

5. **Liquor Control Board**

- A. Frank Heald said the paperwork for the application had not been received by the office.

6. **Consider and Approve Transfer Station Fees**

- A. Frank Heald advised that at the last meeting, the board made suggestions regarding the fees for the transfer station. He met with Patty Potter and came up with a proposal, copy of which is included in packets. The sticker fee will be half and we will be leaving between \$7,000 and \$8,000 on the table for FY2015. After town meeting, we will flush out the costs of Act 148 and will have new stickers effective July 1, 2015. There was no need to change the rest of the fees.
- B. Howard Barton said that residential stickers would be good from January 1st through June 30, 2015 and they would have to renew on July 1st.
- C. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to accept the proposed Transfer Station Fee schedule as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Continue FY 2016 Budget Workshop**

A. **Ambulance Department**

- i. Frank Heald said that the board had asked about rates for other communities. He found out that White River Valley charges \$60 per person, Rutland Regional charges \$4.00, Essex charges \$1.00, Londonderry does not charge and we are charging \$7.00. The volume of calls to Plymouth is not significant. Cavendish and Proctorsville combined volume amounts to about 14.75% of our total call volume. We charge \$10,000 for the service. He added that a lot of our volunteers come from Cavendish and Proctorsville. Staff recommends that fees stay the same.
- ii. Bruce Schmidt said that Cavendish/Proctorsville decided not to have their own service. Our Workers' Comp. fees have increased 38% and we have not raised their rates for quite a while. We should do a few percentage points increase. Our expenses go up every year.
- iii. Frank Heald said that the Ambulance Department threw off \$100,000 before depreciation.
- iv. Bruce Schmidt said that for \$10,000, Cavendish/Proctorsville know that an ambulance will be there. He thinks we should increase them yearly.
- v. Frank Heald said that we instituted the per capita 5 years ago.
- vi. Brett Sanderson agreed that the fees should go up gradually.
- vii. Howard Barton said it should be like the dispatch fees.
- viii. Frank Heald suggested the \$7.00 be increased to \$8.00 for both Plymouth and Cavendish/Proctorsville.
- ix. There was general consensus among board members.

B. **Cemetery**

- i. Frank Heald said the cemetery budget also had changes in insurance rates. Workers' Comp has increased.

C. **Appropriations**

- i. Frank Heald advised that Shannon Martin and Karen Trimboli advised him that the mentoring program has been funded through grants and that the grants have run out. The educators feel that the program is important and have requested \$4,500 from the town to cover the costs of this program. The board has 3 ways to deal with this.
- a. They can include it in the Appropriations
- b. They can make it an Article and have it voted on separately by the voters
- c. They can ask BRACC to get a petition.
- ii. Brett Sanderson asked if this is in addition to the \$15,000 that BRACC now receives.
- iii. Frank Heald said yes.
- iv. Bruce Schmidt asked what the program is about.
- v. Frank Heald said there are adult volunteers that are supervised by professionals and they work and spend time with students. There is about \$3,000 worth of staff time. He said that the adults must pass a test. He said they provide positive role models. This is an ongoing program, started in 2011 for the 2012-2013 school year.
- vi. Bruce Schmidt said it is a significant contribution and has had an impact. Mentors are matched by life style and what the kids enjoy. He hopes that the school is trying to get another grant.
- vii. Frank Heald said the grant was for 2 years and they have been trying to raise funds.

- viii. Bruce Schmidt said there was \$2,500 taken out of education. He supports putting the funds in.
 - ix. Howard Barton said it would have to be a new line item.
 - x. Frank Heald said it would be labeled LES Mentoring.
- D. Insurance
- i. Frank Heald said that the Safety Program has reaped benefits. There is an Experience Modification rate in the town of .8 and in the village of .82. This is 20% off our annual rates. Workers' Comp. may increase and Property/Casualty may decrease a little. There is very little change in Unemployment insurance rates. He said that the gross town rates are down about \$5,000 and the same for the Municipal office. He said that Property/Casualty is down. Liability practices are about the same. Unemployment is up a little. The net savings is about \$8,000. He said that Health Insurance is still on a calendar year and ranges from department to department. They are the biggest increases and they are based on the two union contracts.
- E. Highway
- i. Frank Heald said that there is \$92,000 in the budget for retreatment. He distributed a summer paving list for 2016. This includes Commonwealth Avenue top coat, Evergreen Acres shim and overlay, finish Uppercross Road, and West Hill Road. The list also includes Buttermilk Fall Road that is not yet in the budget.
 - ii. Ron Tarbell said that they really should do Buttermilk Falls Road. It was washed out during Irene and we need to tear it out and put it back and Surpac it. The following year we should shim and overlay the first section of it. Last summer we paid \$66/ton.
 - iii. Brett Sanderson asked how much it would be if it stays at \$66 and does not go to \$70.
 - iv. Frank Heald said it about \$8,000 to \$10,000.
 - v. Brett Sanderson said it could be as low as \$105,000.
 - vi. Frank Heald said that in past years, we have set numbers and didn't really know what the prices would be. We set a number and if the prices were lower than expected, we did more, and if the prices were more, we did only as much as we had set as a budget figure.
 - vii. Bruce Schmidt said we have been fiscally responsible.
 - viii. Brett Sanderson said he thinks we have not been doing enough paving and it will get further behind.
 - ix. Bruce Schmidt said we should add money into the budget to get it to the point where it should be. People like to see the roads done. He suggested putting another \$20,000 in.
 - x. Frank Heald said that at this point, he does not contemplate any new paved roads.
 - xi. Ron Tarbell said that Uppercross Road is the last one and needed it. He said it just needs to be topped now.
 - xii. Bruce Schmidt said we should bite the bullet and put the money in. People expect us to have the roads the way they should be.
 - xiii. Howard Barton said if we increase what we put in this year, what about next year. Will it come back down?
 - xiv. Frank Heald said it is up to us to present a responsible budget and you can bring the scissors.
 - xv. Ron Tarbell said he would hope that they might be able to bring it back down.
 - xvi. Bruce Schmidt asked how many miles of paved roads are there in Ludlow.
 - xvii. Ron Tarbell said about 35.
 - xviii. Frank Heald said that our paved roads are in comparatively good shape. We have set up a paving schedule over the last 5 to 8 years.
 - xix. Brett Sanderson said there are state grants for Class II roads.
 - xx. Frank Heald said yes, if you can get them.
 - xxi. Bruce Schmidt asked what about if we forgo \$30,000 in Highway Equipment and put it into Paving.
 - xxii. Frank Heald said that is not prudent. We put aside money and rotate stock. The rolling stock is in good shape. The backhoe is worn out and we can upgrade it without a large impact. Also, he is not sure that putting in \$30,000 per year is even enough. The citizens put the money in today and we use the equipment. If we postpone that and not spend the money now, down the road, 5 to 7 years, those people will take the hit.
 - xxiii. Bruce Schmidt asked if we have to replace the backhoe.
 - xxiv. Frank Heald said no.
 - xxv. Bruce Schmidt noted that Maintenance Costs are not high.
 - xxvi. Frank Heald said that is because the equipment is in good shape. He added that there will not be any cash out for the backhoe in the 2016 budget, it will hit the next year.
 - xxvii. Bruce Schmidt said once you get behind in pavement, it is hard to catch up.
 - xxviii. Frank Heald said there really aren't a lot of bad places.
 - xxix. Bruce Schmidt said put in money and increase the budget if you can't find money anywhere else.

- xxx. Frank Heald said he would increase the paving number to \$115,000.
 - xxxi. Howard Barton said they would look at lowering it next year.
 - xxxii. Frank Heald said with that increase, it brings the budget to about 2 ½%
 - xxxiii. Frank Heald said that barring any objections, he is going to write a letter to Ryan Searles and suggest changes in the way the state maintains roads during inclement weather. They do not salt and plowing isn't up to what is needed. Mr. Rogers would not take his calls. He was very disappointed in the state performance last Wednesday. Our staff salted and sanded. Our equipment was out there at risk due to the state.
- F. Listers
- i. Frank Heald said that we had talked about holding the Listers to 70 hours per week.
 - ii. Bruce Schmidt asked if they will be over budget. What is the issue?
 - iii. Frank Heald said they are elected people and don't answer to me. The Select Board has to talk to them.
 - iv. Bruce Schmidt asked how it should be handled.
 - v. Frank Heald said they need to make it clear to the Listers that there is only a certain amount they can spend on labor. At this rate, they will be a little under budget.
 - vi. Bruce Schmidt said if they were another department, we would expect them to adhere to the bottom line.
- G. Municipal Transit
- i. Bruce Schmidt asked about uniforms. He said we wanted them to look a little more professional.
 - ii. Frank Heald said that it was thought that the \$2,000 was okay. They have quite a few clothes.
- H. Planning
- i. Bruce Schmidt asked about the notes under Administrative Assistant.
 - ii. Frank Heald said they try to use her 1 day per week in accounts payable.
- I. Recreation
- i. Frank Heald said they didn't highlight all of the changes.
- J. Solid Waste
- i. Bruce Schmidt asked if Frank Heald thought everything would be okay with the transitions brought on by Act 148.
 - ii. Frank Heald said yes.
- K. Town Clerk/Treasurer
- i. Bruce Schmidt said that there are changes in Vault Preservation.
 - ii. Frank Heald said he would check on it. He said that in FY2015, we transferred money to offset expenses for electronic records. We got funding from the state to offset labor. The project is coming along well.
 - iii. Howard Barton said they have scanned all documents from 1999 through present for a total of 114,900 pages.
- L. County Tax
- i. Frank Heald said it should level out. He added that the courthouse is complete and they did a nice job on it. He said that he estimated the county tax.
- M. Articles
- i. Frank Heald said they did not change the articles. He said that whether they make the BRACC request an appropriation or article can be decided in January. However, if the board wants to have BRACC get a petition together, the decision should be made tonight to give them enough time to get a petition ready and filed.
 - ii. MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Logan Nicoll to appropriate \$4,500, the money requested by BRACC for the mentoring program. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Department Head Reports

- A. Howard Barton advised that all reports are in.

9. Other Business

- A. Christmas Party
 - i. Logan Nicoll asked if, in view of the situation with Sam's, the Christmas Party might be moved.
 - ii. Frank Heald said the alleged zoning violation is about an extended entrance without permission in defiance of the DRB findings of issues.
 - iii. Bruce Schmidt said that it looks like it may be temporary for the winter.
 - iv. Frank Heald said he does not involve himself in DRB decisions.
 - v. Bruce Schmidt said this board needs to let it play out.

- vi. Logan Nicoll said it seems weird, with the town against Sam's.
 - vii. Frank Heald said the Christmas Party went out to bid and they were the low bidder. It was a parallel track. The structure was alleged to be in violation of the DRB decision and involved FEMA Flood Hazard conditions. In accordance with her duties, she issued a Notice of Violation. It is in process. Frank Heald said that he did not take a position. He said that she may be uncomfortable with going there, but there is no malice until adjudicated.
 - viii. Bruce Schmidt said it is not cut and dried and we should not have to get involved. In his opinion, it looks to be plastic and not permanent. There have been other more blatant violations elsewhere.
- B. Wireless on North Hill
- i. Frank Heald said there was a letter concerning the wireless tower on Commonwealth in their boxes. It was erected and is 120 feet tall, not the originally specified 144 feet.
 - ii. Bruce Schmidt said it was against the elected board's decisions and town ordinance.
 - iii. Howard Barton said the company is not from Ludlow.
 - iv. Frank Heald said it will help provide wireless communication to all parts of Vermont and can collocate with cell phone companies. He said that the state said the town ordinance did not count when the state's goals are for wireless communication throughout the state. He said to access it, you would have to pay a fee to VTEL.
 - v. Logan Nicoll said it would be for computer Wi-Fi and about \$10 per month.
 - vi. Howard Barton said he hopes they are assessed for it.
 - vii. Frank Heald said the state sets those rates.
 - viii. Howard Barton said the town ordinance was voted on by the town and was thrown out by the state.

10. Set Date for Next Meeting

- A. Howard Barton advised that the next regular meeting would be January 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Sign Warrant Orders

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

12. Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal

- A. Frank Heald advised that an Executive Session is not needed.

13. Adjourn

- A. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

Brett Sanderson

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Logan Nicoll