

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, August 14, 2023**

APPROVED MINUTES

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

Chair, Kristi Morris, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 was present in-person. Library Director Sue Dowdell joined via Zoom.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was not in attendance

B. MINUTES

1. Regular Selectboard Meeting – June 12, 2023
2. Public Hearing Selectboard Meeting – July 10, 2023
3. Regular Selectboard Meeting – July 10, 2023

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to approve the three sets of minutes as printed and distributed with revisions.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Everett Hammond commented on page 13 of the Regular Selectboard meeting minutes of June 12, 2023, he thought he made the motion regarding the increase in price for the transfer station punch cards.

Walter Martone on page 1 on the same set of minutes in the fourth line of item 1 Act on 2023 liquor renewals where it says "...designated area is 35' by 110'..." and on the top of the next page it says 35' x 100' and he inquired if they are supposed to be different. Michael Martin commented that he believed the 110' was correct and he stated it incorrectly. Walter Martone asked for an additional correction on page 8 item 7 in the next to the last line where it says "...until the next ~~time~~ **Town** meeting..."

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

C. ANY REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THIS AGENDA

Town Manager Jeff Mobus requested to add a new item as number 9 for contract I - engineering and loan application and he requested to move one of the Executive Sessions related to real estate up to the

beginning of the meeting, as it may impact an item that will be discussed. These were both added as requested without objection from the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Item moved to top of agenda at the time of the meeting.

Under the provision of I V.S.A. Section 313 (a) 2, the purpose of this executive session is to discuss the negotiating or securing of real estate purchase options. Town Manager Mobus is invited.

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to move into Executive Session the Town Manager is invited.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Walter Martone recused himself

The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:08 pm. Walter Martone recused himself to the audience and did not participate in the Executive Session.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:24 pm, no actions were taken.

D. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1 Appoint Animal Control Officer

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Appoint Animal Control Officer” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Lisa Baker is performing the duties of the Animal Control Officer and per Vermont statute he requested that the Board formally appoint Lisa Baker as Animal Control Officer so that she has all the authorities granted by the statutes, including responding to complaints about dogs and writing citations.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved that the Board formally approve Lisa Baker as the Animal Control Officer for Springfield.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if Lisa Baker was already working as the Animal Control Officer. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed that she has been working as the Animal Control Officer but if somebody ever came back and protested to the Board about some of her actions or whatever, she would enjoy the statutory protections and authority that she has.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #2 Act on Fire turn-out gear proposals

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on Fire turn-out gear proposals” item included in the meeting packet and provided by Fire Chief Paul Stagner. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town has an American Firefighter grant to purchase bunker gear for the department. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the grant is for \$91,500 which includes a match of \$4,357.15 from the Town. Town

Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Stagner sent out specifications and met with the three organizations who submitted quotes and there are three major items being quoted which includes structural firefighting bunker gear, firefighting boots, and firefighting helmets. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that in respect to comparing apples to apples Chief Stagner considered only the three major components in this purchase in the pricing and the quantities are for 20 pairs of bunker gear.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the first quote is from Reynolds for \$89,586.45, the second quote is from Bergeron Protective Clothing and Equipment for \$89,472.60, and the third one is from MESfire with a price of \$88,220. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Stagner said that they've tested all the brands listed above and feel that Morning Pride, which is the brand for MESfire best meets their needs.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the MESfire Morning Pride firefighting gear, which is the turnout gear, boots, and firefighting helmet for the Springfield Fire Department of which we have a maximum grant of \$91,500 with a Town match of \$4,357.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Crissy Webster inquired if 20 sets was going to cover what is needed for the on-call firefighters also or if it was just for full-time firefighters. Chair Kristi Morris responded that there's 13 full-time which leaves a balance of 7 for on-call. Crissy Webster inquired if the 13 included the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that 13 does include the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief and the non-emergency transport staff bring that up to 15. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that when Ross Thompson was Chief, he did purchase three sets of turnout gear simply because we had new call people so those people that wouldn't necessarily need stuff right now. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Stagner would certainly use the gear for on-call firemen, as well.

Walter Martone inquired if the match was a set amount. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he believed it was 5%. Walter Martone commented that the match would go down with the lower amount. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that there's things like gloves and other things that we'll add in just to make sure, but Chief Stagner didn't include that because not everybody bid gloves.

Everett Hammond asked to confirm that the intent was to maximize the grant. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #3 Set Public Hearing for Clinton Street Road diet scoping

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Set Public Hearing for Clifton Street Road diet scoping" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that in the Main Street Master Plan there's a suggestion to change the traffic flow on Clinton Street from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction with a center left hand turn lane and a dedicated bike pedestrian path. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town has received a grant to perform a scoping study on the feasibility of the project and since grant funds are involved the Town is required to hold a public local concerns meeting. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that he has arranged with the engineer

Stantec, which was chosen from a state approved after ready list, to hold the meeting on September 11 at 6pm at Town Hall and via Zoom.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to set a public hearing for Clinton Street Road diet scoping study for September 11, 2023, at 6 pm in the Town Hall and via Zoom.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Chair Kristi Morris

Walter Martone inquired if they will have preliminary results of their study at the meeting. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that this is just for public concerns to start the study, noting that we did a similar thing for the Northern Gateway project also. Walter Martone asked to confirm that they wouldn't have pricing for the project either. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he tried to be very clear and say that Clinton Street is currently two lanes each way and this would be a change to the traffic flow, so if citizens are concerned about it, we want to hear from them now and not when we're halfway done with a large, significant, and costly project.

Walter Martone commented that he would strongly recommend that they (Stantec) include some visuals so people could see it also, like what they did in the Master Plan and how it showed how we reduce the accident rate and improve traffic flow even though it's fewer lanes. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that they did a similar thing when we did the Northern Gateway project.

Further discussion ensued that Stantec would have a general concept plan such as the general concept plan from the Main Street Master Plan. Michael Martin commented that they do have artwork in the Main Street Master Plan artwork that was generated by the architects for an architectural rendering proposal that we'd like to go forward with. Michael Martin added that the purpose of this study is to check the actual nuts and bolts feasibility of how that plan will be implemented.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented that in the Main Street Master Plan there's also a recommendation or suggestion to create a roundabout at the bottom of South Street Hill and he has asked for them to consider how the road diet would go into a possible roundabout at the bottom of South Street Hill. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that if it doesn't work together then we'd have to decide which one we would do.

Further discussion ensued that the grant is only for the Road Diet and not for the roundabout, which is a separate project. Additional discussion ensued about other examples of small roundabouts in Vermont.

Walter Martone noted that in the Main Street Master Plan they had the roundabout, but they have a modified roundabout as a second option where it wasn't a complete roundabout it was a small triangular patch in the center, so there is another option for connecting to the road diet.

Further discussion ensued that the roundabout was not included in the scoping study because it was a separate option in the Main Street Master Plan, but we could include it if we wanted to pay for the change. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the grant for the scoping study \$38,500 and the Town is responsible for 20% of it. Additional discussion ensued that the Maximum grant is \$30,800 and we pay the \$7,700.

Michael Martin inquired who picked the amount of the grant request. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that the Regional Planning Commission did. Michael Martin inquired if the Regional Planning Commission would know if we could get the roundabout added to the scoping study later. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded he believed we could it would just be later.

Chair Kristi Morris discussed that he received an email from Representative Logan Nicoll of Ludlow, who is working for Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, that identified three areas that have been recognized as crash sites in Springfield and one of them was the South Street, Mineral Street, Clinton Street, Main Street intersection. Chair Kristi Morris noted that he responded that there is still interest in that, and it is still a concern.

Doug Johnston via Zoom inquired if there was going to be data available as far as how much traffic goes through there broken down by hour for the Public Hearing. Chair Kristi Morris responded that he believed Mount Ascutney Regional Commission does traffic studies. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he did not think that would be available for the public hearing, but it would be part of the final presentation when they present the alternatives. Chair Kristi Morris noted that MARC must have historical data from previous years. Doug Johnston commented that he believed it would be appropriate to know ahead of time about that before you get into the project to see if it's worth it or not because you're going from a four-lane road down to a two-lane road. Doug Johnston continued that it was a main thoroughfare for Route 11, and he has concerns about traffic backups at the Main Street intersection at Park, Main, and Summer. Chair Kristi Morris responded that was exactly what these public hearings for the scoping study are about is to address concerns and that's exactly what it's intended to do.

John Bond in-person noted that back in history there was a roundabout at that intersection. Further discussion ensued that historically in the past there had been a few traffic circles.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #4 Errors and Omissions

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Errors and Omissions" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Town Assessor Nichole Knight has found an error in the Grand List where a change in the value at grievance was not input into the software program. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the property grievance was reduced from \$60,700 down to \$25,500 and this does change the grand list by reducing it by \$35,000. Further discussion ensued that the taxpayer had not paid the incorrect amount received on their current tax bill, because this error was caught so no refund is needed.

Chair Kristi Morris announced that property tax bills are due on August 15, 2023.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to approve the correction and the errors and omissions certificate recognizing the change to the Grand List of the owner Galina Seregina of a reduction of \$35,200 from \$60,700 down to \$25,500.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #5 Overdose Awareness Day – August 31,2023

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Overdose Awareness Day – August 31, 2023” included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus read the proclamation to the Board and participants of the meeting.

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to approve the proclamation for Overdose Awareness Day – August 31, 2023.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Chair Kristi Morris noted that this is a repeat of a proclamation from the past few years.

Further discussion ensued that in 2022 there were 239 drug overdoses in Vermont.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #6 Safety update

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Safety Update” provided by Police Chief Jeff Burnham and included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Chief Burnham has been working with 2-Way Communication to assess and upgrade our dispatch center, the equipment is at the end of life and needs to be upgraded now. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Burnham hoped to spread the costs out over time but was told that there was no way of "phasing in" the upgrades. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that due to the cost for upgrades Chief Burnham has investigated other options and has learned of a viable option through Burlington Communication who will be sending an analysis and quote sometime in September. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that Chief Burnham was happy to learn that the upgrades could be done in stages, and it would include the redundant workstations at the Fire Department.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the new cruiser has arrived and is running now, noting the lettering will be done shortly. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that staffing at the police department has plateaued for the moment and with the departure of Steve Neily, we have a total of three vacancies at this time. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that there has been some interest from non-certified people and the next Police Academy session begins in January so if we hired people now and sent them to the academy it would be almost a year before they would be on their own.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the body cameras have been tested from one manufacturer and during that time, the computer server from Watchguard for the in-car video system, crashed. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that while attempting to upgrade it, Watchguard attempted to up-sell its software and hardware, to the point where it may not become viable to continue with them and as a result, we are beginning to look at other systems that include body cameras as well as in-car systems. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that Chief Burnham has applied for a grant from the State of Vermont for body camera implementation and the grant review and awards begin in September. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that the other body camera systems being considered are of

comparable expensive or less expensive systems than the Reveal System previously presented to the Board.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Chief Burnham has met with the School Board's Administrative staff over the summer and he is planning on an increased presence at all the school buildings beginning this coming school year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that whenever possible, officers will be at various school entrances during the morning commute to school and will be making random walks through the building throughout the day. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that police administrators will be greater involved with the school drills and scenarios and at the school's request Chief Burnham has also been in touch with Lieutenant French at the State Police who has said that he would like troopers more active in the schools as well.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that one of the outcomes of the summit in Springfield was the intentional effort to analyze crime statistics for the Town of Springfield. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Burnham was in the process of learning how the "Rut-Stat" system worked in Rutland, in terms of utilizing crime stats to direct resources, unfortunately this has been postponed for the foreseeable future. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that a byproduct of the summit was the connection with Public Safety Commissioner Jennifer Morrison who reached out to Chief Burnham after comparing crime stats for Springfield for the period of January through July of 2023. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that she reported that for the same time from 2022, many of the part 1 crimes (the serious stuff) has declined and it was such a significant drop that she wanted to make sure that was accurate or an error in her statistics. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that Chief Burnham confirmed that many of our burglary, arson, aggravated assaults, and other crimes of violence had declined which he attributes it to the contrast in police activity from Covid times, to becoming much more visible, proactive, and responsive to police calls for service. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that unfortunately, the drug related crime has gone unchanged, but the Police Department will continue to work on that.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Police Station is working with the manufacturer Vercada for updating our video surveillance system, noting that the video surveillance for the Town is very old and the technology is unable to be repaired once inoperable. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that they are hoping to have a new design and add cameras to the Town Hall building and other areas within Springfield. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the Police Department has contacted the schools, specifically the Athletic Director, and have reinstated the Police Officer details at sporting events as they have enough staff and interest to cover them.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Chief Burnham has worked with the Finance Director and learned that the prior billing rate for contracted services was too low as it didn't cover the costs to the Town of Springfield when officers worked details, so this has been increased to \$85 per hour which better covers their overtime rate as well as the retirement and other related expenses. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Burnham is preparing for a department wide meeting on September 1st which will be his one-year anniversary. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that Chief Burnham will outline some changes in expectations, how far we've come, and a more detailed direction for where the department is headed.

Walter Martone commented that these reports are very informative, very thorough, very much appreciated, and it keeps us up to date on what's going on.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus clarified that the body cameras mentioned by Chief Burnham the Board has approved but he believes there is an opportunity for him to get them covered by a grant. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Burnham can't order them and get them covered by the grant until the grant has been approved and he's trying to save money.

Doug Johnston via Zoom inquired when they purchased the in-car camera systems about a year ago they were supposed to be compatible with future body cameras and are these body cameras going to be compatible with the current system. Doug Johnston also inquired if the number of officers currently was 13. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he would make sure that the Chief is aware to check with compatibility with the in-car cameras and confirmed that they are at 10 officers right now plus the Chief and Lieutenant.

ITEM #7 Possible Revolving Loan Fund request

Walter Martone Recused himself from this item and moved to the audience.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Possible Revolving Loan Fund request" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the tax sale will be on September 7 and in previous years as part of the Town's revitalization efforts the Selectboard has authorized the Town Manager to enter into agreement with Springfield on the Move to provide funds from the Revolving Loan Fund for the purpose of bidding on various properties at the tax sale. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he is requesting the Board to authorize him to enter into a similar agreement, however not with Springfield on the Move, which is what was originally listed in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that this is a private group that organized and developed an LLC, and they have interest in the economic development of the central business district in Springfield, and they would like to fulfill this role though not necessarily through the tax sale. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that it could involve a direct purchase as well.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town has received a Revolving Loan Fund application and we've received the application fee from Stone Cutters 802 LLC. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that their plan for the loan would be to use the proceeds for tasks related to acquiring, renovating, rehabbing, repairing, or demolishing a distressed and blighted building impacting the central business district. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that if the Board does opt to provide a loan it should be contingent upon a sale occurring. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that they must get a purchase and sales or tax sale agreement to issue it and to authorize the Town Manager to work with the group to develop the terms of repayment of the loan.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the revolving fund application for Stone Cutters 802 LLC in the amount of \$30,000, and that they authorize the Town Manager to work with Stone Cutters 802 LLC on the terms of the repayment plan including the securing the loan with real estate contingent upon there being a transaction.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Walter Martone recused himself

ITEM #8 Transfer 31 Pearl Street

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Transfer 31 Pearl Street” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that in May he asked the Board for permission to post our intent to transfer Town property. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that 31 Pearl Street is a fire damaged property that will be very costly to remediate and return to the Town's housing stock. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that he has reached an agreement to transfer the property to Springfield Housing Authority. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the Housing Authority will be responsible for completing the order for demolition on the property and the plan is to place a new single-family home which will be sold to a family in the community without income restrictions. Town Manager Jeff Mobus thanked the Springfield Housing Authority for their interest in helping revitalize the Pearl Street neighborhood with this project.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to authorize Town Manager to post our intent to transfer the property of 31 Pearl Street which is a fire damage property to the Springfield Housing Authority with conditions that it will be demolished home, a new single-family home being constructed there and sold to a family in community without income restrictions.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Chair Kristi Morris commented that it is encouraging the efforts that this Board, the Town Administrators, and the partners in Town are working hard to make Springfield better.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if there was a timeline. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that they may be a little rough on the timeline just getting the contractor, but they are looking at probably \$80,000 just to demolish it because it's a fire damaged asbestos property, so the whole thing must be remediated. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he is very thankful the Springfield Housing Authority is willing to take it on because that would have been quite a financial burden on the Town to do it ourselves.

ITEM #9 Contract I - Engineering and Loan Application

***Item added to the agenda at the time of the meeting**

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Contract I - Engineering and Loan Application” item not included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town authorized up to \$3.4 million for the next Water Project, which the biggest part is from Clinton Street from Bridge Street up to the Desert Storm Bridge and Severs Brook Road up Bridge Street and Mill Road in North Springfield. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the next step for that project is to complete the final engineering for the project and he is asking the Board to approve him signing the services agreement with Aldrich and Elliott for \$37,100 of this amount \$22,900 is for the final engineering and \$14,200 is for environmental review, easement maps, and permit applications.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he also has a State Revolving Loan fund application for \$37,100 to fund this portion of the project and these funds are part of the \$3.4 million already authorized, so it wouldn't be an additional amount. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the advantage for applying for

this funding separately is that it qualifies for loan forgiveness of between 28% and 50% and right now we're expecting 40% forgiveness. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the Town needs to complete a soil testing and remediation plan for the project, and we received a proposal from LE Environmental for \$40,200. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that he has spoken with MARC (Mount Ascutney Regional Commission), who has tentatively agreed to tentatively agreed to pay \$20,000 from brownfields funds that they have available. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that he learned today that he can add the Town portion of \$20,200 to the loan, which he would like to do with the Board's permission. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that if the Board approves that it would change the loan amount requested from \$37,100 up to \$57,300.

Further discussion ensued to clarify that this item was two pieces, being the authorization to sign the services agreement with Aldrich and Elliott for \$37,100 and approval to change the loan amount from \$37,100 to \$57,300 for the Revolving Loan request. Additional discussion ensued that the LE Environmental agreement was already signed by the Town Manager as they needed to get on their schedule before August 1 and when they start the Town Manager will bring that back to the Board for approval. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that LE Environmental is \$40,200 and he did reach out to MARC to see if they had any brownfield money to augment. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the soils remediation is something that was a requirement that came up in 2017 and is one of the things that held up contract H initially, because that became a requirement after the original engineering had been done in 2015.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the service agreement with Aldrich and Elliott for \$37,100 for engineering for Water Project I and also accept the proposal from LE Environmental for \$40,200 of which \$20,000 will come from Mount Ascutney Regional Commission and also approve the revolving loan application in the amount of \$57,300.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Further discussion ensued that they had to authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement with Aldrich and Elliott and the board signs the loan, but the Town Manager must countersign it as a representative from the town.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Further discussion ensued regarding the loan forgiveness being based on a percentage of different pieces of the funding and we are looking at \$3.4 million for the construction portion of the lead remediation of the project and the loan forgiveness will do 50% of the lead remediation up to 1 million.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he may be coming to the Board with another small piece because there are some old water lines that come from the corner of Clinton Street up to Olive Street and if it is added in now, it could be much cheaper. Further discussion ensued that if they do this section and a rotary does get put in it would affect any kind of water design.

Additional discussion ensued regarding Project H from Bridge Street to the Sewer plant is still being actively worked on and are expecting that the cuts in the pavement will be paved over at some point in September. Further discussion ensued that the recent flooding and rain has delayed this project and they are currently running below the contract and any issues that have come up will likely be paid for by that difference.

E. FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2022 Warrants to August 10, 2023 – copies on website.

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 included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the sale of the former Parks and Woolson building at 33 Park Street has been completed and the purchase price was \$68,600 with Springfield Regional Development Corporation purchasing the property with funding from the Town of Springfield Revolving Loan Fund account. Town Manager Jeff Mobus thanked SRDC, River Moguls, and their attorneys and our attorney Nate Stearns, for all their efforts to complete this difficult transaction. Town Manager Jeff Mobus additionally thanked our Public Works department for their efforts to secure the property. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this is an important element of the Town’s revitalization efforts. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that these efforts will take quite a bit of time and the next step is for a Phase 2 environmental study to be performed on the property. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the following steps will be determined by the results of that study and work on this site will take years, but we are on the path forward.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus recognized the wonderful work of Public Works Water and Wastewater employees in response to the flooding events of the past month. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that they have done an amazing job not only addressing the damage to Town roads and a wastewater line, but have been willing to help neighboring communities, especially Chester and Ludlow that suffered much more damage than we did.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town has had the required asbestos testing done for properties at 43 Park Street and 295 Clinton Street in anticipation of demolishing both properties. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that once the test results are received any required remediation will be performed and the request for bids for the demolishing of both properties will be posted. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the work at 43 Park Street is being funded by a grant under the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the demolition at 95 Clinton Street is important to the Town for the future redevelopment of the pump station on the site.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Riverside skateboard park will soon see a new ramp. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chris Merrill (Parks and Rec Director) was approached with a proposal to remove an older wooden ramp at the park and replace it with a new more durable ramp. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that this work will be completely donated and will make the use of the park safer and will not cost the taxpayer any dollars.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that at the July board meeting, the Board approved the painting of a mural on the parking lot side of Town Hall. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this work will be done the week of August 21st to 27th. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that this work will require the

entrance to the Town Hall parking lot and roughly half the lot will be closed for the week. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that he is working on a plan to still have some access to the lot through the current exit and he encourages those who can use the parking places on street, if possible, when visiting Town Hall during this coming week.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that people will notice that Public Works is out at 33 Park Street securing the lower levels with plywood because the new owner SRDC has liability insurance on the property, so we need to make sure the property is better secured before it can be covered with their insurance.

Further discussion ensued regarding the bus being owned by the previous owner and he has 58 days to take care of the bus otherwise it will be taken care of. Additional discussion ensued regarding the current state of the building at 33 Park Street and depending on how phase 2 goes and the remediation, then we'll be able to check the structural integrity of the building and see what if anything can remain.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town loaned SRDC up to \$100,000 to do this and there's insurance and they'll be paying taxes on the property. Town Manager Jeff Mobus restated that the purchase price was \$68,000 and the Town has the right at any time to buy the property from SRDC for \$1. SRDC's purpose in this transaction is really to deal with any remediation that needs to be done and they will be glad to be done with it as soon as they can.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM PROPOSALS

Michael Martin noted that a couple of items would be coming from the Ordinance Committee soon.

Crissy Webster inquired what the plans were for the Wall Street property owned by the Town. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that there's a wastewater line that is being tested tomorrow as there's been a problem in the water line behind the house on that property and we want to remediate that and then as soon as that's done, we'll post the property for sale. Crissy Webster further inquired if the property would be secured. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he would make sure it was secured. Further discussion ensued that the property was 151 Wall Street which was acquired through tax sale last year.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crissy Webster discussed that she previously that they were hosting their first annual Booster Club Caddy Shack tournament and that was supposed to take place in July, but due to flooding and unforeseen circumstances, they thought that it might be better to postpone it. Crissy Webster announced that the Booster Club Caddy Shack tournament will now be October 12 which is a Thursday. Crissy Webster added that they are hoping that lots of participants will come out and play and support it, and the money is still going towards the bleachers at the Brown Field.

Chair Kristi Morris announced that as Michael Martin already mentioned the Ordinance Committee will have some items in an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

I. OTHER MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. Cemetery Commission - Minutes of August 2, 2023
2. Correspondence from Wendy Jandrew, August 2, 2023, relating to taxi service.
3. Springfield Housing Authority- Minutes of June 13, 2023
4. Springfield Housing Unlimited - Minutes of June 13, 2023
5. Springfield Inclusion Committee -Minutes of July 25, 2023
6. Springfield On the Move - Minutes of June 15, 2023
7. Springfield Ordinance Subcommittee-Minutes of July 17, 2023
8. Springfield Public Works- Water Division monthly reports -April-July 2023
9. Springfield Senior Center-August 2023 newsletter
10. Springfield Town Library-June 2023 Director's report
11. Springfield Town Library-July 2023 Director's report
12. Springfield Town Library-Strategic Plan: July 2023 -June 2028
13. Springfield Town Library-Trustees' minutes of July 11, 2023
14. Springfield Town Library-Trustees' minutes of August 8, 2023
15. Springfield Trails & Rural Economy Committee-Minutes of July 27, 2023
16. VTrans I-91 Resurfacing Project update of August 11, 2023

J. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Doug Johnston via Zoom asked for an update on the E-911 address changes. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that it looks like right now we've addressed all the major confusion issues where there are duplicate names and several of the private roads. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that to his knowledge the Planning Commission, whose job is to help to name roads, is not working on any more roads at this time. Town Manager Jeff Mobus inquired if Doug Johnston was asking about the run-on loop that affects Deer Run. Doug Johnston confirmed. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that at this point that is what we would consider a very low priority, the Planning Commission has a lot on their agenda right now and we don't see that as being the critical confusion that the duplicate names provided so it's less of an emergency. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he was not sure when we will get back to that unless there's an outcry for us to do so. Doug Johnston commented that he was concerned about the numbering for the houses on that road, and inquired if the numbering was going to change and if so, when should they anticipate getting the new numbers. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we were not planning on renumbering that road since we're not going to change the name. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that unless there's some public outcry right now, naming can only be done under ordinance if there's an error.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under the provision of I V.S.A. Section 313 (a) 2, the purpose of this executive session is to discuss the negotiating or securing of real estate purchase options. Town Manager Mobus is invited.

Under the provision of 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a) 1 (B), the purpose of this executive session is to discuss labor relation agreements with employees. Town Manager Mobus is invited.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to move to Executive Session.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:49 pm. No action is anticipated to result from the Executive Session.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:42 pm. No action was taken.

L. ADJOURN

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary