

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, May 22, 2023**

APPROVED MINUTES

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Kristi Morris, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Roll Call was taken.

Selectboard Members: Chair Kristi Morris, Vice Chair Michael Martin, Everett Hammond, Walter Martone, and Crissy Webster were present in-person.

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus, Public Works Director Jeff Strong, and Police Chief Jeff Burnham were present in-person. Library Director Sue Dowdell joined and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Rick Chambers via Zoom.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was not in attendance

B. MINUTES

1. Regular Selectboard Meeting – May 8, 2023

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to approve the Regular Selectboard Minutes of May 8, 2023, as printed, and distributed.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

C. ANY REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THIS AGENDA

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the VFW Post 771 submitted an event permit on late Friday for a Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park followed with an escort to the bridge by the Police Department for the brief dedication on Monday May 29th at 11 am. This item was added to the agenda without objection as item 12.

D. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1 Public meeting with VTRANS on Exit 7 & Toonerville Trail projects

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the “Public Meeting with VTRANS on Exit 7 & Toonerville Trail projects” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he spoke with Adam Goudreau from VTRANS about their work at Exit 7 and their recommendation to permanently

move that section of the Toonerville Trail. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the Town was not happy with the proposed relocation and requested other alternatives.

Adam Goodreau VTRANS Project Manager via Zoom, discussed the Springfield IM091-1(83) interstate project. Adam Goodreau added that the project is a total of 8 bridges and 4 sight locations, two of which include the Exit 7 interchange and the Toonerville Rail Trail bridges. TJ Poulin VTRANS shared a PowerPoint presentation to the participants of the meeting.

TJ Poulin discussed the project and the rail trail relocation and how they got that conclusion, and some alternatives for the I91 southbound off ramp. TJ Poulin added the project is along I91 and they will be doing work on bridges 25, 26, 27, and 28, along with reconfiguring a little bit of the Exit 7 interchange. TJ Poulin further added at bridge 25 and 26 they will be doing a deck replacement and then a superstructure replacement at bridges 27 and 28. TJ Poulin continued that bridge 28 was the predominant bridge that they needed to do work on for this project and with updating that they found that it's best to realign the northbound on and off ramp to better suit that and get rid of the merging traffic on and off of I91 and with doing so it made that interchange extend back over bridge 27 a little bit. TJ Poulin noted that is why those two bridges are very interlinked at this point.

TJ Poulin discussed that the new interchange for the northbound on and off ramps are going to change from the clover off ramps to more of a diamond configuration. TJ Poulin added that will improve traffic safety and things like that. TJ Poulin further added they really won't be touching much of the southbound lane other than removing the slip lane on ramp. TJ Poulin continued that this will make the roadway at bridge 27 slightly wider.

TJ Poulin discussed bridge 28 is configured as two lanes of traffic underneath the bridge, it's going to change to one lane of traffic each direction with a left turn lane pocket for the on ramps. TJ Poulin added that for bridge 27 after looking at all the alternatives for that to account for the new interchange and widening out the roadway at bridge 27, they came up with two alternatives that were feasible and the most reasonable for bridge 27. TJ Poulin further added that was either a bridge replacement with a buried structure that's about 220 to 250 feet long to accommodate the trail or removing the bridge and relocating the trail onto Route 5. TJ Poulin noted the trail relocation would only add a tenth of a mile to the total distance from end to end and it would require bridge 28, which must be replaced anyway, to extend about 10 to 50 feet.

TJ Poulin discussed that if they were to keep the bridge on the existing trail to accommodate the construction phase it would need to be a buried structure, they wouldn't be able to put in something like what's out there now with the bin walls and a steel girder bridge or anything like that. TJ Poulin added that if they relocated which is the alternative that we've gone with based off conversations with the Town previously, the relocation would end up having the same feel as the existing trail. TJ Poulin further added that the alternative would have a sidewalk with a five-foot-wide esplanade in between that and the roadway to keep it separate. TJ Poulin noted that they talked about having the Town be involved in landscaping for the trail.

TJ Poulin discussed the one concern that was brought up previously was how we handle the trail at the intersection points with the on and off ramps. TJ Poulin added that they will design the trail relocation to provide lighting and make sure that the trail is well lit at the interchanges, as well as provide crosswalks and possibly some flashing lights to let traffic know that there could be pedestrians there. TJ

Poulin further added that the other option that they had explored was possibly putting in a buried structure tunnel that would go along the existing path of bridge 27. TJ Poulin continued that the last time they discussed the tunnel alternative with the Town, there wasn't a lot of positive feedback on the buried structure, which is why they went with the trail relocation onto Route 5 alternative.

TJ Poulin discussed that the relocation of the trail is staying within the VTRANS right of way so there's not any land acquisitions or anything like that that needs to be done. TJ Poulin added that by trying to maintain the existing view of the trail and keeping it more outside feeling, and due to the distance not being significantly longer, they kept with the Route 5 alternative of relocating the trail. TJ Poulin further added that the southbound off ramp reconfiguration currently, in their designs, they are not planning on adjusting anything with this.

TJ Poulin discussed that they would like to get some feedback from the Town if there are any concerns with specifically the slip lane, and if that's causing any traffic concerns or traffic to be coming into the interchange where the intersection with the hotel at high speeds or anything like that, or if it seems to be flowing pretty well with traffic or with an with trucks and things like that. TJ Poulin added that they will be removing the on-ramp slip lane in either configuration which will help accommodate the trail so there's one less roadway that must be crossed on the trail. TJ Poulin discussed a few other alternatives that they can consider for slip lanes.

Everett Hammond inquired if the bin wall, like we have now, was an option or if just the tunnel is an option. TJ Poulin responded that they must go to the tunnel to be able to accommodate the phasing of the new interchange and then wider section. TJ Poulin added to keep something like bin wall they must replace the bin walls and widen out existing bridges and replace those bridges, so that's a lot more costly than just putting in a buried structure which is why the buried structure was the alternative for this one. Everett Hammond asked to confirm that replacing the existing bin wall was not an option. TJ Poulin confirmed that it was not.

Everett Hammond commented that he was not for the buried structure, but if the Town went with this buried structure if the State was committed to maintaining and replacing that in the future. Adam Goodreau responded that he would have to investigate that as far as the maintenance of that. Adam Goodreau added that is part of the reason that there is the need for a buried structure that over the long term that is a much more cost-effective solution for maintaining versus putting in bridges here.

Michael Martin inquired if along the Toonerville trail their intent is to eliminate the two bridges that cross it. TJ Poulin responded that the relocation of the trail to Route 5 allows them to just fill in this extra trail and remove the bridges altogether. Michael Martin asked to confirm that the on-ramp looking to the east, the slip lane would be removed and become a single lane going east. Adam Goodreau responded that the slip lane would be removed and part of that real estate that you would gain by removing that slip lane would be used for the new shared use path.

Michael Martin inquired if there will be two pedestrian crossings for that path, there would be a crossing on southbound on ramp and a crossing on the northbound off ramp. Adam Goodreau confirmed. Michael Martin inquired how long the tunnel would be. TJ Poulin responded it would be 200-250 feet. Everett Hammond inquired if they were talking about two tunnels. TJ Poulin responded it would be one tunnel for the total length. Michael Martin inquired if there was any consideration for a design that would include two tunnels with an opening in the middle. TJ Poulin responded that they

looked at it a little bit and by the time you get the roadway embankments down, the fills are to the most part overlapping and there would not be that of a gap in between the two tunnels. Michael Martin inquired what the distance between the two roads now was. Adam Goodreau responded that it is about 50 feet. TJ Poulin added that by the time you took that embankment out of two to one and got it down to the trail height, there might be a 15-foot gap between the two tunnels. Adam Goodreau added that you would almost have to have a U-shaped wall section between the two tunnels, which then you're dealing with drainage issues and other stuff as well.

Further discussion ensued regarding who owned the right-of-way for the tracks when Springfield Electric Railway gave up the rights, and it was determined that we would likely need to speak with the attorney for this information.

Doug Johnston via zoom noted concerns if they move the trail to along Route 5 area would be the intersections that the runners would have for cross versus if you're away from those the intersection be less apt to have accidents occur. Chair Kristi Morris commented that one of his questions is the public safety at the intersection of the southbound on ramp and off ramp, noting that VTRANS had also recognized that with the intention of putting up crosswalks and or lighted signals. Everett Hammond commented that he liked the fact that they were making the intersections 90 degrees and offering to put a light there, but he was very concerned about safety regarding the tunnel, and he would be 100% against the tunnel.

John Bond via Zoom commented that there was a third option that Chris Merrill had suggested and inquired if that had been talked about at all. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that the option was to go down Route 5 and cross Route 5 a little further south and bringing the trail closer along the riverbank, so you are not out on the heavy traveled section of 5 and 11 under bridge 26. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that would involve easements and rights-of-way. Adam Goodreau added that the third option, going down by the river would require right-of-way acquisitions, as well as would have resource impacts both for wetlands and potentially archaeology.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he was mostly concerned about the exit ramp because that is not a long distance and cars tend to be going very quickly. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that if the cars were right behind each other the first car would see a pedestrian entering the crosswalk the second one might not see the pedestrian and run into the back of the first car. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that they travel at high rates of speed coming down there and despite it being a 90 degree stop at the bottom but if you get chains of vehicles, or slippery road conditions, or wet road conditions he thinks it's a much less safe situation than what we have now. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he believes there is an impairment to our assets of the trail. Town Manager Jeff Mobus inquired if there had been any safety analysis of that type of crosswalk on an off ramp. TJ Poulin responded they had looked at it and they had made improvements to that to try to improve safety.

Further discussion ensued that they are still looking into the lighting options and whether they will light the entire intersection or just have flashing lights at the crosswalks.

Doug Johnston via Zoom inquired why the State of Vermont was redesigning this whole intersection and if it was to eliminate two of the bridges for cost effectiveness in the future, or what brought them to change the flow and so forth. TJ Poulin responded that bridge 28 is in rough shape and needs to be replaced and the northbound off and on ramp there's safety concerns with the interchange on I91 of the

merging traffic off and on in that small period throughout the bridge. TJ Poulin added that the diamond interchange that they are swapping to is much safer in that regard and allows traffic to flow much easier. Cory Helmick added that when they were first looking at alternatives with this interchange as far as how to build a bridge and maintain traffic, one thing they were finding with how close the ramps are to the existing bridge is that it was difficult to construct a new bridge while also keeping the existing ramps open during construction.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired that they were still taking testimony or learning what the Town's feelings are with these options as they continue to go forward for the design. Adam Goodreau discussed that the construction procurement for this project will be construction manager general contractor versus traditionally they do design bid build or design build. Adam Goodreau added that they are in the process of developing a request for proposals to get that contractor on board in the design phase.

Doug Johnston via Zoom inquired if there is any data to justify the corrections on this, such as any accident data or anything that they are going by to and make these recommendations. TJ Poulin responded that he believes they do but will need to get back to us on the specifics behind it. Cory Helmick commented that he did not have the crash data available at that moment but recalled there were some crashes in the area because of where the slipways merge onto Route 5. Chair Kristi Morris commented that he believed that is one of the reasons why they put the traffic lights in at the intersection of Route 5 south and 11 across from the hotel entrance, we had a significant number of accidents there over the years.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if for the traffic lanes coming off the southbound exit ramp if the configuration of the lanes was going to be easier, so that the traffic coming off 91 southbound was not having to navigate and negotiate traffic coming from Route 5 West and you also must cross over to turn left to go to the truck stop. Chris Helmick responded that he can't really speak to the traffic patterns today, as far as that goes, but he knows at the end of the slip ramp they have a yield condition, so they have to yield the two lanes or westbound traffic on Route five. Chris Helmick added that in their current design they are not really proposing to change that.

Further discussion ensued regarding the current traffic patterns and the proposed changes that could improve safety and efficiency of the traffic in that area.

Alan Englander in person commented that he shares the concern about the tunnel, but he also shares the Town Manager's concerns about the safety or issues regarding the road and exits and so forth. Alan Englander added that tunnels have always been a concern down where he used to live in downstate New York. Alan Englander further added they had criminal problems or safety concerns happening and number of very serious incidents but moreover, all you need is a couple of kids going in there to do graffiti over it and other bad things that we don't want to talk about and then it becomes an issue for the people that are genuinely interested in doing the hiking and using the trail. Everett Hammond added in Lebanon, the tunnel up there, they're painting that all the time it's a major maintenance issue in Lebanon.

Doug Johnston via Zoom commented that the last time they came down and presented, he brought up the southbound lane or ramp coming on to the southbound lane and they were supposed to reach out and talk to tractor trailer drivers and stuff like that to see how that would be if somebody's heading east on Route 5 and had to turn onto the southbound lane going to Charlestown. Doug Johnston added that

it didn't look like there were any changes and he inquired if that had been done. TJ Poulin responded that he believed they have looked at truck movements turning onto the ramp, and they can make it. Cory Helmick added that the point of removing the slip lane is that trucks are going to have to slow down considerably to turn right on the southbound on-ramp which is a benefit for the trail as far as pedestrians and whatnot. Cory Helmick further added that the existing conditions when trucks are getting on the southbound on-ramp, as soon as they cross bridge 27 South they're having the merge onto I91 southbound, so you don't really have the length to speed up to match the speed of traffic. Cory Helmick continued that they are extending that lane all the way down to almost where bridge 26 is to allow vehicles to get up to highway speed before they merge onto the interstate.

Jim Fog in-person commented that he noticed on their map they have the box culvert that carries Spencer Brook through to where it opens out into the river, and he inquired if they still intended to open that up and have it be a Brook again and what the ramifications of that for environmental regulations and for adjacent landowners was. Jim Fog added that the Town Manager brought this up to a certain extent that we're losing value in this bike path if it's reconfigured in the way that they are proposing. Jim Fog then inquired what are we getting back that's balancing and compensating us as a municipality for that loss because it's not just the loss of what we have right now, it's the loss of what we had planned to build around that infrastructure. Jim fog further added as the chair of the Springfield Trails and Rural Economy Committee for the last four years, they have made a lot of efforts in conjunction with the town and various state agencies and grant funding bodies to use the trail as a spinal trail for a network that reaches out throughout this whole valley and to have it be an attraction point for tourists and for people who are moving here seeking more outdoor lifestyle. Jim Fog continued we've just gotten to the point where we have developed the way that we think it should be and they are going to erase about a third of it and so that just doesn't seem equitable to him.

Adam Goodreau inquired what functionality they are taking away as far as moving the trail from one point to another, noting they are just relocating it and he would be curious as to what the future plans are and how they are impacting those. Jim Fog responded that they are taking a secluded bike path that winds around a body of water, and then is insulated from traffic noise until it crosses Route 5, and then quickly, again, diverges from the main highway and instead now we're going to have it follow the route of the main highway and people are going to have to navigate across these new and unfamiliar on ramps and off ramps, and you say that they're going to be safe, but if they're not safe, what then will they be installing traffic lights at the base of the off ramps if someone gets hit. Jim Fog commented that it sounds like when we start asking questions about details regarding safety, they haven't really thought it through.

Further discussion ensued to reiterate the plans regarding the relocation and the section they are taking away is not along the river and the relocated path will be a separated path from the highway with two crossings that won't be separated from the highway. Additional discussion ensued regarding whose responsibility the maintenance of the buffer zone would be, and it would be the same as it is now, but they would check and come back to us.

Further discussion ensued that the option of moving the trail along the river was not an option at this time due to the additional rights-of-way that need to be required as well as environmental resources that would be impacted.

Adam Goodreau discussed that he would talk over some of the feedback they got here with his management as well as designers here with us and then the intent was to have this meeting and then they would do with more refined option, A public meeting on a later date probably sometime this summer before they get the contractor on board. Chair Kristi Morris inquired what the proposed timeframe for working on the bridges was 2024 or 2025. Adam Goodreau responded he believed they are looking at 2026 for construction.

ITEM #2 Act on Library Trustee resignation

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on Library Trustee resignation” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town received a letter of resignation from Claire Trask, who has been serving on the Library Board of Trustees. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this creates a vacancy on the board of trustees. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that Claire Trask’s term would have ended in March 2025. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that if anyone is interested in serving on the Library Board of Trustees, please contact the Library Director Sue Dowdell or himself.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to accept the resignation of Claire Trask from the Library Board of Trustees with regrets.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #3 Act on request on 84 Valley Street

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on request on 84 Valley Street” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that 84 Valley Street is one of the three properties that the Board ordered demolished. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Jason Skibniowsky, the owner of the property, has been in contact with himself and with Chief Paul Stagner. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that Mr. Skibniowsky does intend to demolish the building but will not be able to complete this within the 90 days and is asking for an extension.

Jason Skibniowsky via Zoom discussed that one of the reasons why he has not done the building deconstruction, noting it will be a deconstruction not a demolition, is because there's a lot of valuable lumber in it. Jason Skibniowsky added that some of these pieces of board are historic, and he wants to preserve as much as possible. Jason Skibniowsky further added that he has not deconstructed the property because of the ongoing and extensive amount of crime, shootings, drugs, police activity that has been happening and it wasn't safe for him and his workers. Jason Skibniowsky noted that he cannot leave tools there unattended, and he was told he could not have a camper on site while he worked on the building.

Jason Skibniowsky discussed that the previous owner said that the building was up to code as far as inside. Jason Skibniowsky added that when he talked to the last Town Manager, he was told that if he put siding and a roof on it the Town wouldn't care what it looks like on the inside. Jason Skibniowsky noted that he was going off that information. Jason Skibniowsky further added that he had to go to the

hospital, and he was there for a while, so it may look neglected, but he has not forgotten about it, and he wants to improve on it. Jason Skibniowsky continued that his dad has cancer, and he is not able to commit as much as he needs to because he is taking care of more responsibilities at their house and not been able to focus as much on the building.

Jason Skibniowsky discussed that he does feel the building needs to be taken down and he has known that since he has owned the place. Jason Skibniowsky added that he just wants to save the wood and he wants to be able to do what he can to preserve what is left of the building. Jason Skibniowsky further added it did have a fire years ago and was attempted to be reconstructed. Jason Skibniowsky continued that he began to put a roof on the north side of the building.

Jason Skibniowsky discussed that he believed what triggered this conversation was that a building engineer looked at the outside of it and saw that the North side porch needs to be taken down because the roof collapsing. Jason Skibniowsky added that no one has contacted him as far as going into the building and seeing if it is structurally sound and from his knowledge there are no structural issues with the building except for the porch on the north side. Jason Skibniowsky continued that he is asking for more time to extend the order till the end of the year.

Jason Skibniowsky discussed that he does want to improve the property and there's a lot of options for that, noting there's a need for housing in the area. Jason Skibniowsky added that he partnered with SEVCA recently and spoken with Emmett Dunbar. Jason Skibniowsky further added that he is hoping for a place where people can go, they can have a place a place to live, and he can maintain that and there's assistance right now that's going on that is available for funding for this type of project. Jason Skibniowsky noted that he has had extensive tool theft and illegal dumping on his property that he had to take care of at his own expense.

Emmett Dunbar Economic Programs Development Director SEVCA via Zoom discussed that Jason Skibniowsky contacted him a few weeks ago on how he's developing this project and it's coming to the point where he's done the biggest thing which is to really get to the next level of how it can happen and even more. Emmett Dunbar added that he has had two conversations with Jason Skibniowsky, and they are going to have another meeting. Emmett Dunbar noted that he does not know all the details for this project yet. Jason Skibniowsky further added that he knows it was a seven unit building and it's very large and Jason Skibniowsky mentioned the idea that the multiple bay garage could be developed readily into one or two small units and the seven unit building that seemed to be a strong foundation and the property having the ability to be developed. Emmett Dunbar continued that if the Town is not going to do anything in 90 days or 100-200 days and the Town doesn't want the liability of the property until then to save taxpayer money on any expenses or anything, wouldn't it be okay to have a formalized plan presented to the Town that he would be developing with Jason Skibniowsky.

Michael Martin commented that he is not opposed to extending the deconstruction order to December 31st and he is sympathetic to the time constraints, but he would like to know what the owner of the property would expect would happen if he fails to complete the deconstruction by December 31. Michael Martin inquired what course of action he would expect the Town to take at that point. Jason Skibniowsky responded that he believes that December 31st is a fair and doable timeframe and date for the destruction of the building and removal of the items. Jason Skibniowsky commented that he did not know the rules and regulations and how the Town goes about enforcing this. Jason Skibniowsky inquired

what the recourse is if he doesn't finish it within the 30-day period or a 90-day period that was already given and he does expect the same kind of recourse to happen at the end of December.

Further discussion ensued that Jason Skibniowsky believed he acquired the property in 2021. Additional discussion ensued that the Town's recourse would be that we would then enforce the order, which means that we would hire a contractor to demolish what property there is and we put a Lien on the property, and then that would then be enforced in the courts or when the property transfers.

Walter Martone inquired when the fire was. Jason Skibniowsky responded he believed it was in 2018. Walter Martone commented that he acquired the property after the fire in the condition that it's in now. Walter Martone noted that his understanding is that it's from that point forward and for many, many years before that there were discussions two Town Managers ago on how this property was going to be developed first into condominiums and then it was going to be something else, and nothing ever happened. Walter Martone added then there was a fire and now the Town and the people who live in that vicinity, have been living with this burned-out structure, which we've determined is dangerous, that there are parts of it that could collapse, or it could harm public going by it, and they've had to live with it for many years. Walter Martone then inquired what his definition of deconstruction is, if he was going to level it and the property will be vacant that building or is he just talking about stripping out those things that he feels are reusable and leaving some kind of a shell. Jason Skibniowsky responded that he will be removing all the structure down to the foundation which is very solid. Jason Skibniowsky added that he did have a professional draft blueprint done, which he is still paying on, that goes into detail down to the cost and the amount of boards needed to reconstruct the building. Jason Skibniowsky continued the building needs to be removed to be reconstructed and the garages will be left because there's nothing structurally wrong with that.

Walter Martone inquired if all the debris will be removed or if the Town will have to do further cleanup work at the end of the year, because he is only partially cleaning it off. Jason Skibniowsky clarified that it will be a deconstruction not a demolition and as he deconstructs the building and removes lumber, the lumber will be bundled to be either resold to recover and recoup cost of deconstruction or reused in other building projects on the property, anything that is not usable will be put into a dumpster and be removed.

Chair Kristi Morris commented that it seems that he has met with Emmett Dunbar from SEVCA, and Jason Skibniowsky talks about a plan, but Emmett Dunbar has not seen the building. Chair Kristi Morris inquired if the Board could see a plan for the performance of his deconstruction of the building. Chair Kristi Morris noted that there's some concern here that based on some of the things that he mentioned and perhaps doing this work by himself, that is a monumental task to take that building down by the end of the year. Jason Skibniowsky responded that because it has a large garage, and it has a building that needs to be taken down, a lot of the lumber can be stored in the garages. Jason Skibniowsky added that he has not written anything for anyone to review, but he was sure within a week or so of working with Emmett Dunbar he could likely provide that.

Chair Kristi Morris commented that he has seen this property now for at least two years that Jason Skibniowsky has owned it, there's been no real initiative or action on that building in that timeframe and now Jason Skibniowsky is asking the Board for an extension until the end of the year, but there doesn't seem to be a physical plan or timeframes on when he is going to start or when the building is going to be down.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented that the fire was on March 26, 2013, and Jason Skibniowsky bought the building June 4, 2019.

Further discussion ensued that Jason Skibniowsky and Emmett Dunbar will have plan for the deconstruction to present the Board at the next regular Selectboard meeting of June 12th. Emmett Dunbar discussed that he would meet with the Town Manager to discuss what they need in their plan. Emmett Dunbar clarified that he is working with Jason Skibniowsky through SEVCA's programs which he qualified for, and he is not hired. Town Manager Jeff Mobus stated that he was fine with meeting with them before the next meeting, but they also should meet with Planning and Zoning to make sure that what they are planning would be appropriate for that property as well.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved that the Board does not consider the request at this point and that the Board allows the 90-day order to stay in place.

Walter Martone commented that if the building owner would like to come back before the 90-days is over and provide a plan that really satisfies what they need to know before deciding whether to extend it through the end of the year then they can consider it.

Further discussion ensued that they did not need a motion as the order stays active.

Walter Martone withdrew his motion.

ITEM #4 Public safety update

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the "Public safety update" included in the meeting packet. Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that they have been discussing the possibility of implementing a body camera policy. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that the State has a model policy that they are expected to adopt, within reason of course because we don't have some resources that larger departments have. Police Chief Jeff Burnham further added that he has researched several large-scale options and it looks like a smaller scale option will work for them.

Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that they have mobile cameras in the cruisers, but they do not have body cameras. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that he believes it is a matter of time before the State requires it and the State doesn't always make it a funded mandate and he would like to get ahead of the curve. Police Chief Jeff Burnham further added that he is still working on MDT research noted that the ones that we have now are in various states of disrepair. Michael Martin inquired what MDT stood for. Police Chief Jeff Burnham responded that MDT is Mobile Data Terminal which is their in-car computers.

Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed the summit that is coming to the Town that is still in the works. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that they had focus groups in the last two weeks where they are trying to underline some of the problems in Springfield, which deal with violence, drugs, crime in general as part of the Governor's 10-point plan to address these issues. Police Chief Jeff Burnham further added this is his initiative orchestrated under the Department of Public Safety and this happened once in Bennington, where they brought a whole bunch of resources, and the cool thing is that they had information from the people on the ground and kind of skipped the bureaucracy and got it right to the people that make decisions in the upper administration. Police Chief Jeff Burnham noted that the summit should be sometime in June.

Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that he has worked with the superintendent of schools, and they have been talking about it and they just passed something at the recent school board that will involve the Police Department having access to their surveillance cameras inside the schools. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that they have had a recent call that would it have been handy for, but the mechanisms were not all in place yet. Police Chief Jeff Burnham further added that is going to happen Thursday, where their IT people are going to come down to our dispatch, make sure to provide training on how to access it and everyone understands the MOU is for accessing it, noting that they just can't access it to see what's going on. Police Chief Jeff Burnham continued it's for law enforcement or public safety purposes and that's going to help get real time information for them.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if there are other schools that are that are doing that now. Police Chief Jeff Burnham responded that he believed there was a directive through the Department of Education that this is encouraged. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added it's kind of like a best practices thing, but he did not know if it was mandated. Police Chief Jeff Burnham further added that it's recommended that they start sharing that information if they can because not every town has a dispatch on reserve.

ITEM #5 Act on appointed office applications

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on appointed office applications" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that we have two applications. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town had received an application from Carolyn Comley to serve on the inclusion Committee. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he believes that will bring the committee up to full staff. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the Town also received an application from Mimi Yahn to serve on the Springfield Housing Authority. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that he spoke with Laura Ryan, and she affirmed that there is a vacancy, and they are in favor of the appointment. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted the term for that appointment is five years.

Further discussion ensued that the term technically starts in March because they are on the same cycle as everyone else.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to approve the appointment of Caroline Comley to the Inclusion Committee and Mimi Yahn to the Springfield Housing Authority Board.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #6 Act on St. Mary's Church parade permit request

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on St. Mary's Church parade permit request" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that St. Mary's Church has submitted a parade permit request for a procession on June 11, 2023, between 10:15am and 11:15am. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that they have held this procession previously with no issues and the participants stay on the sidewalks and crosswalks.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to approve the St. Mary's Church rate permit request for June 11, 2023, between the hours of 10:15am and 11:15am..

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #7 Tax sale authorization

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Tax sale authorization" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed this item is an annual item as we prepare to hold the tax sale. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this authorizes engagement of Parker and Ankuda to hold the tax sale and further authorizes the Town Manager to bid on the properties on behalf of the Town and to subsequently advertise and sell such properties.

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to ratify and confirm the engagement of our Town attorneys Parker and Ankuda PC be compensated for preparing tax sales at the rate of 15% on the uncollected taxes water and sewer, and that the Town Manager is authorized in his discretion to bid on behalf of the Town of Springfield at the upcoming tax sale on all properties which there is not a sufficient bid to reimburse the Town for all uncollected taxes, water sewer, interest, penalties, fees, and costs, and the town manager discretion and to further move to authorize a Town Manager to advertise and sell all properties now owned by the Town which were purchased at previous tax sale, including the authority to sign the deed on behalf of the Town of Springfield transferring title of said property.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Chair Kristi Morris noted that this has traditionally been going on for years and if the Town doesn't bid on properties that don't get to bid on there's no actions to be forthcoming. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town cannot bid against anybody else.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he is working on selling a property we obtained in tax sale back in 2015, he noted it's not big money or anything it's just get it off our books.

ITEM #8 Act on bids for Mile Hill project

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on bids for Mile Hill project" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town received three bids to do erosion control work on Mile Hill Road. and this project will be funded by the Vermont Grants and Aid Program. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that we recommend awarding the bid to Crown Point Excavation as the lowest responsive bidder. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added the three bids were Gurney brothers at \$32,329, TS Property Maintenance at \$8,850, and Crown Point Excavation Company at \$24,370. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the quote from TS Property management didn't include the whole distance of the work and we were not sure that they were capable of doing the job.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the award of the bid to Crown Point Excavation for the Mile Hill Road ditch for \$24,370.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Further discussion ensued that Donny Turner, Jeff Strong, and the Town Manager had all reviewed the quotes.

Public Works Director Jeff Strong commented that these are projects that they work with Otis Monroe from MARC on. Public Works Director Jeff Strong added that they pick those projects from our municipal roads general permit list of hydraulically connected pieces of road and that's what makes them eligible for this money. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we are behind on doing this work also. Public Works Director Jeff Strong added that they have a piece on Greeley Road that they couldn't get done last year because the grant wasn't enough for it, and they may be able to finish that with this.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #9 Act on Transfer Station fee for FY24

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on Transfer Station fee for FY24" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted this was only for the sticker fee. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he is doing an evaluation of the transfer station and will have a complete report for the Board at the June 12th meeting where he will make recommendations on other changes to the transfer station. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that it is clear that the transfer station is continuing to run a budgetary deficit and the town does budget to support the transfer station as a necessary town service. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the transfer station has run a deficit that exceeds the budgeted amount by roughly \$50,000 a year for the past three years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus recommended that the sticker price be increased from \$25 to \$30, noting that while this is a 20% increase the sticker price has not increased since the program started.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that at the June meeting he will be recommending a significant increase in punch card pricing, as well. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he has spoken with Weathersfield, and they had a 21% increase, which reduced their deficit but still didn't address it all. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that hauling costs have gone up.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed data he collected from two fiscal years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the total revenue between May of last year and April 1 of this year is \$64,260 which does exceed the revenue amount and we budgeted \$60,000. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the number of stickers sold is estimated as we have some that are still in circulation selling this year over in Chester. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that it looks like we sold 3,244 stickers, and it looks like we sold about 2,402 stickers at full price and 842 at \$5 for the second one. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he believes we can bring in \$12,000 in addition on sticker fees by increasing the price from \$25 to \$30.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to raise the transfer station sticker fee for the first sticker from \$25 to \$30 and the second sticker for families that have two cars from \$5 to \$10.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the second sticker is only one additional sticker and if you buy a third and fourth sticker, they are back to \$30 each, there's only the one reduced price sticker per household. 51.57

Haley Whitcomb in-person discussed that she does not object to the raising of the fee, the main objective of course is to encourage people to use the site so that we don't have trash everywhere where it shouldn't be. Haley Whitcomb added that she wants to make sure we keep that in mind when we first started putting the fees in place of course there were some people that stopped coming and she did hear some reports of increased dumping which I can't verify. Haley Whitcomb further added that this is a minor increase and hopefully it won't contribute to that, but she does want to encourage not to be bashful about keeping most of it on the tax rate because she feels that is the fairest way to do it because those of us who can pay a little more will pay a little more. Haley Whitcomb commented that for those that say they do not use the service, how many services in Town do many of us not use but we still pay for, such as the library, the police, public works, and the trails, that we have an accessible and convenient spot for people to properly and responsibly pass on the things they don't want is really important. Chair Kristi Morris discussed that solid waste is part of his committee in Montpelier and they're seeing costs go up all over the State, including the hazardous household waste collection points that are available and the cost of the disposal costs is escalating, so this isn't just Springfield it's happening all over the State.

Library Director Sue Dowdell via Zoom discussed that the library along with the community has collected almost 1,200 pounds of soft plastic so that that has not been going to the recycling center and it hasn't been going in the trash. Library Director Sue Dowdell added that Rotary will be getting their second bench soon and the Union Park Neighborhood Association has signed on as a third sponsor, so that they can continue doing it throughout the year. Library Director Sue Dowdell further added that if they found it feasible for the library to also sell the transfer punch cards that's something that they would be open to that, because they are open until seven in the evening.

Doug Johnston via Zoom inquired how much the Town of Chester is paying for the use of the recycling facility and is there going to be any increases for them also. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that they pay \$35,000 plus their residents pay for stickers and pay for punch cards, but we don't separate out how many punch cards or stickers that Chester may have purchased from us. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that in terms of subsidizing what we've been planning on is the station runs a budgetary deficit of \$100,000, \$35,000 covered by Chester and \$65,000 covered by Springfield.

Doug Johnston via Zoom inquired if there was any consideration about raising Chester's rates up from \$35,000 since everybody is getting an increase, noting that he thinks it would be appropriate for that to happen also.

Mimi Yahn via Zoom commented that she was wondering about some cost saving or fundraising possibilities, she knew that those small in-home recycling pails that you can get through the State, if those were made available at the transfer station on an ongoing basis and charge \$10 extra for those to raise a little bit of money for the transfer station. Mimi Yahn added that she believes a lot of people may be looking for those since we are supposed to be composting food scraps. Mimi Yahn inquired if it was feasible and has been looked at, the possibility of forming some sort of consortium with say Chester,

Weathersfield, and maybe some other nearby towns to create something like a coop where we can bring the cost down somehow. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we already do work with Chester, the Chester residents come to Springfield already. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Weathersfield picks up West Windsor and Redding, so there already is that combining but there's also a solid waste district that covers Northern Windham County and Windsor County, so we do bid out the hauling fees as a district and then we get bids as a consortium, mainly for the hauling fees.

Walter Martone noted that the green pails are handled through the Solid Waste District, that's why we don't have them for sale because they have special events. Further discussion ensued that the pails will be looked into as to if we can offer them at the transfer station.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that Haley Whitcomb and himself do communicate regularly on this and we agree on what the focus needs to be on reuse and recycle.

ITEM #10 Proposed restructure of Water and Wastewater administration

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Proposed restructure of Water and Wastewater administration" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that at the last board meeting he announced that Rick Chambers will be resigning his position as Water and Wastewater Superintendent to become the Town Manager of Cavendish. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this is a wonderful opportunity for Rick Chambers, but his quick departure created challenges for the town. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that his quick departure did not allow the town to do a prolonged search for a superintendent as we have a multimillion-dollar Water Project, a wastewater treatment plant in need of updating, a compost facility at the end of its useful life, and several regulatory items such as PFAs and lead, imminent.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he has spoken with Rick Chambers, Jeff Strong, and the current chief operators of both water and wastewater and together they have agreed that the best way to address this challenge while continuing to function in accordance with our operating permits for water and wastewater that are issued by the State is to split the superintendent position. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the town needs to remain compliant with our operating permits to avoid large fines, and the State has already encouraged the town to increase our staffing in order to maintain our permits. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that currently the Superintendent of Water and Wastewater is a paygrade 27 position. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that he is asking the Board to allow him to restructure the department with a Superintendent of Water and a Superintendent of Wastewater and these would each be paygrade 26 positions.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that promoting the two Chief Operators to paygrade 26 would cost between \$25,000 and \$27,000. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that before Rick Chambers left, he was earning roughly \$91,000, so this restructuring would leave \$64,000 towards the replacement of Chief Operators. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that should the Board approve this proposal it would lead to one more position in water and wastewater down the road, noting that there are more openings than certified operators so he expects it will take a long time to replace those positions.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the additional position is needed not only to satisfy the State, but because water and wastewater has three employees that will be retiring in the next two to three years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added it is vital that the Town has employees ready to step into their shoes so that we continue to provide the Town with water and wastewater services. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that a small neighboring water system was out of compliance on having a certified operator and this was a system of 200 users and not having a certified operator the fine was \$24,000. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that it is important that we keep certified operators as we can, and these guys are both younger and will be around several years and will create a lot of stability.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired regarding the options that are listed here to move the Chief Operators to paygrade 26 and deducting from Rick Chamber's salary of \$91,000 which leaves \$64,000 what the paygrade was for replacement of the Chief Operator. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that would pay for one Chief Operator right away. Further discussion ensued that we would not have new personnel but that we would start advertising. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he doesn't expect to get anybody right away as it took two years to fill the last Chief Operator. Additional discussion ensued that they will be short staffed in the Water department and that the Superintendents will still be doing chief operator positions to keep things going so we keep the project going. Crissy Webster inquired if that would result in overtime. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that it could result in overtime, but he would allow a limited amount of overtime for crisis or emergency response, but not for administrative work.

Everett Hammond inquired if the superintendents would have the weekend duties in their job descriptions, as well. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that they would need to make sure the weekend duties are done. Public Works Director Jeff Strong added that the Chief Operators don't normally do weekend duty, it's the operators that do it, but they are there to fill in if there is a problem. Chair Kristi Morris inquired if they get wage compensation for coming in on weekends. Public Works Director Jeff Strong responded that the wastewater treatment plant and water department are manned 365 days a year and that someone must be there every day including holidays as testing needs to be done on both plants.

Everett Hammond inquired what the grade level for the Chief Operators is. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded they are paygrade 22 right now. Further discussion ensued regarding the pay scale and that the market is hard to determine right now as there are so many vacancies. Town Manager Jeff added that our wastewater treatment plant is a very difficult plant to run as we built it to run high strength biosolids and process those there, which is unique, so it isn't a situation where you can simply say that we can compare a Chief Operator or Superintendent here with Ludlow, because Ludlow's a much easier plant to run.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to approve the restructuring of water and wastewater department to include a Superintendent of Water and a separate Superintendent Wastewater and both positions be classified as paygrade 26.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Crissy Webster inquired if either one of these candidates is qualified to do both and be Superintendent of both. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that the simple answer is yes. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that we could hire one as the superintendent and they'd have two years to get the qualification

for the other side of the operation with which we go. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that you would then run into a situation where you have a Superintendent who would have challenges running the other side of the operation right now and you'd be very dependent in situations. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he is trying to create a sustainable structure going forward, where we are not dependent on one person, because we need to stay within our operating permits for the state.

Further discussion ensued that they have been understaffed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Highway Department for some time and that a position had been eliminated due to attrition. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the challenge at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is you also have the compost facility and the PTF that those guys are working on.

Everett Hammond cautioned that he wanted to make sure we were not jumping too high too quickly on the paygrades for this department. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that these are different positions as we need these operating licenses to function, and they need to have a level of certification that is not required by other departments.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #11 Receive Water and Wastewater budget

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Receive Water and Wastewater budget" item not included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that this is to present the proposed Water Wastewater budget for FY24 and set the Public Hearing at the next Selectboard meeting of June 12th at 6 pm. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that on page 1 and 2 and page 3 and 4, represent two different scenarios based on volume of water sold. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that on page two it is based on the water sold at \$19 million and wastewater at \$17 million and then page four calculates the rates based on \$20 million for water and \$18 million for wastewater. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that last year, the numbers were \$21 and \$19, but as we're phasing out the double billing of the correctional facility, which we have one more billing on that, what we can do to make this work legitimately is set the rates based on \$20 million units sold for water and \$18 million units sold for wastewater. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the following year we would have to go to the next layer of \$19 million and \$17 million.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that currently the water rate is \$5.39 if we use the \$20 million cubic feet for next year, the rate will go down from \$5.39 down to \$5.19. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that part of that is that we're increasing the base rate by 15% and we're going to keep doing that year after year so we're less dependent on fluctuations on the mass sold. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added any new bond debt incurred would go on the fixed charges as opposed to the rate because we must show our lenders that we were guaranteeing that we're going to collect enough money to pay the bonds and that's the best practice now that the State recommends.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the water rate would go down 20 cents, but the wastewater rate would go up from \$9.05 up to \$10.21. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that part of the reason the water rates are going down is that one of our 20-year bonds is finally paid off. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the total amount of the budget would be \$3,994,524, which is an increase of \$103,946, so the total expenses would be going up 2.67%.

Further discussion ensued that the Correctional Facility had an agreement that allowed for double billing of all water and wastewater charges at the Correctional Facility for first 20 years and they opened in September of 2003.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to set the public hearing date for our Water and Wastewater for June 12, 2023, at 6 pm.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Crissy Webster inquired if we get paid for other services that end up going to the Correctional Facility and if it would make sense that the State continue paying the double billed water and wastewater fees to make up for other services that might not be paid for in other ways. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we do receive a payment in lieu of taxes, for readiness to serve which is about \$86,000 this year, and it goes up by their inflationary calculation each year. Crissy Webster inquired if we compared the dollar amount of services required by this Correctional Facility by what they are giving us if there is a huge discrepancy. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he was not sure and has always looked at this as a contract term. Crissy Webster added that she feels this is something that we should explore because her understanding is that we do send several services up there frequently so it would make sense that they're making that up because then that's services that are not available to the other public. Town Manager Jeff Mobus inquired if she was talking about medical services and noted that we do bill them for that. Further discussion ensued that it is generally all we can bill based off fees that are set and what Medicare or Medicaid would pay.

Additional discussion ensued that the population of the Correctional Facility is supposed to be 250 beds and if they increase that they are supposed to renegotiate. Further discussion ensued regarding 14 acres of land that the Correctional Facility had contracted to turn over to the Town in the contract.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #12 VFW event permit Memorial Day

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "VFW event permit Memorial Day" item that was added to the agenda at the time of the meeting and was not included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the VFW was not having a parade, but they will be having an event at 11 o'clock at the Memorial Park and then they will walk over to the bridge by McDonald's, and they have the wreath they throw into the water there and they've asked to slow down traffic and have a police escort to the bridge.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the VFW application for a Memorial Day event at the Memorial Park.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Chair Kristi Morris commented that he would be out of Town for the event, but he usually attends the event as a representative to the State and as a Town Selectboard member and he hoped that another Board member would be willing to go to the event. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he would be at the event. Walter Martone added that he would attend.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

E. FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2023 Warrants to May 18, 2023 – copies on website.

Budget status update – April 2023

Town Manager Jeff Mobus stated that any questions regarding these warrants should be directed to the Finance Director, Cathy Sohngen.

F. MANAGER’S REPORT

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Manager’s Report, the item was not included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that we received four estimates for the roof work at the library and the lowest one was double what we had budgeted. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he will send those to Everett Hammond noting that he is the library building person liaison from the Selectboard. Chair Kristi Morris inquired how much higher the bids were than the budgeted amount. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he believed the lowest base amount was about \$150,000 and we budgeted \$100,000, but there's a lot of addons like fixing that gully area and flat roof and that was about another \$50,000. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the lowest one would be about \$200,000 and the highest base bid was \$505,000 just for the flat roof and then the additional addons were another \$70,000 or something like that.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired what we might think about doing or not doing for this. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we’d reduce the scope and deal with the gulley issue which is where we were pretty convinced that the leak is and then continue to save funds for the roof. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Sue Dowdell has applied for a grant on the roof which he believes might be for as much as \$50,000 which could help us also.

Library Director Sue Dowdell clarified that she had not yet applied for that grant. Library Director Sue Dowdell added that it's a treasury grant and it could be substantial, but the Department of Libraries will not be putting out the guidance on that application until the fall.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM PROPOSALS

Crissy Webster requested an update on the Employee Handbook. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that they have 6 pages left on their initial run through.

Chair Kristi Morris noted that the Selectboard will be going to their once-a-month summer schedule, and they will be meeting for their Strategic Planning Workshop on Wednesday May 24th at 10 am.

Walter Martone requested the revision to the Revolving Loan Fund policy as they got approval from the State to expand their use of that fund so they would like to amend the policy.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crissy Webster noted that she was not able to attend the School Board meeting as their meeting was scheduled for the same time as this meeting.

Walter Martone announced that the Ordinance Committee met for the first time in a number of months, and they have laid out their agenda and there's a lot of things that they are going to be working on, so expect a lot of activity between now and March.

I. OTHER MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Kristi Morris read aloud the list of Other Minutes and Correspondence and noted these are all available online.

1. Springfield on The Move – Minutes of April 20, 2023
2. Springfield Regional Development Corporation – Minutes of April 25, 2023
3. Springfield Town Library – June 2023 events calendar
4. Springfield Town Library Trustees – Minutes of May 9, 2023

J. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Library Director Sue Dowdell via Zoom inquired what's happening with the Sustainability Committee. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we've not received a single application for that. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he did talk to Chuck Wise, and he suggested maybe Carrie Kellow would be willing to help put it together. Carrie Kellow responded that it was on her radar of things to review. Library Director Sue Dowdell commented that one of her staff members is interested but not interested in running it, so the library is working for our sustainability certification, so she would have a representative if it is put together. Chair Kristi Morris added that if the States FY24 budget passes there is some continued funding for energy improvements of town buildings. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we applied and are on that list.

Alan Englander in-person thanked the Board for the good service that they do, he believes they run the town well, and they've got a lot of challenges here and he believes they are up to it and doing a commendable job. Alan Englander added that there are challenges, but it's all over America and it's not just here. Alan Englander further added that they only complain about the shootings, they complain about the other crime but if go anywhere in the country you're finding it.

Alan Englander discussed that we are going to have a summit involving this and he inquired if there had ever been any thought of reaching out to some of other communities, like downstate New York, New York City, Rockland County. Alan Englander added that they have dealt with the gang problem down there for quite several years, probably several decades, and maybe we could see what they are doing, what has worked, what hasn't worked, and why that might be. Alan Englander further added it might give us a little bit more of a heads up, with the police here. Alan Englander noted that the police here are doing a great job but maybe they can see what other people were doing as to whether they can take any gleanings from that and maybe make a little bit more headway. Chair Kristi Morris noted that is what the summit is about,

and they ran one in Bennington County a month or so ago and the Governor's plans are to do those around the State and there is cooperation with some of the law enforcement partners as well as the State and Federal.

Haley Whitcomb in-person discussed regarding the Sustainability Committee she had a great meeting Saturday with several other gals who are passionate about getting recover their Meadow Recovery Project at the hospital as well as working on decreasing mowing all around town and getting pollinator areas and so on, and as a part of that, they were talking about maybe getting a Conservation Commission and they could be compatible with trails and sustainability. Haley Whitcomb added that these two or three women she recently met at an Ollie lecture, and they are passionate about nature and all these things, so we'll see.

L. ADJOURN

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary