

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

APPROVED MINUTES

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

Chair, Kristi Morris, called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Roll Call was taken.

Selectboard Members: Chair Kristi Morris, Vice Chair Michael Martin, Everett Hammond, and Walter Martone were present in-person. Crissy Webster was not in attendance.

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus and Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne were present in-person. Library Director Sue Dowdell and Fire Chief Paul Stagner were present via Zoom.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was not in attendance

Convene Local Control Board

Act on Open Container Permit Application from the Chamber of Commerce for Apple Festival

Act on Special Event Permit Application from Vermont Beer Makers for Apple Festival

Act on Special Event Permit Application from Vermont Vines on the River for Apple Festival

The Board moved to Local Control at 7:23 pm.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the three applications the Board must act upon in Local Control were all for the Apple Festival on October 7, 2023. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the first is an open container permit application from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce for the Apple festival and the other two are special event permit applications for the two vendors who will be at the Apple Festival, Vermont Beer Makers, and Vermont Vines on the River. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the materials for these applications were included in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the open container permit application for Springfield Chamber of Commerce for the event on October 7 at the ball field at Riverside Park, as well as, to approve the outdoor special event permit for the Vermont Beer Shapers who will be providing malt beverages at that event as well as Vermont Vines on the River LLC who will be providing Venus beverages at that event.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Further discussion ensued to confirm if one motion for all three permits was acceptable.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

Additional discussion ensued that they were authorizing the Town Clerk to do her part by their approval in the motion.

Close Local Control Board

The Board closed Local Control Board at 7:28 pm.

B. MINUTES

1. Regular Selectboard Meeting – August 14, 2023
2. Selectboard Strategic Planning Workshop – June 6, 2023

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Selectboard Meeting of August 14, 2023, and the Selectboard Strategic Planning Workshop of June 6, 2023, as printed and distributed with revisions.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Walter Martone requested correction on page 11 of the August 14th minutes under Manager's Report in the fifth line down at the very end of that sentence where it says "...and their attorneys and ~~the~~ our attorney representing Nate Stearns...". Walter Martone requested additional correction on the Strategic Planning Minutes of June 6 on page six the first full paragraph second line down where it says RSM, it should be RSMS for Road Surface Maintenance System, this correction was noted on multiple pages.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

C. ANY REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THIS AGENDA

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

D. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1 Act on event permit application – Apple Festival, October 7, 2023

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on event permit application – Apple Festival, October 7, 2023" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that as they just reviewed this during Local Control the Apple Festival will be held on October 7 and since the festival will be happening on Town property as well as school property the Springfield Chamber of Commerce has submitted an event permit application including proof of insurance. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this event has been held for many years and is a Springfield tradition. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he had spoken with Chief Burnham, and he has no concerns.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to approve the Apple Festival event permit scheduled for October 7, 2023.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Taylor Drinker Membership and Events Director for the Springfield Chamber of Commerce in-person discussed that this is the 39th annual event and thanked the Board for their consideration.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

Further discussion ensued that the Apple Festival would be on October 7, 2023, from 9-4 at Riverside Middle School and that alcohol would be allowed only in the fenced off Robinson field and there will be someone checking IDs at the entrance and this area would be a 21+ only area. Taylor Drinker added that they are fully booked inside the Riverside gym, and they would have vendors in the cafeteria as well as outside and there will be several family activities such as VINS, Wunderle's Big Top Adventures, and they will be doing a Home Health and Business Corridor promoting shopping local. Discussion ensued that this event will be held rain or shine.

ITEM #2 Act on possible renewal of Social Service Appropriation Policy

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on possible renewal of Social Services Appropriation Policy" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that each year the Selectboard acts on the Social Service Appropriation Policy and the purpose of this policy is to provide a procedure for social service programs and agencies that provide services to Town residents per 24 V.S.A. § 2691 to request funds at Town meetings. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that other than updating the year on the policy there have been no changes to the policy in years.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Social Service Appropriation Policy as presented.

Michael Martin discussed that informationally this policy includes provisions to allow social service agencies to continue being funded by the Town upon affirmative approval of the warrant articles, and this policy excludes them from the requirement of seeking petitions to be on the ballot since they've been approved previously, as long as, they don't increase their level of funding and they have to submit a letter to the Town Clerk 90 days prior to the Town Meeting to be put on the ballot, but this policy allows them to do that simply by letter without the need for petitions.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

ITEM #3 Act on possible renewal of Special Appropriation Policy

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on possible renewal of Special Appropriation Policy" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that this is a mirror policy, the difference is this is to provide a procedure for social service programs and agencies that provide services to Town residents, those that are not defined by 24 V.S.A. § 2691 to request funds at Town meeting. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that as Mr. Martin indicated on the previous article, this is so if they don't ask for an increase in funds, it allows them by letter to request support request for a warrant item

be on the ballot in March for Town Meeting. Chair Kristi Morris added that this eliminates the signature requirements (petition) that they used to have in the policies before. Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne added that for the non-social services they have to have three consecutive annual meetings where they have been approved. Michael Martin added for clarification that these are special appropriations, not social service programs and the two agencies that have been funding with a special appropriation policy are the Springfield Historical Society and the Community Band. Michael Martin continued that before they adopted this policy for the special appropriations, we demanded that they get petitions every year for funding to be placed on the warrant and one of the challenges when we changed the voter registration laws to include DMV registration, our checklist went from 4,000 to over 7,000 voters and the signature requirement was 5% of the voter list which was a substantial burden on these agencies that have been receiving funding for decades.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Special Appropriation Policy as presented.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

ITEM #4 Act on Downtown Vibrancy Fund request from Springfield On The Move

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on Downtown Vibrancy Fund request from Springfield on the Move” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the State has created a Downtown Vibrancy Program to support downtown agencies such as Springfield on the Move (SOM). Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that SOM is scheduled to receive \$25,000 under this program and for SOM to receive this funding the Selectboard must acknowledge and agree that these funds will supplement and not supplant any funding traditionally provided to SOM by the Town.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to approve the Downtown Vibrancy Fund Municipal letter of attestation for Springfield on the Move.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Walter Martone inquired if this was a onetime only funding, is it a formula-based funding or are all the Designated Downtowns getting the same \$25,000, and what can SOM use the funds for.

Jessica Martin Springfield on the Move Director via Zoom responded that hopefully this is not just a onetime allocation, and all 24 designated downtowns will receive up to \$25,000. Jessica Martin added that all the Designated Downtowns still have to fill out more paperwork and since this is the first go around, they have to work out some kinks in this process. Jessica Martin further added that some of the components that each Designated Downtown will have to fulfill is going through and submitting a budget and a work plan as well as a couple of other pieces of paper. Jessica Martin continued that they (the State) are treating this as a grant so payment will be in three separate installments, noting that the amounts of the installments are not yet know but it will be from fiscal year of July 1, 2023, Through June 30, 2024. Jessica Martin commented that they hope the folks up at the Statehouse will once again vote to allocate this funding to the Designated Downtowns.

Jessica Martin Springfield on the Move Director discussed that they cannot use this funding for taxes or healthcare for the Executive Director, but they can use the funds for economic development, promotion, and beautification of the designated downtown area. Jessica Martin continued that she is going to be proposing to her Board of Directors to allocate some of the funds towards potential grant matches, marketing, and towards pedestrian and bicycle safety in the designated downtown.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

Jessica Martin Springfield on the Move Director thanked the Board. Chair Kristi Morris thanked Jessica Martin for all the hard work that she does on their behalf for the downtown.

ITEM #5 Act on Sanborn Head pretreatment facility proposal

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on Sanborn Head pretreatment facility proposal” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that earlier in the year Sanborn Head provided the Town with three alternatives to the pretreatment that the Town does off of Will Dean Road. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that by far the least expensive alternative was option three continued groundwater extraction with modified pretreatment discharge. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Sanborn Head will coordinate with the Town to determine limits for effluent water to the wastewater treatment plant, as well as current processes at the wastewater treatment facility and water quality analysis. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the plan is to provide this information to the State in order to amend our permit to allow for the discharge from the pretreatment facility to be treated at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and this would allow for the elimination of the pretreatment facility though the pumps for extraction would still be needed. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that the proposal is for \$10,590.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if this would help reduce any of our annual testing, contribution, or disposable. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that it won't reduce the testing we will still have to do the testing. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that it will help on the disposal side because the effluent would go down to the treatment facility, and we wouldn't have to treat it up at the site anymore.

Michael Martin commented he believed there was something in the document that reduced the testing requirements. Michael Martin inquired about a sentence on page two of the letter, the second paragraph, in the third line it says, “...and the overall 30-year Net Present Value cost would represent a decrease in expense relative to the current operating conditions under alternative one.” and inquired what that means. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that the alternative one basically says to fix up exactly what we have. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the pretreatment facility up there is just a whisker over 30 years old and a lot of the parts are at the end of their life expectancy.

Further discussion ensued regarding the significant reduction in capital projects, noting that the pumps at the pretreatment facility that would be needed to pump the effluent from the Superfund site at the old dump would still be a significant expense. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the State has not signed off on this yet.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the contract with Sanborn Head for the engineering study required to pursue alternate number three for the pretreatment of superfund collection of effluent for \$10,590.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Doug Johnston via Zoom asked if we have funding in the current budget to pay for this. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that this will be funded out of the \$190,000 that we have set aside for the PTF (Pretreatment Facility) every year.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

ITEM #6 Act on Fire/Ambulance Union contract

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on Fire/Ambulance Union contract” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town has been negotiating with the Fire Ambulance Union for several months. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this negotiation took longer as the parties explored completely restructuring the pay scales for the department. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that challenges that needed to be overcome included increasing the starting wages as well as top of scale, restoring the percentages between the EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, and the captains that had been compressed over the previous few contracts and they had to address the recent inflationary impacts to salaries nationwide.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that this union the contract if approved by the Board includes a 4.3 increase retroactive to January 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2023. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that implementation of the new pay scales July 1, 2023, with a starting wage of \$21.50 per hour and annual steps up to 25 years instead of 10 steps that went up to 25 years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the new steps range from 2% down to 0.5% instead of being roughly 4% to 5% each step. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that there are more steps but they're much smaller steps.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that starting January 1, 2024, increase the minimum starting wage by \$1 to \$22.50, an increase of 4.65% and starting July 1, 2025, increasing the starting wage to 23.50 an increase of 4.44%. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that these increases are required in order for the Town to retain existing employees as well as be competitive with nearby fire and ambulance services when hiring new employees over the next few years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that this is the first contract since the drastic increase in inflation and we'd fallen behind other departments, we have a few employees that will be eligible to retire over the duration of this contract and all departments experience turnover and this would put us in a position to be attractive for hiring new employees.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that in addition, the Union agreed to increase the copay of the health insurance premium up to 10% for all employees their long-term employees had previously been at 4%. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that starting in year two of the contract the Town agreed to begin a program of reimbursing employees who earn a degree program in a related field of study. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the Storm Crew stipend will be increased \$150 for a full shift. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that there were a number of contract language changes that were

made to improve clarity of the contract. Town Manager Jeff Mobus thanked the members of both negotiating teams for their efforts throughout this lengthy process, noting that in particular, he wanted to recognize the efforts of Paul Spicer Union Vice President for all the time he invested working with him on the pay scales.

Everett Hammond asked for clarification on the first page in the fourth paragraph down, the second to last sentence, "The new steps range from 2% down to 0.5%, instead of being roughly 4% to 5%, noting that he was used to the steps being equal. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that it was very different because we couldn't go to equal steps without really increasing the cost. Everett Hammond inquired if the sick time carryover for was reduced here down to the same hours as everybody else. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that they are like the police department, they can accrue up to 90 days and retirement at payout for employees hired after 2015 is 50% of up to 40 days. Further discussion ensued that other departments don't earn sick time as they have switched over to Paid Time Off (PTO). Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we can't always get the emergency crews time off because they get called in for emergencies.

Walter Martone inquired if in year two we were committed to reimbursement of the full tuition for degree programs. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that year two is capped at a total credit from the town of \$3,000 and three is about \$6,000.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the fire ambulance union contract as presented and outlined by the Town Manager.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Chair Kristi Morris commented that there are several area departments that are looking at restructuring or hiring replacements and it is getting more and more competitive.

Further discussion ensued that the sick time hours were staying the same and clarification that other departments were on PTO.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

ITEM #7 Receive 2024-2025 budget calendar

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Receive 2024-2025 budget calendar" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that each year he moves up the process two or three weeks because it seems like we're always rushing at the end no matter when we start. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he sent out an email to last year's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) members asking if they're interested in returning and he has also received applications from three other residents who did not serve last year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that he has already heard from the two new BAC applicants that they'd like to begin visiting departments sooner this year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that in the past after the BAC gets constituted, we have the initial presentations, and then go visit the sites. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that this was a draft for receipt but did not need to be acted on.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if we had heard back from the former members of the Budget Advisory Committee that they're interested. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that he heard back from 4 that are not interested and 2 that have replaced themselves. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that it looks like they have 7 names now which is as many as we've had in the recent past.

Further discussion ensued that Town doesn't take off January 15th for Martin Luther King Day.

ITEM #8 Act on Town Manager contract amendment

Chair Kristi Morris noted that this was something that the Board requested the Town Manager to work on for their behalf. Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the "Act on Town Manager contract amendment" item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that in his existing contract with the town there was a clause that allows me to carry over up to two weeks of unpaid time off PTO. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that last year, at the end of December, he had four weeks of earned PTO, but only carried over the agreed upon two weeks. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the contract doesn't have any provision for addressing situations when there is more than two weeks of earned PTO at years end, noting that other Town employees with manager approval are able to be paid for earned time instead of forfeiting it. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that he is asking the Board to amend his contract to include language that would allow him to be compensated for up to two weeks of earned PTO as long as he carries the allowed two weeks.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the draft language states, "If employee has more than 10 days of PTO at the end of the year, employee may be paid out for such PTO up to a maximum of an additional 10 days of PTO at employee's rate of pay at the time.". Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the amendment also states that it becomes effective as of today and is not retroactive and it states, "This amendment does not change any other sections of the employment agreement previously signed on December 19, 2020, between the employer and the employee.".

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to approve the Town Manager contract amendment, which allows for the payout of PTO as specified in the amendment presented to them.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Michael Martin stated that he would like to move to move to strike the words "and additional" from the wording of the agreement. Further discussion ensued to clarify that the payout time was not additional time earned but was normal time that had been earned that was more than the carryover allowance. Everett Hammond suggested that the bold paragraph read, "If employee has more than 10 days of PTO at the end of the year, employee may be paid an additional PTO up to a maximum of 10 days PTO at employees were paying.".

Amended MOTION: Walter Martone moved to accept the proposed amendment to strike "and additional" as part of the original motion.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

ITEM #9 Act on stormwater proposal with Dufresne Group

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on stormwater proposal with Dufresne Group” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed the stormwater situation on Grove Street, and above Grove Street continues to be a serious concern for the Town. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that last year, the town began to address this concern by upgrading the culvert at the bottom of Grove Street. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that there are still multiple stormwater issues above that culvert. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that Laura Ryan, Executive Director of Springfield Housing Authority, recently reached out and asked if the Town would be willing to work with them to improve the stormwater situation on Grove Street. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that the plan is for the Town of Springfield and Springfield Housing Authority will develop a plan and grant application to submit to the State with the Housing Authority contributing to any match requirements. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that this is an excellent opportunity for the Town and the Springfield Housing Authority to collaborate for the benefit of both entities.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the first step is to hire an engineer and since the Town recently completed a request for qualifications, he has reached out to Naomi Johnson of Dufresne Henry group for a proposal for this project. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the proposal is for \$13,000 and was included in the packet.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to approve the stormwater proposal from Dufresne Group for \$13,000 as proposed.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Everett Hammond commented that he has mentioned in the past that at some point a detention pond is needed to stop some of the water way up on Craigue Hill Road. Further discussion ensued that we have had washout on Holt Street several times, then it crosses Union Street and goes down the Grove Street Brook.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

Further discussion ensued about the Whitcomb building being flooded due to this stormwater issue in the past and upgrades to the culvert system near there to try to resolve some of that concern.

ITEM #10 Sign ordinance on fire chief and deputy residency

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Sign ordinance on fire chief and deputy residency” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he was going to introduce the next four items at the same time because they are Ordinance related. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the four ordinance items the first one is to sign the ordinance of the Fire Chief and Deputy residency, noting that the waiting period has passed and this ordinance is ready for signing and to go into effect and the next three items are the first reading of the proposed expanded blight ordinance, first reading of a proposed repeal of the taxi ordinance, and the first reading of the proposed repeal of the housing registry. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the recommendations of the Ordinance Committee are included in the packet.

Further discussion ensued that they needed to act on each item separately. Additional discussion ensued that the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief had already been approved previously and simply needed to be signed at this time.

ITEM #11 First reading of proposed expanded Blight Ordinance and set public hearing

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented this item at the time he presented Item 10 in this agenda. Discussion ensued questioning if the ordinance needed to be read in full and that in the Charter it says first review not first reading and that a summary would be appropriate.

Walter Martone discussed that we currently have a blight ordinance that is restricted to 500 feet from a school or childcare center. Walter Martone added that the Ordinance Committee went through an extensive ordinance amendment process and were granted additional authorities in the charter amendments to do a broader blight ordinance and let it apply town wide. Walter Martone further added that there were some additional things that were included that the legislature included that we also had to address things that we didn't necessarily include in our charter.

Walter Martone discussed that basically what they did was take the blight ordinance and we have a similar ordinance that was already in place throughout the town, which is our vacant building ordinance and they decided that they were covering similar type things except for different kinds of buildings, some were vacant, and some were not. Walter Martone added that they decided to make the two ordinances consistent, and they extrapolated part of the definitions and modified definitions, so that both of them have come together. Walter Martone noted it looks like a lot of changes, but a lot of the changes are because items got moved around to different places. Walter Martone further added that in addition to making the definitions more consistent and more explicit in this, they also realized that in the vacant building ordinance, there were certain provisions for exemptions, particularly looking at large scale development projects that we are currently having some kind of a redevelopment plan done and they thought it would be good to apply that also to this ordinance.

Walter Martone discussed that in the process of amending the Charter, the legislature added an additional requirement on us that before we can actually go ahead and remediate a problem we had to give a 30 day notice to any lien holder and the property owner, basically to give them the opportunity to fix the problem first, so they built that into the ordinance so that we are clearly complying with the provisions in the Charter. Walter Martone added that they also included in the charter that that we have the authority to do injunctive relief, we can actually go to court and require that the court order a fix to be done. Walter Martone noted that the blight ordinance and vacant building ordinance will continue to be two separate ordinances.

Michael Martin noted that they spent a great deal of time on these. Michael Martin discussed that there is a penalty enforcement section to this that was expanded, and they tried to enumerate not only the process of injunctive relief, but also violations that would be handled in judicial bureau through a fine process, as well as defining what rights the landowners have through appeals. Michael Martin further added that they made sure it made sense to allow for reasonable repairs to be made in a timely fashion. Michael Martin continued that they gave property owners the opportunity to have a reasonable amount of time and they've given some latitude to the Town Manager and to the Administrator, in certain cases

to negotiate the timetable, noting that in the past it said everything had to be done in 15 days, so they expanded that to 21 and 30 days. Walter Martone noted that the Planning and Zoning Administrator Chuck Wise, was an active participant in this process which was really important because he's going to be the one who's going to be enforcing it. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town Attorney also participated in these meetings and has done legal review as well.

Further discussion ensued that this will be posted on the Town's website and will be published in the newspaper and available on request from the Town Manager's Office for the Public to review it. Additional discussion ensued to confirm the parts needed for the motion and that they had already acknowledged receipt of this proposed amendment.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to designate the proposed amendment is a major amendment, which is the changing of the nature and substance of the original ordinance, that they accept as presented the amendment as presented by the Ordinance Committee, and upon completion of this that they establish October 9, 2023, at 6 pm as the date for the second review and public hearing.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Further discussion ensued regarding the intent to get voluntary compliance and the timeline that was set in the ordinance to address the timeline expected for cleanup as well as the process to further compliance through enforcement actions. Additional discussion ensued regarding a property on Reservoir Road and the length of time it has been going on. Continued discussion ensued that our goal is to get people to clean their properties up, not to fine them.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

ITEM #12 First reading of proposed repeal of Taxi Ordinance and set public hearing

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented this item at the time he presented Item 10 in this agenda.

Walter Martone discussed that this ordinance was brought to the attention of the Ordinance Committee by the Town Clerk who administers the licensing and everything for taxis. Walter Martone added that we only have one taxi provider in Town and for a very brief period of time, we had two but one of the taxi services chose not to renew. Walter Martone further added that the Town Clerk felt that a lot of things that are in the ordinance are not actually being enforced at this point and it seems like it's penalizing our one provider in Town by making them pay these fees and jump through these hoops when there's not a lot of benefits or any benefit really being provided.

Walter Martone discussed that one of the things that is in that ordinance is that there will be a full criminal and motor vehicle history search and that doesn't get done, nor do we even have the authority to do it. Walter Martone added that the person applying for the license would have to do it on their own and would have to pay another fee which is approximately \$35 to do it. Walter Martone further added that this is a onetime thing once a year and it gives false security to people that they think that the taxis have been certified somehow by the Town as being legitimate and trustworthy when there is no monitoring really being done at all. Additional discussion ensued that there is possibility in the future of things like Lyft and Uber which wouldn't be covered so it was felt that it would be fair to repeal this ordinance.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to designate this proposed ordinance as repealed in total of existing legislation, that we conducted our first review tonight, and we accept it as presented and we establish October 9, 2023, at 6 pm immediately following the review of the Blight Ordinance for Public Hearing and second review.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Further discussion ensued that it is in our statutes that we are allowed to regulate taxis and there are only 5 other Towns that currently have taxi ordinances, and Burlington is the only town that actively enforces their ordinance.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

ITEM #13 First Reading of proposed repeal of Rental Registry and set public hearing

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented this item at the time he presented Item 10 in this agenda.

Walter Martone discussed that this item was brought to the Ordinance Committee by the Planning and Zoning Administrator who has been doing a lot of investigation of this. Walter Martone added that we have a Rental Registry ordinance on the books and for those who were not here just to give a little bit of background we had one that was fairly aggressive, it required inspections, it had penalties that had strong enforcement, and the Board accepted it and during the process where the voters get an opportunity to put together a petition and they can request a vote on it the vote was held and it was subsequently defeated. Walter Martone further added that the Town's adopted ordinance was defeated, and the Town then did a significantly watered-down version of it.

Walter Martone discussed the version that we have now is pretty much just a data collection thing, it is voluntary compliance, and there isn't enforcement. Walter Martone added that the data is very important, but we are not sure that the is very reliable because it doesn't get enforced. Walter Martone further added that the Planning and Zoning Administrator Chuck Wise had pointed out there is a new state law in place signed by the Governor in effect and it basically does the exact same thing. Walter Martone continued that the Town Attorney commented that this ordinance is redundant. Walter Martone further discussed that we can get this data by request from the State and the State is going one step further and instituting some inspections and some additional things that we had deleted from our original ordinance.

Michael Martin added that there are actually two pieces of the State legislation, the first one was certification that it is lead free for rental units and the second piece was that we were concerned about the safety of the apartments that were being rented to the occupants of Springfield and that's why we wanted to know where these rental units are, now we get the information from the State and Act 181 that the legislature passed this last session establishes a new emphasis to the public safety department that they start inspecting more rental housing. Michael Martin noted that it is a complaint-based system.

Walter Martone noted that he did reach out to the Fire Chief because the data that was being collected and stuff that potentially can be very useful to the Fire Department and he was perfectly okay with us deleting this because he is confident that the data from the State will be even more reliable.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to declare that ordinance 2023-0004 as proposed is repealed in total of existing legislation, that we have conducted a first review of the repealed ordinance, that we accept it as presented, and set the Public Hearing for October 9, 2023, at 6pm.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Further discussion ensued that while important it was a large task for the Town to do on their own and this should be done by the State or by the County.

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

E. FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2023 Warrants to September 7, 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. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Town Manager’s Report” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the water project on Clinton Street is progressing however, last week when digging near 307 Clinton, an underground storage tank was found. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this caused what is expected to be a brief pause as the Town and the contractor work to remediate this environmental concern. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the project is still expected to be completed by the end of October.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town currently has three requests for proposals or bids out, the first is a three-quarter ton four by four crew cab pickup truck for the Water Department and bids are due September 13 at 10am and this is a planned replacement for the water department. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the salt shed scoping study bids are due September 15 at 4pm. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the salt shed needs repair and over the past couple of years the Town has applied for grants to pay a majority of the cost to repair the shed. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that last year we were told that we need to have a scoping study done in order to receive a construction grant. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that the total cost of the scoping study is \$46,200 with the Town's match being \$9,240. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we've also been putting money aside the last two budget cycles to pay for the salt shed.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that demolition of 25 Clinton Street bids are due September 18 at 10am. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town purchased this property last year in order to have space to upgrade the aging pump station on site over the next few years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the demolition of 43 Park Street is on hold as the inspection of the property revealed that asbestos containing material also known as ACM, is present on the site. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the Town is currently working on a remediation plan and once remediation is complete, the Town will issue a request for proposals for the demolition of the property, noting that this is all grant funded.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the tax sale was held on September 7, with a total of 16 properties being sold for taxes. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town purchased five properties for a total of \$13,034.18. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that under State law, the Town can only bid on properties that received no other bids. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the current owners of properties have 12 months to redeem the properties by paying the amount of the tax sale plus 1% per month simple interest. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that properties not redeemed will receive a tax collector's deed after the end of the 12-month redemption period.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus requested a moment of silence to remember and honor those who were lost September 11th, 2001.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM PROPOSALS

No future agenda items proposed at the time of the meeting.

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 June 29, 2023
2. Health Care & Rehabilitation Services – Letter of August 22, 2023
3. Housing Authority – Minutes of August 8, 2023
4. Inclusion Committee – Minutes of August 22, 2023
5. Ordinance Committee – Minutes of August 15, 2023
6. Ordinance Committee – Minutes of August 30, 2023
7. Senior Center – September 2023 newsletter
8. Springfield On The Move – Annual meeting minutes of October 7, 2022
9. Springfield Town Library – Library Director's report for August 2023
10. Windsor County Mentors – Letter of August 18, 2023

J. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Sue Dowdell Library Director via Zoom announced that the library will be sponsoring the Chamber Mixer on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 5:30 at the library.

Sue Dowdell discussed that the library has been working on their sustainable library certification, and they noticed that the Sustainability Committee for the Town is not even listed on the website. Sue Dowdell requested that they try to get somebody on that Sustainability Committee and get that instituted, noting

that was formerly the Energy Committee. Chair Kristi Morris noted that they are aware of that and have put out requests for membership previously. Carrie Kellow responded that she has been meeting with a group of individuals that are interested in conservation and they were initially approaching it as being sustainability. Carrie Kellow noted that this group is more interested in conservation and at some point, in the near future, that might be coming before the Board. Carrie Kellow added that conservation and sustainability do kind of work together a little bit, but I think the idea of the Energy Committee was really more of energy efficiency of Public Town buildings and things like that and she is still working on getting people interested in that part of it. Further discussion ensued that Conservation Commissions have State statutes. Michael Martin discussed that we previously had an Energy Committee, and it was born at a time when energy costs were skyrocketing and their purpose was to try to identify building improvements, lighting improvements, energy savings to fuel and electricity, to lower our expenses. Michael Martin added that when George McNaughton was on the Board, he wanted to expand the role of that committee to consider the aspects of climate change. Michael Martin continued that he felt that the committee also should be considering the resiliency of the community and the risks to our operations based on the fact that climate change is inevitable and what are we doing to prepare for the impacts that climate change is going to have on our operations.

Jessica Martin Springfield on the Move Director via Zoom announced that Springfield on the Move was in collaboration with SAPA TV to bring roller skating back to Springfield and they are starting this year a youth event K-8 at at 100 River Street for the first three Saturdays in October. Jessica Martin continued that the younger kids K-5 will skate from 5:00 to 6:30 and then the older kids 6-8th will skate from 6:30 to 8:00. Jessica Martin added that hopefully it's a success this year and we're able to expand the event next year. Jessica Martin further added that they do encourage parents, guardians, and people to skate with their kids. Jessica Martin further discussed that kids do have to have their own roller skates or roller blades and the Cosmo's Closet down at the Community Center will be giving out skates to kids that don't have them and everyone that skates also need to have a helmet on.

L. ADJOURN

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Vote: 4-0, unanimous, recognizing Crissy Webster as being absent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary