

MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2020

ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District were hereby notified and warned to meet at the Springfield High School Cafeteria in said Town on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. (7:30 o'clock in the afternoon) to act upon all matters which may be voted upon by acclamation and not otherwise to be voted by ballot, following which all articles to be voted by Australian Ballot on March 3, 2020, will be discussed, and then to adjourn to the Riverside Middle School Gymnasium at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) on March 3, 2020, to vote by ballot for Town and Town School District Officers, for all appropriations to be voted by ballot, and all other items of business to be voted by ballot.

Moderator Patrick M. Ankuda called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the presentation of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Springfield Area Boy Scout Troop #252. A moment of silence was held for members of the community who had passed, including former Town Manager, Robert Forguites. Applause was given for new community members. Thank you to Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne and Assistants Maxine Aldrich and Sara Allen, the Board of Civil Authority and the Town Constable and other officers and elected officials of the town.

Moderator Patrick M. Ankuda explained procedure and that Roberts Rules of Order and Vermont Law govern the meeting. Only registered voters of the Town of Springfield are permitted to speak during the meeting under rules of Vermont Law. Non-registered voters are welcome but they have limited participation and cannot vote on any of the floor votes tonight. As a practical matter are there certain members, employees and officers of the town and town school district and special appropriation representatives who need to speak and answer questions and will be allowed to do so on a case-by-case. All questions and comments must be addressed to me as the Moderator unless indicated otherwise. Raise your hand, wait to be recognized by me, come to microphone to speak, clearly state your name and address. SAPA TV is broadcasting. Expectations of conduct were further explained regarding multiple questions and accommodation of disabilities.

Moderator Patrick M. Ankuda explained that there are 31 Articles in the Warrant, pages 90-92 of town report and will be presented out of order so that since Articles 2, 6 and 11 are floor votes, they will be first. Australian Ballot Articles 1, 3-5 and 7-10 and 12-30 and final article is open to the floor for comments and concerns, although no binding action may be taken. Each floor article must be moved, second, restated by the Moderator before discussion. Once discussion is over, question will be called, question is restated and a voice vote taken of only registered voters. A revote of a floor vote can be requested by one voter which will divide the house by chairs or will take a paper ballot, which needs to be requested by 7 people. Once decided, an article cannot be reconsidered in the same meeting once consideration of the next article begins.

ARTICLE 2: To receive and act on reports of the Town Officers, Town School District Officers and Committees.

Motion: Charles Burton Gulick, III (Terry) - 376 Parker Hill moved Article 2.

Second: Scott Farr – 190 Fairground Heights seconded the motion.

Discussion: Willis D. Stearns II – 1366 Connecticut River Road questioned on page 55 of the Annual Report in the Audit, item 6 which states that interfund transfers constitute the transfer of resources from the fund that

receives the resources to the fund that utilizes them. Transfers made from the General Fund to the Water and Sewer Fund totaling \$450,000 were to reimburse annual operational expenditures. To make that clear tax dollars being raised and transferred to the Water/Sewer Fund which is listed in the Audit as a proprietary fund, business fund.

On page 42, page 6 of the Audit, in Table 2 see Transfers In (Out) 2018/2019 transfer out of \$470,000 out of General Fund went to Water/Sewer Fund. Net Increase (decrease) seen in the chart, shows the Water/Sewer Fund effectively made 2/3 of its surplus in 2018 by transfer of tax dollars, it made 100% of its surplus by transfer of tax dollars. Enterprise funds are self-sustaining.

Back on page 55, page 31 of the Audit, item 5, Interfund Receivables and Payables in the chart shows net General Fund receivable of over \$1.6 million and Water/Sewer Fund payable of over \$1.6 million.

Question is at what point did the voters decide to cover the deficit of the Water/Sewer fund with tax dollars? I presume in next years budget there is also a transfer of outside of operation. On page 37, Annual Report, this transfer is not noted anywhere but it is within one of those department budgets.

Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated that the interfund transfer is due to water/waste water bonds that the town obligated for, 14 million approximately. Some of the water lines we have are for town operations for example, fire hydrants and those type of things. Some of the bond obligations that we have are directly related to water supply that affects town's people.

Years ago the Selectboard, town manager and financial officers decided that the water/waste water users should not be funding the entire expense of those bonds. We also had storm water separation, which is not a water/waste water function but rather a function of the town and those infrastructure bonds are the town's responsibility. Raised by taxes and transferred to the agencies that controls the water/waste water department.

Vote: All in favor.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend such grant monies, gifts, or bequests which may be received by the Town of Springfield in accordance with the terms of said grants, gifts, or bequests?

Motion: Charles Burton Gulick, III (Terry) - 376 Parker Hill moved Article 6.

Second: Scott Farr - 190 Fairground Heights seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the Town Treasurer, subject to the direction and approval of the School Board, to borrow money to meet the requirements of the Town School District for the ensuing year, and also authorize the Town Treasurer, subject to the approval of the School Board, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes rated to meet the requirements of the Town School District for the ensuing year?

Motion: Charles Burton Gulick, III (Terry) - 376 Parker Hill moved Article 11.

Second: Scott Farr - 190 Fairground Heights seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: All voted in favor.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Town Officers and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:

Cemetery Commissioners	Selectmen
First Constable	Town Agent
Library Trustees	Town Moderator
Lister	Town School District Moderator
School Director	Trustees of Public Funds

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town Moderator for the ensuing year?

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to pay each Selectperson the sum of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving the Town in that office?

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWELVE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND FOUR and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,612,404.00) for the budget of the Town for salaries, incidental and necessary Town expenses, including highways, and for the purposes for which the law requires appropriations, and for which a Town may legally vote?

Note to reader: Refer to slides posted with these minutes regarding town articles.

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris presented that the previous Town Manager Tom Yennerell presented the 2020 - 2021 draft budget to the Selectboard and Budget Advisory Committee back in early December. This followed two months of review and input by our department heads, who worked diligently with him to offer an operating budget that was as close to net zero as possible. The Selectboard would like to thank each of them for their efforts to control costs, increases and advocate for reductions where possible. All while maintaining current level of services.

This has also been the goal of the current Selectboard over the past several years. To maintain existing services while providing them as efficient as possible. Short of cutting services, personnel, capital equipment and/or paving, it is always difficult to present a budget that doesn't have an increase. It is recognized and acknowledged that our property taxes are near the top of the list in Vermont and the Board is sensitive to our current tax burden. A reminder that all of the Board members are property owners, as well.

This first slide represents the 2020 - 2021 budget of \$12,612,404, This is what you will see on the ballot tomorrow as article five. With additional focus on increasing revenues, the net amount to be raised by taxes is \$10,025,386. The result is an increase of \$336,729 or 3.48% over current budget.

Slide number two shows a pie chart of the various departments that make up the total budget. It may be hard to see or read and may not offer any feel-good comfort but it does show that the 29% fixed cost percentage is a major component of the budget.

When combined with our Public Works department, they make up 53% of the total budget. Why am I mentioning our highway department? I am sure we are all aware that Springfield has the second most highway mileage in the State. Together with the fact that we have several steep hills, an enormous amount of winter materials such as salt and sand is required. Summer maintenance materials are also typically high as the department works to repair gravel roads following our infamous mud season. All of these material costs are dependent on market pricing and typically have annual rising costs.

The next slide shows examples of our fixed costs, which are those unavoidable items such as health insurance, workers compensation, retirement contributions and liability, etc. I would like to mention that the total gross increase, over the 2019 - 2020 budget is \$735,197. This slide represents the bulk of fixed costs and totals \$602,716. These are the largest contributors to the gross increase and include examples of other smaller ones.

However, when you add in the anticipated revenue increases, the net result becomes the \$336,729 amount. A later slide will show one such effort for increasing revenues.

The next slide shows the 2020 - 2021 annual increase compared to the previous four years. The average over these four years is 2.50%. When adding in the 2020 – 2021 increase, the average over the five-year period becomes 2.70%. This isn't intended to lessen the impact of this increase, rather it represents the growth trend over five years.

The past two annual budget increases were obtained by cutting capital equipment contributions. However, this practice is difficult to sustain and will end up costing the town more over the long run. Capital reductions were used in the past and we all know the result of cutting previous paving contributions. This budget does include restoration of a previously cut capital equipment contribution.

The next slide shows the impact to property taxes based on various assessment values. This 3.48% increase results in a \$61 increase per year on a \$100,000 assessment. A \$150,000 assessment would equate to a \$91 increase, annually. Doubling the assessment values will double the dollar amounts shown.

The Selectboard acknowledges increases are difficult and burdensome on taxpayers. There are only two ways to lower taxes, cutting services or growing grand list.

I mentioned that revenues were also a focus of increase. The next slide shows the anticipated revenue increase of \$398,468. As it states, every dollar of new revenue is one less dollar required from taxes.

The final slide shows a new revenue venture that I previously mentioned. Thru a non-emergency ambulance transfer service, revenues will be generated from transporting patients from hospital to hospital and scheduled transfers for non-ambulatory patients to their doctor appointments, etc.

Chief Thompson created a business plan for our fire department to generate revenues via this service. Non-emergency patient transfers are not currently supported within our normal emergency EMS operations. The fire department does in-town transfers but does not often transport patients out of town. Other area agencies currently provide similar service but more resources of this type are needed. It is recognized this is an opportunity to raise more revenues.

To supplement the current department staffing, per diem EMS attendants will be hired to staff the non-emergency transfers. The revenues generated will more than cover the expected per-diem staff costs needed to support this service. A new ambulance purchase is planned for this year. We will retain the trade-in ambulance for the transfer service. The conservative \$124,397 revenue amount could have an even greater impact pending

its successful operation. Local hospitals have been inquiring about this service and they are very interested in this additional resource for inter-facility transfers.

Finally, we encourage the Springfield voters to support this budget. No matter where you stand with your opinion, it is important that our citizens come out and vote tomorrow. Your voice combined with your vote is the only guide the Selectboard has to gauge these efforts and determine our goals and objectives.

Chairman Kristi C. Morris announced this will be Moderator, Patrick Ankuda's last year of moderating after 21 years of service. Audience erupted into standing ovation.

John Bond - 1809 Connecticut River Road, Budget Advisory Committee Chairman stated that the committee performed a line by line review of each department to include looking at fixed costs and revenues. Met with department heads to come up with suggestions for the Selectboard. Budget maintains current level of services at increase of 3.48%. Thanks to committee members who got work done in a short period of time. Looking forward we realize increasing the grand list and perhaps a change in the level of services to decrease taxes to make Springfield a more desirable place to live.

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road requested every department head to explain their department increases tonight.

Chairman Kristi C. Morris - Chairman Morris stated budget conversations happened with department heads during budget workshops in December. Chairman Morris began with explanation of each section of the Public Works Department in response to Mr. Farnsworth's question by stating that administration section of public works has a total budget, includes director and foreman, total increase of \$3,385 which includes regular pay \$2,080, building maintenance \$500, telephones \$1,000. Street maintenance section one foreman and 15 employees and includes regular pay \$16,849, overtime \$10,000, 10% differential and on call and operating out of category, professional engineering design \$10,000 for bridges, safety material & equipment \$2,000, diesel fuel \$5,000, winter road materials increase in sand/salt \$9,000 and a \$55,000 bridge maintenance fund, which will need a local match at 5% or 10% and can be split over 3 year for lower impact on tax payer, street maintenance has a total increase of \$118,000. Cemeteries has a \$7,900 decrease with a mower savings, building & maintenance down \$4,000 and cemetery equipment fund down \$6,000. Vehicle section of salary adjustments of \$2,080, overtime of \$2,000 and on-call \$1,000, adjustments are based on historical data and contractual increases for labor, outside maintenance service \$4,000 for starting to replace radios in truck, chains & tires up \$5,000, minor equipment \$2,000 for total increase of \$18,580. Properties is land maintenance \$2,000, increased retaining walls by \$5,000, three reduction to building materials \$1000, equipment & tools \$1000 & catch basin cleaning \$2000 for net increase \$4,200. Recycling center at \$7,200 labor increase, material disposal fees \$8,000 which is costing us money, building maintenance services down \$1000 for net increase \$14,798. Total Public Works department there is a total net increase of \$151,611.

Stephen Geller - 152 Summer Street. Regarding anticipated revenue offsetting total increase \$400,000 out of total \$700,000, how confident is the Selectboard of that amount of revenue being raised and is there a contingency in case funds are not raised.

Chairman Kristi C. Morris responded that Chief Thompson was very conservative in his business plan model and did extensive research with surrounding service providers and believes revenue is obtainable. Per Diem staff hired as non-emergency transports are scheduled which could be out of town and/or out of state, with very lucrative payments. Optimistic that numbers will be better. We do not pay staff since they are not employed until there is a scheduled transport. Staffing will be adjusted accordingly. No benefits and full time salary being paid to staff. If we are not transferring, we are not paying.

Alan Lockwood - 89 Spencer Hollow Road. Believes history is being torn down in downtown. Years ago all the downtown stores were open for business. You tore our bakery down. Moderator Ankuda redirected to wait to address until Article 9. Years ago when shops were operating we had plenty of money, now it's up to the property owners to support the town. Places for sale, taxes are high and people are moving out of town. Retirement is not an easy street because you can't get by. Sad when we don't have industry downtown.

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road. Question for fire & ambulance. Mr. Farnsworth believes that in 1982 the town voted to have 2 ambulances for non-emergency transfers, in accordance with Puggy Lamphere's budget.

Fire Chief Russ Thompson: Stated that they were not budgeted in 1982 for two non-emergency ambulances, however, they were doing a lot of non-emergency transfers. He and Deputy Richardson were doing at that time 1 to 2 emergency calls a day compared with today doing 6 to 10 emergency calls a day. We are running at a paramedic level service. State protocols have changed and staff doing amazing things in the field. We are 11 fulltime people less than the next fire & ambulance service in the state that responds to the number of calls we do. Had to make a decision not have ambulances out for non-emergency calls instead of being available for many emergent calls in town. Wanted to preserve emergency services at paramedic level paid by tax dollars to stay available within Springfield and let an outside third party do non-emergency. Out of our 2400 runs last year runs of 1781 emergent thru state protocol of paramedic level. We do non-medical transfers to meet Medicare necessity and bill Health and Rehab and Springfield Hospital independently and runs are done quickly in approximately 30 min. We have never had two rigs just for non-emergency, we have had two ambulances since 1981. When buying a new ambulance for emergency, the old one gets traded at a value of \$26,000 or \$30,000. Starting an ambulance service allows us to keep the trade in rig and use it over the road to earn mileage money and Medicare, Medicaid and private pay money. Business plan will take 3-5 years to prove itself. We need revenue and we feel this provides for it.

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road. Under assumption that in 1981 we purchased an extra ambulance for non-emergency and that revenue was to go into general fund under.

Fire Chief Russ Thompson stated that he has been working here with Deputy Richards since 1981 and we had two ambulances and one was called a rescue.

Selectboard Member Mike C. Martin stated that the Fire Department budget is up \$236,000 of that number \$186,000 is additional cost for the non-emergency transport service also roof replacement increase of \$116,000 for replacing roof. \$186,000 cost for non-emergency service of which \$400,000 is expected in revenue, less cost of roof, \$116,000. Budget defers payment of fire truck to help pay for the roof.

Robert Farnsworth – 710 Massey Road. Doesn't understand deferring payment of fire truck.

Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated you cannot look at the \$286,000 increase without looking at the revenue, which is more. In the past 5 years we bought 2 new pumps. Engine 1 is 1996, has passed pump test, has some life, need to get roof fixed, therefore, deferring fire truck contribution for 1 year to pay for roof.

Charles Gregory - 69 Mineral Street. \$250,000 is equivalent to one Dunkin Donuts coffee per week, per household in Springfield. Stated that the government is more efficient in paying through Medicare and Medicaid than the private. This is a good idea to put forth to the public.

Raymond W. Ford - 592 Lacross Road wants to know roads and bridges are planned for repair. The Cutler Road bridge was just shut down and is inconvenient to truckers and farmers. He feels it hasn't changed in 15 years other than being washed out. Believes town can fix it easily and cheaply. If a tree came down it would be 24 hours to restore power. Where does budget stand on infrastructure.

Moderator Patrick Ankuda deferred question regarding roads and road reconstruction to Article 7 but believes the bridge issue is germane and will allow it.

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated North Springfield Industrial Park bridge is being looked at, the McDonald's bridge keeps getting delayed. Massey Road bridge, box culvert, same problem on Cutler Road. Near Riverside School and Redemption Center on Chester Road is a big upcoming project and 2 other culverts within next 2 years coming up and will have local matches. There are a number of bridges to be fixed and require engineering and local match funds. Budget includes bumped up funding as a plan for the match forthcoming. County Road bridge has another entrance/exit. Cutler Road bridge does have another in/out, sensitive to hair pin turns, but we have to select priorities. State inspection provides report and has advised closure.

Raymond W. Ford – 592 Lacross Road stated that Cutler bridge was built in 1924 and is 100 years old why wasn't it addressed sooner within the town budget?

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated that it is being factored in now, however, twelve years ago we were not funding capital funds and board worked to address funding issues, all of which makes budget go up. Making contributions to fix bridges within a pecking order.

Richard Hunter – 10 Pinebrook Lane stated that the shops in our history are gone, the tax base has changed, but the people still live here and we need to find a way to pay for fire, safety, police. If we want to attract new people we had better have decent infrastructure and we have to pay for it.

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road requested explanation of Police Department budget.

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated Police administration has increase \$16,660 in regular pay, decrease overtime and temporary pay of \$8,500.00, increase equipment & building of \$6,000, so \$12,562 total Police administrative increase. Police field services is up \$22,945 due to funding of 1.5 police cars per year. Last year we only funded 1 not 1.5. This year we put capital reduction of last back in so out of \$22,900, \$19,500 is for ½ of a car. Whole department is up Total increase \$35,900 but 1.5 is ½ a car.

Robert Farnsworth – 710 Massey Road wonders why he sees 2 to 3 cruisers parked every day. Why do we need so many cruiser if they are not being used?

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated that we have the following cars:

EQ1 = Chief's vehicle

EQ2 = K9 & front end patrol vehicle

EQ3, EQ4, EQ5, EQ7 = All front end patrol vehicles

EQ6 = Criminal detective's vehicle

EQ8 = Juvenile Detective vehicle & tow for department utility

EQ9 = Designated for court appearances. 1999 with 100K miles and cannot be on road for emergency. Out of service for 8 months and needs new steering rack at cost of \$2,200.

EQ3 replacement ordered 8 months ago and EQ4 will be replaced in 2020. Total of 9 vehicles. Down in patrol officers

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road questioned do we need that many officers?

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated that the department responds to 11,000 calls a years. Officers are working tons of overtime, entire vacation and this has been going on many years that we don't have full staffing so guys are beating selves up on overtime. Staffing gets assigned by number of calls.

Robert Farnsworth – 710 Massey Road stated that we have state police and sheriffs who run through town all the time who are doing law enforcement.

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris stated that state police is worse off and is short couple hundred troopers. They patrol through town because a few troopers live here. Londonderry is an enormous area for the number of troopers they have on shift. We have an interstate with transport of substances and we need protection. Sheriffs aren't far behind. Some towns contract with sheriffs to set up shop in their area and you have to pay. Sheriffs and state do patrol in town and set up here for visibility but don't respond to our calls.

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road stated he pays \$130.00 a week for property taxes and 1976 he graduated with 227 students. Last year 65 graduated and believes we've got a problem.

Willis D. Stearns, II – 1366 Connecticut River Road wants to know where within 20-21 budget, how much is being transferred to the water/sewer budget and from which department.

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris replied that interfund transfer is contained in fixed cost.

Willis D. Stearns II – 1366 Connecticut River Road reviewed that on page 37 of the Annual Report in Fixed costs of \$3,664,077 that \$450,000 is the interfund transfer more, more than 25%. Requests the line item budget be provided within town report rather than by summary.

Selectboard Chairman Kristi C. Morris corrected himself that this year's interfund transfer is \$435,000 this year and is up \$15,000 from last year of \$420,000. Respectfully disagrees that the line item budget report be presented within the Annual Report.

Richard Hunter – 10 Pinebrook Lane suggests going to budget meetings to see line items of the budget wherein the budget advisory participates.

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road stated that there is no industry in town and people have to travel and don't have time to go to meetings; now is time to discuss.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$700,000.00) for repaving, road construction, gravel road improvements, and ancillary professional services for the projects specified in the Road Surface Management System Report dated March 2015 or other duly warranted sidewalk improvements?

Selectboard Vice Chairman Walter E. Martone stated that Springfield has 123.5 miles of road and in accordance with our road study is very far behind in maintenance; now reconstructing and trying to play catch up. Past paving approval vote of 4/1 showed overwhelming approval to dedicated money to paving. Fifteen year plan in place and for 2020 the following roads will be done (see attached Proposed Pavement Plan 2020). Current year we did 5 miles paving done with contractor; very expensive. This proposed budget contains \$300,000 which has been built into Public Works general budget and with \$700,000 appropriation we will have \$1M to dedicate

to roads. Past year Public Works did various paving and put down 1000 tons of asphalt on roads in addition to 5 miles. These patches fall apart due to freezing and warming creates expanding and breaking apart of roads over weeks and months. With this plan we will creep on restoring, repaving roads and rebuilding at same level and keep going forward; not losing ground but going forward. Citizens have supported for several years; money is focused on this issue.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield was redirected by Moderator Patrick Ankuda to address her sidewalk question when Article 8 comes up next.

Charles Gregory - 69 Mineral Street mentioned that to convert from asphalt/concrete back to gravel costs .14 cents a mile to convert back.

Raymond W. Ford – 592 Lacross Road stated that Cutler Road is on list to be repaved, then only paving ½ a road with bridge being closed? There is no point.

Jeff Strong, Public Works Director (nonresident; no objection) stated that paving list was put together before bridge was closed so there may be a change. Bridge will be a long discussion.

Selectboard Vice Chairman Walter E. Martone suggested that the Cutler Road bridge closure will be discussed at a future Selectboard meeting.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) for a sidewalk reconstruction plan to study grant sourcing and for the reconstruction of sidewalks in various locations throughout the Town?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone stated that sidewalk infrastructure frequently overlooked. Sidewalks have been done as adjunct to paving and sometimes with grant money; not with consistent and dedicated funds or plan. Want to make Springfield more of a pedestrian friendly, vibrant, walkable town. Article amount is arbitrary to get started to start to develop a long term plan to identify priority similar to paving. If the article is approved it would add a 1.8 cents per 100 of assessed property value for property taxes.

Brenda Richardson - 81 Main St, North Springfield mentioned that sidewalks from below Baptist church by her house is horrendous; fire hydrant area down to mud. Elderly residents from Brookwood and children that walk and ride bicycle. Are we on that list for this year?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone stated that there isn't a prioritized list as of yet. There is not a prioritized list for doing sidewalks and Article 8 is a way to establish a list. Walter will ride by and look at her sidewalk.

Selectboard Member George T. McNaughton responded that there are sidewalks all over town in horrible shape. The hope here is to routinely have construction projects on sidewalks every year like we do on roads because more and more people are walking. This article is intended to get it started and to be sure the town supports this endeavor. This doesn't come close to fixing them all but it's a start towards a plan.

Stephen Geller - 152 Summer Street stated that Article 8 is a little vague. What is going to be done with the \$100,000?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone stated that he cannot give that information because there isn't a plan yet and the amount is an arbitrary place to start. Need to figure out exactly how much design and project will

costs and how much assistance from the state, and how much do we have to pay to develop a priority list and start working way through. Will also be seeking outside grants to fund identified projects; there is grant money available. At this point we don't have an answer, however, if we want to be serious about being walkable we need to step up.

Stephen Geller – 152 Summer Street stated that he cannot believe that this amount wasn't amount based on some sort of how much it costs to hire a consultant or the cost of someone's time. Was this amount just pulled out of the air?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone stated that brutally honest answer is yes. We wanted amount that was substantial to cover costs and have some results. Need to assess individual projects will cost. Feels we'll get something that will produce results.

Selectboard Member George T. McNaughton stated that we are talking about a huge amount of money to fix all the sidewalks. This is to set up the list and get started; will take years and need to get routine going.

Willis D. Stearns, II – 1366 Connecticut River Road wants to how many miles of sidewalks do we have? 123 miles of road and if sidewalk on two sides on 50% of roads, just consider that. \$100,000 is just for analyzing; this will take time and money.

Raymond W. Ford - 592 Lacross Road clarified that there isn't a formulated plan.

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone responded, correct. Recognizes this is a big ask we are looking for an amount to start something that could be tolerated by the voters but conscious to not ask for more than would be appropriate.

Robert Farnsworth - 710 Massey Road stated that Contractors will give you an exact amount; don't need \$100,000 to do a study. We just did put new sidewalks in from the end of this road down to here.

Selectboard Member Peter MacGillivray responded that it took 5 years with federal monies for less than ½ mile and was over \$400,000.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of THIRTY THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,000.00) for engineering, planning and permitting for the paving and drainage improvements of Riverside Middle School parking lot?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone stated that this is about .05 per 100 assessed value. A lot of activity shared use town/school of which neither has money to redo. Parking lot is in very bad shape, breaking up all over and in need of repair. Example of deferred maintenance gone extreme. Near river which requires testing, permits, drainage. We have to do some testing, see what the permits are, what requirements are for being near water, which requires latest and greatest requirements that change year to year. Funds are to design; needs to be created before it can be bid out to get it ready for construction. Will probably come back in subsequent year with project and figure out phases because it will be substantial.

Brenda Richardson –81 Main Street, North Springfield thinks Gurney Brothers could do this efficiently.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Springfield borrow an amount not to exceed TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$278,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available

state and federal grants-in-aid and other financing sources, for the purpose of making improvements for the completion of Comtu Cascade Park located between Main Street and the Black River?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone stated that this will have annual payment of \$60,180 over 5 years for sole purpose to finish downtown park; talking about borrowing not bonding. One penny per assessed 100 value. Downtown is turning corner revitalizing town and downtown is something that people look at when bringing in a business. Downtown looks like things are happening; on an upswing. The Woolson Block building is being restored to 1927 façade through number of different federal and state funding sources, although town is loaning some money; \$9M project. All storefronts will be state of the art. Springfield On The Move and Springfield Regional Development Center together are focusing their efforts between now and fall to have business lined up to fill storefronts. We purchased 2 buildings to do the park. Grist Mill had been condemned and Bakery had been analyzed, on market with zero interest, no qualities, burst pipes and we took down building and started building park. We only have ½ due to handicapped accessibility requirements. This is second ½ of the funding; we will continue to seek other grants and funding sources. We cannot have ½ a park.

Raymond W. Ford – 592 Lacross Road stated that by creating a park and taking money away from infrastructure, roads and bridges we build a park? What are we accomplishing? We could've paved another road?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone stated that we didn't take money that could've been used for paving. We had dedicated funding sources for specific types of activity and cannot be used for other construction projects.

Raymond W. Ford – 592 Lacross Road stated that his understanding that in the future you want to take out a loan and we could be paying the same amount to get infrastructure rather than to finish a park.

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone responded that we are asking for permission to take loan and suggests we could've increased the article for paving but instead are putting right amount of money under the RSMS 15 year plan. This is an additional item to give voters an option to complete the park or not. Going for a loan will accelerate process to finish this summer. We could than limp along year after year or come to voters and ask if this is what voters want.

Hallie Whitcomb – 607 Highland Road recalled that as a child her parents thought best thing is to take down buildings and open up riverfront area. Pleasure from standing in the park looking at the river is the positive pleasure we need in our lives.

Selectboard Member Michael E. Martin stated that it's not fair to consider bridge vs. park. Years ago 60% of our revenue was paid for by a few shops. We don't have shops and we've worked hard with partners Springfield On The Move and Springfield Regional Development Center to breathe new life into downtown, for the benefit of all to have more businesses and more taxpayers in Springfield to share the burden of these taxes. We've created Main Street Masterplan to attract capital investments and the answer is to use the resource of the river and bring it into view. It's a piece of the puzzle. \$278,000 results in \$60,000 or 1 penny on 100 assessed value is a small part to the intricate plan, so that we can lower your taxes over time with new development.

Willis D. Stearns, II – 1366 Connecticut River Road asked if you borrowing \$278,000 after July 1 or before?

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter E. Martone First stated that the first payment will be made in this budget year being discussed.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield asked if there are any plans for the Parks & Woolson Building site?

Moderator Patrick Ankuda reminded her that the question is not germane and she could redirect her question under Article 31.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town School District Moderator for the ensuing year, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the payment to each School Board member of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving in that office, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

Discussion: None

Note to reader: Refer to slides posted with these minutes regarding school district articles.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend THIRTY TWO MILLION, SIX HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$32,654,523.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,202 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.10% higher than spending for the current year.

School Board Chair Michael Griffin stated it is hard work and challenging to create budget. Large health insurance and special education increases. First year that health insurance is no longer negotiated locally; now negotiated at state level which resulted in sizeable increase. Special education continues to rise and population needs are changing with children coming in not quite ready for school environment. In this budget you'll see shifts of resources to try to care for our kids we have and upon approval of Pre-K expansion. Significant staffing changes at Union Street School with great results.

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin (nonresident; no objection) expressed thanks to former Town Manager, Tom Yennerell, and people on both boards for positive collaboration. Article 14 and 15 go together (see attached slides). Article 14 is built around Article 15 Pre-K option. Recently finalized sale of Park Street School. Shifting of staff to avoid community purchasing a new building. Second grade moves from Elm Hill School to Union Street School and 5th grade from Union Street School to Riverside Middle School. Other operational difference between last year and this year (see attached slides) is additional staffing to Union Street School; transition in principalship. This budget will maintain staffing which was stepped up due to principal issues. Three new positions added to budget are all grant funded and don't draw from tax dollars. Existing physical education position at High School and will now split that position with Riverside. Wrestling and Winter Track moving under umbrella of School District as formal varsity sports. Financial differences (see attached slides), are inflationary increases and contractual obligations, health insurance is really killing us in this budget. Part of school insurance pool in Vermont for cost benefits, they still are part of state wide health agreement and working at 15% increase in premiums; not sure. Special education is cost driver with supplemental services such as therapists and out of district placing is statewide issue. State has pulled back social service funding to other agencies so schools are absorbing social services that students receive to get to

learning. Moving parts to Vermont state education funding system. Springfield pulls \$3.00 for \$1.00 it contributes to funding system. Complex because different ways to make fair. Springfield doesn't generate revenue. This budget presents 3.9% increase vs budgets statewide requesting 4.4% increase. In Springfield, three different type of folks who are property owners: 831 household pay full property taxes; 710 pay based on income; 758 who are super circuit breaker and capped (see attached slides regarding situational generalized tax impact to property owners). Nonresidential tax rate is set by legislature; no decision by this board. Difficult to weigh the costs and benefits.

Edward Caron- 138 Sunny Hill Road stated he was on Budget Committee this year which committee agrees and supports the proposed budget.

Richard Hunter – 10 Pinebrook Lane stated he supports budget. Last minute decision to separate out Article 15, however Article 14 and 15 are meant to go together. There is no fat and urges support of both. One thread pull and it all collapses.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$125,333.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary (along with \$199,478.00 of federal grant monies) for the establishment of two full day, full year Prekindergarten classrooms for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed article, when added to Article 14, if approved, will result in total combined education spending of \$19,302 per equalized pupil. This combined projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.65% higher than spending for the current year.

Selectboard Chair Michael Griffin stated that the state mandates 10 hours per week of early education per year for children between ages 3 and 4. Want to develop a program to support kids and reduce taxes. Administration has been working to make possible for 30 kids a specialized pre-kindergarten program, identify strengths and weaknesses to get a head start on weaknesses and improving on strengths by testing broader foundation. For every dollar spent on pre-k will result in \$10.00 savings in future years.

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin - Big changes are scary. Sent postcards from district. Live FAQ document on district website that answers questions, annual report publication has information, Puggy's Corner on SAPA. This is a public pre-k option targeted to 30 students in Springfield community; not universal. Offers a full bank of services for kids; therapeutic pre-k option. \$200,000 of grant money available for each of next three years for Elm Hill School; administration decided to accelerate their plan to leverage funds. Early Education Essential Coordinator performed year-long study of centers around Vermont which shows this is good for kids and cost effective. The design of the program affects 5 classrooms inside Elm Hill School. Possibility to expand past 30 students within next couple of years. Explosion of costs from special education students and support services, previously provided by state agencies. Intend to offer wrap around services. Public private partnership with All-For-One, which is not a licensed daycare provider. Want to engage students with needs earlier in the learning process and make it convenient for parents with wraparound partnership with All-For-One and provide all day daycare. Request For Proposal (RFP) has gone to local providers to partner with All-For-One. Education Outcomes vs. Affordability = balance. Youngest kids are the ones most in need of alternative options. Want to take 15 kids on Independent Education Plans (IEP) and 15 who are not, comingle, and give all those kids a bank of services. At the state level, the weighting of pre-k at .05 per kid is changing at legislative level; more kids into system can reduce taxes. We have 24 students coming out of private pre-k providers who will be on IEP next year of which 4 will get one-on-one fulltime para educators next year, which is an expensive option with some state assistance. Bennington was able to demonstrate that 26% of kids who were on IEP track and were off IEP track after completing pre-k program. If on an annual basis we could reduce just 2 one-on-one paras at a reduction of \$84,000 (salary& benefits x2) year one; year 2 still not with kid plus

prevent 2 more students and you can see the ripple effect with possible cumulative savings of \$920,000. We have 30 out of district little kids (8 totally covered by state) but if can keep one kid from Brattleboro Retreat, Kindle Farm, Granite Hill we could save \$140,000 per kid (see inflationary increases on attached slides). Good for kids and town. \$125,333 is offset by \$200,000 grant to offset playground and appropriate size desks.

School Board Chair Michael Griffin clarified wraparound programing parents pay for wraparound care just like they do for All-For-One.

Stephen Geller – 152 Summer Street stated he supports schools; doesn't have kids in system. School is undervalued. Disclosed his agency, SEVCA, is currently one of the providers to district and is concerned about an unintended consequence in competition for wraparound service which is very difficult to sustain and so if no full contingent of children SEVCA cannot operate and serve Springfield. Concerned about what this will do to the existing programs and is it your intention to support SEVCAs work so that we don't lose the capacity in town to provide high quality pre-k services. SEVCA is Head Start, federal funded, respected program offering full range of high quality services to everybody.

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin responded that the school district cannot take on burden of universal services which requires robust funds. There are families that cannot get access currently and everyone will not want the full day option that we both have. Trying to thread the needle to reach targeted kids while keeping partnered with service providers. Rachel trying to get private providers and district inline to ease transition of kids who are not coming from our pre-k. One part of bigger ecosystem. Biggest impact with smallest amount of money. Not universal but therapeutic option in community.

Richard Hunter – 10 Pinebrook Lane stated that this is an underserved market and doesn't think Mr. Geller has anything to worry about. Early intervention saves lives and if we can have kids going to kindergarten prepared and have it not only cost us less, but allow them to benefit in their education. Important for children, teachers and community.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield stated there is a problem with the cost to taxpayers because it leaves children out by only accepting 30. Isn't there screening in private daycare?

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin responded that it depends on what you mean by screening. We provide state level look at their readiness for kindergarten and again when they get together. In terms of special education we do some identification screening and provide services within the private daycare. This hasn't had the impact needed. Looking for a different model to service all the kids.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield stated there are problems with parking and traffic at Elm Hill School and was just renovated; why now more renovations. Cafeteria cannot be used.

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin responded that the cafeteria cannot be used by pre-k (feet not on floor); 2 classrooms will be messy art space. Renovation is for an appropriate playground with a few pieces of equipment are allowed by grant. Can't utilize grant money for bathroom renovations. May be possible to repurpose some of the areas within the building.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield what affect do you think this will have on second graders and fifth graders moving.

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin responded that teacher teams are working on transitions. Staff will move with 2nd graders and they will already know 2/3rds of the class already there. Pairings with buddies will begin now. Riverside will have 5th graders on their own wing.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield asked about pellet stove at Elm Hill School that isn't working and Moderator Ankuda redirected her question to be brought up during Article 31.

Stephen Geller – 152 Summer Street wants to know if this article passes, how does the district envision working with SEVCA and some of the other partners to best serve kids.

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin responded that district is internally developing project management team with different stakeholders and with weekly checklist. Externally, we already do a great job of outreach. More formally, we are open to being structurally thoughtful. We want to target this small slice but we really want every pre-k kid in Springfield to have a slot.

Charles Gregory – 69 Mineral Street stated it was an impressive. Example of Vermonters caring for Vermonters which increases value of school system as an asset to the community.

Katelyn Daly – 36 Myrtle Street stated that supports staff, district and this Article.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to the Springfield Community Band for eight (8) concerts?

Representative: Karen Mather, President – 75 VT Route 10 stated that the appropriation offsets costs incurred throughout season. Band expanded to include spring concert. Band participation rate higher than last 20 years. Audience has increased as well.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Springfield in responding to the emergency needs of the community and to provide all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need?

Representative: Stephen Geller, Executive Director – 152 Summer Street thanks residents for generous past support. Reported services is provided in the Annual Report. SEVCA provides over \$1.2M in services to more than 1500 residents in over 650 households including emergency, stabilization, emergency, weatherization, Head Start etc. New community solar project with 14 residents. \$9,000 of support is 0.7% value of the services provided. Good return on investment. Outreach office and good buy store in town. Town support is critical in leveraging federal and state funds. Appropriation request has remained the same the last 7 years.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$63,500.00) to help support the high-quality home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH? Care is provided regardless of ability to pay.

Representative: Sharon Giguere (nonresident; no objection) is requesting level funding this year. Provided services to 420 patients last year. Moving towards patient driven grouping model for Medicare that changes charging to per episode in 30 min blocks. Appreciate support and consideration.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$8,500.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home?

Representative: Carol Stamatikas, Director (nonresident; no objection) stated that the main office is located in Springfield. Grateful for support and privilege to live and work in community that supports older living. Traditional funding sources have not kept up with rising costs or increasing needs. Vermont is second oldest populated state and within the state, Windsor and Windham communities have highest level of age groups.

Crystal Ayne – 16 Harvard Street spoke to personal experience with Senior Solutions and other amazing cooperating resources within the community.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to help support the Valley Health Connections (formerly Precision Valley Free Clinic) to help the uninsured access health care?

Representative: None

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) for the support of the Current operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Springfield?

Representative: Willis D. Steans, II, President of Board of Directors – 1366 Connecticut River Road stated that Current information is on page 38 of the Annual Report. Current is one half of SVT's organization and the Moover is the other half. \$12,500 is approximately 5% of operating cost too run in Springfield. You can get to Okemo, DHMC, Brattleboro and other cooperating transportation agencies. Ninety percent of operation is state and federal funded and 10% has to be a local match usually 50/50.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Springfield through volunteer service?

Representative: Craig Coleman, 186 Brockway Mills Road offered thank you to Springfield supporters. The amount of money that volunteers save organizations is enormous and means a lot more services are available. RSVP works closely with community partners. Mr. Coleman listed off the various current senior placements. Requesting level funding.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot & cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield?

Representative: Theresa Burton – 5 Overlook Drive stated that Meals on Wheels serves approximately 100 meals per week to residents of Springfield. Food supply needs increase but state/federal reimbursement rate doesn't keep up.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) to Windsor County Partners d/b/a Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to the children of Windsor County?

Representative: John Bastille – 5 Dean Street stated that Windsor County Mentors attempt to reach kids when they are young and somehow in need by matching with mentors. Need determined by school counselors. Approximately 1000 children in Windsor County are in need of mentors and currently serve 50. Review page 29 of the Annual Report for details.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Supported Housing to assist families and individuals find permanent housing and provide in home case management services for 6 months to two years after placement?

Representative: Christine Chapman, Assistant Director – 112 Main Street, North Springfield stated specifics are on page 28 of the Annual Report. Since July 2019 have helped 81 adults and 51 children to become stabilized in housing in HOP Program. Reach Up Program has helped 21 adults and 30 children stay in stabilized housing. Landlords participate in classes on what is expected of a tenant in a Housing 101 class. Most clients are one paycheck, illness, accident, etc. away from failing. There are 202 people on the waitlist in this area.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$55,000.00) to the Springfield Family Center to assist with the cost of providing a free meal daily; a free food shelf, and other services related to hunger, homelessness and related social-service needs in the community?

Representative: Trisha Paradis, Director (nonresident; no objection) thanks the residents for support of Springfield Family Center which provides daytime warming center, food shelf, laundry/shower facilities. Seeing increase in activity to access services. Averaging 600 people a month to access laundry/shower facilities. 15-20 people daily at food shelf. Mixed group of people such as retired seniors and families with children. Provide work force skill training. Collaborate with other organizations to provide wraparound services.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to

women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town?

Representative: Kelley, Advocate (nonresident; no objection) expressed thanks for support. Requesting level funding. Supports Springfield survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Confidential office 8-4 M/F and hotline 24/7. Offer free confidential services. Center works with other service agencies such as police, state, housing agencies, etc.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 28: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,500.00) to the Springfield Art and Historical Society to assist in preserving, maintaining, and displaying, for the public, the history and art of the Town of Springfield, Vermont?

Representative: Roseanne "Bunni" Putnam, President – 29 Meadow Drive expressed thank you for past support. No paid staff. Every dollar taken in through donations, grants, appropriation, calendar sales goes to improve the collection or provide outreach services. Admissions and programs are free. Located at 5 Route 106 NS; open Sat 1-4. A variety of displays and Springfield memorabilia preserving Springfield's history. Requesting continued support.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Turning Point Recovery Center Drop-In Center and Transition House to help with the everyday cost of providing recovery services and housing for men and that are in recovery from alcohol, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders?

Representative: Michael Johnson, Director – 103 South Street expressed thank you for support in past. Recovery house is one place that is not funded by other grants; self-sustaining on support of community. Provides foundations for recovery before going out into world. Sixteen people went through the house last year. Recovery is every day and it doesn't go away. Services have been expanded at center and there will be more information available soon.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 30: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.?

Representative: Mary C. "Katie" Gilcris - 9 Pierce Road stated that HCRS is a comprehensive agency supports children and adults around mental health, illnesses, developmental disabilities and substance abuse disorders which has provided 37,347 hours of services to 692 residents in Springfield. Seeking \$10,000 appropriation supports active navigation program to ensure new clients can activate clinical services.

Discussion: None

ARTICLE 31: To do any other business that can legally be done under this Warning.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield wants to know what is going to be done with the Parks & Woolson building.

Selectboard Vice Chair Walter Martone responded that the Selectboard is aggressively pursuing enforcement on the property through vacant building ordinance.

Brenda Richardson – 81 Main Street, North Springfield wants to know the status of pellet furnace at Elm Hill School.

Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin stated that it has been down since last year. Original pellet stove was bought through a company in Switzerland that no longer had representative in the US. Can either have custom part created (not cheap) or re-engage with company in Switzerland. Currently going through an energy audit and the results of that audit will determine what makes sense to do.

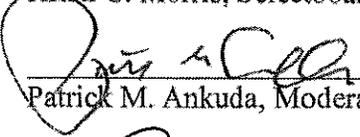
John Bastille – 5 Dean Street stated that at one time Springfield used to be able to make any part need.

School Board Chair Michael Griffin mentioned thank you to Laura Ryan who stepped up and filled in for last year's school board vacancy.

Willis D. Stearns, II – 1366 Connecticut River Road asked for recognition for of Moderator for 21 years of service and wealth of knowledge in managing cordial conversations. Round of applause.

Moderator Patrick Ankuda adjourned the meeting at 11:25 p.m. to be continued at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at Riverside Middle School for all Australian Ballot box voting including Town and Town School District officers, appropriations and all other items of business by ballot including River Valley Technical Center.

Kristi C. Morris, Selectboard Chair



Patrick M. Ankuda, Moderator

Attest: 
Barbara A. Courchesne Town Clerk

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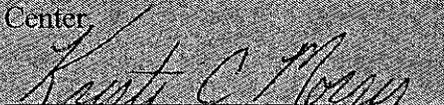
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Kristi C. Morris, Selectboard Chair

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Attest:  , Town Clerk
Barbara A. Courchesne