatively wealthy place. We don't have any apartment buildings, to speak of, and people are registering new cars hand over fist right now. Gratefully, I don't think we're being affected like many of the poorer communities or the ones that are cities that have a lot of people that are going to be very dependent on them very soon.

7:09 PM Mr. Miles said that one of our biggest revenues is obviously excise tax and currently as it sits, we're about \$100,000 short of where we planned on being but I pretty much anticipate that coming to July 11th most things will be registered and most of that will end up being incorporated. As far as other revenues, besides the ECSD, as we lost the after-school program and we lost the summer, but they were still 60% funded by their revenues for the year. Eliot has been pretty fortunate in the fact that it didn't really take as big a hit as a lot of other cities have. I believe that, for the year, we are under about \$400,000 of our anticipated expenses because we did put a freeze on a lot of capital projects and budget projects in case we were shut down for a little bit.

Mr. Wypyski said that that is good. My impression is that we are in a lot better circumstance than some gloom-and-doomers are suggesting.

7:10 PM Mr. Lee said that I know some folks would have done a whole different scheme of things but that is not the way we felt about it. I just didn't feel comfortable predicting how long, how bad, how deep this is going to last. We're going to have to adapt.

7:11 PM Mr. (Cameron) Morin, Stacy Lane, asked if this is a meeting where we can ask for something to be brought up for a vote amongst the citizens.

Mr. Lee explained that it is not; that it's a public hearing where you get to ask questions to better understand what you're going to be voting on and vote yes or not to it.

Mr. Morin said that I am here tonight because I did a little digging into the police budget. Everything that's happening in our world right now, the Black Lives Matter movement and a lot of questions about the accountability of police officers, who's to say my town isn't alluded by these things. Let me take a look. So, I went through the budget from last July to this June and discovered that there was \$88,000 left over that hadn't been used. I had a few questions about that and went and met with Chief Moya. He answered my questions as well as he could through just going line item by line item in the budget. But he told me that the \$88,000 goes to the general fund instead of being rolled over. I asked if that could

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

be changed and he said he wasn't really sure, he thinks so, and I wanted to bring that up here. Then our conversation kind of got more personal. It went from budget to just how is he feeling with all that's happening right now. We went on to talk about the Black Lives Matter movement, what's going on. Chief Moya, himself, is Hispanic, comes from Brooklyn and worked in western Massachusetts. He told me, himself, that he will have co-workers say things to him because they don't know his race and he's seeing a lot of racist comments come through his area without people knowing. Chief Moya told me that he has been taking his officers to the Baha'i group, which was nice to hear that somebody was taking it seriously. He told me they were doing a lot of learning there, which is good, and I greatly appreciate the willingness to learn that's there and encourage that in everybody right now – to be able to listen and learn – but it also presents kind of a scary problem. We can't have police officers who have to be taught what the phrase 'Black Lives Matter' means in order to keep our black citizens and neighbors safe. The idea of just paying more money to a police department that isn't where it has to be and where it has to be is serving and protecting all of its people, every single person. It's not where it has to be and that makes me very, very, very hesitant to say let's just increase the budget. They are asking for an increase of \$74,100, about, which is less than what they have left over from last year. Even if unforeseen circumstances come with COVID continuing on into next year, if we keep the budget the same, that would be almost \$90,000 that would just roll right over already paid by taxpayers for that allotted area, instead of just moving it to the general fund. I know for myself, personally, that would be a very good step in earning trust and being willing to say, "Yes, that we are going to be accountable for what we do and how we spend our money because we're serving people." So, all that to say, how does that come to be, just rolling it over instead of moving it to the general fund.

7:15 PM Mr. Lee said that all of our money that is unspent at the end of the year generally drops through, as we say it, to our savings account, to fund balance. Earlier tonight we had a meeting and I asked the SB to carry forward some money into the next fiscal year because we didn't get to do projects because of COVID that we were budgeted to do and I need some more time to get them done. Regarding your question about whether there is a police reserve, we also have, for example, a Winter Salt Reserve right now. We had a very mild winter and had \$75,000 left over; so, we put that money into the Winter Salt Reserve so we cannot charge the taxpayers that same money next year. I think what the question gets to is why we didn't just put the \$88,000 into a so-called police reserve and not go raise another \$74,000 in taxes on us, and it's a very good question. We haven't been doing it that way. I've been here six years and we've had to build up our fund balance. There's a target that you try to hit in fund balance and we were well below, we've just got to it now. When you get above fund balance, I can start taking from fund balance, for example, to supplement the budget, as I don't want to have too much of your money in savings. We are getting to the point, now, where we might be

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

able, in the future, to take some fund balance and use it toward a capital project instead of raising it with taxes. That's why we let the money drop through, generally-speaking, we had to build up that fund balance. One of the things when this first broke out, this latest social awareness, I called the Chief to tell him I really wanted to make sure our officers get sensitivity training, I want to know about your chokehold policy, I want to know if you are getting them together as a group and talking to them meaningfully and he said yes, that they set up with the Baha'i, who has been great to sponsor us to have roundtables with the community. So, we feel very good that we're trying really hard not to be one of those police departments. I think, as you said, that Chief Moya has a personal, vested interest in comments that can be very hurtful. I take your point. We can't change it here tonight, as I indicated, but it's a good concept.

7:17 PM Mr. Morin asked how that does happen.

Mr. Lee said that we meet all winter long; that December through April is when you could come to say 'change this', 'change that', 'boost this up', 'knock that down'. Nobody ever comes to those meetings, sadly, but two years ago we were meeting jointly and the question of the salt budget came up, with \$200,000, asking why we had to budget for the worst possible year. Last year you had \$50,000 left over, put it in the reserve; this year \$75,000, put it in the reserve. Next year when I go to fund it, I'm going to be able to lean on that reserve and not have to raise so much. So, we are trying to think smarter like that. I've never thought of the police department that way but it's not unthinkable.

7:18 PM Mr. Morin said, to follow up, it was reassuring to hear that steps were being taken.

Mr. Lee added that we don't do chokeholds.

Mr. Morin said good. But, to all of us I would say that things can go downhill very quickly when you start to assume that these things can't and aren't among you because I promise you that they are, just not in the ways that you may think, but it can still change somebody's life for the worse. So, you have a young contingency now who are watching carefully and we're expecting a lot out of our leaders because we've been failed a lot by our leaders. But, it's our turn to do something about it and I hope that you guys know that we will be behind you in the things that are important to us but we're also going to be watching carefully. We're starting to take notice so you guys just keep that in mind and make sure you're thinking about everybody, too.

Mr. Lee said that I will do. Believe me, it was one of the first calls I made when I saw this first pop up. I want to make darn sure we don't end up in the paper and we don't have riots and we don't have that kind of thing. You make an excellent

SELECT BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2020 5:30PM/Public Hearing at 7:00 PM (continued)

point. I appreciate it and we are going to keep an eye on it. Trust me, I'm furious about these types of things. So, I'm on board with you.

7:20 PM Mr. Morin said thank you. I appreciate it.

Mr. Tessier, Budget Committee member, said that, in the mailing that you sent out, there are a couple of things you might want to address. On Question #9 it said that the SB and Budget Committee are both recommending 'this' amount, which is not accurate, as the Budget Committee recommended amount is \$268,129. In Question #17, the last sentence says, "Over the past five (6) years...".

Mr. Lee thanked him.

7:21 PM **Public Hearing closed**

M. Adjourn

There was a motion and second to adjourn the special meeting at 7:22 PM.

VOTE

3-0

Motion approved

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Lemire, Recording Secretary

S/ Mr. Richard Donhauser, Chair

Date approved: July 9, 2020