

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**February 10, 2020**

## **MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**4:00 P.M.**

*The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.*

Selectmen present: Dick Hendl, Chairman, Tamara Butcher and George McCusker

Others: Attorney Sheridan Brown, Sue-Ann Kazenas, Audrius Kazenas, Don Hill, Poul Heilmann, Leigh Callaway, Mike Lawlor, Paul Seyfried, Pete Abair, Whit Smith, Keith Cutting and Sue Cutting

The meeting started with the pledge of allegiance.

### **Scheduled Appointments:**

Dick began by continuing the discussion with George, Whit Smith and Peter about what to do and recommend in regards to replacing the red Freightliner. There has been discussion on whether to replace it with a new one or another used one. Dick feels we have converged on a solution because in Peter's opinion the red Freightliner might not last through next winter. Dick stated the only real solution is to purchase a used truck of a newer vintage, 2014 or 2015 at least. Peter added that they just did a bunch of work to the truck so they can probably get another winter out of it. Dick doesn't think it's prudent to depend on that and have Peter and the truck tied up for another winter; we should take the data we have and reach conclusion. Dick would like Pete to pursue the used truck candidates in Westminster, possibly take Chuck Fay along, and pick out a good one if they can find one. Dick pointed out is not necessary to purchase a truck right away. Tamara agreed with Dick. The truck needs to be newer than a 2014. The truck can't be older than everything else we have. Dick stated there is time to look for something that really makes sense. Peter has received pictures of a 2013 International with 35,000 miles on it and a steel body, they are asking \$62,500. Dick asked if Peter has gotten any information on the price to put a stainless-steel body on that truck; he has not received that information yet. George would like to see the highway department get on a new truck rotation. George's vote is for a new truck and to get on a rotation that every so many years we will purchase a new truck, like most towns do. George will support whatever Peter wants to do. Dick and Tamara shared that their first impression was to buy a new truck, however circumstances have put the town in the position where the prudent thing to do is to go out and buy a good used truck now and look for the next cycle to start the five year replacement for a new truck. George feels that's fine, if we can find something. The trucks he is seeing aren't much better than what we already have. Dick stated that is why he is suggesting that if Peter finds one to take Chuck Fay with him and have a second independent opinion on what the truck is. Don Hill works with a guy, close friend of twenty years, who owns O'Connor Trucks in Maine; he deals in new and used trucks. He deals with municipalities all the time, people on a five-year cycle. Don is willing to make an introduction if the board would like. Tamara is open to having Don reach out to him for the town. Tamara made a motion to suggest to the budget committee that a truck up to the amount

of \$75,000 be added as a warrant article from the unreserved fund balance to expire in 2022, seconded by George and unanimously approved. Dick stated this would be discussed with the budget committee on Wednesday. Dick asked that Don have his truck dealer call Peter or provide Peter with the information to contact him.

Dick made a motion to allow Leigh to continue winding the clocks on a routine basis at the meetinghouse to keep them going, so that he can retain a key and go in on his schedule, seconded by Tamara, and unanimously approved.

Don has volunteered to lead a building committee to get the lift installed. Dick thanked him for doing this. Don stated as of now the town holds the money for this project in an off-budget line item. We have the quote from the builder who now has a window to start at some point in March. Don shared the proposed agreement, which is basically the RFP that we drafted over a year ago, with a couple of minor tweaks to reference the alarm, electrical, plumbing and the committee. The proposed committee is comprised of Don Hill, Leigh Callaway, Poul Heilmann, Paul Seyfreid and Jeff Milne. Dick asked with respect to the March start, is that something that looks like it will happen? Dick is wondering if we start in March will they require some heat in the building, should we maybe delay it until June? Don feels that we all know it is almost impossible to get contractors to commit a project. Don feels if we can get him to start in March, we should commit to that. Whit asked the lead time on ordering a lift. Don stated it is a five to six week project to create the environment into which you install the lift. Bob Webber, the lift vendor, said once he gets the green light the lift will be available in six weeks. Leigh added that in looking at the calendar we have elections and town meeting in March, and there is also some plumbing work that needs to be done. It will all need to be juggled; clearly it will be a good idea to have heat for the town meeting and elections and at the same time it would be a good idea to work around that heat requirement to get the contract moving. Dick left the details up to the building committee. Don then presented the board with the RFP for their review and signatures. There will be an initial 10% due with the acceptance of contract, followed by 40% at conclusion of the modifications to the building being complete. The final balance will be due after the lift is installed and operational. Don shared that Mason Wheeler will be handling the plumbing, Capital Alarm will handle the moving of the alarm panel and the contractor has an electrician that he works with regularly. Paul Seyfreid has volunteered to be clerk of the works. Mike Lawlor asked if there is a commitment time on the finished project. Don stated the contractor expects it to be done in June if he can start in March, but for the purpose of the contract he is obligated to be done by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Leigh assured the board that someone from the committee will be present at the selectboard meetings to present progress updates, when there is progress. Dick suggests that the committee report to the board on a monthly basis. Don asked if Paul Seyfreid could be issued a key, so he is able to stop in to check the progress at his convenience; the board is fine with this request. At this time attorney Brown suggested the town check in with the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development office in Concord, they offer community facilities grants. Dick thanked attorney Brown for the information. Whit then asked if the grant would be pursued before signing the RFP. Dick feels it best to pursue the grant in parallel with the RFP. The board of selectmen signed the RFP. Don expressed his thanks to the board. Dick made a motion to appoint the building committee, comprised of Don Hill, Leigh Callaway, Poul Heilmann, Paul Seyfreid and Jeff Milne, as a subcommittee of the selectboard, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

Dick turned things to Attorney Brown. Attorney Brown stated he sent a letter to members of the board on Friday by email, and certified mail, and was attending the meeting in case the board had any interest in asking any questions or discussing the letter. Tamara stated that she would like to talk to the town's legal council before discussing it. Attorney Brown stated that he did email the letter to Christine Fillmore as well because of the tight timeline they are up against now with a decision being made on Thursday. Attorney Brown feels they have a reasonable proposal and wanted to see if that worked for everyone. Tamara stated again she doesn't feel comfortable saying anything without talking attorney Fillmore. Dick said the board entered the decision made on December 16<sup>th</sup> with attorney Fillmore's guidance and agrees with Tamara that he doesn't want to plunge into this without the opportunity to discuss this with her at length. Dick understands the timeline is short, but the weekend did not allow the board to have that conversation. Attorney Brown submitted this in the short window they have because if they go Thursday night and the decision is unfavorable, even if the board were to say they rescind their decision, we then have something on the record from the zoning board. He and his clients are working with their last bit of time to throw something else out there and make this easier for everyone. Attorney Brown stated his clients are more generous than he is; he probably wouldn't have taken the extra step, but they are putting it out there as an option. Dick stated the board appreciates the offer but are not in a position to decide on it right now. Dick asked, to be clear, if we go beyond Thursday then all bets are off as far as this goes. Attorney Brown said yes, because the zoning board has a thirty day statutory deadline to issue a decision. Attorney Brown feels they will issue a decision, as there is no reason to hold over and not issue a decision once we provide the additional information; and he would encourage them to make a decision on Thursday night because they have been in limbo too long. Attorney Brown added that he has a national group that is interested in becoming involved in this as well; we are all eager to move forward. Dick asked a hypothetical question, if the zoning board decides that board should have signed the certificate of compliance will you still be in a position to do what you suggest in the proposal. Attorney Brown stated they would still be in that position because they still wouldn't be reaching a decision in that case that my clients aren't grandfathered. Dick then stated the board will do their best to have a discussion with attorney Fillmore prior to Thursday and at that point will be in a position to give attorney Brown a decision. George stated it seems to him that this proposal is exactly the new information the zoning board has been requesting right along. At all the hearings they have wanted something new, and up until this letter there has been nothing new. George would think this is at least something new the zoning board can take into discussion because up until now there has been nothing new proposed. The zoning board won't grant a re-hearing without something that has changed, and this is at least something new. Attorney Brown added they will not be seeking another hearing; they are done looking for special exceptions to do it. There were some proposals in the first round for noise reduction and that board still reached the decision of there being no way to control noise. He feels the way the board left it made it seem like there was no way for them to be satisfied. Attorney Brown feels the burden of proof has been flipped; usually someone who makes an accusation is called upon to substantiate that with a burden of proof and there have been a lot of claims about noise. Attorney Brown said it shouldn't be his client's responsibility to go out and disprove the claims that are being made, but they are willing to take that extra step which is good on them. The board of selectmen will do their best to have a decision to him before the meeting on Thursday,

and if they can't we will have to see how the zoning board meeting goes. Dick thank attorney Brown for the proposal.

Susan Cutting would like to know if she would be allowed to clean some stones at the old cemetery. Susan took a class on how to clean the stones, and the cleaning would be done under the guidance of the association of the old cemeteries. George feels that Susan should speak with the cemetery commission. Tamara added that if Susan is unable to get anywhere with the commission to let her know. Dick would like to at least give Susan the boards support; Tamara is in agreement. Dick made a motion that the board is in favor of having Susan contact the cemetery commission to work with them to restore the stones at the cemetery. George, being the liaison to the cemetery commission, was asked to make them aware that Susan would be contacting them. Keith clarified that restoration is not what they are talking about, just cleaning the stones. Dick amended his motion to restrict Susan's activities to cleaning, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

#### Zoning Permits:

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, February 10, 2020.

Here is a summary of permit applications and Zoning Coordinator activity.

#### Application for Permit – Acted Upon, APPROVED

None.

#### Open Application - In Hand, But NOT Acted Upon.

1. Kara Zaleskas, 164 Four Corners Road; No change in status on this matter.

#### Other Matters.

A. Inquiry from property owner on Philbrick Hill Rd regarding planned garage that will be about 20' off the lot line. Advised accordingly – variance required for relief from setback requirement prior to issuance of Zoning Permit.

B. Inquiry from property owner on Kolelemook Lake regarding rebuild of camp on non-conforming lot (same footprint except for entry vestibule and small deck/covered porch). Advised accordingly – special exception required for relief from setback requirement prior to issuance of Zoning Permit.

C. Received follow-up email from agent for AT&T regarding cell tower upgrades.

D. Met with property owner on Four Corners Road regarding “nano-brewery.” Assisted owner with preparation of applications to the ZBA (Special Exception to operate business) and PB (Site Plan).

E. Prep for and attend Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting - February 4, 2020

F. Multiple inquiries regarding noise, noise reports, noise studies, and received draft of new noise ordinance from Planning Board sub-committee; and then more requests for info regarding obnoxious noise, noise from barking dogs, noise from the D&C pellet mill, multiple requests for copies of the 1997 Zoning Ordinance, clarification regarding the concept of "grandfathered" activity in the context of land use, and several requests for definitions of a "home business" as defined in ordinances adopted prior to 2008 (yes, 2008, not 2005)

G. Multiple inquiries regarding high speed internet service for residents in Springfield. Turns out the information reported two weeks ago is INCORRECT. Although previously informed that Consolidated has NOT decided to no longer offer new or upgraded internet service lines, this was BAD information. The Company informed the Chair of the BOS that their equipment on Route 4A is at capacity and new or upgraded service cannot be offered at this time. Also received several "leads" regarding programs for bringing high speed internet to rural areas. Suggestions from Comcast that residents contacts them directly (forwarded to me). Zoning Coordinator is NOT initiating any of this activity. I report on it ONLY because it may be perceived as a Planning issue for the Town. However, Zoning Coordinator will attend meeting in Concord where topic is to be discussed. If the result is "NATO," (No Action, Talk Only) this field trip will be done at NO CHARGE to the Town.

<< February 9, 2020 >>

Whit turned everyone's attention to other matters item F stating he has received several inquiries and requests for information and copies of the 1997 zoning ordinance regarding noise and wanted to make sure the board was aware of this.

Whit talked about his experience at the meeting in Concord regarding the conversation for broadband high-speed internet. Whit did make contact with appropriate and capable people in Senator Shaheen's office, Maggie Hassan's office and Annie Kuster's office. Whit explained briefly the situation here in Springfield and it immediately got their attention. Whit added that other then the town of Chesterfield, Springfield was the only municipality in attendance. Dick thanked Whit for attending.

Whit sat through the Zoning Board's hearing the other night involving the Select Shepherds appeal. He was struck by one thing, attorney Brown made a very strong, not so sure it was compelling, case based on factual assertions and there was no effort to test or abut those facts. Whit stated had he been sitting in a position of authority he would have at least questioned or tried to dig in to some of the new data that was presented; it really was an ex parte hearing. Facts were presented by the appellant and there was no significant examination of those facts. Whit added the attorney for the appellant did say that there were those that said noise was not a problem. Whit remembers a conversation during the proceeding where a member of the audience said noise was not a problem. Whit feels the individual spoke inartfully; Whit believes the individual intended to say noise was not a problem and then the dogs came along and then there was a lot of noise from the dogs. Whit feels some of this information is being taken out of context. Whit is willing to stand up to anyone and say you may have heard it that way, but I heard it slightly different. Janet said what she heard sitting there, and after many hours

transcribing the tape, when Susan asked the process in the rules of procedure is those in favor get to speak and those opposed get to speak. All the people mentioning noise were all speaking as opposed, there was no one who spoke in favor of it. Whit defers to the tape and is happy the meeting was taped. Whit is very concerned that the facts have not been fully vetted with respect to the arrival of the business, time and duration of the business and whether or not there has been any interruption to the business; and it seems to him if this end up in Superior Court those are issues that addressed. Dick was concerned that the whole hearing took a turn away from what the purpose of that hearing was and focused on the noise which was not the reason for the hearing. Whit stated grandfathering is well settled in this and many other states, the problem is the concept of being grandfather is one of the most misunderstood legal concepts there is. Whit would commend Bernie Waugh's writings on it to make the determination. Janet added that attorney Fillmore forwarded these writings to the board on Wednesday.

Dick added to part G of Whit's report regarding internet access on 4-A. Dick called Consolidated Communications and they told him it's not that they can't offer it at this time, but it is an engineering problem whether they want to string more lines there; at this point and time the engineers have not made a recommendation that they want to do it. Dick then called the Public Utilities Commission, and not only do they have the same understanding they also said there is no law that requires any utility to provide internet service, they only have to provide basic telephone service. This is a business decision whether Consolidated Communication wants to pursue it. Dick called Kristen Mitchell and Glorice at comcast and have gotten no response. Whit reported on that to the assembled group of big thinkers this morning. Whit will share more about his morning meeting if time allows at the end.

Minutes of January 27, 2020:

Dick made a comment of a name needing correction. It is not Mildred Pierce it is Melissa Pierce, which appears twice on page five and six.

Dick added it was not caught on the December 16<sup>th</sup> minutes that we did not include that we had gone into non-public session and went back into public session. Jill has prepared an addendum to those minutes to make them complete. Tamara moved to accept the minutes of January 27<sup>th</sup> with the two changes in Mildred's name, seconded by Dick and passed by both since George was not in attendance of that meeting.

*Dick stated, again, he spoke to ~~Melissa~~ Mildred Pierce at Wayne Smith's suggestion.*

*Dick told Whit that if the folks he has spoken with can provide a contact at Comcast, other than ~~Melissa~~ Mildred Pierce, Dick will be happy to call again.*

Dick made a motion to accept the addendum of the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

*The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.*

*Motion by Dick to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (e) & (l). The motion was seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.*

*At 8:18pm board voted unanimously to adjourn the non-public session. Dick moved to enter back into public session, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved. Motion made by Tamara to seal the non-public minutes, seconded by Dick and unanimously approved.*

## Old Business:

Keith stated we have discussed this with most all parties involved with the Class VI road issue of Old Perley Town Road from Webster Pass road to the lower mill site. Keith has spoken with a couple of law enforcement agencies and have their recommendations, which is basically to go cut the lock. Keith would prefer not to do that; he does not feel that is a proper way of proceeding at this point. Keith is asking the board to write a letter to the water precinct to remove their lock from the gates and bars on that Class V road. Dick reminds Keith of commitments made by both sides at the last meeting. Dick was to get a copy of the easement from Ken Jaques that he could provide to Keith and Keith was to get a copy of whatever Mason had in writing giving him a key so that could be given to Ken. Dick has not received either of those documents, when he does receive those documents he can move to the next step. Keith has talked with Mason, and his position is consistent throughout these discussions that any conversations between the owners of this piece of property and the state of NH have no relevance to the town of Springfield. They would be negotiations for private access through their lands and the use of their trails and road systems. Keith's purpose is specifically toward the town in identifying whether these roads are class VI or discontinued roads. There was an investigation done by the board of selectmen and their determination is recorded in the selectboard minutes. The RSA's clearly define that it is illegal to lock a gate and bar on a class VI road. Keith is now asking the selectboard to send a letter to the water precinct informing them that they have an illegal lock and that they need to take some form of corrective action within the next thirty days. They have tried to come up with a number of different compromises and the water precinct has clearly made it known that they have no intention of working toward any compromise. Keith takes them at their word. If the water precinct doesn't take corrective action Keith will be back to ask the board to enforce the RSA through local law enforcement. Keith has spoken with a representative at the attorney general's office, they referred him to the Sullivan County sheriff's office as being the primary law enforcement agency for Sullivan County. They did talk a little bit of local law enforcement, but they work for the selectboard and if the selectboard chooses not to enforce the RSA he would not want to put Tim and company in conflict. Keith did not expect Ken would provide documentation as he is unsure that it exists. Keith does agree with what Ken did say at the last meeting, that the state forester has nothing to do with any trespass on the trail system. The state forester's leading agency has given control of the roads and trails to New Hampshire Trails Bureau, they are the ones that are issuing permits to the roads in the Gile State Forest. Tamara feels a letter is probably a step to take. Dick will draft a letter to the water precinct stating Keith's position. Keith would prefer the letter state the selectmen's position. Dick is disappointed that Keith agreed to provide a written documentation from Mason, Ken agreed as well, and have received nothing from either party. Janet added that Ken called her and would bring the documentation to the board when he is up this way, he wasn't coming for the meeting tonight. Keith stated his comment to the board was that he would provide that document if it existed; Keith has determined as of right now it does not exist. Dick would have appreciated learning that earlier. Keith's point is to relevancy and Ken's documentation that was discussed, which also has not been provided, and the documentation that he checked on is irrelevant to addressing the lock on the gate. That is only relevant to conversation between what will be Mason and the state. All of Mason's conversations with the state have been verbal, and Keith misunderstood that, he believed Mason had some documentation and he does not. Mason is continuing to pursue that. Dick asked if Mason had a

key to that lock to which Keith answered no he does not. George asked if he had a key to another gate, Keith answered no there is no key at all. Keith stated that Mason holds no key, but he has been told he could have a key anytime he asked for one. As of Friday, he was going to pursue that with his contact in Concord. The NH Trails Bureau has been handing out permits and keys to other discontinued roads in the Gild forest and would hope within a short period of time Mason will be successful in obtaining one of those written permits and a physical key for the three landowners for that particular lot of land. To clarify Dick repeated that Mason is pursuing a key for the second gate up, the one that goes in to the Gile Forest; Keith answered yes because they are the only gates the state controls. They do not control the gate that is being controlled by the water precinct. The board will draft a letter to the water precinct concerning the removal of the lock from the lower gate. Keith will be observing the gate, and in thirty days from the letter being sent if the lock is not removed, he will be back to ask the board enforce through local law enforcement. Keith has spoken with Tim and knows his opinion, but he works for the board and is obligated to behave in a fashion directed by the board. Keith's alternative is by state and county law enforcement.

Keith would like to bring attention the line in the minutes, that were approved this evening, that Ken made an offer to the Town of Springfield for the water precinct to pay for any legal costs that the town might incur in addressing this matter. Keith would like to know if the town accepted the water precincts offer. Dick stated the board listened to Ken and did not make any decision one way or the other. Keith was informed by the attorney general's office that is a bribe. Keith is glad the offer was not accepted. Dick said that if the offer had been accepted Jill would have put it in the minutes. Keith asked if he is correct in assuming the selectboard has declined Ken's offer to cover the town's legal costs on this. Tamara stated the board didn't do anything, he vocalized it and the board listened. Keith then asked if the board's position at this point is that the offer is under consideration. Tamara answered no, no one will be paying the town's attorney fees besides the town.

#### Old Business:

Whit asked if it is the position of the board of selectmen to put \$75,000 into the budget and to have it be in the general fund for a period of years and if and when a good truck is found that money would be used to get the truck. Tamara stated that we will have until December of 2022 to use the money. Janet stated that what the board decided to do was to appropriate up to \$75,000 from the unreserved fund balance to purchase a truck for the highway department that article to lapse when the purchase is complete or not until December 31, 2022. Whit's point is now we have the time we need to use an intelligent approach to buy the appropriate truck to meet our requirements as opposed to buying a truck we are feeling pressured in to. As the person who signed the last purchase and sales agreement on the last truck Dick admits he has learned a lot. Dick said we will not be buying another used truck on Pete Abair's say so, only after another disinterested party looks over the truck; the board was in agreement on this. Janet added as of right now the operating budget is at \$1,470,462.

Dick shared that he and Shawn Tanguay toured Kennebec last Thursday. Dick has provided a write up of that visit which will be available at the town office. What was essentially discovered was that the sound level is at a lower level than it has been, and it has been that way consistently. Kennebec's lawyer did send a copy of the report that Mark Gilbert had done, which was also sent



to Mike Hummel, Ryan Peterson, Brooks Weathers and was asked to send it to Paul Seyfreid but did not have his email; everyone interested out in the community and that has asked for it does have a copy. Dick is continuing to go out on a random basis and take measurements. Mike Lawlor said from his observation there is hardly any lumber going up there. The last delivery he saw was on Wednesday. Dick stated that the kiln's were all packed during their site visit.

Dick spoke to Darrin about the sand shed site. Darrin was going to take paperwork up to Dan Nash last Monday or Tuesday.

#### New Business:

Dick shared that tomorrow is the primary and B. Manning has informed him that there needs to be two selectmen on site at all times. Dick added there has also been a suggestion the selectmen be greeters while there. Dick and George will be at the election from 8am to 7pm and Tamara will be there at 12:15pm. Dick added that if for some reason we only have one selectman present a temporary selectman can be appointed.

#### Board and Department Updates:

George discussed the fiasco with the truck at the highway department. The part that was put into the newer truck failed, now there is a battle going on between Freightliner and the dealer as to who's at fault. They will try to get a new part here this week and then Freightliner and the dealer can fight out who will pay the next \$6,500 bill.

Dick shared that the Library Trustees will be meeting on Thursdays at 1pm from now on. We have a new alternate, Anika Munholand, and she can't make Tuesdays at 1pm. Art Bobruff also announced that he is not running for reelection.

Keith stated that he sent an email to Dick requesting a get together for the EMD for introduction purposes. Dick asked if both deputies had contacted Keith. Keith has been contacted by Lars, but not Raymond. Janet asked if there would be any problems if this didn't get organized until after town meeting; none from Keith. Keith would also use this meet and greet as an opportunity to introduce Julia Chase who is our NH Department of Emergency Management representative. This would be a good time for the board to ask her any specific questions on the grant qualifications.

#### Correspondence:

None

#### Signatures:

None

Janet commented on the letter from Attorney Brown with his statement that he never got a report from the police department whether there had been any calls and the other statement that he didn't get the electronic communications. Is this something the town should pursue so we answer his claims under the right now know law by having Tim write him a letter stating there were no citations. Dick does feel we ought to address this. Tim did provide all the calls that

happened in that area, but never provided whether there were any citations to his client. Janet will respond to attorney Brown via email and certified mail that he never got back to her with the Kazenas' email address so our search for data could not be completed by our information specialists. The board agrees with these suggestions.

#### Miscellaneous Business:

Mike Lawlor asked the board if they could settle an argument between him and his wife. The booths used during elections, do we keep those or are they brought in? The board stated they belong to the town. The only thing brought in is the laptop and the electronic gear that is in the handicap booth. Janet added that the booths are kept in the closet by the stage. Mike did not win this argument.

Whit provided a brief analysis on his meeting in Concord this morning regarding high speed internet services. There is an emerging national initiative at the federal level to make progress on providing high speed internet service via broadband as distinguished from wireless throughout the country. Whit met with representatives from Hassan, Kuster and Shaheen's offices, so from a networking point of view we established a contact. Assumptions were made that just don't apply to Springfield and the only way we might move this forward are these thoughts:

1. To get the attention of an existing service provider that is serving the Town of Springfield, which would be Consolidated Communications.
2. Follow up with the people who want to make good press, and perhaps some follow up with Consolidated Communications to say we don't have an existing franchise in town and we need you to come in and evaluate whether or not you are willing to return our phone calls.

This brings Whit to the conclusion of how do we proceed as a town. The time to move would be now because this is the hot topic of today. Whit feels we need a group, committee or office, some sort of entity associated with the town that has the same level of motivation that the 250<sup>th</sup> committee had. One of the opportunities for 200 million dollars in funding, the grants must be in by March 15<sup>th</sup> or March 31<sup>st</sup>, Whit is confident we can make that deadline. The overall takeaway being there are target initiatives for underserved areas, and that would be us. The cost to the town would not be that significant, but the benefit would be astounding. Dick asked about tapping some of the folks that were interested in this in the past. Dick has volunteered to contact these folks to see if they have an interest in forming a committee and contacting Whit for his information and contacts. Whit feels this might be a good opportunity to find out what the Upper Valley Region Planning Commission could really do for us. Dick believes we need to form a group of young folks to form a committee and run with it, commit to it. This will be a challenge for the town.

George made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm

Jill Hastings  
Deputy Administrative Assistant