

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, December 11, 2023**

APPROVED MINUTES

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

Chair, Kristi Morris, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited (after the Executive Session), and Roll Call was taken.

Selectboard Members: Chair Kristi Morris, Vice Chair Michael Martin, and Walter Martone were present in-person. Everett Hammond joined via Zoom for a portion of the meeting.

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus, Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne, and Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar were present in-person. Wastewater Treatment Facility Superintendent Nate Fraser, Fire Chief Paul Stagner, and Library Director Sue Dowdell joined via Zoom.

Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Members: Doug Johnston, Scott Richardson, Tara Chase, and John Bond were present in-person. Jim Fog and Tre Ayer were present via Zoom. Heather Frahm was present in-person and appointed as Selectboard member and subsequently resigned from the BAC at the time of the meeting.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was not in attendance due to School Board commitment.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with V.S.A. section 313 (a)(3), the purpose of this executive session is to discuss the appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee, provided that a public body must make the final hiring or appointment decision, and explain its reasons for the decision, in open session.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to move into Executive Session.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Vote: 4-0, unanimous

The Board moved to Executive Session at 5:33 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:02 pm and open session resumed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board moved New Business agenda item 2 to the beginning of the meeting without objection.

ITEM #2 Potential Selectboard appointment. *Item moved to the top of agenda after the Board returned from Executive Session.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that there is a vacancy on the Selectboard, and this item is on the meeting agenda so that the Selectboard can appoint a replacement to fill the vacant term until the Town Meeting in March 2024.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to appoint Heather Frahm as the new Selectboard member to the Town of Springfield.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Chair Kristi Morris noted that this appointment was to fill the vacant position left by Crissy Webster's resignation at the previous meeting. Chair Kristi Morris added that the Board meet in Executive Session to interview three quality candidates who have vested interest in Springfield.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous

Everett Hammond left the meeting and Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne swore Heather Frahm into the Selectboard position.

C. MINUTES

1. Budget Workshop-November 13, 2023

2. Budget Workshop-November 27, 2023
3. Public Hearing-Northern Gateway Project-November 27, 2023
4. Regular Board Meeting-November 27, 2023

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the four sets of minutes as printed and distributed with revisions.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Mike Martin requested correction on the Regular Meeting minutes of November 27, 2023, on page 5 and page 7 regarding the resignation of Ginamarie Russell to include her last name.

Walter Martone requested correction on the same minutes on page 4 in the first full paragraph in two spots, “grant ~~and~~ in aid”.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Everett Hammond as being absent.

D. ANY REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THIS AGENDA

Town Manager Jeff Mobus requested the addition of Heather Frahm’s resignation from the BAC as item 1a and an update regarding water notices going out as item 8. These items were added to the agenda at the time of the meeting without objection.

E. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1 Presentation from Connecticut River Conservancy.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the “Presentation from Connecticut River Conservancy” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Connecticut River Conservancy reached out to the Town in October with an offer to update the Town on the status of the relicensing of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon hydro facilities and inform us how Springfield may engage in the process.

Kathy Urffer Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) River Steward in Vermont via Zoom presented a PowerPoint to the participants of the meeting. Kathy

Urffer (CRC) discussed that the Connecticut River Conservancy for years was previously known as the Connecticut River Watershed Council and has been working for the past 65 years or more trying to protect the Connecticut River and its watershed. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that they have been involved in the relicensing of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon dams for about 13 years. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further added that they have reached out to the town because there's going to be a comment period in early spring or summer, and they wanted to make sure that the towns are aware of that comment period and could be informed and comment. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further discussed that each town has been approaching this opportunity differently, noting that some towns have had someone from the Planning Commission, or the Recreation Committee, or the Conservation Commission, or the Town Manager draft up comments for local concerns regarding the relicensing.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) discussed that there are a lot of dams in the watershed so a lot of their work focusses on dams sometimes removal of dams and in engaging relicensing, noting there are over 50 hydro dams between Vermont and New Hampshire. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that this relicensing affects 175 miles of the Connecticut River with 5 facilities, so they are reaching out to 30 different towns in Vermont and New Hampshire. Kathy Urffer (CRC) noted that this relicensing is for a 40-year long Federal license (issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), so this is our opportunity to comment and try to affect what is included in the license for the next 40 years. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further added that the company who owns the hydro facilities are required to mitigate for impacts of those facilities on the river, such as enhancements to recreation, in the case of 15 Mile Falls it was a grant fund managed by the NH charitable foundation, or conservation easements, or installing boat launches, or providing monitoring where banks are being eroded.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) described that when the license is being developed, they must consider all the following equally and provide mitigation for areas where the facility impacts the river and the communities: energy generation; endangered species act; clean water implications; recreation; and protection of historic resources. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that the facilities Wilder, Bellows,

and Vernon dams are owned by Great River Hydro (GRH) and the Northfield Mountain pump storage facility and Turners Falls dam are owned by First Light Power. Kathy Urffer (CRC) continued that Great River Hydro and First Light Power are now subsidiaries of much larger Canadian owned hydro power companies.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) discussed that Great River Hydro was purchased by Hydro Quebec in February with a purchase of \$1.543 billion. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that the purchase included all the facilities on the Connecticut River, which is 15 Mile Falls which is Comerford, Moore, and MacIndoe, and the Wilder, Bellows Falls, Vernon dam, and several facilities on the Deerfield River and they (Hydro Quebec) are anticipating around \$171,000,000 in added revenue per year.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) discussed that the relicensing process began in 2012 which was initiated by the company (GRH) indicating they wanted to relicense their facilities and then they had to submit a series of studies to identify how the facility is impacting the resource along with a draft application of what they will do differently for enhancement and for mitigation. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that the studies were completed in 2019 due to extenuating circumstances, noting that the final application had to be submitted in 2017 before the studies could be completed. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further added that in May and November 2020 the CRC, the Nature Conservancy, the States, and the US Fish and Wildlife service engaged in negotiations with GRH around operational changes for how they will operate for the next 40 years. Kathy Urffer (CRC) continued that they submitted an amended final license application in December of 2020. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further discussed that GRH then had a negotiated settlement discussion with the VT and NH Fisheries Biologists and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to address how they will pass migratory fish at the dams which was submitted in August of 2022. Kathy Urffer (CRC) noted that they submitted a revised application that incorporates the fish passage settlement and the addition of an additional minimum flow turbine at the Bellows Falls dam in 2023.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) discussed that the facilities have been hydro peaking facilities for the past 40 years, which is when they hold the water behind the dam until early evening and then they would generate electricity until around 10 pm at night. Kathy Urffer (CRC) noted that hydro peaking at the dam the water would generally fluctuate around 2 ft, but at the upper end of the impoundment you can get a fluctuation of 5 ft. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that they have noticed that upper areas of the impoundment are the areas where there seems to be aggravated erosion on the banks. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further added that in the negotiations with GRH their goals from the perspective of the natural resources was to move the river and the way they manage the river closer to a natural flowing river.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) shared graphs to show the cubic foot per second (CFS) volume of water flowing through the areas of the dams as they currently operate in comparison to the river being managed in a closer to natural way and a natural flowing river for the past three years during the months of July and October. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that the current operation has been the same for the past 40 years. Kathy Urffer (CRC) noted that the graph was modeled on Wilder dam which has an 800 CFS minimum flow and it goes from 800 CFS to 14,000 CFS in 10 minutes and runs for several hours then shuts off again. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further added that they negotiated how they (GRH) could operate differently that would be less impactful to the river and more specifically aquatic species. Kathy Urffer (CRC) described the negotiated operation as to have the inflow equal the outflow, so instead of having peaking generation they would generate 24 hours a day and they were able to agree to some opportunities for them to peak.

Further discussion ensued that the negotiations were specifically focused on aquatic creatures, such as the nesting and breeding periods of fish populations and what the endangered freshwater mussels needed to be protected.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) discussed that the other constraints included a limit at the dam for how much they could fluctuate, and they (GRH) agreed to limit it to a one-foot bandwidth which really means a half a foot because they the one foot is the extreme. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that they agreed to a specific number

of hours in each month for when they could peak, with more hours being allowed December through March as there is not a lot of aquatic activity. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further added that the other constrictions were on ramping (how quickly the flow is increased, up ramping and down ramping) and impoundment refill within 48 hours.

Kathy Urffer (CRC) discussed that GRH is relying on this operational change as their mitigation. Kathy Urffer (CRC) continued that the agreed upon revision between GRH, US Fish and Wildlife, and the VT and NH Fish Biologists include a detailed plan for how there will be improvements to the fish ladders at all three facilities. Kathy Urffer (CRC) added that they have not had conversations regarding mitigation for recreation, erosion, or cultural resources. Kathy Urffer (CRC) further added that the operational changes will be very good for the river and will have minimal impact on the hydro company's revenue, noting that the company can afford to bring the money they are making back into the communities and into supporting the river.

Further discussion ensued about potential mitigations that could be done to improve recreation, erosion, conservation easements, increase property tax revenue, profit sharing, and sediment management. Additional discussion ensued regarding the recent dredging that happened to remove sediment at the boat landing.

ITEM #1A Resignation from Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) – Heather Frahm. ***Item added to the agenda at the time of the meeting.**

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the BAC position and the Selectboard position conflict with each other under our Town Charter, so he believes that Heather Frahm needs to resign from the BAC before she takes any action as a Board member. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that if Heather Frahm offers her resignation, he recommends that the Board accepts it with conflicted feeling, regret for the BAC but joy for the Selectboard.

MOTION: Heather Frahm moved that she (Heather Frahm) will regretfully resign from the Budget Advisory Committee.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Everett Hammond as being absent.

ITEM #2 Potential Selectboard appointment. *Item moved to the top of agenda after the Board returned from Executive Session.

ITEM #3 Act on bids to demolish 316 South Street.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on bids to demolish 316 South Street” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Board ordered that the unsafe building at 316 South Street be demolished. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the required notification, asbestos testing, and demolition bidding processes have taken quite a bit of time and are now complete. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town received two bids to demolish the property: Crown Point Excavation for \$7,550; and Lewco, LLC for \$18,500. Town Manager Jeff Mobus recommended that the Board award the project to the low bid from Crown Point Excavation. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that under \$10,000 in the purchasing policy he is not required to go to the Board, but due to a bid above \$10,000 he felt it wise to bring this to the Board for transparency.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to award the project to the low bid from Crown Point Excavation for the demolition of 316 South Street.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Further discussion ensued that the timeline for demolition would be this month and it was grouped in with 25 Union Street. Additional discussion ensued to clarify that we do not own 316 South Street. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Unsafe Building Ordinance allows the Selectboard to go through a process to include a structural engineer and the Health Officer or Deputy Health Officer to evaluate the building and if the building is determined to be not sound the Selectboard has the authority to issue an order to remediate the issue whether it be to repair the building or demolish it on the property

owner's terms. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that if the property owner does not complete this within the timeline of the order, then the Town goes through the order and demolishes it and places a lien on the property.

Further discussion ensued that 316 South Street (fire affected single family resident), the USDA Rural Development held the mortgage lien on this property and wrote off their interest in the property and the Windham Windsor Housing Trust has a covenant on the property and has since acquired title to the property and are aware that they will have to pay for the lien for the demolition and the asbestos testing.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Everett Hammond as being absent.

ITEM #4 Discussion and possible action on VT250th celebration resolution.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Discussion and possible action on VT250th celebration" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he brought this item up for discussion a couple of meetings ago and at the time, Board member Walter Martone said that he would like to research the request and learn more about the expectations. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he included in the meeting packet the email that Walter Martone received, the letter from the State Division for Historic Preservation, and a draft resolution should the Board wish to sign.

Further discussion ensued that the Springfield Art and Historical Society was influx as Hugh Putnam and Bunny Putnam were moving to Colchester, so the society was in process of restructuring. Additional discussion ensued that it was important for the Town to participate in this and the phrasing of the resolution and if it should be adopted now were discussed.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he removed the optional part regarding committing funds to the event. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Springfield on the Move Director Jessica Martin had spoken to him about a July 4th, 2026, event and he believes there would be value in coordinating the efforts.

Further discussion ensued that there would be time to advertise to determine interest in participation in a liaison or committee for this.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to adopt the resolution with the revision of the first resolved to be the Town of Springfield will attempt to recruit a liaison or a local committee made up of, etc. etc.

The motion did not get seconded and was withdrawn by Walter Martone.

ITEM #5 Appoint Deputy Health Officer.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Appoint Deputy Health Officer” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Zoning and Code enforcement actions often overlap with Health enforcement actions, and he would like to appoint a second Deputy Health Officer. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that a second Deputy Health Officer would also benefit the Town when either the Health Officer or the Deputy Health Officer are unavailable. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that he has spoken with Steve Ankuda (Town Attorney) and confirmed that a Town may have multiple Deputy Health Officers. Town Manager Jeff Mobus requested that the Board appoint Charles Wise as Deputy Health Officer.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to appoint Charles Wise as Deputy Health Officer for the Town of Springfield.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Chair Kristi Morris recognized that the Fire Chief Paul Stagner was currently Health Officer, the Deputy Fire Chief John Claflin was currently Deputy Health Officer, and that Chuck Wise would be an additional Deputy Health Officer.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Everett Hammond as being absent.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus announced that the State of Vermont will now handle health complaints on rental properties. Walter Martone noted that the repeal of the Rental Registry Ordinance is what allowed this change.

Jules O’Guin via Zoom asked if it was all rentals or only ones considered public buildings because they have more than one rental unit. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he would need to investigate that.

ITEM #6 Appoint Unsafe Building Committee.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Appoint Unsafe Building Committee” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he has met with Paul Stagner and Chuck Wise and agreed upon the next three properties that the Town believes could be unsafe. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that Those properties are 105 Clinton Street, 67 Furnace Street, and 52 Valley Street. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that by Charter, the next step is for the Board to designate a committee consisting of a qualified structural engineer, the fire chief, or deputy, and the health officer or deputy. Town Manager Jeff Mobus requested that the Board appoint Todd Hindinger as the structural engineer, Paul Stagner as the Fire Chief, and Chuck Wise as the Deputy Health Officer as the committee.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to appoint Todd Hindinger as the structural engineer, Paul Stagner as the Fire Chief, and Chuck Wise as the Deputy Health Officer as the committee for the inspection of the unsafe properties located at 105 Clinton Street, 67 Furnace Street, and 52 Valley Street.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Michael Martin described the process for unsafe buildings as the Fire Chief or the Health Officer determined that these properties may be unsafe, and they are not condemned at this time. Michael Martin continued that this is an investigative committee that they are establishing to review the structures and they will report back to the Selectboard. Michael Martin added that after the report they will invite the property owners to participate in a hearing process.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Everett Hammond as being absent.

ITEM #7 Discuss heat at Community Center and act on boiler proposal.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Discuss heat at Community Center and act on boiler proposal” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus announced that the Community Center now has heat. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the chimney work has been completed and the new pump installed. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that as winter is upon us, he treated this as an emergency situation in order to get heat in the building so that the pipes and sprinkler system wouldn't freeze.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the only company that was willing to do the repair work to the boiler was BART Energy, LLC. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that BART was also the company that performed repairs to the boiler last year when it wasn't working and at the time, they recommended that the boiler be replaced. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that this year, BART made a condition for replacing the pump that the Town also agreed to replace the boiler. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that they needed to either heat the building or close it, so he agreed on behalf of the Town to replace the boiler. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that the cost of the boiler is \$47,750 and is in the capital plan for next year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus requested that the Board to confirm the order as it is over \$10,000.

Further discussion ensued that the funds were in the Parks and Rec Capital Plan for FY24-25.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to approve the proposal to replace the boiler for \$47,750 from BART Energy at the Parks and Rec Community Center.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Further discussion ensued that we did not receive any other bids and other companies contacted for service required us to also get heating fuel from them. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we do a heating fuel consortium with the Springfield School District and the Springfield Housing Authority, noting this year we are paying \$2.813 per gallon with Irving Energy. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Irving Energy is very unresponsive to services, they were called in

October to service our boiler and because it is still working though poorly, they are agreeing to come in March 2025.

Further discussion ensued that the lead time on the boiler replacement was 5-6 months.

Vote: 3-1, affirmative, recognizing Michael Martin as saying Nay and Everett Hammond as being absent.

ITEM #8 Town Water Quality. *Item added to the agenda at the time of the meeting.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town has one aquifer that provides all the water for those on the Town water system, it has three wells that draw from the aquifer. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that one of the wells tested had a detectable amount of PFOA, a forever chemical. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that anything under 2 parts per trillion is not detectable. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) now requires that anybody that has a water system that has a detectable amount of any PFAS must send out an advisory notice indicating that there is still a lot that we don't know about these chemicals, but there have been studies that show there can be a health effect. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the previous limit under the EPA before they changed the limit was 70 parts per trillion and the new rule is .004 parts per trillion.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that our two readings were 2.95 parts per trillion and 3.22 parts per trillion. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the State of Vermont allowable limit is 20 parts per trillion, so we are around 15% of the allowed limit before they would go to a do not use the water as potable water. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we are well below that limit, and it only affects one well. Town Manager Jeff Mobus described 2 parts per trillion in comparison to what we pump, which is about 750,000 gallons per day and 275 billion gallons in 365 days, it would take about 4 years to have a gallon of

this contaminate and approximately 12-13 cups of contaminate in all the water we pump in a year.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that advisory notices have been sent to all the water users in Town. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he and Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar have discussed an option to shut that well down where the contamination was detected, and it would put a little additional stress to the two remaining wells. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that this well is closest to the river and it's also the one that pumps the least amount of water into our system, about 1/6 of our daily water comes from this well.

Further discussion ensued to clarify that the source sampling was done at the wellhead before the water enters the Town's distribution system. Additional discussion ensued that this well produces 120,000 gallons of water per day which is 16% of the total output from the aquifer and there is a lead lag between the wells' outputs.

Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar discussed that when PFAS first became a concern we did annual sampling and because there were no detections of PFAS in 2018-2019, we were able to decrease the sample. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar added that he believes they will be going back to annual sampling since we now have a PFAS detection from the three samples that were required by the State at the water source. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar continued that the other two plants came back with no detection and Chapman 1 came back with 2.95 parts per trillion. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar noted that they did a second test to ensure that the first result was not a false positive and the second tests results were 3.22 parts per trillion of PFOA. Further discussion noted that they cannot test for less than 2 parts per trillion at this time.

Heather Frahm inquired who drafted the letters to the water users and if there was context included with the notice. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar responded that they used a template from the State of Vermont, and we modified it for Springfield. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar continued that the letter needed to explain what we're doing and what our follow ups

are. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar added that we hired Red House Press to help with the mailings because of the volume of users.

Chair Kristi Morris noted that the advisory notice is like the sodium and lead notices in the past.

Michael Martin commented that this is the same chemical that we have issues with at our municipal wastewater treatment plant in the wastewater containing PFOS and PFAS and that prevents them from being used as compost on gardens.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if Roy Farrar was aware of any private wells being tested by the State for PFAS, noting the State initiative to test 500 private wells around the state to determine how widespread a problem PFAS was. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar responded that he was not aware of any private wells being tested.

John Bond inquired if this well was the most likely contaminated well geologically in relation to the Public Works garage. Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar responded that it is because of how the aquifer works, noting that the aquifer does recharge from the Public Works garage area, though he cannot say that is the source of this contamination.

Further discussion ensued that Chapman 1 well was about 400 yards from Chapman 2 well, and there is a possibility of that well also being contaminated because they are from the same aquifer.

Water System Superintendent Roy Farrar reminded the participants of the meeting that this is just an advisory right now, and he believed it was important that he and the Town Manager bring it to the Board's attention to discuss how they would handle this, noting there are ways that we can treat it.

Chair Kristi Morris discussed that the State is in the process of testing private wells and the State also requires wastewater to be tested. Chair Kristi Morris continued that we are doing the testing and when you're at this level of contamination it's a low priority right now. Chair Kristi Morris added that there will be State and Federal funding down the road at some point that will be coming forward for cleanup or remediation, but we're far from being there yet

because we don't know how widespread the problem was. Further discussion ensued regarding the Bennington factory that was emitting airborne waste that was contaminating wells, that has since been remediated.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that boiling the water does not get rid of the PFAS, so it's hard to get rid of it. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that it can be treated with granulated active carbon. Town Manager Jeff Mobus assured that the water is safe to drink.

Further discussion ensued that there are no concerns to shut the well off at this time as this is below the threshold of safe limits. Additional discussion ensued that PFAS comes in things that are used for waterproofing such as Teflon, waterproofing, clothing, and firefighting foam among other products that we use daily.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus announced that there would be notices on the Town's website and links to the Department of Environmental Conservation of Vermont so they could access more information regarding PFAS.

F. FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2024 Warrants to December 7, 2023 - copies on website.

Budget Expense Report through October 2023 - copies on website.

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

G. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Jeff Mobus read the Manager's Report included in the meeting packet:

"While the FY25 budget work continues to take much of my time, there are quite a bit of other things happening.

The State is requiring that all water systems, including the Town's, to complete a lead inventory. All water users should have received a notice from the Town asking them to look at their connection and verify the material of their connection. If possible, the Town is asking users to take a picture of their connection and send it to the Water Department. To date, the department has received replies from about 30% of the users. We'd really like to have as many users as possible respond as that will lower the cost of doing the inventory. If you are unsure of the material of the connection or have any other questions, please call the Water Department at 802-886-2208.

The water project this summer is complete other than a few punch list items. The pipes have been pressure tested. I'm very happy to say that the project met its goal to significantly increase the water pressure to that side of Town while also replacing the ancient and undersized pipes. The Town has started working on the next section of the project. Last March, the Town approved a bond for this work, which is expected to take place next summer. This portion of the project will be Clinton Street from Bridge Street to the Desert Storm Bridge, Seavers Brook Road, Bridge Street, and Mill Road. Due to supply line concerns, we are expecting that the project will likely take more than one construction season.

The ST&RE Committee has completed work on a VOREC-funded project to improve signage and use of Hartness Park Trails and the Toonerville Trail. If you haven't walked these trails lately, I'd encourage you to do so. The new kiosks and signage are amazing, and the trails in Hartness Park are much improved. Thank you to the committee members and the Parks and Recreation Department staff for their efforts. You have all made a difference.

I would like to thank a couple of long-term employees who have recently announced their retirement. David Tewksbury retired November 30th after nearly 20 years from the Public Works department. Also, Dan Farrar will be retiring after more than 18 years as the Manager of the Transfer Station. The Department hosted a very nice lunch buffet to recognize the work of both Dave and Dan. On behalf of the Town, I'd like to wish them well as they step into retirement. Congratulations!"

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM PROPOSALS

No future agenda items at the time of the meeting.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No committee reports and announcements at the time of the meeting.

J. OTHER MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. Springfield Housing Authority- Minutes of November 14, 2023
2. Springfield Public Works - Highway Department monthly report - November 2023
3. Springfield Public Works - Wastewater Treatment Plant monthly report- November 2023
4. Springfield Public Works - Water System Division monthly report- November 2023
5. Springfield Town Library- Library Director's report- November 2023

K. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Springfield on the Move (SOM) Director Jessica Martin via Zoom thanked the Town for their exuberant participation in the downtown holiday program on Friday December 1st, noting they had about 130 kids come out for the sticker map component despite the rainy weather. SOM Director Jessica Martin thanked Uplift Acrobatics for hosting them in their commercial space. SOM Director Jessica Martin announced that the winners of their window decorating contest were Sheer Beauty Salon, Lawrence and Wheeler (Richards Group), and Black River Coffee Bar. Director Jessica Martin commented that the downtown looks fantastic for the holiday season, and she thanked everyone for

participating and maintaining their windows. SOM Director Jessica Martin also thanked HB Energy for their work downtown as well.

L. ADJOURN

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Everett Hammond as being absent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary