

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, September 25, 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, and Walter Martone were present in-person. Crissy Webster was absent.

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus, Library Director Sue Dowdell, Police Chief Jeff Burnham, and Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill were present in-person.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was present in-person

Open Local Cannabis Control Board

Act on Permit for 181 Parker Hill

The Board entered Local Cannabis Control at 7:01 pm.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on Permit for 181 Parker Hill” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the application for the mixed cultivator tier one small cultivator license that was applied for by Parker Hill Cannabis LLC located at 181 Parker Hill, noting that Michael Jasinski was present in-person to answer any questions the Board may have. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that Parker Hill Cannabis LLC has applied through the State and has completed all the requirements at the State level, and they have also gone through the DRB (Development Review Board) process. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that a tier 1 mixed use cultivator is defined as 1,000 square feet of indoor canopy and up to 125 outdoor plants. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that this is the lowest tier that is available under the State rules.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the mixed cultivator tier one small cultivator license application from Parker Hill cannabis LLC.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented that on the email included in the packet it says in order to issue the license the board requires approval of the Town's Local Control Commission and right above that it says the relevant document from the Department fire safety is not attached, but this was provided separately to the Board at the time of the meeting. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the Department of Fire Safety did not have any concerns and they didn't apply to this location.

Chair Kristi Morris discussed appreciation from the Board for the applicant's patience in this process, noting it was a little convoluted with the State issuing their permit first without it having gone through the Local Cannabis Control Board process. Michael Jasinski responded that it was the first for everybody and you are going to hit roadblocks and bumps in the road, noting that he was understanding of that.

Town Attorney Steve Ankuda attended the meeting to address any legal questions, but there were none at the time of the meeting. Discussion ensued that this application had been through the DRB process three times before a decision had been issued.

Chair Kristi Morris commented that the report was well written and the DRB and Zoning Administrator covered all the rules and gave explanations.

Michael Jasinski commented that the DRB was fantastic to work with. Michael Jasinski continued that this was an experience for him and was his first time ever going through any type of Town zoning and it's been a great experience. Michael Jasinski added that Carrie Kellow, Chuck Wise, and the Boards (Selectboard and DRB) were very informative, and he is very proud to be in this Town to work with everybody.

Walter Martone thanked Michael Jasinski for opening a new business in Town.

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

Close Local Cannabis Control Board

The Board left Local Cannabis Control at 7:07 pm.

B. MINUTES

1. Regular Selectboard Meeting – September 11, 2023
2. Public Hearing Selectboard Meeting – September 11, 2023 ***Item added at the time of the meeting***

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the Regular Selectboard Meeting – September 11, 2023, and 2. Public Hearing Selectboard Meeting – September 11, 2023, as printed and distributed with revisions.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Walter Martone requested correction on the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023, on page 6 of 15 in the second paragraph from the end, that starts out with "Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that starting January 1, 2024, increase the minimum starting wage **by** \$1 to \$22.50...". Walter Martone requested additional correction on page 10 of 15 item 11 2nd paragraph 3rd line where it says, "...extensive ordinance amendment process and were granted additional authorities **in the charter amendments...**". Walter Martone requested a final correction on page 12 of 15 in the motion, so the language reflects exactly what the charter requires, "MOTION: Michael Martin moved to designate this proposed ordinance as repealed in total of existing legislation, that we conducted our first review tonight, and if we accept it as presented ~~without amendment that~~ **and** we established October 9, 2023, at 6 pm immediately following the review of the Blight Ordinance for Public Hearing and second review."

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

C. ANY REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THIS AGENDA *This item was done after Local Cannabis Control Board and before Item B in this agenda*

Public Hearing Selectboard Minutes of September 11, 2023, were added to the agenda at the time of the meeting. No other items were added to the agenda.

D. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1 Appoint Budget Advisory Committee members.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Appoint Budget Advisory Committee members” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he received five applications from citizens who are interested in serving on the Budget Advisory Committee. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that the applicants are John Bond who served in previous years though not last year, Tara Chase, who's returning from last year, Heather Frahm who's a first-time applicant, Douglas Johnston, who's returning from last year, and Scott Richardson who's returning from last year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he heard from another member from last year that has not yet applied, and another first-time applicant was not able to commit due to unforeseen circumstances. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he would like to see at least one more committee member if anyone is interested in serving on the Budget Advisory Committee to please reach out to him.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to appoint John Bond, Tara Chase, Heather Frahm, Douglas Johnston, and Scott Richardson to the Budget Advisory Committee.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Additional discussion ensued that they are able to have more than one additional member to the Budget Advisory Committee above the five applicants.

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

ITEM #2 Act on errors and omissions

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on errors and omissions” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Town Assessor Nichole Knight submitted an errors and omissions certificate for a parcel to be added to the grand list that was the result of division of property not being entered correctly. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that this will increase the grand list.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to accept the error and omission certificate.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Chair Kristi Morris noted that the errors and omissions certificate is for a parcel that was added to the grand list, and it was a positive change of \$25,100 to the grant list.

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

ITEM #3 Act on police dispatch console proposal

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on police dispatch console proposal” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Chief Burnham has had multiple technicians come to look at the current console and they all agree that it has reached end of end-of-life status and cannot be reasonably repaired. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the thought was to prepare a request for the FY24 budget, but due to the critical need of this asset he has looked for a way to fund the replacement of this console as soon as possible. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that there is a backup console at the Fire Department that will also be replaced. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that Chief Burnham has received two proposals for a new console and both proposals would allow the Town to receive the equipment this year, but the funding of the two proposals is very different.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that if the less expensive option is approved by the Board, we could fund it this year with a mix of vacancy savings in the police department, we're currently down three positions, and unused ARPA funds. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we have gotten close to the end of the water project he knows how much he needs for that water project. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that if the more expensive option is chosen, it would take multiple years to fund the expense. Further discussion ensued that the recommendation is to go with the \$174,891.60 (the least expensive) option.

Additional discussion ensued that we had technicians come in and evaluate our equipment. Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that when he took the position last year, he was told that the radio system was in disrepair, but he did not realize how bad it was. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that when 2-Way Communications came they evaluated all of the equipment and determined that the system was at end-of-life, and they would be lucky to be able to locate parts to repair it if it breaks as it is no longer being made. Police Chief Jeff Burnham noted that they received a second opinion from Burlington Communication (used by the Vermont State Police with high recommendations) who determined the same thing.

Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that they do not have a lot of backup systems and the one we have at the Fire Department is even older than the one at the Police Station. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added the differences in the quotes being software based versus hardware based. Police Chief Jeff Burnham continued that the first quote was to replace every piece of equipment that's there currently and one of the reasons it's significantly higher is the first quote has an installation cost of \$100,000, and the second quote is a little over \$10,000.

Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that our radio system is spotty at best and breaks down regularly and the dispatchers are frustrated with the equipment. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that he is interested in the lower bid because of the recommendations from area dispatchers who sign their praises with customer service and quality of product. Police Chief Jeff Burnham further added that the State Police did this kind of structure because in terms of upgrades you don't need to upgrade equipment in five years you just need to upgrade software.

Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that he met with Barbara Neal, the Executive Director of the 911 Board and is the co-chair of the task force that was created by a circulated law. Police Chief Jeff Burnham continued that this task force was to regionalize and review everything that's happening in

terms of 911 and local regional dispatchers to make it cohesive. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that there was money initially for the task force to start fixing problems but there was no strategy outlined and the money was removed. Further discussion ensued regarding this task force and that Police Chief Jeff Burnham has notified them that the Springfield Police Department would be interested in getting involved with the task force and going to the meetings. Police Chief Jeff Burnham noted that if we expand and become a PSAP (public safety answering point) or regional 911 answering point this upgrade from Burlington Communications is phase one, and we still need to upgrade antennas and transition to the simulcast system.

Further discussion ensued regarding State Legislature and there are a lot of communities that do not have their own dispatch services. Additional discussion ensued that the Vermont State Police are trying to get away from regional dispatch, because they're having staffing struggles like everyone else.

Michael Martin inquired if we still do dispatch for other communities, noting that we did at one time. Police Chief Jeff Burnham responded that we do not. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that he believes we could start taking on helping smaller towns (Chester, Weathersfield...) with our current infrastructure with a few small upgrades such as channel frequencies and phone lines. Police Chief Jeff Burnham continued that he wants to be a good neighbor and it may generate revenue. Police Chief Jeff Burnham further added that other towns were receptive to it, but they had already committed previously with other dispatchers with likely multi-year contracts.

Michael Martin commented that the lower cost option here that was presented by Burlington Communications was computer based, noting there is still hardware, and he inquired if the updates will be done with software and if there is an annual maintenance cost associated with that. Police Chief Jeff Burnham responded there is, and he believed they were \$8,500 or \$8,600 a year, and that is all the upgrades and all the maintenance associated with it. Michael Martin inquired if that was paid for in advance with the purchase of the equipment. Police Chief Jeff Burnham responded that it could be, or it could be done as an annual thing. Michael Martin inquired if that price included hardware and software maintenance. Police Chief Jeff Burnham confirmed.

Further discussion ensued if the annual maintenance fee needed to be included in the motion and it was determined that it was under \$10,000 which the Town Manager has the authority to approve. Additional discussion ensued that Burlington Communications would be able to order the equipment once this is approved by the Board and that would take 6-8 weeks to receive the equipment depending on supply chain issues and then they could start quickly after that.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve and accept the bid from Burlington Communications Police console upgrade for \$174,891.60.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Steve Karaffa Schoolboard liaison asked the Chief to explain the collaboration between the School District and the Police Department in reference to the possible grants that they were going to possibly work together on. Police Chief Jeff Burnham discussed that a lot of this stuff is happening behind the scenes because nothing has come to fruition yet. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that one of the discussions with the Superintendent has been that they are seeking to upgrade their communications as well. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that they (School District) have very limited radio services and they have little

portable radios that are not that powerful. Police Chief Jeff Burnham continued that they want to be able to communicate between the schools and the buses and in terms of a critical incident they can have communication with the people that need it. Police Chief Jeff Burnham noted that this system would allow them to take on outside agencies such as the School District and Public Works with an add-on.

Further discussion ensued regarding the add-on would allow them to work with other towns as well for dispatching services.

Everett Hammond commented that it would not hurt to see if when the task force decides on a model if it is the same as what we get if funding could be retroactive.

Further discussion ensued regarding Public Safety Answering Points being an answering center for 911 and we currently have five or six in Vermont.

Doug Johnston via Zoom commented that Springfield was a PSAP at one time and they eliminated Springfield as because we weren't getting enough 911 calls coming in. Doug Johnston inquired if they were keeping the analog and the digital frequencies for the department and if the VoIP or voice over internet protocol is being discussed as far as radio transmissions. Police Chief Jeff Burnham responded that the quote is for the UHF and VHF channels because we have both, and voice over internet protocol has not been discussed. Police Chief Jeff Burnham added that there has been a discussion or move into all digital and there are pros and cons to both of that, the digital signal seems to be clearer, there's not that scratchy buzz that you would hear on radio transmissions, but there is no kind of fading, you either have it or you don't.

Wes Marshall SAPA TV in-person inquired if they would replace the units one by one or if there would be downtime. Police Chief Jeff Burnham responded that they have two consoles and one can be switched out with everything still running and once completed they can switch the second console without any downtime.

Further discussion reconfirmed the funding for the \$174,861.60 coming from the current Police Department vacancies and the leftover ARPA funds.

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

ITEM #4 Library Strategic Plan presentation

Town Manager Jeff Mobus introduced the Library Strategic Plan presentation and introduced Library Director Sue Dowdell and patrice jones. Town Manager Jeff Mobus thanked the Trustees and Sue Dowdell for working on the strategic plan. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that it helps to have a roadmap going forward and it's really nice how they emphasize a lot of the strengths of our library that we don't necessarily think about like all the sustainability programs in particular.

patrice jones Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, presented a PowerPoint to the participants of the meeting in-person and on Zoom. patrice jones discussed that free public libraries, according to the State of Vermont are essential to democracy and Ben Franklin said the same. patrice jones continued that it is the policy of the state of Vermont that all citizens should have access to the educational, cultural recreational, informational, and research benefits of a free public library. patrice jones added that for more than 150 years, Springfield Town library has fulfilled that vital civic function for the Springfield area.

patrice jones discussed the library has more than 30,000 books in the library itself, but any card holder can borrow any book held by any public library anywhere in Vermont and have it delivered right to the desk of the Springfield Town library. patrice jones continued that it's not only just books, there's also magazines, eBooks, audio books, movies, educational games, and toys for children and families, passes to both educational and cultural and recreational attractions, and the Library of Things which includes things like snowshoes and a free seed library and crafting equipment, and programs. patrice jones further discussed the various programs like educational programs with authors and other experts coming in to talk about local history or current events, cultural programs like writing clubs, free movie showings, recreational events, crafting events for adults, and informational events such as how to compost how to start your vegetable garden.

patrice jones discussed that they also have computers and the Wi Fi available free to use for anyone. patrice jones continued that the library website offers through the Resource tab access to everything from resources for kindergarteners to academic journals that professionals or college students might need to consult, to free language lessons. patrice jones added that the library itself is also a safe place for people to be, it's a safe place for kids and their families to come and it's a safe place for youth to come after school.

patrice jones discussed that every five years the Library Board of Trustees in cooperation with the Library Director makes a strategic plan and the last year we plan included becoming a community hub for socialization, becoming more of a learning center, and modernizing the library. patrice jones added that the highlights of that plan included the new family room, included completely renovating and expanding the children's room, a new youth room, and modernized computers and the library staff did all of that despite the unforeseen problems associated with COVID. patrice jones further added that this strategic plan was a yearlong process and they spoke to many people, they consulted library patrons, non-patrons, civic leaders, leaders of social service organizations, and the clients of those social service organizations. patrice jones continued that they also surveyed teachers and youth and then they used social science qualitative data analysis method called grounded theory, to derive insights from all that data. patrice jones noted that they followed a guidebook for strategic planning for libraries and they also followed the best practices outlined by the Vermont Department of Libraries for strategic planning.

patrice jones discussed that one of the things that they learned from them was to not only ask people about the library, in terms of its current or prospective programs, but also to ask about the town and one of the things that they asked people they surveyed was what do you think are the top challenges facing our town which gave them a snapshot of the concerns of people in town. patrice jones added that housing was the word used most often and that was grouped together with other economic development issues such as jobs, poverty, and poverty related problems, such as drug use and crime. patrice jones further added that another big clump of concerns had to do with education and child development, noting that the students in our local school districts are testing lower than the Vermont average. patrice jones further discussed that the next concerns were about social breakdown like political polarization, lack of inclusion, incivility, loneliness, and drugs and crime in that category as well. patrice jones additionally discussed that many people did also talk about climate change and were worried that the town might be unready.

patrice jones discussed that after grouping all those things, then they investigated how the library can help and they came up with a plan, that actually in some way addresses all of the major concerns that people expressed to them. patrice jones added that the three big focuses, one to seek and obtain

sustainable library certification which itself includes three categories, and then expand resources for community members, and serve as a hub for civic engagement. patrice jones further added that they have joined 16 other Vermont libraries, and scores of other libraries in the nation in seeking sustainable library certification through the sustainable library initiative. patrice jones continued that this process of certification is a rigorous process in which all library policies, procedures, and programs are evaluated according to what's called the triple bottom line of being environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable.

patrice jones discussed that when talking about climate change the library needs to make sure their own practices are environmentally sound. patrice jones added that in learning how to do that the library will be learning things that will then become useful to other town entities as they seek to become more sustainable as well. patrice jones further added that the library programs can help people to understand what is happening with climate change, what they can do, and what towns can do so that they can make better more informed decisions as voters.

patrice jones discussed that regarding being socially equitable the Selectboard passed the Declaration of Inclusion in January and they called upon all town entities to make sure that all their policies, procedures, and practices were inclusive and equitable. patrice jones added that their survey of their own policies, procedures, and programs to attain this certification will ensure that they are living up to the Declaration of Inclusion. patrice jones further added that in seeking this library workers are going to be discovering resources such as books and workshops, that they then can share with other town entities who are interested in making sure that they live up to that.

patrice jones discussed how they will be economically feasible, noting that that the library is already as thrifty as it can be. patrice jones added that now they are going to have a network of other thrifty libraries, helping them figuring out how to be even more thrifty. patrice jones further added that Library Director Sue Dowdell in addition to past directors have been great at bringing in more grant money to our community, noting that she brought in over the past five years over \$142,000 in grant money coming into Springfield, through the library. patrice jones continued that they also have their Friends of the Springfield Town Library (FOSTL), that contributed \$42,000.

patrice jones discussed that under economic development, housing was the central concern of most of the people who talked with them. patrice jones continued that the library already serves as a very important resource center with housing brochures and pamphlets from a wide array of nonprofit organizations, etc., but they believe they can do more. patrice jones added that they would like to centralize the location that will be the housing resource center which will include all of the brochures of all of the housing related nonprofits and governmental agencies in one place so that a person who is facing housing insecurity, looking for housing, or is having problems with housing can come to one place see all of the options rather than going from agency to agency. Library Director Sue Dowdell added that they are looking to do some asset-based community development, where they are going to try to get a database of all of the resources so that when someone comes into the library, and is looking for something, we have a resource that all of our staff can use. patrice jones further discussed that regarding the paper brochures a good thing about doing this at the library is that not everybody reads well, and English is not everybody's first language, so they can go to the reference desk and ask for assistance. patrice jones noted that the database that they would like to develop of all the resources would be available at the library and on the library's website.

patrice jones discussed that for civic engagement they are going to build on what the library already did in the last strategic plan, which was to build strong relationships with local nonprofits and civic organizations. patrice jones continued that the library is going to work on strengthening those ties and also strengthening its ties to the school system with particular attention to making sure that teachers are able to reach out to the library which they can do now, but this is going to be the library affirmatively reaching out to teachers to learn things that will help the library match its programs and displays and the holdings to the things the local teachers are teaching. Library Director Sue Dowdell added that they (Youth Services Librarian Jeni Clary and herself) went to Union Street School open house, and met the parents, and they will be going to the other schools in Town as well. Library Director Sue Dowdell further discussed that they are collecting library applications from the schools and handing out the library cards for anyone that didn't have one or that had been updated. Library Director Sue Dowdell continued that she is meeting with Sherri Nichols on a regular basis as well.

patrice jones discussed that they would like to do more programs that bring people together and quite a few people requested that the library provide an opportunity to have what they call "cool conversations on hot topics". patrice jones described this being able to have conversations with people with whom they disagree about subjects about which they disagree without it devolving into a shouting match, noting that libraries can set up such programs you just need experts and good moderators. patrice jones added that the library's programs can bring people together on subjects that they are interested in and when having these public hearings on topics that they may be on opposite sides they have more familiarity with each other, and they are much less likely to demonize each other and much more likely to extend grace to one another and treat one another as neighbors rather than as enemies.

patrice jones discussed that they will be boosting library programs of all kinds also understanding that this is an antidote to loneliness, and that the kinds of ties that are fostered by going to library programs are super good for emotional and physical health as well. patrice jones added that they will also continue to have annual "Ask anything" events where they will have different members of the Town Administration such as the Town Manager or the Fire Chief, as well as other individuals in the community available for public questions and discussions. patrice jones further added that democracy depends on informed populace and where can people get all the information they need is at the library. patrice jones continued that is what the Springfield Town Library has been doing for the past 150 years and with this strategic plan as a roadmap, that's what they are going to be doing even better for the next five years.

patrice jones discussed that in announcing these aims the Board of Trustees affirms all core values of the American Library Association and they thank deeply everyone who gave them their time as they were gathering information to make this plan. patrice jones continued that they thank the Selectboard for their steadfast support of the library over the years. Everett Hammond commented that this presentation was excellent and very detailed. patrice jones responded that the library staff, Library Trustees, and volunteers worked hard on this.

Walter Martone commented that since moving here he has always felt a real attraction to the library, and he has been extremely proud of what we've done. Walter Martone continued that when people come to visit him it's one of the places, he takes people to. Walter Martone added that it's a great facility with great services and it continues to evolve into something better and better. Walter Martone further added that he went through all the information in the attachments, and he struggled to find something to provide input on.

Walter Martone discussed that the only thing he could note was for them to say something about the elderly, because they do fantastic things with kids and with all populations, but they did not mention elderly in their write-ups. patrice jones responded that they did not include that because that is the group of people who are already overrepresented among library users, and they had to work hard to make sure they were consulting younger people. Library Director Sue Dowdell added that Tracy Craft is reaching out to Lori Johnson as well to collaborate with the Senior Center. Walter Martone commented that the only note he had made was on section number two, we're doing connections and expanding resources and thought about collaborations or anything, maybe a collaboration with Senior Solutions. Library Director Sue Dowdell responded that Senior Solutions comes once a month to the library.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented that the library is an amazing community resource and it's not limited to just books or even just digital information, it includes the Library of All Things. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that it's just amazing all the different offerings that our library provides.

Logan Cox Resident commented that he believed the library is great for the community and for young kids because in Springfield as we know, there's not a lot of things for young kids to do and it's good having a place where they can gather and share thoughts with each other. patrice jones added that the new youth gathering area in the library is nice it's got nice furniture and an 85-inch screen tv.

Chair Kristi Morris thanked patrice jones and Sue Dowdell for coming in and presenting to them and commented that the strategic plan is much appreciated.

ITEM #5 Library proclamation

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the library proclamation included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that September is library card sign up month and Library Director Sue Dowdell requested the Selectboard sign a proclamation. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that this was held off from the last meeting as it had been a long agenda. Town Manager Jeff Mobus read the declaration for attendees of the meeting.

MOTION: Walter Martone moved to accept the proclamation and declare September as the library card sign-up month 2023.

Seconded by: Everett Hammond

Library Director Sue Dowdell announced that this is a good month to sign-up as there's a drawing at the end of the week for any new cardholders that will be entered into the drawing to receive a \$25 gift card to the co-op courtesy of our Friends of the Library.

Everett Hammond commented that if this proclamation happens again next year, it might be good to have a series of kids read each line and play a recording of them reading the proclamation.

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

ITEM #6 "Extra Mile Day" proclamation

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Extra Mile Day” proclamation included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that there is a national initiative that recognizes November 1 of each year as “Extra Mile Day”. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the purpose of this initiative is to recognize those in the community who go the extra mile when volunteering and serving our community. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that Springfield was blessed with many, many volunteers who make Springfield better every day and he would like to take this opportunity to thank every person who serves on a board, committee, or commission whether they are serving the Town directly or serving a nonprofit or a service organization. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that each of them is making a difference. Town Manager Jeff Mobus additionally thanked every nonprofit and service organization for all they do for Springfield and our citizens, and they are making a difference and that they make Springfield stronger.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus read the proclamation to the participants of the meeting and noted this was the third or fourth year we have done this proclamation.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to accept the “Extra Mile Day” proclamation.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

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

ITEM #7 Skateboard Park naming request

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Skateboard Park naming request” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that Scott McManus has requested to name the skateboard park at Riverside, “The Brendon Snide Memorial Park”.

Scott McManus resident and Special Educator at Springfield High School in-person discussed that he was present with Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill and Logan Cox. Scott McManus added that they are requesting a change of name of the Springfield skate park. Scott McManus continued that over a year and a half ago we lost a beloved member of our community named Brendon Snide. Scott McManus added that Brandon was a brother and a son to his family, and a friend to many in the community. Scott McManus further added that moreover, he was a valued member of our local skate community that spreads across Vermont and abroad.

Scott McManus discussed that when he passed, they decided to start raising money to fix up the Springfield skate park in his honor to leave him a legacy would never take away the pain of losing him but would allow them to make meaning of this horrific situation. Scott McManus added that a year and a few months later, they reached their goal of \$5,000 for the improvements contracting with a local skater who owns his own concrete company named Scotty Dixon of Tail Block Concrete LLC and a couple weeks of hard work and dedication they found themselves staring down Brendon's nice Memorial feature at the skate park that he grew up skating. Scott McManus continued that they are requesting to change the name of the park to “Brendon Snide Memorial Park”.

Scott McManus discussed that this would help them bring the project full circle and to give Brendon Sinda the legacy he deserves. Scott McManus added that it was nice to hear and be affirmed that the social breakdown in our community is also a need identified by the library's presentation. Scott

McManus further added that the skate park is a gathering place and how we treat the place is how it's used and represented and the more effort that we can put into making it a place that children and families want to go to the more utilized it will be for these purposes. Scott McManus noted that it is a free place to use.

Logan Cox discussed that there is a new skateboard obstacle down there for people to use and it's made of concrete and there's a little plaque on it that says, "In memory of Brendon Snide". Logan Cox added that Brendon was very known in the skateboard and snowboard community in Vermont. Logan Cox further added that they want to keep doing fundraising in his name to give the skate park a new life. Logan Cox noted that after the new obstacle was constructed the park does have new life, noting that he has seen more people down there using the park since. Logan Cox continued that it's important for kids and adults to have somewhere to go to hang out or whether they're on a bicycle or scooter to stay active.

Scott McManus discussed that in addition to the one improvement that they made already they have plans to roll this into a continuous project that has different features. Scott McManus added that he was speaking with Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill about running some camps over the summer and taking some of that money that they might make from the camps and put that back into fixing up the park. Further discussion ensued about possible fundraisers they would do to raise money or assistance they could seek from other organizations.

Everett Hammond discussed that he would be inclined to name the skate park "Snide Memorial Skate Park" or "Brendon Snide Memorial Skate Park" to prevent any confusion regarding the Riverside Park that houses this skate park. Further discussion ensued regarding keeping the name consistent with the other dedicated features to use "Snide Memorial Skate Park".

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to approve the naming request for the skate park at Riverside Park as the "Snide Memorial Skate Park".

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Further discussion ensued regarding using the last name to be consistent for the naming and the plaque in the park has Brendon Snide's full name.

Michael Martin commented that it is wonderful that they are doing this in Brendon's memory and rejuvenating a space for people to go to. Scott McManus noted that a lot of people came together to make this happen. Logan Cox added that everyone that donated is community members of Springfield.

Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill discussed that he met Scott McManus a year ago when he first came in with this proposal in his initial stages of fundraising, of wanting to build the concrete ramp, the structure that just got finished and Parks and Rec fully supports it. Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill added that the skate park has been a problem area at Riverside with vandalism and the wrong things going on there. Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill continued that this is a great way to bring the community together to make it a positive place and for people using it for the right purposes. Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill noted that this is helpful because there are features down there that are coming to the end of their life and this is the best chance Springfield has to keep it going and improving on that Area.

Further discussion ensued regarding the plywood sections where the sidewalls have been taken out and this issue is being discussed as the next phase of their project where they are looking towards a \$15,000 goal for the next spring. Additional discussion ensued that concrete is more sustainable over time versus plywood.

Walter Martone commented that they do not get enough real, “feel good moments” at the Selectboard and he thanked them for bringing this to them. Walter Martone added that this is a rare instance where it just makes you feel good and honored that a group came together, wanting to pay tribute to someone who is extremely important to the community that most people wouldn’t have known.

patrice jones commented they wanted to echo what Walter Martone said and thanked them for what they’ve done in memory of their friend and for the community. patrice jones continued that it's beautiful and it's apt that it comes right after the “Go the Extra Mile” proclamation because they certainly did.

Logan Cox commented that maybe they could have a build a skateboard workshop at the library.

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

Further discussion ensued to encourage the group to reach out to the Rotary and the other social organizations in Town.

ITEM #8 Act on ¾ ton pickup for Water Department

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on ¾ ton pickup for Water Department” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Water Department budgeted \$55,000 for a new three-quarter ton pickup to replace a 2008 GMC Sierra 1500 pickup. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the town received three bids, one from Ford of Claremont, with the net after trade of \$55,755; Fairfield’s with the net after trade of \$50,514; and Benson’s Chevrolet with the net after trade of \$45,218. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that their (Himself, Jeff Strong, and Roy Farrar) recommendation is to accept the proposal from Benson Chevrolet with the net of \$45,218.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to approve the bid from Benson’s Chevrolet for \$45,218, for a new three-quarter ton pickup that replaces a 2008 GMC Sierra 1500.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Further discussion ensued that we had budgeted \$55,000 and it is a reserve fund so if we do not spend all the funds, it is still there for other equipment or for equipment that goes over budget. Additional discussion ensued that this vehicle should be available on the line so we would not need to wait a length of time before receiving it. Further discussion ensued that we are still waiting for the wastewater truck that we ordered from Brattleboro a few months ago.

Everett Hammond commented that he was glad to see the 7-year warranty was included up front. Everett Hammond inquired what the MSRP was, noting that the price for town is generally less. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we did not ask what the MSRP was, but suspects it was closer to what we budgeted.

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

ITEM #9 Set FY25 budget calendar

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Set FY25 budget calendar” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the calendar reflects suggestions made at the last meeting and the changes in the calendar include having the Budget Advisory Committee meet with departments in October and November, noting this is earlier in the process and having the second budget workshop on November 27 following the regular meeting.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to adopt the 2024-25 budget calendar as presented.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Further discussion ensued to clarify that the Public Hearings for the budget meetings of January 8th and 22nd would be starting at 6:00 pm and the regular meetings would start at 7:00 pm.

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

ITEM #10 Act on demolition of 295 Clinton Street

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the “Act on demolition of 295 Clinton Street” item included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town received two bids for the demolition of 295 Clinton Street. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the Town purchased this property about a year ago with the intention of demolishing the structure on the property to prepare the site for the eventual expansion of the pump station. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the two bids which are attached are from Lewco, LLC for \$23,499 and from Crown Point Excavation, LLC for \$25,500. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that he and the Public Works staff recommend the Town accept the lower bid from Lewco, LLC for \$23,499.

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to accept the bid for the demolition of 295 Clinton Street from Lewco, LLC for \$23,499.

Seconded by: Walter Martone

Chair Kristi Morris commented that this bid includes site preparation, razing the primary structure, razing the foundations or slabs whichever is there and other sites improvements and disposal. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that it also includes removing an underground storage tank.

Further discussion ensued that potential ground contamination from the underground storage tank was not included in this bid. Additional discussion ensued that the testing for asbestos and other contaminants has already been done and cleared by the State. Continued discussion ensued that we have used this company before for several other projects in Town.

Chair Kristi Morris inquired if there were any funding opportunities to pay for this. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that there are no funding opportunities and noted that we still have \$33,000 in the Springfield Improvement Fund, which is for raising money and razing buildings and stuff.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that by the end of the month he will put out a request for bids to sell 188 Wall Street and 151 Wall Street. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that 181 Wall Street is an empty lot that the Town came by as part of a settlement. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that we

can use that money to supplement the Springfield Improvement Fund, to keep doing this type of work. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that 151 Wall Street is a building we got at tax sale, so the Town can't make a profit on that property, noting that anything over the minimum bid would have to go back to the prior owner. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that there is a sewer line right along the property line of this property that they did last week and that is what held up the sale because he wanted to get this work done while we controlled the property. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the neighbors and the Town cooperated to get that sewer structure put in there and it is a really a big improvement. Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented that they were very appreciative to the neighbors who collaborated.

Michael Martin inquired if the project on Clinton Street that is connected to the pumping station qualified for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded that we could use that for this.

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

E. FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2024 Warrants to September 21, 2023 – copies on website.

FY2023 Budget Update for FY2023 – cash basis

Town Manager, Jeff Mobus stated that any questions regarding these warrants should be directed to the Finance Director, Cathy Sohngen. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the GAP (General Accepted Accounting Practices) entries and the accrual entries were still being worked on and needed to be done before the audit in November. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that we are looking good for last year and we actually budgeted a \$200,000 deficit which he doesn't believe we will have.

F. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Manager's Report included in the meeting packet. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the water project on Clinton Street has a completion date of October 25, 2023. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that they have also started the environmental preparation work for the next phase. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that there will be test holes drilled starting in October. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that this next phase will be bond funded as approved by the Town and is expected to be completed during the 2024 construction season. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that they expect the extra testing holes to be done along the bottom of Seavers Brook Road, and along Clinton Street between Bridge Street and The Desert Storm Memorial Bridge. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the pre-Environmental Assessment didn't show anything over on Mill Road but along Clinton Street we had gas stations and underground storage tanks.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that work on the first culvert on Eureka Road began on Monday September 21, 2023. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this project required a complete road closure and unfortunately the sudden start of the project and miscommunication about the start meant that Eureka Road residents and travelers did not receive prior notice of the closing. Town Manager Jeff Mobus apologized to all who were affected by the sudden closing. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that the project is expected to last two weeks, noting it started last week.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the Town's compost facility is fast approaching the end of its useful life. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that this combined with the increased scrutiny of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) the Forever chemical means that the Town will be looking at treatment alternatives and funding options over the next couple of years. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that a number of Town employees and Board Chair Christy Morris visited the compost facility in Rockingham recently. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further discussed that there's still a lot of research to be done and whatever path the Town chooses the costs will be significant and we will work diligently to determine the best solution for Springfield both in terms of treatment and in terms of funding. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that one of the alternatives that we are exploring would be regionalizing the compost facility which might have the opportunity of bringing revenue from other communities as well as perhaps more grant funding as the State is looking for regional facilities.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he and Board Member Walter Martone have met with others in the community to develop an overall marketing strategy for Springfield. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that we have a wonderful community, and it was very reassuring to begin the discussion of how we might effectively market it to residents, visitors, and businesses. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that they are early on in the process, but he thinks it was a really wonderful discussion and it's really great to have other people who see the Town the way he sees it and also the options that we do have. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that we have a great community.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that next Monday, October 2, 2023, that week will be water main flushing, so that can have some effect on people's water. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that it's still sanitary but if you're washing a lot of whites, you may want to wait because there could be some sediment stirred in the water. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that on September 27, 2023, at 1:00 pm, the Senior Center will be celebrating their 60th anniversary year of being a Senior Center.

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. Springfield Cemetery Commission – Minutes of September 6, 2023
2. Springfield on The Move – Invitation to Alan R. Woodbury Memorial Courtyard Dedication Ceremony – October 7, 2023
3. Springfield Town Library – Activity Calendar – October 2023
4. Springfield Town Library Trustees – Minutes of September 12, 2023

5. Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers' Association – Letter of September 15, 2023
6. Water Division – Notice of System Flushing, October 2 – 13, 2023
7. Water Division Monthly Report – August 2023

Discussion ensued regarding the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers' Association letter of September 15, 2023, was to give recognition to our Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne.

J. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Wes Marshall SAPA TV in-person commented on the ADA ramp at the Community Center and the issues with doing it because of the fire escape. Wes Marshall continued that he was speaking with a friend regarding this, and they remembered there is a fire escape on the back of the building that could be used if that one on the end is taken off. Wes Marshall added that if that fire escape was taken off, then on the second floor they could block that room off so people wouldn't be having access to that area. Wes Marshall further added that people on the second floor could use the fire escape on the back or go down main stairs and Lori Johnson (Senior Center Director) could access her office through the front entrance on Main Street.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that he has hired an engineer, Todd Henninger, to actually design a new ramp. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that Todd Henninger doesn't feel the fire escape complicates the project that much. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that we do need to keep a fire escape on the end of the building per the Fire Marshal. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that one option, of course, would be to close off that end of the building. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that we are going to do a couple minor things before winter season to make things a little bit better.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed some potential options for the ramp such as the ramp instead of going along the side of the building and at a 90-degree angle it could be along the side of the building and double back beside itself and as an alternative, to close off ADA access to that end of the building and see if it made sense to change the elevation of the sidewalk so that people could go straight in the front side though this may be too steep of a drop-off.

L. ADJOURN

MOTION: Everett Hammond moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary