

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, February 13, 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, Public Works Director Jeff Strong, and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Rick Chambers were present in-person. Road Foreman Donny Turner, Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne, and Library Director Sue Dowdell joined via Zoom.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was present in-person

B. MINUTES

1. Regular Selectboard Meeting – January 23, 2023
2. Budget Public Hearing – January 23, 2023
3. Special Selectboard Meeting – January 30, 2023

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to approve the three minutes as presented.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Michael Martin requested corrections to the Regular Selectboard Meeting – January 23, 2023, regarding several places where U.S. was not properly punctuated or capitalized. Chair Kristi Morris noted they would rely on the Recording Secretary to make the corrections.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Chair Kristi Morris confirmed with the Recording Secretary Carrie Kellow that the one modification would be done under the flag policy discussion. Michael Martin confirmed they were all in the minutes of the Regular Selectboard meeting of January 23rd. Chair Kristi Morris recognized that the changes were not substantial.

C. ANY REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THIS AGENDA

No requested additions to this agenda at the time of the meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1 Presentation on water project/bond vote

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the Presentation on water project/bond vote included in the meeting packet and introduced Wayne Elliott of Aldrich and Elliot who was present in-person. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that Absentee ballots and early voting was starting on February 15th, 2023.

Wayne Elliott shared a PowerPoint presentation (included in the meeting packet) regarding the water project/bond vote to participants present in-person and to participants of Zoom. Wayne Elliot discussed that the project started around 2015 and the project was a little bit unique because the design engineering was done on this back then, adding this is a continuation of Contract H which is the waterline replacement that is going to happen on Clinton Street that is slated to start construction soon for this year. Wayne Elliot added this project is called Contract I.

Wayne Elliott discussed the water lines that they are replacing are a mix of what they call cast iron and some of the old cast iron lines date back to almost 100 years ago. Wayne Elliott added some of the smaller cast iron you get tuberculation inside the pipe, so if you have a 6" pipe, you may only have 3" or 4" of diameter left, noting that obviously affects water quality as it requires more flushing and also can affect fire protection. Wayne Elliott further added we also have some asbestos cement lines out there and those tend to be a little bit more fragile and brittle than the old cast iron lines. Wayne Elliott noted that water lines that deteriorate become unreliable and prone to leaks. Wayne Elliott noted that a lot of this was identified back 7-8 years ago.

Wayne Elliott discussed one of the big changes for fire protection is you have to have a minimum of an 8" diameter water line, so any of the new water lines that they are installing will be a minimum of 8". Wayne Elliott added there is believed to be quite a few lead services in the area too, noting that it is an identified health issue that opens a lot of funding opportunities for the Town. Wayne Elliot further added the project about is 6,800' of new 8" and 12" lines and for any of the areas that they are replacing the water lines are going to have new gate valves, isolation valves that they will typically put three of those at each intersection, we are going to have fire hydrants, and they are going to replace the existing water services right to the edge of the rights-of-way which will have new gate valves and curb stops.

Wayne Elliott further discussed the project locations and noted Clinton Street, Loveland, Bridge Street, and tying into South Street and Main Street, noting ultimately there will be more work in a future phase that will continue up Main Street. Wayne Elliott additionally discussed the Hartness Avenue and Wall Street intersection, as well as the waterline on Franklin Street.

Wayne Elliott discussed the next piece of this project is the Mill Road section, noting we have a 2" galvanized line and they have about 1,200' of new 8" line that they have to do a jack and bore to get across the VTrans Route 106. Wayne Elliott added the new line will be sufficient to provide fire protection. Wayne Elliott further added the Seavers Brook waterline to the wastewater plant on Clinton Street currently runs through the treatment plant site through the brook, noting there are concerns to the integrity of that so they will start back out at Route 11 to do a new jack and bore 8" across the VTrans portion of the rights-of-way and extend up Seavers Brook Road about 2,000' up to Will Dean Road. Wayne Elliott noted that was added to this particular contract because the Town had identified concerns with that section a couple years ago.

Wayne Elliott discussed that the project cost is \$2,630,000 and that is extended out to a start construction date of March 2024, noting with the inflation and things going on they were being a little more conservative. Wayne Elliott added one of the things they will do is wait and see how the pipe materials are affected and look to see if it makes sense to go with PVC or ductile iron, noting recently PVC has been more cost effective. Wayne Elliott added the other thing they will have to comply with is a new requirement BAPA requirements (the Build America by America requirements). Wayne Elliott further added the engineering cost is the design permitting and bid construction fee services, and the other portion of the costs are admin permit fees and short-term interest legal.

Wayne Elliott discussed when the state issued the intended use plan last year for the funding, the Town was eligible for about \$1,000,000 because of the lead subsidy issue, noting that is a huge bonus which makes this great funding package that ends up being about 30% of the total cost. Wayne Elliott added the funding opportunity was because the Town is identified as a disadvantaged community, so we are eligible for the loan portion, \$2,400,000 for a 40-year term at a 0% interest rate. Wayne Elliott further added that is huge because if you look at that over a 20-year period, just the interest portion of that would be in the range of \$550,000 even up to about \$825,000. Wayne Elliott noted we have a \$1,000,000

in funding for the lead abatement subsidy and Springfield is one of three communities in Vermont that is eligible and getting this subsidy in this next fiscal year. Further discussion ensued that waterlines have a great useful life, and we don't want the loan term to be longer than the useful life of the infrastructure.

Wayne Elliott discussed the impact on the water rates, the annual loan payment will be about \$60,000. Wayne Elliott added one thing to keep in mind with the loan payment is that it actually starts 1 year after the completion of construction, and we are basically looking at 2024 construction so that first loan payment would be towards the end of 2025. Wayne Elliott further added a typical residential customer for a water bill currently pays about \$510 annually or \$42.50 per month if they are using about 160 gallons per day, and with the new loan payment of \$60,000 per year you are looking at an increase of about \$25 per year or about \$2 per month. Wayne Elliott further discussed it is likely that would be added to the water charge and the \$90 annually they typically recommend that retirement get added to the fixed rate of the base rate and not the usage side of the fee, adding the other thing to stress with these types of projects is the Water Department is an enterprise fund so this bond the entire Town gets to vote on it but the debt retirement is only paid by the water system customers, not the entire town.

Wayne Elliott discussed there will be some interruptions to services, there will be notification requirements for the contractors, the resident engineer, and the Town to make sure people are properly informed. Wayne Elliott added they try to make sure the design and what they do there tries to minimize disruptions, but there will be occasionally a little bit, noting it is important to make sure property owners can access their property. Wayne Elliott provided a brief update on the project schedule of Contract H on Clinton Street; it will be under construction this summer. Wayne Elliott noted they were supposed to start that last fall but with some of the material delays and supply chain issues they decided to start later. Wayne Elliott further added that will be under construction the majority of this year. Wayne Elliott additionally noted we have the bond vote in March and if the bond vote passes this particular contract (Contract I) will be put out to open bid in February next year (2024).

Michael Martin asked to confirm when we are talking about retiring the bonds the rate payers will pay the majority of this. Wayne Elliott confirmed. Michael Martin commented some of this work is related to fire protection and that is the Town responsibility, then he inquired how do we absorb the cost that is apportioned to fire protection to the Town. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded it is a capacity issue not a usage issue, noting for fire protection the other thing to remember is we used all of our ARPA funds for water infrastructure instead of for the whole Town so the water and sewer department is getting a pretty good deal out of this even if they pay 100% of this one because they are not paying any of the contract H costs. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted the Board has the authority to make a change in that determination, but our thinking was we used all of our ARPA funds for water and sewer infrastructure, and this is a way to help the rest of the Town get some benefit out of that as well.

Michael Martin commented if the bond passes it will go out to bid next February and inquired if there is a reason not to do that earlier. Wayne Elliott responded it was a good question and the traditional way over the last 20 years is to go out to bid during January and February timeframe as that is when contractors are really looking for work, noting he believes it depends on supply chain issues. Wayne Elliott added in prior years before where we are at today, we would not get as good of pricing if we went out to bid in November and December because guys weren't really quite hungry for work. Wayne Elliott further added we have to see how the BAPA and some of the material things look and we probably can because the design of this has been done already.

Everett Hammond inquired if regarding Clinton Street when turning to the new bridge built down by the Senior Center that they are tying into the new watermain that is on the bridge. Wayne Elliott confirmed and added they are going to make sure they are coordinating those connections between Contract H and Contract I.

Everett Hammond inquired what the difference in cost was between PVC pipe and ductile iron. Wayne Elliott responded he didn't have that off the top of his head and would say that should be a discussion before we get ready to go out to bid to revisit that. Wayne Elliott added we have heard they are more in-line or closer in price recently. Everett

Hammond noted we should consider longevity and what these guys would rather be fixing. Water/Wastewater Superintendent Rick Chambers added PVC has been getting more and more expensive, so it's coming up to ductile currently. Wayne Elliott further added there was quite a difference before in material cost that's why people have looked to PVC more especially in availability.

Walter Martone commented he (Wayne Elliott) didn't mention Contract H and on the first map there is an obvious gap on Clinton Street, noting he just wanted to remind them it would be good to mention that this gap is also being addressed by a separate contract that is already funded and will happen in advance of this project. Wayne Elliott responded that is a good point, noting the thing you want to be careful about is it is not part of this bond vote authorization so that is the only thing to make sure that people understand that. Wayne Elliott added that's not really part of what is included in this vote, but it is good for people to understand that the Town made the commitment to use local ARPA funds to get that piece of work done and started way back in 2014 -2015.

Chair Kristi Morris commented currently we have some hydrants on Clinton Street headed towards the interstate that are not in use right now and he believes that is because of waterline size or capacity on Seavers Brook Road. Chair Kristi Morris inquired if this project would take care of that problem and this line will make those hydrants accessible. Wayne Elliott responded it will on Seavers Brook Road, but the majority of the project is really to the North of there. Wayne Elliott noted they are putting in 12" on Clinton Street which will upgrade those lines and Contract H is also going to significantly help the hydraulics part of that. Wayne Elliott further added this project is North and anticipated at some point to continue up Main Street with some other phases. Chair Kristi Morris inquired if the piping down Clinton Street headed towards the interstate is relatively new. Wayne Elliott responded he was not sure. Water/Wastewater Superintendent Rick Chambers commented it is supposed to take care of that. Public Works Jeff Strong commented especially when Seavers Brook is done too in conjunction with all of this project.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus announced he was on Puggy's Corner talking about the budget and about this bond vote. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added one of the things Puggy asked him was what happens if the bond vote doesn't pass, and really that holds up this project which in and of itself is a problem, but you are also delaying the lead remediation and fire protection. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added almost even worse is you have to go back to restart the funding packages again as this package doesn't carry over. Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented additionally even worse than that it then differs the next parts coming up Main Street and then River Street and as you know those are 100-year-old lines too.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed it is important that we pass this bond now so we can continue fixing our water lines so that they are safer and much more reliable than they are now. Wayne Elliott commented to reinforce that Springfield is one of three communities that are getting that lead abatement subsidy. Chair Kristi Morris inquired if that bond vote doesn't go through if the subsidy would go to another community. Wayne Elliott responded we would need to reapply, but we don't know whether that would be recommitted again. Wayne Elliott added the background on the lead remediation is that every Vermont water system is required to do this lead service inventory and Springfield was ahead of the curve on that 3-4 years ago. Wayne Elliott further added everyone else is doing that now so depending on what everyone finds there might be a lot more demand and need out there than we know today.

Walter Martone noted one diagram where it showed lines going across the roads and he inquired if that means the whole section will be dug up. Wayne Elliott responded they are just going to dig up what they need to, noting you have the waterline going down the middle of the street and you will have these short trenches that are going to go directly to each property line and it's going to just be whatever they need around 4-6' to take that up and it's all going to be put back as far as pavement or sidewalk restoration.

ITEM #2 Presentation on Northern Gateway Scoping Project

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the Presentation on Northern Gateway Scoping Project included in the meeting packet and introduced Israel Maynard of Stantec who joined via Zoom.

Israel Maynard shared a PowerPoint presentation (included in the meeting packet) on the Northern Gateway Scoping Project to participants present in person and participants of Zoom. Israel Maynard noted this is a local concerns discussion required by the VTrans process. Israel Maynard added this is a Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant which is federal money that is administered by the Agency of Transportation so we have to follow all of their requirements, and this is the first meeting of two that will be required under that. Israel Maynard further added the project is from Elm Street up to Shopping Plaza and they are going to be looking at potential pedestrian facility upgrades in this area. Israel Maynard additionally discussed they will define the project with a purpose and needs statement, study the alternatives, come up with a preferred alternative which will need Board approval, and then they will finalize their scoping report.

Walter Martone commented on the slide about public input and solutions the most important conditions, concerns, issues, or solutions, he would add one thing that we had on our Master Plan to accomplish that this was supposed to provide an aesthetic entrance to the Downtown. Israel Maynard responded they will get that added to the purpose and needs statement.

Everett Hammond commented he knows we are not looking at solutions at this point, but his concern is the new bike path it is shown on the shoulder, but it could be on the shoulder, or it might be along the riverbank by the guardrail. Israel Maynard confirmed and added they are currently marked bike lanes but that could be a separated path as well and that's an alternative that can be looked at. Everett Hammond noted concerns about safety and access if we go behind the Handy Building and that's not part of the scope. Israel Maynard responded we will definitely get into that further when we start to review alternatives and during the presentation of alternatives that will be a good consideration to bring up.

Everett Hammond inquired about the condition of the retaining wall if we end up going back there. Israel Maynard responded the condition of the retaining wall on the riverside has been done and they did a report on that as part of a separate project and made some recommendations for some coring of that existing concrete. Israel Maynard added there is some ongoing work there to determine the condition of that. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed that we received the report and added that we were fortunate enough to have some pretty good old drawings of that retaining wall. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added one of the things that he mentioned to them is that we still have to replace the waterlines going up River Street too, adding it's good to have this plan but you are probably looking at 2-3 years before we try to implement it because we want to do the waterline replacement before we do the work up top.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed regarding the corings they suggested because the retaining wall is so old, he has been thinking to hold the corings till closer to when we would actually do the project because the wall could change between now and three years from now. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added we don't want to begin work on this project until after the watermain is replaced as he doesn't want to be digging into newly paved roads. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added it is prudent to hold some of the work until it is closer to when it is needed in case conditions change between now and then.

Michael Martin inquired if Contract J is from the Desert Storm Bridge all the way to VFW. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed and added he suspects that would have to be done probably in two pieces noting he doesn't know if it would matter if we did it from Desert Storm Bridge to the intersection first or the intersection to VFW first because we have this other project lined up it may make sense to do what he would call Contract J2 first. Michael Martin inquired if he (Town Manager) meant VFW back to the Main Street. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed and added it would probably be the intersection in terms of detouring traffic. Michael Martin inquired that would be for 2026 that the project is being proposed for. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed and added he was not sure how it could be done before 2026. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added you can only do so much and if we are doing the work on Clinton Street in 2024, then you have to go to bond vote in 2024 and design in 2025.

Walter Martone commented when they are done with this, and preferred alternatives are selected we can start trying to look for funding for this and inquired if we will have the information that is necessary to do applications. Walter Martone added it can take a couple years before we can get the funding so there is no reason not to start looking for funding right away. Israel Maynard confirmed when they are done with their portion of the project, they will have a scoping report with the preferred alternative and a good idea what the construction cost will be and that will give the Town enough information to start applying for additional grant funding for the actual engineering and construction.

Char Osterlund present in-person inquired when does the design come into play so that the public can look at what's being proposed. Israel Maynard responded there will be some very basic design that comes in with the alternatives process and that's where public input would come in. Israel Maynard described there will be the alternatives development and they will come up with a couple different potential ways to accomplish our purpose and need and we will evaluate those, and we will ask for public input on those potential alternatives. Israel Maynard added then that will get further refined during the design process and there will be additional chance to comment during the design process for the full engineering process.

Michael Martin commented his understanding in answering Char Osterlund's question about what this looks like, that this is supposed to look like the Main Street Master Plan that they did several years ago. Michael Martin added this segment is called the Northern Gateway so those drawings that are available on the website for the Main Street Master Plan were artists renderings of a proposed Northern Gateway which is what we are trying to materialize through this process. Char Osterlund asked to confirm if that was still the vision. Michael Martin responded that is the goal, but this process is to identify the possibilities, or the risks associated with implementing that plan by taking a deep dive into the existing conditions and doing more survey work. Michael Martin added he believed that's the primary emphasis to see how well we can effectuate that particular design and then they (Stantec) will come back to us with some alternatives to that design that are more feasible.

Israel Maynard confirmed and added through this process they are going to evaluate all the criteria of the NEPA, the National Environmental Protection Agency so that would make us eligible for Federal funding. Israel Maynard further added we need to go through this process to open the doors to that type of funding, we need to look at alternatives and what was done as part of the Northern Gateway will be an alternative that's on the table and we may look at other alternatives based on if we determine that for example there if there was an impact to a historic resource we might need to make some adjustments to that design to minimize impacts to historic resources or things of that nature and that's what we are hoping to discover during this scoping process.

Everett Hammond commented regarding some of this funding he believes we are going to be pushing against the next State paving project. Everett Hammond added we have all seen how the Federal government money and State money runs, noting just on the sidewalk on South Street that was probably at least 5 years in the making for a simple sidewalk project. Everett Hammond further added as far as corings on that wall, it is probably close to 100 years old and it's probably not going to change a lot over the next couple years. Everett Hammond noted if that wall needs to be redone if we are going that option, we are not going to know this for a while until the alternatives but that might need to be stepped up sooner than later. Everett Hammond noted if this deterioration needs to be replaced you are talking a lot more money there than if you stayed in the road. Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented it may become when it comes time to do funding it may be good to connect this to another project which is that retaining wall at the bottom of Eaton Avenue across from the plaza.

ITEM #3 Meals on Wheels/Senior Solutions

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the Meals on Wheels/Senior Solutions included in the meeting packet and introduced Thom Simmons Senior Solutions Meals and Nutrition Director, Mark Boutwell Senior Solutions Executive Director, and Sue Dana Senior Solutions Finance Director who were present in-person. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted

that he had been in contact with Sue Lavine the Meals & Wheels Greater Springfield Area Executive Coordinator who had been in communication with their Board Chair, and they were not planning to attend the meeting. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added there are questions of the appropriation on the warrant, and they (Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield) are not planning on providing any delivery food services this next fiscal year, July to June, to Springfield. Town Manager Jeff Mobus additionally note that Ann Herrick Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield Board Member was present in an unofficial capacity in-person.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed the service has been continued thanks to the work of Senior Solutions but there is a side issue of the funding which is on the warrant, and we cannot change the warrant, so we do have to make sure people are making informed decisions when they vote and Meals & Wheels (of Greater Springfield) does not plan to provide any services to Springfield next year.

Chair Kristi Morris commented with Meals & Wheels on the town warrant, if it gets signatures and votes, the money would be expected to be appropriated by the citizens but they are not doing any services and he inquired what would become of that situation. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that's where it could get tricky, recalling a situation previously where we had an appropriation for some group that was doing a youth special appropriation and they went defunct. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added they said they didn't ask for the money and it flowed down to the bottom line at the end of the year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added if they (Meals & Wheels) do ask for the money it would be hard for us to say no but he would hope in that case there might be an option where Meals & Wheels would be willing to turn that money over to whoever is providing the service at that time, noting that would be a private arrangement that the Town couldn't mandate because the will of the voters is the ultimate and we cannot overrule that. Chair Kristi Morris asked to confirm that even though they submitted the letter saying there was no change in their funding request that's not the ask for the money, it just gets it onto the warrant and then once it gets passed by the voters then they request it. Mobus confirmed.

Thom Simmons, Senior Solutions Meals and Nutrition Director, discussed that he oversees the contracts that they have for the provision of home delivered meals. Thom Simmons added as the area agency on aging, Senior Solutions, receives a certain amount of Federal and State funding that they can use for home delivered meals and congregate meals and to do that they contract with different local agencies to actually do that provision to carry out that service. Thom Simmons further added they contract with 13 different local town based or small regional based nonprofits or agencies who carry that out in the Windham and Windsor County areas.

Thom Simmons additionally added one of those for many years was Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield which handles the deliveries in Springfield, Perkinsville, Chester, and Andover. Thom Simmons added at the current time that is about 80 residents of Springfield and 20 residents of those other towns and it is a total of 22,000 meals a year because the meals are delivered every single day Monday through Friday.

Thom Simmons discussed the way it normally works is Senior Solutions will reimburse a site a certain dollar amount on a per meal basis and it's up to that individual site to determine how they are going to obtain the food and get it delivered. Thom Simmons added some make it themselves on-site like the Brattleboro Senior Center, noting they get raw food raw materials, they cook it up, package it, and send it out. Thom Simmons further added most sites procure the meals already prepared and packaged from a commercial food vendor and that could be like in Westminster's case, they get it from Kurn Hatten and in Springfields case, which is the case of 7 of their 13 meal centers, they obtain the meals from a commercial producer called Trio Community Meals. Thom Simmons further discussed that Trio is particularly adept at making home delivered meals made to nutritional guidelines, packs them ready to go, and they would deliver the meals to Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield who would then take them to the recipients.

Thom Simmons discussed they became aware at least as early as Spring of last year, of some very strained business relationships between Meals and Wheels Greater Springfield and Trio. Thom Simmons added that had reached a crisis point by the time of the fall, at which point Trio was stating openly they were no longer going to be supplying food to

Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield. Thom Simmons further added they (Senior Solutions) stepped in, in an attempt to salvage the situation and it was difficult at best. Thom Simmons noted he stepped in during October and November to try and work that out and he asked for a meeting with the Coordinator of Meals and Wheels and he was refused, he then asked to meet by Zoom and he was refused, and he then asked to meet with the Board and he was told by the Coordinator that the Board would not meet with him.

Thom Simmons discussed it just got to a very dangerous situation and their first priority is to make sure that every single one of these recipients gets food everyday and that's the top priority and it looked like that was not about to happen. Thom Simmons added that they lost confidence in the ability of the organization (Meals and Wheels) to actually provide the meals, so in December he sent a letter to Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield stating that they were terminating their contract effective February 1st noting he also mentioned in that letter they would be willing to consider a new contract but they needed to be able to meet with them and they needed to be able to know what was happening financially which is one of the terms of the contract but none of that happened. Thom Simmons further added in the month of January there were lot of emails and phone calls back and forth and some of the Board Members (Meals and Wheels) who had not even known that there were issues had come forward and met with them. Thom Simmons noted the more they looked at it, the more they lost complete confidence in the ability of the organization to provide meals moving forward so they did not reissue a new contract.

Thom Simmons discussed what they did is they took on the delivery themselves and they are now the sponsor of home delivered meals. Thom Simmons added the Springfield Family Center is allowing them to use them as the distribution point so Trio is still bringing the food, it goes to the Family Center, the drivers who used to drive are continuing to drive, and right now effective February first the recipients of Meals on Wheels are getting the same meals, from the same producer, on the same schedule, delivered by the same familiar drivers, so from that perspective absolutely nothing has skipped a beat. Thom Simmons further added from their perspective things have changed a bit because now they are paying for this in full and they are doing it at an admittedly temporary location, Springfield Family Center has not given them a cutoff date, but they did say it is temporary while you have what is essentially an emergency situation.

Thom Simmons discussed it is not their practice, it is not their policy to operate home delivered meals directly and it's not something they want to continue doing. Thom Simmons added in the best of all worlds there would be a vibrant functional organization in Springfield that would continue this work, whether that happens within the structure of the current Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield in a modified reformed resurrection, or whether it happens through a new organization they do not know but they will work with whoever actually wants to be the sponsor.

Mark Boutwell, Senior Solutions Executive Director, discussed that part of their loss of confidence was also the fact that Trio, the provider had also given Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield an ultimatum that if they were not able to cover their previous costs, they also would end their contract with them. Mark Boutwell added that also was an important driver for them that if Trio ended their contract there would be no meals delivered to Springfield. Mark Boutwell further added that was an important aspect as well that they wanted to ensure that meals continued, so in good faith that they would pick up the contract with the Trio vendor.

Walter Martone commented he applauded Senior Solutions for their oversight, monitoring, and then for taking quick action and really protecting public funds, both at the Federal level that they receive but also money that could be coming from the Town of Springfield. Walter Martone added that he requested this be on the agenda because he is concerned that Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield could continue to remain an existing organization on July 1st. Walter Martone further added he tries to think of the worst-case scenario, noting that they could request the funds, they could decide that they are going to use the funds for something else. Walter Martone described for example with an organization that is kind of getting on the rocks, that they have unpaid bills that they use it for and not for the provision of meals from July 1st going forward to June 30th, so they may be trying to dig themselves out of a hole and using money that the voters voted for the provision of meals which to him should go to the new provider of the service.

Walter Martone discussed we can't change that on the ballot, unfortunately the warrant is written that it goes to the agency who got the signature not to a program. Walter Martone added this is a very popular item on the ballot it passes overwhelming, unless there can be some guarantees that the money is going to get to the right place to do the right thing, he would be inclined to start getting people out there to campaign to vote against it and to try and do everything we possibly could to get it defeated.

Michael Martin inquired if there was anywhere we can get a financial report as to what Meals and Wheels does, noting he knows the amount of money we raise in taxes here in Springfield in support of Meals and Wheels obviously doesn't pay the whole cost of this distribution program as there are other components too. Michael Martin added they operated a facility and he always thought they prepared the meals that were distributed and didn't realize they bought them already prepared and just handed them out. Michael Martin further added there was a facility with a kitchen here in Springfield where they actually prepared meals and they did have people who would come in on a daily basis to receive them. Michael Marin inquired if Senior Solutions funding was wholly for all the cost associated with distributing these meals and if the funding that we were raising via taxes was not being used to pay for these meals that were being distributed and being made by Trio. Mark Boutwell responded they provide funding but it is not designed or meant to cover 100% of the cost of a meal site operation, they reimburse at the rate of \$5.34 per home delivered meal and it doesn't matter who our partner is (or location) that is the rate and the difference has to be made up by the local meal site. Mark Boutwell added some of them do fundraising some of them make up that difference through the allocations at Town Meeting like this one, some of them do something else, noting it may be a Senior Center can subsidize an operation if they have other sources of income. Mark Boutwell further added they can only spend what they are given and they know it doesn't cover the full amount. Mark Boutwell commented their expenses, Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield, are within their control and one of the unique aspects of this particular operation was having a paid coordinator and a physical site. which a lot of our meal sites are not set up that way.

Michael Martin commented in the case of Westminster they said that Kurn Hatten school prepares the meals and packages them, obviously the drivers go directly to Kurn Hatten to pick them up so there is no intermediary station or staging of the meals so that is a tremendous expense here. Michael Martin added he doesn't know if there is rent associated with the space on South Ridge or Union. Michael Martin further added they (Senior Solutions) knows it is \$5.34 that they provide, and they are aware of what the meals cost through Trio, and he inquired if they could share that. Thom Simmons responded prior to October or so it was a range of about \$6-7 per meal, noting the range is because it depends on whether the site orders them chilled, frozen, or hot, and whether there are what they call therapeutic meals involved, which is special dietary needs for diabetics and things like that. Thom Simmons added it is a range and you can assume that the meal site is incurring a cost for meals of about \$1.00 more than what they are reimbursing.

Michael Martin inquired if the drivers are all volunteers. Thom Simmons confirmed. Everett Hammond commented the drivers are all volunteers, but they get paid mileage to cover gas. Thom Simmons responded that is the choice of the individual meal center, noting that Springfield chose to do that. Ann Herrick, Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield Board Member, commented they just stopped paying mileage as of a month and a half ago, noting that she was not part of that decision.

Walter Martone commented one other issue that he is concerned about when we do these special appropriations through the ballot to his knowledge that money never gets audited unless it is being audited by the agency, so we don't ever find out if the funds are being used for what is intended. Walter Martone added he believes it is \$10,000 for this organization and we don't know where that \$10,000 gets spent or when it was spent, so if they got another allocation on July 1st they could request that money, noting he believes it's a bad system that lacks all accountability.

Everett Hammond commented that is something up to them (the Board) and he would think they could request that every so many years, noting he believes Rockingham does something similar every 5 years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus they are required to have a report in the annual report. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added each agency, noting he

doesn't know what Meals and Wheels puts in, but they all have reports that they put in with various degrees of details like number of meals served in this case is probably in there. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added he doesn't know if we ask for audited financial statements or if they get audited even, a lot of them may not be audited.

Doug Johnston via Zoom commented he would hate to see them lose funding for delivering those meals, then inquired if it is on a special appropriation and it specifies exactly what that money is to be used for and that can no longer be used or they are nonexistent wouldn't that put a bind legally wise on the Town or would that be considered some criminal matter at that point in time because they are saying that they are going to provide a service but not going to be around to give that service if they collect that money. Chair Kristi Morris responded that would be a legal question.

Discussion ensued to confirm that the warrant describes the service they will provide with the appropriation, the Town appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels program of Greater Springfield, that provides daily hot and cold congregate meals and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added if they are not doing it, they could not get that then because they are not doing that. Doug Johnston commented he would say they have to provide that service if that is what they are receiving the money to do. Doug Johnston added perhaps that is something we would check with the State of Vermont on just so the Town doesn't get into a bind on that. Chair Kristi Morris commented it begs to question to determine what our legal responsibilities are, noting he was assuming by saying that it will be done or at least checked on what happens.

Sue Dana, Senior Solutions Finance Director, commented that recipients are not charged for meals, but they do make donations so there is a small amount of donations that comes in as well from all of the recipients, noting she doesn't have the total for what that is but there is a small piece of money received from the people that get meals.

Michael Martin commented that all goes into the Meals and Wheels pot, they are getting funding from the Town, the users, Senior Solutions, and whatever funding sources they can manage to scrape together. Michael Martin added he is a little concerned about Mr. Martone's comments about a campaign to defeat this article given the fact that the Senior Solutions subsidy of these meals doesn't wholly cover its costs and Meals and Wheels was a vehicle or a method by which we could funnel funds from the community to help support those meals. Michael Martin added not including the mileage expenses, as well as, the additional costs of the meals, it looks like anywhere from \$1 to \$2 per meal at 22,000 meals, that's \$30,000 and the appropriation is only \$10,000. Michael Martin commented he doesn't know how we can guarantee to the voters that if they approve the warrant article that that \$10,000 that it would make its way through to whoever is providing the service if it be Senior Solutions, Family Center, or what have you. Michael Martin further added there is a Board of Directors that you can communicate with and those funds could be requested by Meals and Wheels as it is an entity that exists, it hasn't gone defunct even though you canceled the contract, they could request the funds and he inquired if there is some way that we can guarantee through the Town Manager that those funds get spent properly. Michael Martin additionally commented he would not like us to see a campaign where we would defeat that because it is a funding source, and he thinks it is valuable for the community and the community's residents, noting we can ensure that our Town Manager will not expend the funds even though they have been approved by the voters until some kind of fiduciary responsibility is established that those funds are going to get to the right place.

Chair Kristi Morris commented he believes it is important to find out what the legalities are, and he would expect that if this was going to be on the warrant article that that the organization would show up to Town Meeting on Monday night and there might be additional times to ask questions, noting that he would not want to surprise them. Chair Kristi Morris added he believes if we have questions, we want to know answers, we typically don't get a lot of questions answers of the organizations when they present at Town meeting.

Walter Martone inquired that the legal opinion also includes whether they have the ability to ask for some audited financials of the organizations so they can be certain that the money is appropriately used not just for this organization but for future ones as well. Chair Kristi Morris commented years ago a former Selectboard member suggested that we

wanted the financials from these organizations, noting that he didn't know if we ever saw that or had the right to do that, noting certainly we require them to have a notice in the Town report describing their services, but we can ask that question as they are the oversight agency and he believes that is their responsibility.

ITEM #4 Discussion and possible action on dog complaints

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Discussion and possible action on dog complaints included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed each dog complaint separately to allow discussion on them individually. Town Manager Jeff Mobus announced that Chief Burnham and himself had agreed to hire an Animal Control Officer (information provided in the meeting packet), noting that one of the dispatchers at the Police Station is actually a dog trainer and is comfortable working with vicious dogs and has started to do ride-alongs with the State Warden as part of her training and we are in the process of acquiring the proper safety equipment to specifically deal with vicious dogs and other animals. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that we have never trained our officers to deal with vicious animals and there has never been a place where they can take vicious animals 24/7.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that there are two dogs on Valley Street that are running loose numerous times and unfortunately there is a situation where we have had people unwilling to provide written statements of complaints but there are outstanding tickets that we can enforce. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that they would like to be able to impound these dogs if we do catch them running loose next time, noting the other challenge if we do impound these dogs is it enforcing the collection of fines before the dogs can be released from impound and that is a point of contention with the Humane Society as they feel that causes another issue as it puts them in the middle of a financial situation and they are also concerned that owners that are unable to make payments will be kept from their animals and that is bad for the animals. Michael Martin commented that in reading our Municipal Ordinances, Section 6-22 is pretty clear as to how the Town is to treat unrestrained dogs and their impoundment and it has several steps that are enumerated in the code. Michael Martin inquired why the Board was being asked for permission to impound these dogs when clearly the code already exists that gives the Town Manager and the Police Department the authority to already do that. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he believed it was always the issue that we could end up with a situation where the dog that gets destroyed and that is always come as a Selectboard order. Michael Martin responded that is included in the ordinance that any dog that is apprehended for a third violation of this provision, which clearly these dogs have, shall be impounded, if the dog is determined to be a vicious dog it shall be subject to euthanization, noting it does not require Selectboard approval. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added when people contest the situation that's when they come to the Selectboard and noted that we haven't been doing this for many years, so we are trying to get back to that point.

Crissy Webster commented as far as the one from 75 White Street it says voluntarily euthanizing and she inquired if we are going to ask for proof noting that they had talked about that in a previous situation. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we would confirm that and added that he was trying to give them context for the first one.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Mr. Martin was correct regarding the way the ordinance was written, traditionally the Selectboard had given the authority to impound the animals in the past which is why we have never done this correctly to begin with, but we are working towards getting this done correctly. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added if we are going straight to doing it by the ordinances, we do not need to go to the Selectboard for authority. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added one of the things the Board did ask for is that they are notified of these situations, so they now notified this is happening and what they are doing to deal with it.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired when the person (Animal Control Officer) was going to be trained. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted they have already started doing ride-alongs with the Warden and getting the training, noting it takes 2-4 weeks. Chair Kristi Morris inquired if that ride-along training would facilitate the collection of a couple of dogs. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded if it happens the same time the dogs are loose.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed the second complaint on 75 White Street (included in the meeting packet). Town Manager Jeff Mobus described it is a tough situation as the owner doesn't have a lot of resources and has been very cooperative, noting the Humane Society has a small fund that would help with the cost of euthanasia so it can be done correctly, and the owner would like the remains back. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added in this case it is voluntary, since we do not have a place to take a vicious dog right now and we already have voluntary enforcement. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the dog would be euthanized voluntarily in 11 days and the owner was keeping the dog inside until then. Chair Kristi Morris commented this was a dog that did not have an up-to-date rabies vaccination either and the patient is recommended to go through the series of vaccinations. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed and added that our employee is going through the rabies protocol with the series of shots as a Worker's Comp Claim.

Michael Martin inquired if he (Town Manager) needed to make a request to the Selectboard for the authority to expend funds for hiring a Control Officer. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded he did not as it is under \$10,000. Michael Martin asked to confirm that he (Town Manager) doesn't need special authorization tonight that enable him to do the things that he needs to do to implement the code.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if the Poplar Street incident had been finalized. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded he believed we were all up to date, noting there is a concern that the second animal is not registered. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we are now in licensing period until April 1st. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he sent Police Officers up to the residence to confirm that the dog has been euthanized and there has been no evidence of the dog.

Walter Martone inquired regarding the 75 White Street if the dog was also unlicensed as it did not have up-to-date vaccinations. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the dog was licensed last year. Walter Martone inquired if the vaccination (rabies) has to cover until the next year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that it must cover into that year. Walter Martone then inquired who's paying for our employee having to go through the whole thing. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he filed a first incident report with VLCT and VLCT will start it as a Worker's Comp, but as they look into it, he suspects they will then go against the owner's insurance, noting that all happens behind closed doors, and we do not generally get involved.

Walter Martone inquired if there will be a violation assessed against that person. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded it is a little trickier because this was a dog that was on its own property and defending its property. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Police have said that they would prefer that as long as she voluntarily euthanizes the dog on the 24th that we do not try to go down that road because the dog was on its own property and was not running loose.

ITEM #5 Discussion and possible action on Flag Policy

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the Discussion and possible action on Flag Policy included in the meeting packet. Walter Martone presented his memo and the proposed Flag Policy included in the meeting packet, adding that he did not use the original policy that was originally presented by the Town Manager, but worked with Montpelier's flag policy and tailored it to Springfield.

Discussion ensued to clarify the two policies included and the differences between them and distinguished them as Policy A (2 pages with footnotes) and Policy B (the alternate that does not include reference to banners). Michael Martin noted that he recalled a great deal of consternation over the banners, and it seemed to be very unwieldy, and he applauded the efforts to remove banners from any discussion in this revised flag policy. Michael Martin further noted in Policy B the last sentence of the purpose "any additions must be approved by the Springfield Selectboard" but it does not provide any guidance as to how they approve those. Michael Martin added that the sentence "approval of flags must be limited to those that constitute an express of the Town's official sentiments.", noting that he believed that sentence should be added to the purpose after "any additions must be approved by the Springfield Selectboard".

Crissy Webster inquired if it was the Board's policy to have single Board Members propose policy on different things and if all policies go through the Inclusion Committee, citing concerns that this particular policy is being proposed by a Board Member vs the Town Manager and that it was proposed through the Inclusion Committee as a possible policy before any other Board Members saw the original policy. Chair Kristi Morris responded that it is the policy that a single Board Member or two Board Members to submit policy to this Board the answer is yes, we do that with our ordinances. Chair Kristi Morris added that there are other documents that get pushed to the Selectboard through that avenue, noting they cannot meet about these policies or governmental actions as a group offline because that is a violation of the Open Meeting Law, so they appoint people to various committees, and they do get uploaded to this Board to get added to the agenda. Chair Kristi Morris further added regarding the Inclusion Committee, the policy they had when they created the Inclusion Committee was that they would look at our policies and procedures to see if there was anything that could be considered out of line, offensive, critical, or if we can improve, noting he does not know if that happens in the beforehand or if it should come in the post hand but at some point they would be exposed to a policy. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that in this case it was a little bit different because the Inclusion Committee had started to work on this topic before it came to the Board and Mr. Martone being a member of the Inclusion Committee is a different situation, ideally it would come to us first and then we would have it vetted but since they were already working on it he (Walter Martone) started combining their work with our work to get to a final product. Chair Kristi Morris noted that as liaisons to the various committees, commissions, and boards, they do ask for input, in fact they receive reports from a lot of them.

Crissy Webster inquired why "and all individuals employed by or who volunteer with the Town of Springfield" was stricken, noting we may have a policy on flags but that isn't going to stop anyone from wearing something offensive material to work on person. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded because this is supposed to be a flag policy that is going to be dealt with in the new employee handbook.

Everett Hammond commented there is no guidance when you are talking about the B version regarding "any additions need to be approved by the Springfield Selectboard" and he cited concerns about adding the other sentence "expression of the Town's sentiments", noting he was not in favor of that because it opens up a can of worms because it made it open-ended. Michael Martin responded the official sentiment of the community is whatever we decide it is, we are representatives of the community sitting here and determining what that official policy is, we do this by edict or decree from these seats right now. Michael Martin added that in terms of a defensible position the Supreme Court has asked for this kind of language in our policy, but that position you are talking about happens here in open discussion by Vermont Law and the Public is capable of coming in and weighing in on those official sentiments.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to approve version B with the addition of the sentence to end with "approval of flags will be limited to those that constitute the expression of the Town's sentiments" as the last line of the purpose.

Walter Martone added that his understanding about the comment in the Supreme Court ruling against the City of Boston was a Free Speech issue, and what the discussion was in it, had they put in something in the affect of this it makes it clear that our policy does not deal with Free Speech, it is not the issue, putting up flags is the expression of the sentiments of the Town. Walter Martone added that he agrees with Michael Martin that they are the body that makes that determination. Walter Martone further added he believes it would be next to impossible for them to enumerate everything that is going to be on a case-by-case basis, and it could change with different boards, noting it is flexible and open-ended by design.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Chair Kristi Morris confirmed that the motion was for version B and in the purpose where it says, "any additions must be approved by the Selectboard" we are going to add "approval of flags will be limited to those that constitute the expression of the Town's sentiments".

Michael Martin discussed that he was happy to see Mr. Martone added additions to be approved by the Selectboard, noting that at the last meeting he was adamant that he did not want the Selectboard to have to have a discussion about official sentiments. Michael Martin noted that he believed having a policy that was black and white was more appropriate, but he did understand that there were members of the Board that were hopeful that they would have the opportunity to amend the policy at some date and he believed adding this opportunity to have additions approved by the Selectboard with some guidelines is a good compromise.

Everett Hammond commented that he could live with that, but noted concerns of what could happen if they end up with a Town of Croydon , NH situation as a Board that made National news. Crissy Webster commented that she disagreed with that because it opens it up to opinion and she believes if we are going to have a flag policy it needs to be black and white. Crissy Webster added if we want to change the policy in the future that's the Board's decision and they can do that. Crissy Webster further added to open it up to have approval by the Selectboard, if we say no to something we are deciding against Freedom of Speech or inclusionary things, restating she believes it should be black and white. Walter Martone commented that the Selectboard is a different body than something like a Development Review Board, where they don't have any choices, they basically don't use judgement, the only judgement that they exercise is whether it is meeting the zoning regulations in a quasi-judicial session, that is not the Selectboard, the Selectboard is supposed to publicly debate and allow for public input on things that are somewhat discretionary, for example on the official sentiments of the Town we would make a decision after public airing of it, public debate, and then conclude, noting they have a different kind of responsibility than a judicial board that has to follow the law.

Chair Kristi Morris commented he would like to see this narrowed to a point, citing under the application "this policy applies to all buildings and grounds owned or controlled by the Town of Springfield, noting to him it seems expansive. Chair Kristi Morris added that when you are trying to reduce the intent of the policy and limit the flags that we do see, what he would like to see is that this is definitive that it is flagpoles located on municipal properties and exterior of those buildings. Chair Kristi Morris further added as for the POW flag, it can be flown on all of our buildings as it is now, and he believed it would be more accepted and pronounced if it was at the Memorial Park that way it limits the flags that would be seen on our Town Municipal property flagpoles and the exterior of the building would be U.S., Vermont if we chose, and the Town flag if we chose. Chair Kristi Morris noted he was glad to see that they kept the Memorial Park on River Street, and they are allowing for the six armed branches of the services.

Chair Kristi Morris discussed that there is a piece of canvas with grommet holes in it that is hanging on the inside wall of the Fire Station which was presented to the Fire Fighters after the destruction of 9/11, it is handprints of students from one school in honor of the fire fighters in lieu of the event that happened and if the perceptions is the only flags that can be flown on all buildings and grounds without defining exterior that piece will have to come down, noting his understanding is there is a Black Lives Matter flag flown in the library that would have to come down. Chair Kristi Morris added there are other flags or banners that other emergency services use, there are official Union banners that would all have to come down, but they have a right to display them.

Further discussion ensued regarding under 3 Application "This policy applies to" adding the words "exterior of" and in the same paragraph after the "Springfield flag" it has the words and the POW/MIA flags to put a period after "Springfield flag" and move POW/MIA to the end of the sentence in 4b after "Space Force" to be "Space Force, and POW/MIA flag". Additional discussion ensued regarding this policy is giving direction to the Town Employees and providing guidance to the Town Manager to enforce with all of the Town Employees and guidance to future Boards on what their intent was with this policy and what their options are relative to interpretation.

Further discussion ensued that it was still open ended as it did not state it was only employees on duty and that it needs to allow the public to display flags they chose. Additional discussion ensued to change the sentence in the propose to "This policy applies to all flagpoles on municipal grounds and the exterior of all buildings owned or controlled by the Town of Springfield".

Walter Martone commented that he is fine with what was worked out and pointed out that the whole issue of things on the interior of the buildings, a line from the charter under the specific responsibilities of the Town Manager, to have charge and supervision of all Town buildings, properties, and facilities, all repairs thereon and all construction by the Town unless otherwise noted, so he believes that is the responsibility and the ability of the Town Manager to say what goes on in these buildings and if an issue is raised about something on display the Town Manager ultimately rules.

Char Osterlund in-person, commented regarding interior flags she agreed it would be a real shame for any tribute flags to be removed, but cited concerns if there is not a little bit of oversight on interior flags. Char Osterlund noting what Walter Martone mentioned about the Town Manager responsibility, and noted she was going to suggest wording like, "interior flags which show tribute or participation in that profession" might limit it in that way which might prevent some flags that people might object to. Char Osterlund added "the Sentiment of the Town", she believes it is not just the Selectboard coming together and listening to people, there is guidance we have the Town Charter that gives guidance, the Town Plan which has goals and aspirations, the Declaration of Inclusion, we have many already existing documents that shape that so the Town sentiments wouldn't be just someone's opinion.

Sharon Ayer via Zoom, commented before they do any amendments perhaps the language could be "flags displayed in Public areas inside Public buildings would be subject to this policy" and flags could be displayed in non-public areas of the building however each department wants to display their flags, noting that in Public areas she believes we should be as neutral as possible. Chair Kristi Morris noted that he considered that, but you are only allowed in certain areas of the Police Department or the Fire Station, and for that reason there is not a lot of space to post a flag in those cases.

Michael Martin restated the proposed amendments in Section 3 and 4, in Section 3 "This policy applies to [all flagpoles on municipal grounds and the exterior of all buildings](#) and grounds owned or controlled by the Town of Springfield" and the third line in the middle of the sentence remove the words "and POA/MIA flag" and insert them in the end of 4b "Space Force".

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to amend Section 3 "This policy applies to all flagpoles on municipal grounds and the exterior of all buildings owned or controlled by the Town of Springfield" and the third line in the middle of the sentence remove the words "and POA/MIA flag" and insert them in the end of 4b "Space Force".

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Scott Richardson via Zoom, commented he agreed with what they are doing with the policy and regarding protocol he believed they should add in there someplace that the U.S. Flag code should be followed. Chair Kristi Morris pointed out that it was in the policy. Crissy Webster inquired if for the display and care of flags it would be pertinent to put "as per the United States provisions of displays of flags", noting it was referenced.

Further discussion ensued regarding the display and care of flags and that they would remove reference 2 and all of that information would be inserted under 4a, and the only thing they need to do is add the "Town of Springfield follows the Federal and State of Vermont Flag Code and Protocol governing the display and care of flags, including the United States flag, the State flag, the Town flag, and the POW/MIA flag. [United States and State of Vermont provisions governing the display of flags. These can be found in the United States Code, Title 4, Chapter 1 and the Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 1, Chapter 11 \(hereinafter "Flag Code and Protocol"\)](#)" and strike Section 2 and renumber sections.

Michael Martin and Walter Martone accepted this addition to their amendment.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Chair Kristi Morris restated the original motion made by Walter Martone," approve version B with the addition of the sentence to end with "approval of flags will be limited to those that constitute the expression of the Town's sentiments" as the last line of the purpose."

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted this would be signed at the next meeting.

ITEM #6 Act on Fire Department Car 1 bids

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Act on Fire Department Car bids included in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to authorize the purchase of the Chevy Tahoe from McGovern Chevrolet at the cost of \$39,292.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Crissy Webster inquired if a Tahoe was significantly bigger than what Car 1 was currently. Discussion ensued that Car 1 was going to become Car 2 and Car 2 was going to be traded in. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Chief Stagner said this would work better for a command vehicle in terms of being able to put all the equipment into it. Crissy Webster noted she was thinking about the operating costs associated with it as it was bigger.

Discussion ensued regarding Car 1 was a Ford Explorer and a Tahoe was a little bigger. Chair Kristi Morris noted that the idea behind Car 1 was it was going to be set up as a mobile command post for fire scenes, emergencies, or events around town, so the radios go in the back end and there is a tabletop in there so the Fire Chief can do command and control from the back of the car, noting it was done with the existing car, but not to the extent that it is easily accessible. Chair Kristi Morris added the larger vehicle may play in our favor, noting he is sensitive to the added cost to operate a larger vehicle.

Everett Hammond inquired about the ability to get service around here. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that Chief Stagner was not concerned about that. Doug Johnston inquired if they had priced out any extended maintenance program, noting he was aware that some of them can be 8 years 100,000 miles with a small deduction once the warranty runs out. Doug Johnston noted he did not believe that they would see that much of a difference in gas mileage between a Ford and a Tahoe. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added he would make sure they get that information included. Doug Johnston commented that depending on the price of an extended warranty it may pay for itself, noting his experience with Ford SUVs.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #7 Authorize Community Development Block Grant form

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Authorize Community Development Block Grant form included in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to authorize the Town to approve and sign the Community Development Block Grant resolution in the amount \$525,000 for HVAC system at the Huber building.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #8 Sign Highway Certification form

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Sign Highway Certification form included in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to certify that their standards meet the requirements of the State and certify that they have an up-to-date highway inventory, and they sign the attached Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

ITEM #9 Safety update

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the safety update included in the meeting packet and noted that when they talk about the Police enforcement schedule varying they are talking about Police Officers' schedule is going from 7 am – 2 am and then the 2 am – 7 am is either on-call by our officers or voluntary overtime.

Steve Karaffa commented that he wanted to recognize Chief Burnham, he has attended a lot of the school's special activities like open houses in individual schools and he (Chief Burnham) and the Superintendent have been in constant communication. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added it is great follow-up because during the interview process he (Chief Burnham) said he wanted to be immersed in the community and he is displaying that.

ITEM #10 Covid update

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Covid update included in the meeting packet.

E. FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2023 Warrants to February 9, 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 noted that the remaining 10% for the Weathersfield Dam would come out of the Weathersfield Dam fund and there are sufficient funds for that and for the erosion at the end of Lincoln Street the \$50,000 match would be half Springfield and the HCRS has offered to pay the other half. Town Manager Jeff Mobus also announced that taxes are due February 15th. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added last Friday he was on Puggy's Corner where they talked about the Town Budget and the bond vote, noting he also presented them to the rotary club as well.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM PROPOSALS

Crissy Webster requested an update on where they are with the employee handbook revisions.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Committee Reports and Announcements at the time of the meeting.

I. OTHER MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. Airport Commission – Minutes of December 1, 2022
2. Inclusion Committee – Minutes of February 8, 2023
3. Inclusion Committee – Town of Springfield Flag Policy – Draft
4. Springfield Senior Center – February 2023 Newsletter
5. Springfield Town Library – Director’s Report – January 2023
6. Trails & Rural Economy Committee – Minutes of January 26, 2023
7. VTrans Notice of a Regional Concerns Meeting to be held March 13, 2023
(Culvert replacement project BM19201 VT Route 106 in the vicinity of Springfield Fence Co.)
8. Wastewater Treatment Plant – Monthly Report – December 2022
9. Water System Division – Monthly Report – December 2022

J. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Steve Karaffa (as a School Board Member) announced that they are putting together an MOU within the district to give to the emergency services, Fire and Police, authorization to using their cameras during emergencies, it is in the process of being written now and once it is the Superintendent will be in contact with the Town Manager. Everett Hammond inquired if they have to have sign-offs from all of the parents of all the kids if it is ever used. Steve Karaffa responded it is just for the dispatchers to use and the sign-off would be the Chief, noting it is not public and they cannot go on if they are bored, it will just be for emergencies.

Wes Marshall, SAPA TV requested a reminder for the Meet the Candidates Night. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that Meet the Candidates Night will be in Selectboard Hall on Tuesday February 21st starting at 6 pm and there will be a Zoom link setup as well.

L. ADJOURN

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary