

**Board of Selectmen
December 27, 2022**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Fred Ehrlenbach, Carol Walsh, John Bennett, Danielle Cole, Charles Farley, Jr.: excused-Dan Monahan. Other visitors: Michael Gilmartin, Brant Viner, Chantel Guess, Christina Heiniger. Attending virtually: Margaret Harling and Sue Starr.
- II. Visitors to be Heard – none
- III. Approval of Agenda – added to the agenda is Solar, and the article in the Islander reporting on the AOS91 committee researching options for the future.
- IV. Approval of Minutes December 13, 2022: It was moved Bennett and Seconded Farley to approve the minutes of December 13, 2022. Vote: 4 - 0
 - a. Fire Department: Chief Heckman reported to the Board that as of the 27th of December the department had answered 147 calls for service. This increase in service has prompted the Chief to look at ways for enlarging the number of volunteers and maintaining retention, presenting a draft suggestion for payment of members answering calls. A draft suggestion of how to do that was circulated. Heckman said it would start out at minimum wage, which Walsh noted would be \$13.80/hour as of January 1st. Heckman also emphasized the fact that in order to go into a burning building (for example) a member would have to attend 16 week ends of training. Gilmartin and Viner questioned whether there was a way to guarantee a member would stay on the volunteer job after getting training which could potentially give the individual a way to move to a “paid” firefighter position in another town. These are volunteers and the chief was of the strong opinion that putting strings on the education expense/process would not be a good idea. When asked about a possible cost to implement this system, the Chief felt a \$40,000 annual figure would be reasonable. The Chair, after the Board had spent time reviewing this proposal, told the Chief that he should include the \$40,000 figure in his budget and bring it to the Budget Committee for review.

- b. Broadband Committee – no report
- V. New Business
- a. AOS91 Committee: Cole first brought up for discussion the Islander article on what appeared to be, according to the Chair of that committee, a nearly final plan on approaching the State Department of Education to convert to an RSU. Cole reconfirmed with members of the Board that at the last information session held with the Superintendent, he had said that the Committee would include a member of the School Committee from Trenton and other AOS91 towns, as well as an elected official and a member of the public from each town. That inclusive committee has not happened, as no invitation has been sent to any elected officials to participate in the meetings. Cole and others on the Board who had read the Islander article got the sense that a decision has been reached already. Walsh was asked to invite the Superintendent of AOS91 to the next Board meeting to clarify the Committee’s position at this point. Ehrlenbach pointed out that whatever plan the Committee sends to the Department of Education for approval, once received, would have to go to a Town Meeting for a vote, and that each town in AOS91 has the right to approve the recommended change, or opt out. When questioned about what that would mean if Trenton opted out, Ehrlenbach explained that the Trenton School had operated as a single entity for years until AOS91 was established. It could conceivably do so again.
 - b. Solar Installation/Trenton Elementary School. Ehrlenbach informed the Board that he had signed the Versant agreements forwarded to the Town to begin installation of solar at the school. Discussion was held concerning when that installation would take place. The current contract with the solar firm ends in March, and while they are waiting for some parts, they could conceivably install everything except that and finish it up when the parts arrive. However, the solar company said that they thought the school wanted to wait until after school recesses for the summer, which would then require signing a new contract. They requested clarification on that. Gilmartin spoke from the audience and asked why the work couldn’t be done over February break, as it would have a whole week without school in session. That option will be discussed with the school Principal when school comes back into session.
- VI. Approval of A/P & Payroll Warrant(s): Moved Bennett and Seconded Cole, to approve A/P & Payroll Warrants. Vote: 4 - 0
- VII. Other Business – Storm tree damage that would impede the snowplowing on Town roads was discussed by Ehrlenbach. He asked Walsh to contact Nielsen and have him cut any trees that had fallen on the sides of Town roads and toss them at least 6 feet

away from the tar edge of the roads. He emphasized that this was not a Road Commissioner job, but would be billed by Nielsen through his landscape account.

VIII. Adjourn: It was Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Join zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98446832979?pwd=emJaeGdTMGJCUWF0cnlFdjZ2NHJvZz09>

Meeting ID: 984 4683 2979

Passcode: a7dckn