

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, March 25, 2024**

APPROVED MINUTES

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

Chair, Kristi Morris, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Roll Call was taken.

Selectboard Members: Chair Kristi Morris, Vice Chair Michael Martin, Michael Schmitt, Tara Chase, and Heather Frahm were present in-person.

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus was present in-person. Library Director Sue Dowdell and Parks and Rec Director Adam Middleton were present via Zoom.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was present in-person.

B. MINUTES

1. Regular Selectboard Meeting – March 11, 2024
2. Public Hearing Meeting – March 11, 2024

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

Seconded by: Michael Schmitt

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

C. ANY REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THIS AGENDA

Town Manager Jeff Mobus requested the addition of item #12 Auditor bids and engagement letter. This item was added to the agenda without objection from the Board.

CONVENE LOCAL CONTROL COMMISSION

The Board entered Local Control at 6:03 pm.

ACT ON RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that there are several liquor and tobacco licenses up for renewal. Town Manager Jeff Mobus read the memo from Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne which listed the renewals as follows:

| DLL-APPLICATION | BUSINESS/ENTITY NAME | D/B/A | APPLICATION TYPE |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| DLL-Application-37740 | Black Rock Steakhouse, Inc. | Black Rock Steakhouse, Inc. | First Class |
| DLL-Application-37706 | Springfield Elks Club, Inc. | Elks, Springfield Club #1560, Inc. | First Class |
| DLL-Application-38820 | Sunshine, LLC | Sheri's Place | First Class |
| DLL-Application-34065 | Aminah & Rayhan, LLC | Mina Mart | Second Class |
| DLL-Application 38424 | Brockton Corporation | Shaw's Beer and Wine | Second Class |
| DLL-Application-33824 | Circle K Vermont, Inc. | Circle K Vermont, Inc. #4707404 | Second Class |
| DLL-Application-37181 | Midway Oil Corporation | North Springfield Mobil | Second Class |
| DLL-Application-34000 | Penguin Market, LLC | Penguin Market | Second Class |
| DLL-Application 37746 | Black Rock Steakhouse, Inc. | Black Rock Steakhouse, Inc. | Third Class |
| DLL-Application-37709 | Springfield Elks Club, Inc. | Elks, Springfield Club #1560, Inc. | Third Class |
| DLL-Application-38864 | Sunshine, LLC | Sheri's Place | Third Class |
| DLL-Application-34063 | Aminah & Rayhan, LLC | Mina Mart | Tobacco License |
| DLL-Application-39971 | Brockton Corporation | Shaw's Beer and Wine | Tobacco License |
| DLL-Application-33822 | Circle K Vermont, Inc. | Circle K Vermont, Inc. #4707404 | Tobacco License |
| DLL-Application-37182 | Midway Oil Corporation | North Springfield Mobil | Tobacco License |
| DLL-Application-33998 | Penguin Market, LLC | Penguin Market | Tobacco License |
| DLL-Application-34067 | Aminah & Rayhan, LLC | Mina Mart | Tobacco Endorsement |
| DLL-Application-39969 | Brockton Corporation | Shaw's Beer and Wine | Tobacco Endorsement |
| DLL-Application-33809 | Circle K Vermont, Inc. | Circle K Vermont, Inc. #4707404 | Tobacco Endorsement |
| DLL-Application-37287 | Midway Oil Corporation | North Springfield Mobil | Tobacco Endorsement |
| DLL-Application-34001 | Penguin Market, LLC | Penguin Market | Tobacco Endorsement |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| DLL-Application-37739 | Black Rock Steakhouse, Inc. | Black Rock Steakhouse, Inc. | Outside Consumption |
| DLL-Application-37705 | Springfield Elks Club, Inc. | Elks, Springfield Club #`560, Inc. | Outside Consumption |

Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne noted that there would be more renewals to come, they are just rolling along. Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne added that not only did the Department of Liquor and Lottery make it a rolling system, but they also gave Windsor County more time for renewals because of the flood issues.

MOTION: Michael Schmitt moved to approve these liquor and tobacco license renewals as stated.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

EXIT LOCAL CONTROL COMMISSION

The Board left Local Control at 6:08 pm and returned to regular session.

D. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1 Committee appointments.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Committee appointments” item included in the meeting packet, with requested appointments as follows:

- Susan Fogg – Planning Commission (renewal)
- Erin Hunter – Development Review Board Alternate (new)
- Peter MacGillivray – Airport Commission (renewal)
- Scott Richardson – Capital Planning Committee (new)
- Kurt Staudter – Airport Commission (renewal)
- *The following appointment requests were added at the time of the meeting**
- Taylor Drinker – Capital Planning Committee (new)
- John Middleton – Planning Commission (new)
- Britton Herring – resigning from the Alternate position on the Development Review Board and requesting to be appointed to the Planning Commission

MOTION: Heather Frahm moved to accept Britton Herring's resignation from the Development Review Board with regrets.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Michael Martin inquired if they had a seat for the three applicants and if it would bring the Planning Commission to full seating. Michael Martin further inquired if Michael Schmitt needed to resign from the Planning Commission to appoint all three applicants. Michael Schmitt presented his resignation from the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to accept Micheal Schmitt's resignation from the Planning Commission.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Vote: 4-0, 1 recused, Affirmative; recognizing Michael Schmitt as recusing.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to appoint Michael Schmitt as Selectboard Liaison to the Planning Commission.

Seconded by: Tara Chase

Vote: 4-0, 1 Abstained, Affirmative; recognizing Michael Schmitt as abstaining.

MOTION: Michael Schmitt moved to accept all the nominations for open positions as presented by the Town Manager and their applications, without prejudice.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Further discussion ensued that candidates only need to be interviewed when there are contested appointments.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Chair Kristi Morris thanked all the volunteers for their interest in Springfield and wanting to take part in these committees.

ITEM #2 Event Permit- Antique/Classic Car Show/ Flea Market- June 29, 2024.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Event Permit- Antique/Classic Car Show/ Flea Market- June 29, 2024” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town has received an Event Permit Application from Richard Willard of the North School Preservation Society. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that they are having an antique/classic car show and flea market at North School, noting that even though the event is being held on private property, Mr. Willard completed the application due to a possible request for police at the intersection. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he had discussed this with Chief Burnham, and they have no objections to this application.

Michael Martin commented that it was great that they were holding the event, and he inquired if the requirement for the liability of insurance certificate was being waived. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that the North School Preservation Society had their own insurance and noted that this event is being held on private property and the Town does not have liability there. Michael Schmitt noted it would be good for them to share the information for the event with the marketing organization and the Chamber.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the event permit application made by Richard Willard for a car show at North Springfield Preservation Society School on June 29, 2024.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Chair Kristi Morris noted that Richard Willard was the son of Jean Willard who was a longtime advocate for the North Springfield School and a former Board member of the North School Preservation Society.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #3 Event Permit - Touch-a-Truck and Fastest Kid in Town - April 6, 2024.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Event Permit – Touch-a-Truck and Fastest Kid in Town – April 6, 2024” item included in the meeting packet. Town

Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that this event is an annual event sponsored by The Edgar May and it has been held for several years without incident.

Steve Karaffa inquired if this event would be held in the lower parking lot of Riverside. Christian Craig Executive Director for Edgar May in-person responded that this event would be the same day as the week of the Young Child Festival by the Parent Child Center. Christian Craig continued that the Touch-a-truck happens out towards the tennis courts behind the school and the Fastest Kid in Town usually takes place on the soccer/practice football field that is there approximately a 200-yard course.

MOTION: Michael Schmitt moved to approve the Touch-a-truck and Fastest Kid race to be held on April 6, 2024, at the Riverside Park area.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #4 Event permit-Springfield Dam Run -June 1, 2024.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Event permit-Springfield Dam Run - June 1, 2024” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that this is another annual event sponsored by The Edgar May, noting this is a very well-run event. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that Christian Craig, Executive Director of Edgar May was requesting an amendment to the date. Christian Craig added that they would like to amend the date to say June 8th, 2024, on the permit, noting they have a conflict on June 1st, 2024.

Further discussion ensued that the course is a 4-mile loop that starts at 355 River Street to Reservoir Road, across the dam and returning to River Street and ending at the start.

MOTION: Michael Schmitt moved to approve the event permit for the Springfield Dam Run on June 8th, 2024, from 8 am-11 am.

Seconded by: Tara Chase

Further discussion ensued that it is believed to be the eighteenth year of this event.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #5 Glebe land release - 656 Pleasant Valley Road.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Glebe land release -656 Pleasant Valley Road” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Glebe land is land that was a source of revenue for Springfield Schools many, many years ago. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that in the deeds for these lands, the Town of Springfield was granted an interest in order to collect the revenue on the land. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that every few years, while doing deed research prior to a property transfer, a piece of property is found to have a Glebe restriction, noting that when this happens, the Selectboard is requested to sign a document releasing the Town's interest in the property. Town Manager Jeff Mobus asked the Selectboard to sign a letter (included in the meeting packet) stating that the Town does forego any and all interest in the land at 656 Pleasant Valley Road, noting that Steve Ankuda (Town Attorney) has reviewed the letter and has no concerns.

Steve Karaffa commented that this was a source of revenue for the Springfield Schools when it was the Town district and the district broke off on its own, and he inquired if this had not been conveyed to the School District noting this could be revenue for them. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that this was interest the Town had been conveyed in the 1800s and there are no rights to the School District listed in the deeds and there was no school tax at the time of the conveyance.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the letter releasing any interest in 656 Pleasant Valley Road by the Town of Springfield.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #6 Set appeal date for unsafe building appeal.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Set appeal date for unsafe building appeal.” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town has issued orders under the Unsafe Building Ordinance requiring that properties at 52 Valley, 67 Furnace, and 105 Clinton be brought into compliance with the ordinance. Town Manager Jeff Mobus

continued that the owner of all three properties has appealed against the orders. This item is on the agenda to set a date for the appeal hearing. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Planning and Zoning Administrator Chuck Wise and Town Attorney Steve Ankuda have suggested that the Selectboard have a special meeting for the purpose of hearing the appeal as the hearing could be lengthy. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that they have discussed holding the appeal on April 15, 2024, at 6PM at Town Hall.

Further discussion ensued that there is a detailed process they must follow for the appeal for each property, and it is anticipated to take at least two hours. Additional discussion ensued that there is not a deadline for when they hear the appeal as the appellant and the Town agreed to meet on a date that is mutually agreeable to both parties.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to set the date of April 15, 2024, at 6 pm to hear the appeal of the property owner whose buildings the Board deemed unsafe at 52 Valley Street, 67 Furnace Street, and 105 Clinton Street.

Seconded by: Tara Chase

Further discussion ensued that the nature of the appeal was not known for certain and not required for the appeal process but was believed to be regarding the timeframe. Additional discussion ensued that the appellant would provide their materials for the appeal, the Board would also have their orders that were issued because of the Unsafe Building Committee's inspection report, and the Unsafe Building Committee members would be present to defend their report. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that this was a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #7 Agreement between Town and The Edgar May for summer pool use.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Agreement between Town and The Edgar May for summer pool use" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the FY25 budget was developed with the intent of entering an agreement with The Edgar May to provide summer pool services. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the agreement included in the

meeting packet provides for 10 weeks, 35 hours per week, of pool availability for town residents. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed the hours as follows:

- Monday: 11 am-2 pm and 6 pm-9 pm (6 hours)
- Tuesday: 12 pm-4 pm and 6 pm-9 pm (7 hours)
- Wednesday: 12 pm-3 pm and 6 pm-9 pm (6 hours)
- Thursday: 12 pm-4 pm and 6 pm-9 pm (7 hours)
- Friday: 11 am-2 pm and 6 pm-8 pm (5 hours)
- Saturday: No Additionally Scheduled Hours. Edgar May currently offers Public Swim from 1 pm-3 pm.
- Sunday: 12 pm-4 pm (4 hours)

Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that including the existing Saturday open swim hours, residents will be able to swim 7 days a week and there is the additional benefit that the weather would not impact the pool schedule and the evening hours may be beneficial for adults in the community. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that the cost is \$20,000 for 10 weeks, with an option to add an 11th week at \$2,000. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that like the Town Pool the Edgar May does have their own rules that must be followed for pool use. Further discussion ensued that the proposed weeks for the agreement were June 16th-August 17th.

Further discussion ensued that there are food and beverage restrictions in the pool area. Additional discussion ensued that we did have daily fees for the use of the Town pool and the daily fees for the use of Edgar May would be consistent and proof of residency would be requested.

Michael Martin inquired if Edgar May has a capacity limit per day. Christian Craig responded that they use the American Red Cross standard of one lifeguard per twenty-five swimmers, noting that there have been a few rare times they have had to turn people away as they are at capacity but with the Town allowing them to add extra lifeguards with this contract, he does not believe they will see that during the summer months. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Tammy Stagner has been working with Christian Craig about what they will need to do if they have a larger group program.

Further discussion ensued that they are working on solutions to accommodate the All-4-One program. Additional discussion ensued that they would use bands to identify people participating in the different activities.

MOTION: Michael Schmitt moved to accept the agreement between the Town and Edgar May to provide hosting of pool services for the period indicated in the contract as presented and authorize the Town Manager to sign.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Additional discussion noted that approximately thirty-one members of the public would use the Town Pool per day.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Further discussion ensued that the Edgar May offers swim lessons year-round with two options available, once a week for Saturday mornings (non-members \$60/month) or twice a week for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (non-members \$80/month), with scholarships available through their Access for All program.

ITEM #8 Amendment to Engineering Agreement- Water Project. Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Amendment to Engineering Agreement- Water Project” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that due to the lack of bids for the Water Project, the decision has been made to break the project into 3 smaller projects. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the new plan is bid out the Seavers Brook project as soon as reasonably possible, with work being completed this construction season and the second portion, Clinton and South will go out to bid late fall or early winter. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that breaking this project up and having separate bid events requires an amendment to our agreement with our engineers, Aldrich and Elliott, noting that the current agreement cost is \$449,700 and this amendment cost is \$24,300, bringing the total engineering cost to \$474,000.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that this project is being funded by the water bond vote that the Town voted on last year, which is a bond up to \$3.4 million with \$1.1 million worth of lead remediation for loan forgiveness. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that splitting this project up into three smaller projects is expected to fit into that budget. Further discussion ensued that they feel comfortable that they will be able to get Seavers Brook Road bid out by

the end of this month with construction in the fall. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the feedback from the bid process was that there were concerns of contamination along Clinton Street and breaking the project up will allow for more time to evaluate the potential contamination and have more accurate details for the project.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to agree to the amended contract with Aldrich and Elliott for the additional \$24,300 to redo the bid package for Contract I, separating Seavers Brook Road, Clinton Street, South Street, Bridge Street, and Franklin Street as presented.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the South Street portion is from Clinton Street up to Olive Street, as there is an antiquated line there and with the upcoming paving project (2-3 years out) and potential redo of that intersection the pipes should be taken care of in that area.

AMENDED MOTION: Michael Martin moved to include the authorization for the Town Manager to sign the contract.

Amendment Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #9 Letter of support for Hartness State Airport.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Letter of support for Hartness State Airport” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is submitting a request for Congressional Directed Spending to the Vermont Congressional Delegation. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the goal of this request is to receive \$4,000,000 in funding for the reconstruction of the Hartness State Airport runway. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that VTrans had planned on repaving the existing runway and improving safety areas but found that a more costly reconstruction of the runway is needed. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that to date, the FAA has approved funds for the reconstruction, but for a shorter and narrower runway as they do not believe that the airport’s current usage warrants more, noting that the price difference between

reconstructing the runway to its current dimensions and what the FAA has approved is \$4,000,000.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the airport is crucial to the future economic development of Springfield and the region.

Further discussion ensued that there is possibility of getting some funding from FEMA for this project, noting that FEMA needs the FAA to act, and this is an attempt to find other funding sources. Additional discussion ensued regarding the potential for private funding and if there is a possibility for subsidies such as what Rutland receives from Cape Air (noting this may be based on the number of passengers).

Chair Kristi Morris discussed that we have been discussing the importance of this airport to the Town with VTrans, noting that due to railways taking priority the airport renovations were put on the back burner. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that last year he wrote a letter to Senator Welch's office supporting a request from the Airport Commission and this time VTrans is pushing the request, noting that this letter is an attempt to show that there is more Town support for this project.

Heather Frahm inquired if the State did not want to fund it if they would sell it to a private entity. Chair Kristi Morris responded that it is an idea, but the State would need to give up rights to land they own and was not likely to happen, noting we are still trying to get the rights to the land along the Correctional Facility.

MOTION: Michael Schmitt moved to have the Board sign the letter of support that the Town Manager can share with the appropriate agencies to get us the \$4,000,000.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #10 Town Manager contract amendment.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Town Manager contract amendment" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that as a result of his evaluation, the Selectboard has decided to

amend the Town Manager's contract to provide an increase of 5% instead of 2.5% per the original contract, noting that the Selectboard also decided to amend the contract to include benefit language consistent with other town employees, noting the benefit is to be eligible to receive a stipend for not participating in the Town's group health insurance.

MOTION: Heather Frahm moved to approve the employment agreement amendment of the Town Manager.

Seconded by: Tara Chase

Chair Kristi Morris discussed that the Board did compare other Town Manager salaries for surrounding towns especially those of comparable size and they found that their compensation for the Town Manager was a little under what others were getting and based upon the review that the Board members gave individual of the Town Manager he was worthy of getting the 5%. Heather Frahm commented that it was well-deserved. Chair Kristi Morris noted that the motion would also authorize the Chair to sign the agreement.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #11 Set public hearing date(s) for proposed Town Plan.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Set public hearing date(s) for proposed Town Plan" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that at the March 11th Board meeting, the Board received the Proposed Town Plan from Planning and Zoning Administrator Chuck Wise. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that this action started a clock on when the Selectboard can act on the plan. Town Manager Jeff Mobus referred to the memo provided by the Planning and Zoning Administrator Chuck Wise, noting Mr. Wise's suggestions as follows:

- Review of Proposed Plan- April 8, 2024
- First Public Hearing- April 22, 2024
- Second Public Hearing- May 13, 2024

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the public hearings would be held at Town Hall and would start at 6:00PM. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that if there are significant changes requested either by the Board or as a result of the

Public Hearing they would need to move back the second Public Hearing, noting that they have 120 days from receipt which would be July 11, 2024 to review the Town Plan.

Further discussion ensued that the Town Plan previously would be reviewed every 5 years but is now to be reviewed every 8 years.

MOTION: Heather Frahm moved to set the Public Hearing schedule as stated.

Seconded by: Tara Chase

Michael Martin discussed that the review requires two consecutive Public Hearings without substantive changes before it being adopted and the Selectboard did have the ability to make changes on the April 8th review. Further discussion ensued that the Board having to send the Town Plan back to the Planning Commission would depend on the changes that the Board would like to make. Additional discussion ensued that the Planning and Zoning Administrator Chuck Wise and Mount Ascutney Regional Commission would be present as they provided support to the Planning Commission during the Town Plan draft process. Steve Karaffa requested the education portion of the Town Plan draft to be presented to the School Board for their review.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #12 Auditor bids and engagement letter *Item added to the agenda at the time of the meeting.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that last year was the sixth year of using the same auditor and the Selectboard requested that they go out to bid. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that they advertised on Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) as is customary for audit services and only one bid was received from the same company that we have been using, noting the shortage of auditing firms. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that he did ask for the firm to give us their rates for three years so that they fix the rate for the next two years, noting the rate did not change for the first year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued the rates would be \$30,000 for FY24, \$31,000 for FY25, and \$32,000 for FY26. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that any year which the Town has a federal funds audit or a single audit where we receive a total of \$750,000 worth of federal fund it is a more intense audit that

would add \$5,000 to the audit fees for that year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus recommended that the Board accept the bid from Mudgett, Jennett, & Krogh-Wisner, PC and authorize the Board Chair and the Town Manager to sign the engagement letter for this year's audit.

Michael Martin inquired if we were accepting this bid for three years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed that they are committed to those rates. Further discussion ensued that we do not typically receive three-year proposals, but due to the audit firm shortage the Finance Director wanted to lock in the price and secure the auditing firm, noting we have had a good relationship with this firm in the past. Additional discussion ensued regarding best practices for going out to bid every five years and switching firms every ten years. Michael Martin noted that we should be looking actively for the next bid, and we should request a three-year bid at that time.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to award the Town of Springfield's auditing requirements to Mudgett, Jennett, & Krogh-Wisner, PC for three years as aforementioned.

Seconded by: Heather Frahm

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

E. FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2024 Warrants to March 22, 2024 -copies on website.

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

F. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

"On Monday, March 18th, a break in the sewer main along River Street was discovered. The Town Wastewater and Water Departments worked with Gurney Brothers Construction to repair the break. After digging 14 feet down, the damage was found to be significantly worse than expected. Instead of a simple

break, we found that the top of the of an entire section of the main was broken. The repair was to replace about 65 feet of water main. Unfortunately, there was a discharge to the Black River. The Town reported the discharge to the State. As bad as this was, it could have been much worse. The Town should be very proud of the dedication and ability of our Wastewater and Water employees. Thank you to Wastewater Superintendent Nate Fraser and Water Superintendent Roy Farrar and their crews. You all did amazing work. Thank you also to Gurney Brothers for coming immediately and their expertise in addressing this emergency. ***Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that thanks to Gurney Brothers quick response is what limited the amount of the discharge into the river**

Due to the age and condition of the damaged pipe, the Town will be examining the sewer main adjacent to the break. If the examination of the adjacent pipes reveals similar decay, the Town will have to replace those lines as well. ***Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the State has asked to be present at the examination of the pipes due to concerns of further discharge into the river.**

The culvert on Slab City has been replaced. In mid-December, there was a flood event that washed out this culvert. As this culvert has suffered from storm damage before, the decision was made to up size the culvert in an effort to prevent future washouts. As President Biden approved the State of Vermont's request to declare a state of emergency for this storm, the Town is eligible for FEMA reimbursement for this project. ***Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the culvert was upsized from 48" to 84". Town Manager Jeff Mobus additionally added that the FEMA reimbursement is generally 75% of the project and the State then will split the remaining 25% with the Town (the expected total amount for the project is about \$90,000, the Town share will be somewhere between \$9,000-13,000).**

In a meeting with representatives of VTrans about utilities around the Exit 7 Bridge project, it was mentioned that the Toonerville Trail would be relocated along Route 11. I don't believe that the town has agreed to this relocation or that the relocation would be good for the town. The State's plan would involve pedestrians and bicycles crossing the access ramp and the exit ramp of vehicles accessing/exiting 1-91. I believe that this plan is not safe. I have reached out to the State but have not heard back. I will continue to pursue this issue. ***Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he had since heard back from the State and they were under the impression from the meeting on May 22, 2023, that the**

Town was okay with this relocation, noting the flooding issues took priorities and the project manager had changed.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation plan to close the Cheshire Bridge for 38 weeks in 2025 without a temporary bridge remains a major concern. It will negatively impact many residents and businesses in both Springfield and Charlestown. As this project is completely funded by New Hampshire, limiting our direct influence. Recently, Charlestown had a meeting to discuss options. I believe that our best course of action is to support the efforts of our neighbors across the river. ***Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that Charlestown is pushing for the option of a temporary bridge or a new permanent bridge. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he has reached out to the Chamber and to North Star Health to include them in the process also.***

Further discussion ensued regarding the Toonerville Trail and the alternative of having a tunnel which causes concerns for safety. Michael Martin noted that they had asked about the possibility of relocating the trail to go around the interstate and go along the river (making it more scenic) and there were no studies done to determine the cost noting the problem there was regarding the need for easements. Additional discussion ensued that the relocation of the trail across the on and off ramps of the interstate did include signaling. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he had concerns about the crossing there as there are accidents on Exit 7 frequently. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he was aware that Best Western was also advertising the use of the Toonerville Trail.

Further discussion ensued regarding Best Western, Irving, and the State maintenance garage being served by Charlestown and the possibility of connecting them to Springfield's water system. Additional discussion ensued that the construction of the bridges at Exit 7 has been pushed back one year, noting they are reconfiguring from a clover design to a diamond design and the water line to serve those areas goes through the area of the interstate which has pushed the idea of connecting these areas to Springfield's system.

Further discussion ensued that one of the Town trucks was damaged and we had to pay for the repairs but would be reimbursed by insurance. Additional discussion ensued that one of our trucks went off the road over the weekend and one of the pieces of heavy equipment was attempting to get the truck back

on the road, but the chain snapped and broke the windshield splashing glass onto the driver (noting the driver seems okay but is being evaluated). Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that both of the primary sidewalk plows were damaged trying to remove snow, noting that is why we are behind on clearing the sidewalks. Town Manager Jeff Mobus announced that Public Works would be removing snow from the roads that night (3/25/24) at 10 pm with the snow being deposited down by the Fire Station.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM PROPOSALS

No future agenda item proposals at the time of the meeting.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Martin announced that the Capital Planning Committee held a preliminary meeting last week and would be scheduling another with the newly appointed members.

Chair Kristi Morris announced that he would be attending the Springfield Regional Development Corporation meeting on 03/26/24.

Michael Schmitt confirmed that the Planning and Zoning Administrator would be notified of his resignation from Planning Commissioner and announced that the Airport Commission meets on 3/28/24 but he would not be attending as there is also a Board of Civil Authority (BCA) meeting.

Steve Karaffa announced that the School Budget revote would be happening on April 16, 2024.

I. 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 March 12, 2024
2. Springfield Housing Unlimited-Minutes of March 12, 2024
3. Springfield Senior Center -April 2024 Newsletter
4. Springfield Town Library-April 2024 Events Calendar

5. Springfield Town Library-Trustees' Minutes of March 13, 2024
6. Springfield Trails & Rural Economy Committee -Minutes of January 25, 2024

J. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jessica Martin Springfield on the Move (SOM) Director via Zoom, welcomed the new Selectboard members and announced that SOM would be holding a fundraising auction on Saturday April 27, 2024, to help put funds towards the beautification of Town Hall.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under V.S.A Section 313(a)1(B), the purpose of this Executive Session is to discuss labor relation agreements with employees.

MOTION: Michael Schmitt moved to move into Executive Session.

Seconded by: Tara Chase

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:13 pm, no action anticipated.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:43 pm, no action taken.

L. ADJOURN

MOTION: Tara Chase moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Michael Schmitt

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary