

## HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the November 2, 2021 Workshop Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Selectman Morin the meeting of November 2, 2021 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Finance Director Lisa Labrie

Selectman Morin started off informing the group everybody in the room will be having a mask and Town Hall and public buildings have gone back to mandatory masks due to the fact that the Town has reached the threshold of the number that the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Chief had determined for safety for employees and Town residents. So for the foreseeable future it will be required to wear a mask in public buildings until the numbers go down.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Brett Gagnon

Selectman Morin explained, Selectman Guessferd and McGrath are both excused absence and they are the Chairman and Vice Chairman so the senior Selectman will sit in this seat tonight for the meeting.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Elvis Dhima - Town Engineer; Jess Forrence - Public Works Director; Lisa Labrie - Finance Director; Lisa Nute - IT Director; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant

The Town Administrator was recognized and said this is a workshop meeting. You have a couple of topics or a couple of items to get through tonight. The first one will be the American Rescue Plan. The Committee had met and were forwarding recommendations this evening. Chief Buxton will speak to that. That will be followed by I believe three warrant articles that we need to discuss and then there are some outside of the budget requests that this all follows onto the American Rescue Plan. So we'll do it in basically that order. So Chief Buxton would be up first.

4. American Rescue Plan Project List

Chief Buxton was recognized and began by saying good evening members of the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to come in and visit with you regarding American Rescue Plan tonight. As the Board had asked we created a working group that has met on three separate occasions. I provided in your package this evening an opportunity for you to see the agenda items for all three meetings. October 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. The group reviewed basically 12 projects that were pushed forward by the Department Heads and we went through a process of reviewing them. Each Department Head that had a project had an opportunity to come in and pitch their project to the working group. Answer questions and advocate for their project and then the Committee completed a survey to rank the projects. The ranking that you see or the list you see in your package this evening is the ranking of the projects as they came in to the working group. As a couple of reminders for you, you have approximately 2.3 million dollars that will be allocated by the American Rescue Plan. Currently we have \$1,341,000 in the bank and we're expecting next August an additional payment of approximately 1.2 million dollars. The American Rescue Plan money is not like any other grant opportunity that is out there. You do have the flexibility with mingling capital reserve funds to basically offset without having to meet the sub planting rules. so that is one that that has been waived as part of this project. This is unexpected funds from the government or for the Town. You have voted to accept the funds and the

expenditure of the funds falls to the Board of Selectmen. So those projects are there for your consideration this evening as you move forward.

Selectman Morin then said Selectman Roy, you haven't really got to hear from the Department Heads on the projects. Would you like a brief overview of anything before we get started? Selectman Roy said umm, I'm thinking maybe, I have questions, so but not about all the projects so maybe it just be a little more efficient if I just ask my questions?

Selectman Roy then said, so the Taylor Falls Memorial Bridge. Where is Nashua in that process? Chief Buxton replied, to the best of my knowledge they have not committed funds yet on how they're gonna fund their portion. Selectman Morin said we'll have Mr. Dhima come up. Chief Buxton continued saying Elvis is here. Unless he got an update today that I'm unaware of. Mr. Dhima came forward and said so Nashua is committed to this project. How they're doing the funding hasn't been decided yet as of last night. So they're looking at two options. Either ARPA money or the budget. But it's at the discretion of the Mayor over there. And it's being discussed right now. Selectman Roy then said okay so but it's going to be coordinated right? Between the two communities and it will be spent within the appropriate time? Mr. Dhima replied yes. He then said so just to give the Board a quick history, we went through this process with them on the evaluation of the bridges. We're going through that process right now with the design process. We commit. They commit. The funding becomes available. We have an agreement in place with them, which is the municipality agreement it got signed by the Board and the Mayor. So that has happened in the past two phases we've done. That is what we're seeking for the construction phase. So as of now....Selectman Roy interjected saying this is just the construction phase right? We've already done the engineering? Mr. Dhima replied we're at 90% right now with engineering. We're waiting for the state to review the plans this month and be ready to go for an RFP as soon as they give us the green light and the funding's available. Selectman Roy then said okay and that portions already funded right? The engineering portion. Mr. Dhima replied the engineering is already funded and agreed. Yes absolutely. So the goal is to have the design completed by this year, by the end of December. Get the green light by the state. That basically tells us you have a good plan to go out for the construction phase. We're hoping that between now and then. We, Nashua and Hudson, has the funding to go out July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. Selectman Roy replied okay, okay. Mr. Dhima followed up saying that is for one bridge only. The other bridge will be done the following year either through same mechanism or through a warrant article. This construction piece that you're evaluating tonight is only for one bridge. The Town Administrator added our portion of that one bridge. Mr. Dhima echoed that statement. He then said but we're committed to only the bridge from Hudson to Nashua. That's what we're doing first. The following year we're hoping to do Nashua to Hudson. Selectman Roy replied okay. I thought that each community each paid for one whole, like their bridge. Mr. Dhima replied so that was the original intent but after further evaluation it appears that we don't own one bridge and they own the other. We own at the middle of the bridge. So the river is basically the boundary. So we have to work with them to do half a bridge at a time. Selectman Roy replied okay. Thank you.

Selectman Roy then said so my next question goes to the HVAC systems for the Community Center and Town Hall. Why wouldn't we use CRF money to do that? The Town Administrator said we could. But this opportunity had presented itself so we put it on for consideration. I believe the capital reserve fund has a certain sum of money in it and you want to be careful that you don't deplete all that money. We put \$50,000, by the way, this past budget year. So the intent was again, put this project on the list and I think specifically there was some HVAC or air quality types of projects were favored. When I say favored, specifically they were encouraged. When we look at our facilities it's in my opinion more critical for the Community Center based on the age of the system, some of the failures we've had in the system and we really do need to replace the system. This building, it's running, it's operating. If I needed to I could wait and if something went I would take the capital reserve and do something with it if I needed to. But again because it was favored in the ARPA money it came forward as a project of importance. Selectman Roy then said okay so what is the balance of the CRF? Ms. Labrie asked for major improvements? The Town Administrator replied major repairs to Town buildings. Ms. Labrie replied \$203,000 is in there right now. With the \$50,000 addition this year. This budget addition. So \$153,000 before the \$50,000 from FY22. Selectman Roy replied okay.

Selectman Roy then said I have a question about the Transfer Station. Mr. Dhima and Mr. Forrence came forward. Selectman Roy went on to say so we have a warrant article that asks us to raise \$550,000 and you're asking for \$750,000 from the ARPA money. What's the difference? Mr. Dhima replied we went through another revaluation of the quantities and the concrete part was off a little bit on the original design. So you have two things. First the quantities were off the first time and second the numbers related to the costs are higher. We were hoping by reducing the costs with the amount of the work that would be just slightly higher. That is not the case. I had to go over the design and construction evaluation again. I came at \$715,000 they came at \$725,000 so that's why you see the discrepancy. The number that you're seeing at the ARPA is the latest and the greatest.

Selectman Roy then said okay so if this doesn't get approved for the ARPA money what are you gonna do about the warrant article? Mr. Dhima replied the warrant article language will have to change to go to \$725,000. Selectman Roy said okay but you have \$750,000 here. Mr. Dhima replied yes. Selectman Roy said so why isn't it \$725,000? What's the, what's the real number? Mr. Dhima replied, no, no, absolutely. We carry usually about a 5% buffer between now and six months from now when the construction is gonna happen if the warrant article passes. That's why. If the Board wishes to fine-tune that a little bit we can always change it to \$725,000. As I said their number came at \$725,000. Mine came at \$413,000. We typically carry a little bit extra because things change in six months. But if the Board wishes to be more fine tune on the decision we can make it \$725,000 to make sure we're on the same page, yes. Mr. Forrence then said I agree with what Elvis just said but I don't want to come back again, when the wall is three quarters built and saying we need more money. Elvis said...Selectman Roy cut in saying that would be my concern if we went ahead with the warrant article right? Mr. Forrence replied, correct, yes. But where does the warrant article get us? Mr. Dhima added the warrant article will have to be revised to \$725,000 as well. So it will be similar to the ARPA money. The warrant article cannot be \$550,000 while we're asking for APRA money for \$700,000 it will have to be the same. That number tonight I feel comfortable saying \$725,000 but as Mr. Forrence said, if things change a little bit we don't want to come back for ten or fifteen thousand. Because things change every six months. Mr. Forrence added it won't be ten or fifteen thousand. Mr. Dhima then said things are changing there by the day and we're doing the best we can to provide the Board with the best number that's available. And also realistic as well. I don't want to be too far out but the same time I want to make sure we're covered as the Town. Selectman Roy said okay. Mr. Dhima then said we haven't had a lot Selectman Roy that have gone over what we typically do and that is because we're a little conservative of things. But we always try to carry about 5% more than we think the numbers going to be just in case. We've been fortunate so far. We're either right on target or below but that's why we typically are a little over. That's why you're seeing the \$750,000. Selectman Roy replied saying okay.

Selectman Roy then said my question about the Marsh Road booster station and the water system radio system. Why isn't that coming out of the sewer and water fund? The Town Administrator said Marsh Road is actually budgeted in the water for next year. But he listed it as a project. But it is physically, actually in the budget. Which we've approved so. Mr. Dhima said both of them are. Selectman Roy replied okay. Mr. Dhima then said so if the Board decides not to its plan b is obviously to go through the budget. The Town Administrator followed up saying it's in the budget. The costs will obviously be borne by the water users because it's a water utility project. Mr. Dhima then said for as long as that budget passes we're gonna be on track to take care of those two. But if it doesn't for some reason, and it's not typically for water, that's why we went and applied for this route. This is kind of guaranteed, the warrant article is not 100%. Selectman Roy replied alright.

Selectman Roy then said this one's for Lisa (Nute). I think the \$12,500 annually, that you're asking for for the bandwidth, how would that work after after the ARPA money expires? What would be the plan? Mr. Nute replied, as I had said to the Committee, if you can't ask for money for a three year whatever, it's at least helpful because we will have to budget for this. In fact there's already a piece of this in the upcoming budget too. If this passes here it just helps us pay for it this first year. Then from here on it it will be budgeted for. Selectman Roy replied, okay. Okay.

Selectman Roy then said and then I have another issue and this is an Elvis and Jess issue. I think it might be a little bit broader discussion than what's....Jess, Elvis. Actually I don't even know if Elvis is involved in this one. The gas and diesel tank why do we even do that? Mr. Forrence responded I'm sorry? Selectman Roy said why do we even do that? Why don't we just contract that out? Mr. Forrence asked what do you mean contract that out? Selectman Roy said to get fuel from a source so we're not taking on the liability of having underground tanks. Mr. Forrence replied we don't have underground tanks. Selectman Roy said or over ground tanks or any tanks. Mr. Forrence replied, we have a supplier that supplies Town Hall here. Supplies us. So maybe I don't get the question. Selectman Roy said why. The Town Administrator said I think she's thinking why don't you go to a gas station? Selectman Roy said yeah or, or, or, a contractor with a jobber like Rymes or one of those. Mr. Forrence said we tried getting Rymes as a backup for us in case we did have something go wrong or we were having trouble with the pumps and everything and they said no. they could not supply us or guarantee us with a supply. Selectman Roy asked so did you go anywhere else with that? Mr. Forrence said we went to Haffner's they said we can try. Selectman Roy said what do you mean you can try? I don't understand that. Mr. Forrence responded they can't guarantee that they're gonna have as much fuel as we're gonna need during a snowstorm. That's when we need all this. We have a very good working relationship with Burke right now. Our tanks electrically monitored. They have them. They know the winters are the tough time for us. It's not unusual to see them there twice a week just to make sure we have the supply. The biggest concern with them is the price is gonna start going up and up because they're making more trips than they really want to. They would like to update the tanks. Or have us update the tanks so they can drop off more, charge us less, and they don't have to run around as much. And the tanks are 25 years old. Selectman Roy said I think it might be worth a discussion to look into an alternate way to do that. Mr. Forrence replied, okay. I would not. Selectman Roy then said I mean to take on the liability and everything I just think it's a lot. Mr. Forrence asked the liability of? Selectman Roy replied, of if something happens to one of the tanks. Mr. Forrence said it's been 25 years....while he was saying this Selectman Roy mumbled yeah, uhuh, uhuh. Mr. Forrence continued through this saying the way they're built today with the built in dykes around them. The only thing I'd be scared about is a gas tank going down. A diesel pump going down. Selectman Roy said yeah, I just think, you know 2021 it's probably time to move away from that. I would presume that there's some kind of liability insurance premium on that. On having tanks. The Town Administrator said I don't know if it's separately called that. We have insurance that covers risk. I can't image that it would drop precipitously if we didn't have them. Maybe somebody else knows more about that. Mr. Forrence added there's a lot to it.

Mr. Dhima then said when it comes to the tanks Selectman Roy the state covers up to a million dollars if we're in compliance with the rules. That's what happens with the underground tanks. This particular tank, as long as, I'm certified. Don handles the monthly reviews and checks and all that. But basically what happens is for as long as you have an AB operator that maintains and keeps an eye on it, and you're in compliance, you're covered up to a million dollars if anything happens to that tank. Beyond that they the Town takes on as well. So we're part of that New Hampshire DES compliance. This is for underground. Not above ground above ground has different regulations. They're not as strict obviously. The underground stuff is double chambers, have the sensors, everything active, and have the pushbuttons. The signs you see out there when you fill up the tank. Things of that sort. Fire Department had one as well and they abandoned. It wasn't in accordance with the rules, this and that, but they abandoned it. They had one, three four years ago? Chief Buxton replied it was at least almost ten years ago now. We moved up to Highway. Mr. Dhima then said the one thing that everyone needs to be aware of and we came across this and we switched contractors with the water operator. There's a lot of firms out there that cannot guarantee 24 hour service. So we have standby generators. Public Works is the one that fills those up when we go through storms and we have to run the boosters and the wells. We could not find anyone, as of two years ago, that can guarantee a 24/7 operation for backup. So if they're running 24/7 they might have a hard time finding someone to say that I'm gonna guarantee that I'm gonna be available or provide access for that fuel 24/7. That's just one piece to keep in mind. Selectman Roy said okay that's all I have.

Selectman Morin asked all set? To which Selectman Roy replied mmmm. Selectman Morin asked, Selectman Gagnon anything? Selectman Gagnon said just a you had some great questions Selectman Roy. I think that one thing that was discussed during our meeting that may help you too is some of these projects are obviously a priority. So I took a note here, you were talking about I think it was the West Road transfer station, or another one, if we fund some of these in the first wave and something changes down the road I think that we can take things off the list. I'm trying to remember (mumbling) that was my own question. Forgive me I'm kind of losing track here for what my point there was. I guess what I was getting at is there's an adjustment. Selectman Roy said so I think, and I think the Chief can, I think I understand your point. And I think the Chief can speak to this cuz what we spoke about is having a monitoring of this so if there's, if one project needs more money or there's money left over from another project. Chief Buxton interjected saying we actually talked about that at the working group meeting. Selectman Roy said yeah if there's a way to shift that. Chief Buxton said you would basically receive an allotment of money for a project. If you came in under budget that money would go back to the pot. It's not extra money to spend on other parts of the project, another part of the project. It's specific to come back for review. Selectman Roy replied okay, okay. Selectman Gagnon said thank you that was said much more delicately. That's all I have.

Selectman Morin said I have no questions. Chief do you have anything else you'd like to add? Chief Buxton said no I think the reality for tonight, moving forward, is what you wish to move forward with for projects. It's in your court, back in your court from the working group and go from there. Selectman Morin recognized the Town Administrator who said again, I think what you do here determines what you forward to the warrant. Obviously there's three warrant articles in consideration. As I stated. It would seem to me you've got the drainage program that was a number one on everybody's chart. The very first one there. You can probably do, on the Lowell Road Bridge road that was a highly rated project but I think if the Town Engineer would indulge me, I think \$50,000 is needed for the design and you have some time. That is not in imminent failure. You could do \$50,000 and maybe kick the rest of it to next year's allocation. If you're so inclined to do so. Selectman Roy said can I just, that brings up actually a question. If I remember correctly that's for the entire project so the \$50,000 budgeted would come out of that out of budget request. Mr. Malizia replied yes. You have an outside the budget request for \$50,000 for the design phase of, the engineering phase of that project. That \$50,000 is in the \$700,000 that's here. So if you were to say, fund \$50,000 now the other \$650,000 he's not going to be ready to do it for another year. I think that's probably a fair way to say that. So I think you have some time on that particular project.

Selectman Gagnon then said to that, I think this is kind of getting at one of the questions I had here too, kind of the intricacies of how you expense it and how you pay for it. If we said okay let's fund Lowell Road bridge at \$700,000. We approve it tonight that \$700,000 isn't going to go out the door tomorrow per say. It's gonna go out \$50,000, \$100,000 so forth. Is that gonna be on track to fit the scope of the bill of when those full costs need to be in? Chief Buxton replied that's a great question. The money needs to be allocated by December 31<sup>st</sup> of '24. And then the project needs to be complete by December 31<sup>st</sup> of '26. I have no doubt that if we gave the Engineer \$700,000 to get that accomplished he would have that accomplished by December 31<sup>st</sup> of '26. Selectman Gagnon said so the keyword is allocated. So essentially if we approve the first \$1.3 million tonight, based on these numbers, which are a little rough, that is defined as allocated. And if that numbers changed realistically you can redirect. Chief Buxton replied yes, you'd have to do the RFP. You'd have to award the bid. You would have to award the PO. And that's, once a contracts signed, then it's allocated. Selectman Gagnon replied okay. So that's when we'll know. Chief Buxton said that kicks in our quarterly reporting requirements too. Selectman Gagnon said that's right you talked about that. Okay. So that answers my second question which is I guess the allocation part is it can be considered allocated and solidified once we initiate the PO and work begins to start. Okay, that's all I have. Thank you.

Selectman Morin said I would like to attach to the motions tonight that we make on any of these projects that the RFP's are started tomorrow. As of tomorrow's date to get this moving so this doesn't sit. I mean if these projects are so urgent that we need to get them done and we need to move on them. Selectman Roy replied okay but I think that we only at this point have \$1.3 million. You know what I mean? We

have to make sure that we, we can only spend what we have. Selectman Morin said right. We got to do each one but we need, if we approve something tonight the work should start on it tomorrow to get it moving forward. Selectman Roy replied okay.

Mr. Dhima then said to your point Selectman Morin there is an RFP ready to go for Flagstone. There's an RFP ready to go for the design phase of Lowell Road Bridge. And as I stated earlier once the design is approved by the state of New Hampshire we'll be ready to go for an RFP for the construction phase, which will be spearheaded by Nashua, not us, because of the work we've done so far. So it will be there turn now to take care of the rest of the bridge related work. All their administrative and all. For those three projects we would be ready to go tomorrow. Everything is ready to go to be advertised by this week if the Board chooses to do so.

Selectman Morin asked anybody want to make any motions or start with anything? The Town Administrator said I think we have some motions here if you permit. The Town administrator read there is a motion to approve the Flagstone Drive Drainage project, to be funded with American Rescue Plan funds, in the amount of \$350,000...Selectman Morin said before you do that are you guys okay with the rankings too? Did you have any questions you saw? That's why I didn't do that. The Town Administrator replied oh pardon me. Selectman Roy said yeah, so, I guess I would just state that umm, if I were going to vote right now it would be Flagstone, Tayler, Lowell and West Road. I mean I don't know how, if that if we want to make things efficient. You know. I think that the Community Center we should probably recommend that come out of the building money and then the Town Hall either do that next year or. The Town Administrator said trust me that's not eminent like I don't need to do this year. It can wait. Selectman Gagnon said the only thing to remember is the West Road Transfer Station. Oh I was thinking booster station. Forgive me. Selectman Roy then said I don't know if that makes it more efficient or? Selectman Morin said no it makes sense. If we got the money to do the stuff here we might as well just use it and we can use this for other projects. Selectman Roy said right and I think to Mr. Malizia's point that you don't want to stop it you do one this year and you do the next one next year because I would presume that there's money...is there money going the CRF this year? The Town Administrator said no we put \$50,000 in last year to get it back up to \$200,000. That doesn't mean next year you can't put money into it.

Selectman Morin said so out of those four the Lowell Road was in your four correct Selectman Roy? So we need to change the motion to that though or do you want to just do the whole thing? They said they could just do the engineering at this time. Selectman Roy said I guess, its number three on the list which would tell me it's somewhat imperative. So I don't know that we would wanna do the \$50,000 and then rely on a warrant article for the rest of it. Selectman Morin said, I don't know and you can correct me if I'm wrong Chief, some of these, we looked at Flagstone like needs to get done because the roads gonna collapse. But the other ones we knew we had some time and we just rated them. Go ahead Chief. Chief Buxton said so just those four projects and if I ran out of fingers I apologize here. But I think that comes to \$2,275,000 for those four projects. The Town Administrator said bingo! Chief Buxton then said the reality is you're looking at staging the first two projects this year and then in August really getting started on the Lowell Road bridge and the West Road which was slated to be a July 1<sup>st</sup> start anyway. Unless you guys finagle the money as he gets bid awards. You know what I mean? Mr. Dhima replied, I would say for Lowell Road you can only do the \$50,000. You do not have to do the \$650,000 the construction piece for Lowell Road. So the \$700,000....Selectman Roy asked why not? Mr. Dhima replied because the construction can wait. We'll have a better number if we do the design first to know exactly what the construction is. Plan B for that, if it's done all at once, will be a design build approach. You do the design and the construction at the same time. That bridge is rated a four right now, not a three. So the Board has some time, if you wish, to do the design first for \$50,000 and do the construction either on the next phase or next year. Selectman Roy said so then why was the request for \$700,000? Mr. Dhima replied because that is the total cost for the design and the construction piece. If the Board chooses to do both of them at once. Selectman Roy then said I just want to make sure I understand what we're doing here. We're allocating the entire \$2.25 million tonight. And then how the timing for the spend goes on to you folks. Chief Buxton added to the staff. Selectman Roy said yeah to the staff on whether it's done with the initial 1.3 or if it's wait til we get the other money

in August, right? Am I wrong? Chief Buxton replied that would be a road you're heading down right now. Selectman Roy responded saying right, so, to understand where you're going, are you suggesting that we just do \$50,000 and then do a warrant article? Mr. Dhima replied do the \$50,000 under the current money available and then on the second wave do the construction....Selectman Roy said okay, so. The Town Administrator said you're saying the same thing. So stop talking. (Laughter among the group). What you need to do is....you're allocating all the money from a staff perspective we're gonna do the \$50,000 first. Next year we're gonna do the \$650,000 part. But you've allocated four projects which came out to \$2.2 million dollars. How we time it we're gonna do the drainage first. We're gonna work on the bridge then we're gonna do the design for this and then....Throughout this explanation of the Town Administrator Selectman Roy was in agreement saying yeah, right. But that's how you guys manage this. Yeah. Right, right. Okay, that's fine.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said but on the same thing, and not to confuse things. If there was something else you saw you wanted to do he could only get \$50,000 now, we could use the other somewhere else and then down the road we could fund the construction. Just so that option is out there. Selectman Roy replied yeah, umm, so, I think my take is for some of those projects is alternative funding available anyways. The sewer CRF's whatever. Ummm, I think if we're gonna....so I don't want to get into a thing with a project that's only partially funded. Right? Like I don't want to do \$50,000 then we can't do the construction. Right? So I just rather. Selectman Morin replied, right, no, I understand. Selectman Roy said I'd rather do the whole thing. Selectman Gagnon then said I guess the only other devil's advocate would be if you thought let's say, the gas and diesel tanks are a high priority cuz, in your mind environmental and so forth, and so you'd rather just fund the \$50,000 for the Lowell Road Bridge construction and take the \$650,000 and fund the gas and diesel tank replacement, that'd be the only contrary thought I would think we'd follow. Selectman Roy replied, right and I, again I get that. But....The Town Administrator said you'd have to go to the voter's to get the \$650,000 and if you don't get it then you're mmmm...Selectman Roy responded, right the Lowell Road thing. You end up with an engineered project with no construction. Selectman Gagnon said touché, absolutely. The Town Administrator then said, so you're allocating \$2.2 million, let's just for arguments sake. Selectman Roy agreed saying yeah,yeah, right, right. The Town Administrator continued saying and as we do projects one if it comes out to be less, then we put that money in the pool. We do project two, it comes out to be less....Selectman Roy said at some point you reallocate....the Town Administrator continued saying you put it in the pool then at the end you say, gee we've got another \$100,000. What can we help to defray here? Because we have until '24 to do one part and to '26 to the other part. During this statement Selectman Roy was agreeing with the Town Administrator and then said you only have to allocate it by '24. The Town Administrator then said if you awarded or determined these four projects are the priority, put that to rest. We'll get the timing and as we move the project through the pipeline we'll know. Selectman Roy interjected saying whatever November or December you come back....The Town Administrator continued his sentence saying you can come back. It's not like this is it forget it. Selectman Roy agreed saying right, right no, I understand that. The Town Administrator said you take care of three warrant articles off the ballot and you take care your \$50,000 coming off and that's pretty good work. Selectman Roy then said right, right I agree and they're obviously important projects one way or the other would have to get done. Right? So. Selectman Gagnon then said we should have finalized numbers before 2024 to know where the pennies dropped to pick them back up and throw them to something else before the time expires. Selectman Roy agreed saying right, right, right.

Selectman Morin then asked if everyone was all set, which they were. He then asked can we do it all in one motion or we have to take each one separately? The Town Administrator replied it's just as easy for me to read them all separate. I'll read them individually, if the Board permits.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the Flagstone Drive Drainage project, to be funded with American Rescue Plan funds, in the amount of \$350,000. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve the Taylor Falls & Memorial Bridge rehabilitation project, to be funded with American Rescue Plan funds, in the amount of \$475,000. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the Lowell Road Bridge over First Brooke replacement project, to be funded with American Rescue Plan funds, in the amount of \$700,000. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve the West Road Transfer Station upgrades to be funded with American Rescue Plan funds, in the amount of \$750,000. Carried 3-0.

The Town Administrator followed the votes saying so that completes the four projects that you had outstanding.

5. FY23 Budget Wrap Up

The Town Administrator said so now as we transition to the budget portion of this, I think it's probably prudent just because you've just done the American Rescue Plan funding, we had three warrant articles. Article L for the Flagstone Drainage Infrastructure project. Article E and Article F. Those articles based on what you've just done do not need to be forwarded to the warrant. So I think just for housekeeping sake you should make a motion to not move warrant article L for Flagstone Drive Drainage project to the warrant.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to not move warrant article L - Flagstone Drive Drainage Infrastructure Repairs to the warrant. Carried 3-0.

The Town Administrator went on to warrant article E. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to not move warrant article E - Veteran's Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation to the warrant. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to not move warrant article F - Transfer Station Upgrades to the warrant. Carried 3-0.

The Town Administrator then said so I believe those are the warrant articles that are still in question from your original meeting. So now you have a budget packet in front of you. Basically it's several pages. The first few pages are basically where we're at or where you're at now. You didn't forward three articles. But you do have on page eight and nine, the reason there's a difference between eight and nine is page eight is the outside the budget request with adding a third deputy chief position to the Fire Department. Page nine is the option to reinstate the fire marshal position. There was a dollar delta so I just wanted to give you both on the piece of paper. I believe, based on what you did this evening, you can strike 5585-225 for the engineering fees for the Lowell Road over First Brook. That's \$50,000. That comes right off. You accomplished that already with the \$700,000. So that's done there.

The Town Administrator went on to say, I believe you've had presentations during budget presentation to why people requested what they requested. I don't know if you want to follow this in the order top to bottom. It's up to you how you want to do it. These are the outside the budget



requests. You can forward them and add them to the budget. You can decline to add them to the budget. It's the Board's call. Again these are not in the budget currently. These are requests. Selectman Morin asked anyone like to move anything forward?

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to move Dept. # 5571-252, Professional Services - NRPC Part-time Planning Assistance outside the budget request, in the amount of \$30,000, to the FY23 budget. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to move Dept. # 5572-252, Professional Services - Professional Minute Taker outside the budget request, in the amount of \$10,000, to the FY23 budget. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to move Dept. # 5581-252, Professional Services - NRPC Part-time Code Enforcement Assistance outside the budget request, in the amount of \$30,000, to the FY23 budget. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Gagnon then said for the record here we're not, we're taking off the First Brook rehab design? Selectman Roy replied yup. The Town Administrator agreed saying yes that's out.

Selectman Gagnon then said temporary Chairman Morin, your thoughts on that Town forest management plan? Any updates on your thoughts on that? I don't think I support that right now. Selectman Morin replied they don't have a meeting til Monday to discuss it. But if they've got the funds, I mean. Selectman Roy said there's an alternate so I think we should. Selectman Morin said absolutely I agree with you. Selectman Gagnon replied okay, just wanted to check with you. Alright. The Town Administrator then said so no action taken on that. Selectman Gagnon replied, no sir.

Selectman Gagnon then made a motion to send the Taser Replacements to the warrant from Dept. 5671-403 for the total of \$35,294 to the FY23 budget. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Gagnon then said Selectman Roy, I look to you for any further input on body worn cameras. I know it's been a subject that you've spoke about publicly. Selectman Roy laughed and said you can go ahead and make that motion. Selectman Gagnon made a motion to move Body Worn Cameras - Dept. #5671-403, to the warrant in the amount of \$69,954. This was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Gagnon then said for my own question, are we, do we want to, which was the Fire Chief's preference? Reinstate or create new? The Town Administrator said we can certainly ask him if you'd like. He's here. Selectman Gagnon spoke to Chief Buxton saying sorry Chief, just for my clarification, I thought we had two things. Reinstate a fire marshal or page eight....Chief Buxton interjected saying yeah, our original request was for the third deputy fire chief and basically we kinda had a conversation regarding what the survivability would be of either putting that in the budget or putting that out there as an independent warrant article. So we said we would be comfortable with reinstating the fire marshal for the coming year and then put that in the budget and actually move forward with that project now. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay, okay, thank you Chief. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to reinstate the fire marshal position from Dept. 5710 and appropriate accounts, in the amount of \$16,389. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to move Dept. #5777-215, Fire IT Software Telestaff to Vendor's Cloud outside the budget request, in the amount of \$12,550 to the FY23 budget. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to move Dept. #5835-XXX, Senior Center Bus & Operating Bus Costs, in the amount of \$31,206. Carried 3-0.

The Town Administrator then asked the Finance Director, do you have a bottom line number now for the operating budget as it exists for the general fund based on those numbers? Ms. Labrie replied it took out once cent. The \$50,000 took out one cent. The Town Administrator said I'm looking for the actual 31 million. What's the? Ms. Labrie said the general fund operating \$32,106,523. The Town Administrator said I recommend you make a motion to forward that \$32,106,523 for the general fund budget to the warrant. Selectman Roy made this motion. Selectman Gagnon seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Town Administrator then said thank you. We'll update the book, we'll have it in the Budget Committee's hands next week. Selectman Roy asked do we need to do the other warrants now? Or did we already do those? I know we did some of them. The Town Administrator replied, there were three. You did the three. The other warrants for the capital reserve funds, you did them at the meeting. Selectman Roy replied okay, that was my question. I couldn't remember. The Town Administrator then said so at this point the only thing you had outstanding were those three warrant articles and then the general fund budget. You've included that so you are done as far as anything I had. Selectman Morin asked, anything else on the budget? Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said yeah, and so I think we did a lot of good tonight, being my first through a lot of this budget stuff. But from the ARPA money, Lisa, can you help me? I'm just trying to look through myself, what tax breaks did we give the residents with all that ARPA money? I mean I see a two cent on the thousand tax break for the engineering fees, but we just allocated almost 2.2 million dollars. Is there an easy way of you telling us, you know, what alleviation came off taxes? The Town Administrator replied about 80 cents per thousand on the tax rate. Selectman Gagnon replied the man with all the answers.

Selectman Morin asked Chief Buxton, Chief, do you have anything you'd like to add on the rescue plan before we finish up? Chief Buxton replied, nothing other than please send a thank you to the Committee members. We had several members from the public involved. They did great work to get that pulled together in minimal time.

The Town Administrator said at some point in time you should have a warrant article for a support staff contract. We are gonna be kicking off negotiations. So you'll see that. And there may be, I think possibly, an article to look at the exemption number for the elderly and disabled exemptions. That may come across. We're not raising any money but it's something that we may put in front of you for consideration. Selectman Roy asked what's the sort of deadline for that kind of thing? The Town Administrator replied everything has to be done by January 11<sup>th</sup> because that's the petition date. But obviously we like to be done much sooner than that. But just for the general public's information. January 11<sup>th</sup> is the last day for petition warrant articles, unless it's a bond. If somebody proposes a petition bond article that date is January 7<sup>th</sup>. But January 11<sup>th</sup> is the absolute last day for warrant articles. Petition or otherwise.

Selectman Morin then said when does the Town budget start? In December? The Town Administrator said December 1<sup>st</sup> for the Budget Committee. So the books will be delivered to them in person, I believe, next Wednesday at their meeting. They've consented to that so we'll have them ready.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. by Selectman Gagnon seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

Excused Absence  
Marilyn E. McGrath, Chairman

Excused Absence  
Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Morin, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kara Roy, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett Gagnon, Selectmen