

Present: Jane Williams, Dana Brien, Robyn Payson, Robert Hassett, Richard Hellings, Jonathan Daley, Doug Hatfield, Suzie White and Chris Sieg of the Water and Sewer Commissioner and Ed Sauer and Meg Curtis-Sauer (guests), local business operators

Meeting opened at 10:00am

School Report: Mr. Hassett reported that there is a .079% budget increase for the schools this year. There was some delay in reaching these numbers due to challenges and confusion regarding the way default budgets are handled. The end result being that if the Legislative Body has not voted on a contract, it cannot be included in the default budget numbers. Mr. Hassett stated that the bond for the Middle School construction is coming to an end.

School warrants will include Special Education funds and a \$35,000.00 funding for a feasibility study for the performing arts center.

The elementary school test scores are down right now and HDES has been labeled a School Improvement Grant recipients. This involves \$15,400.00 for a vendor to do a "Comprehensive Data Review." In the meantime, the district is restructuring the school with two principals. One will be for grades K-2 and the other grades 3-5.

At HDHS, DECA received the THRIVE award last week.

Minutes of October 25, 2018 – Mr. Hatfield made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Hassett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Plan NH Charrette: Ms. Williams wants to make sure the money needed to move forward on the plans following the Charrette is available. She pointed out that many projects fail to happen from lack of funding. Ms. Payson stated that this is a tight budget season. There were some cuts to the EDC budget. If the committee wants to ask for those cuts to be reversed or an increase in the budget they should attend the budget hearing and ask the Selectmen for more. Following the Charrette, the Board of Selectmen and the EDC should meet to prioritize the projects. Ms. Williams asked the committee to think of out of the box funding ideas. Mr. Hellings suggested a Texas Hold-'em tournament. Ms. Williams reminded the committee that any funds raised can be used as matching funds to help with grant requests.

Water and Sewer: Mr. Sieg reported that the engineering firm working on the sewer expansion project contacted the EPA to follow up on the application that has been pending. Michelle Barton stated that preliminary permit information is being sent soon. Next is a public comment period. The Federal shut-down notwithstanding, the project should be moving this year. Also, the costs for metal extraction from the treatment plant are up this year. This is due to new limits on how much metal can be released after treatment.

9:32am – Ms. Curtis-Sauer arrived.

Sidewalk project: Ms. Payson reported the project is moving as expected. The study of which side to place the sidewalk on is ongoing. DOT permitting and planning will occur after a public input period.

Ms. Payson readdressed the Plan NH Charrette. The dates have been set: May 17th and 18th. She would like the school campus involved as there is a need for access to an audio system, photographer, videographer. Publicity is also a priority. Mr. Hassett suggested involving DECA or a Social Studies class in the planning. Mrs. Brien suggested a poster contest for publicity, with a gift card as a prize.

Friday morning will start with a downtown tour for the charrette members at 10am. Friday night will be the stakeholder meeting (town officials) from 4pm to 5:30pm, followed by dinner and the public meeting from 7pm to 9pm. Saturday will be the work session for the planners followed by an afternoon public results meeting.

Ms. Payson stated that the planners need housing for Friday night, food for Friday (lunch and dinner) and Saturday (breakfast, lunch and dinner.) Mr. Hellings offered to provide Saturday breakfast at Mama McDonough's.

Other news: Ms. White reported that this was her last meeting as she is no longer the president of the Chamber of Commerce. Robert Nash is the new president.

Ms. Brien reported that she will be planning the summer concert series this year. Ms. Brien is excited for the opportunity to use the concerts to help revitalize the downtown.

Mr. Hassett reported the HDES PTO has raised \$40,000.00 towards the new playground and efforts continue on the Safe Routes to Play Grant.

10:04am – Jon Daley entered the meeting.

There was discussion of the parking and sidewalk situation on Depot street. Ms. Williams asked about removing the "sidewalk to nowhere" on the left side of the road. Mr. Daley reported that the Board of Selectmen are addressing possibilities to fund this.

Mr. Daley reported that the town tax rate looks like it will be going up \$.90/thousand right now, but that can change.

2 Bridge Street was discussed. Mr. Daley reported a \$50,000.00 quote was received on the demolition, but the board of Selectmen is planning on \$100,000.00 in case of un-foreseen expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Brien