

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the eighth day of February 2021 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Stephen Moffitt, Jr. at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Stephen Moffitt, Jr., Scott Bill Hirst and Michael Geary were present in the Meeting Room. Sharon Davis, Robert Marvel; Town Solicitor Stephen Sypole; Acting Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin attended remotely.

At 6:30 PM the Town Council convened in Open Session and recessed to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER: RIGL SEC. 42-46-5(A)(1) INTERVIEW ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW ALTERNATE; WOOD-PAWCATUCK WILD AND SCENIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL; JUVENILE HEARING BOARD.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Council President Moffitt reported no votes were taken in Executive Session.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Executive Session adjourned. At 7:00 PM the meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW AND FEWER SCHOOLS PROPOSAL FROM CHARIHO

Introduction by Chariho Director of Administration & Finance Ned Draper and Richmond School Committeeman Ryan Callahan re: New and Fewer Schools. Mr. Callahan and Superintendent Gina Picard participated remotely. Mr. Draper was not in attendance.

Mr. Callahan wished to share a few slides and discuss the new and fewer schools proposals that they were considering and to discuss why they believe there is a need for a school construction committee. Several Councilors mentioned that they would not be able to view the slides and wished a hard copy be put in their packets. Mr. Callahan noted that currently as they improve or repair their schools infrastructure the state reimburses them a fixed amount. A few years ago the state decided to incentivize certain types of capital plans. The typical reimbursement rate is approximately 65% and the state incentivized it such that if there were specific capital projects that met criteria they would give an additional 5% or 10%, up to a maximum of 80%. Part of the School Committee's desire was to explore what that incentivized position could mean for our district. They created a subcommittee called the Necessity for School Construction Committee and their goal was to explore options for our community to present to the committee and to make some decisions as to whether or not we want to take advantage of these incentivized positions before they run out. The subcommittee has gone through quite a bit of background in order to assess what options they could come up with for the district. They looked at the demographics of what the district may look like over the next ten years and they believe that over the next five years they will see a slight uptick in the number of students and over the five years after that they will see a slight down-tick in the number of students. Overall over the next ten years they feel that the school will maintain right around the 3,300 student mark. Thereafter they looked at the assessment of their existing infrastructure which consists of eight buildings: four elementary schools, a high school, a middle school, career and tech and the new CALA building. Their report shows for each

school what the projected capital need for all the infrastructure repairs or upgrades would be. They then looked to see if there was an option within the new and fewer landscape with this incentivized position that the state has provided them to explore some consolidation of the existing assets or perform upgrades to the existing assets. They engaged administrators, students and parents to find out what educational needs they took advantage of and where they found those needs falling short. They held workshops and performed surveys and took that information and came up with three options. Option A is the most dramatic and is the closing of the four elementary schools and building one new elementary school which would be K through 5 which would have an 80% incentive provision. They felt that returning the 5th grade back to the elementary school made the most sense and also was a key feedback that they received from parents. The option of location for a new elementary school has not been decided and would be decided as a community. In Option B, they would close the Hope Valley Elementary School and add extensions or buildings onto the remaining three elementary schools which would become K through 5. They believe they could still achieve an 80% reimbursement from the state and this would allow them to upgrade those elementary schools as well as expand them. One challenge to this option would be that they would have to change the Chariho Act. Option C is the decision not to make any consolidation or close any schools. It is to maintain our existing eight buildings and continue on with the five year capital plan. They would still try to take advantage of any capital bonuses that they can achieve but at best it would be 5%.

Councilor Davis questioned Option A, closing the four elementary schools and building one new school and how many square feet would they be getting rid of which Mr. Callahan noted would be 174,000 square feet. She also asked what the cost of Option B would be and what the projected costs of Option C were. Mr. Callahan noted that the cost to the district for Option A was projected to be \$32,500,000, which is including the capital necessary for the high school, middle school, CALA and Tech; Option B would be approximately \$20,000,000 which also includes the capital for the high school, middle school, CALA and Tech; and, Option C was approximately \$21,000,000 which is our existing infrastructure and

all schools maintained. Councilor Davis also questioned in all options, what would happen concerning personnel; would there be less personnel needed because in Option A they would not need four principals, only one. Mr. Callahan felt there would not be a massive reduction in head count. Councilor Hirst noted there was a concern with the septic system at the main campus and if they were to add another building he asked what the impact would be to the septic and water systems. Mr. Callahan indicated that they would need full engineering and environmental studies on how it would affect the existing infrastructure and any tie-ins or if they would need a stand-alone system. Councilor Hirst was also concerned about the transportation of younger children to Wood River Junction which would be a very long ride. Councilor Hirst noted that the elementary schools are owned by the towns and rented to the school district, and the school district has the obligation to maintain the buildings. Mr. Hirst believed that the two Hopkinton schools were the ones that supposedly needed the most repairs and he asked what the state of maintenance of schools was, noting that the Chariho School District was to maintain them. Mr. Callahan noted that if Option A was chosen, Chariho would maintain those four elementary schools until the new school was up and running and then the existing schools would go back to the towns. Mr. Hirst was also concerned about compliance with the Chariho Act. Mr. Callahan noted that if Option B was chosen they would have to augment the Chariho Act to allow for students to be placed in available schools. Mr. Hirst also noted that if they were going to look at staffing for one elementary school he would request to have an outside management study performed. Councilor Geary asked if the elementary schools were at full capacity and Mr. Callahan noted there was an efficiency rating performed concerning their study as part of their assessment of the schools. He believed Charlestown Elementary School was becoming a bit more open and Ashaway was seeing more enrollments, but none of them were at maximum capacity. It was noted that two of the elementary schools were 86 years old, one is 57 years old and the other is 67 years old. Councilor Geary asked Mr. Callahan if there would be enough room at the Chariho campus to build a new elementary school but he was not sure. Councilor Davis asked what Mr. Callahan wished from the Council and he noted that this

was just for their information and for them to consider. He noted that the next step was for the School Committee to make a decision on a path forward which he hoped would be done tomorrow night and this would put a vote in front of the towns. If the referendum was passed, that would trigger a building committee be established. Councilor Davis asked if they had enough information to make a decision for there was still a lot of unknown information. Mr. Callahan believed they did not need more information for they would not be able to lock down all of the costs until they had an approved parcel of land to build on. This would just decide the path forward and then they would have to determine the cost. Councilor Davis noted that it would be hard for people to know what they were voting for if they did not have a range of the costs. Mr. Callahan noted that the land purchase was not part of the estimated cost for Option A. It was indicated that Mr. Callahan would be speaking with the School Committee the following day and he hoped they would take a vote to decide which option to put to the voters. Finance Director Brian Rosso asked Mr. Callahan about the slide he had shown concerning Option A and if he knew who owned that land and what the cost might be for that property. Mr. Callahan indicated that this was not a fixed location; however, they did know who owned this property which was zoned appropriately for this project and he did not know what the price might be or even if the owner wished to sell. Mr. Rosso asked about his breakdown of projected costs and wished to see a little more detail of what was incorporated in those costs and what would happen with the old school buildings. Mr. Rosso wished confirmation on how we would know if we would be entitled to the 80% reimbursement from RIDE versus 65% or any other percentage. Mr. Callahan explained that the funding has been set aside already for this incentivized position and once a packet was submitted to RIDE and they approve it, your identified reimbursement rate was outlined in that approval. Mr. Rosso noted that they would have to go to bond in this regard and he wished them to break down the cost in a form that will show the direct impact to taxpayers versus the whole district cost. Councilor Davis noted that most of the options meant that the taxpayers would be spending more money. Mr. Callahan stated that they were just exploring the idea of whether there is a major infrastructure need and whether

they should take advantage of the reimbursement rate. Regarding the school budget, Councilor Davis questioned maintenance of effort, noting that if they consolidated the elementary schools they may need the same number of teachers however would not need the same number of administrative people and there should be a reduction in the budget on those lines; however, Mr. Callahan was not saying that. Mr. Callahan advised that he did not wish to speculate on that.

Councilor Hirst noted that if they consolidated the elementary schools Hopkinton would then have three school buildings that they would have to contend with which would be a financial consequence to the town. Councilor Geary asked Mr. Callahan about the study in the Jacob report and he indicated the study that had been done had showed a steady decline in enrollment over time but it has been wrong. They have remained stable over the last three or four years and now they are expecting there to be a slight uptick. Councilor Geary questioned how much student enrollment had gone up this past year. Superintendent Picard indicated that she did not have that information with her but could obtain it.

Joseph Moreau of Old Depot Road noted that if the elementary schools are old and need to be replaced, it would be to our advantage to take advantage of the incentive.

Deborah O'Leary noted that everything that she had read about elementary schools suggested that smaller was better and putting almost 1,500 children into one elementary school would be more students than most high schools had. She asked if Ms. Picard had any studies on the educational effect of a big school versus a small school for elementary students. Ms. Picard noted that there was research on both sides and that class size would not change.

Catherine Giusti noted that we have to look to the future and we have a unique opportunity in our area to get a lot of money from the state. She felt that we really need a direction to move forward.

Clifford Heil of Chase Hill Road spoke of the demographic information and noted that over the next five years there would be a three percent increase in enrollment. He asked if that would make our current elementary schools less efficient in the future? They should act now to take advantage of the current state incentives.

Ron Spears spoke of Option A and asked if the cost took into consideration the fact that we are over one of the largest aquifers in Rhode Island and was based on being in Wood River Junction close to the river. He felt there would need to be some sort of special septic system for a building of that size and asked if that had been taken into consideration. Mr. Callahan noted that in terms of placement of the Option A building, that was not a fixed placement at this time and was just an illustration. He noted that no matter where that building was built, it would have to pass all of the engineering and environmental studies that were necessary. Mr. Spears noted that the cost of maintenance would not decrease for the towns, only for the district. Lastly, Mr. Spears spoke of the new and fewer policy which was set by people in Providence. He felt that this made sense for cities but noted that Chariho was the largest regional school in Rhode Island. He asked if it would be possible to apply for an exception to the policy so that new applies to Hope Valley Elementary School and not to a regional district. Mr. Callahan was not sure how to answer that question but felt that based on their engagements with RIDE, it would be very difficult to get exemptions of the nature Mr. Spears was asking about.

Carolyn Light of 43 Forest Glen Drive questioned Option A and the potential for reimbursement of 65% to 80%. She felt they should be talking about 65% because 15% was a big swing. Mr. Callahan noted that a new building would qualify for the 80% incentive but an existing infrastructure would maintain for the 65% and this incentive will be gone in two years. Ms. Light also asked about the purchase of land for a new school, which would be the obligation of Chariho, and would there be any reimbursement money for that. If not, this would be a very big expense for taxpayers. Mr. Callahan did not know and stated that he would have to look into that.

Auren Pope noted that she and her husband had purchased their home in Hopkinton because of the small school system and because of how close the elementary school was to where they are living. Her neighbor's child who now goes to the middle school has a 45 minute bus ride which was really hard on her. She believed this would be extremely hard for an elementary school child as well as the closeness of teachers with their students in the smaller elementary schools.

Mr. Callahan indicated that she was not alone in her feelings and this would be something considered.

Mr. Callahan thanked the Council for hearing their presentation and noted that they were discussing this at tomorrow's School Committee meeting.

HEARINGS:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 250 – HOPE VALLEY WATERLINE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ORDINANCE

The Council opened a hearing on a proposed amendment to Chapter 250 - Hope Valley Waterline Distribution System Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Hopkinton, as amended, specifically the Prohibited Activities Section. The proposed amendment would add the following under Prohibited Activities: *G. Every property within the district may not increase development beyond the lot's current RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) approved onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS).* This proposed amendment had been introduced and sponsored by former Councilor Sylvia Thompson, scheduled on the October 19, 2020 Town Council Agenda where the hearing date was set for February 1, 2021.

Sylvia Thompson participated remotely. Notice had been posted including mailed notice to waterline subscribers advising them of the original hearing date of February 1, 2021 but because of the snowstorm the meeting was postponed. Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin reported that no abutters had contacted her office to inquire about the proposed amendment.

Mrs. Thompson of Lawton Foster Road South advised that the water line extends from Richmond into Hope Valley and in the late 1980's she chaired the Hope Valley Water Line Study which began looking at the Village of Hope Valley due to problems with wells, septic systems and contamination and they devised a proposal to extend the water line from Richmond into Hope Valley. She wished two documents be made part of the record: one being the Hope Valley Public Water System Environmental Review done in 1987 and the second was the Notice of Determination from the Rhode Island division of Planning, the Office of Strategic Planning which came from the State of Rhode Island and was something

needed in order to receive federal and state funding to actually build the waterline. This has to go through a review process which involves a number of State offices. She indicated that they ended up with a number of conditions and stipulations that the State recommended in order to receive the funding. She read one paragraph of that document which was written by the review coordinator of the Office of Strategic Planning, which explained why this amendment was before them tonight: “This proposed project generated a substantial amount of interest and some controversy. Most of the parties solicited for comments did not object to the extension of a water line into Hope Valley per se. However, there was a persistent thread of opposition based on the fact that the town has a severe and long-standing problem with individual septic disposal systems (ISDS). The concern is that an abundant supply of public water could lead to increased population growth in Hope Valley and increased water usage by current residents. This would further overburden the town’s individual septic disposal systems and could lead to contamination of groundwater in the nearby Wood River. The general opinion was that a public water supply, in conjunction with water conservation measures, a septic system maintenance plan, a septic system rehabilitation plan, and controls on development, would be in the best interest of both the Town and the State.” At that time they came up with rules and regulations with regard to the water line: whether or not someone could hook-up and how they could hook-up which involved water conservation and they had to have their septic inspected and if it did not pass they had leveraged federal monies for residents who were income eligible to install new septic systems. Mrs. Thompson noted that the problems that came about were because of the density issues from the 1800 and 1900’s. The Hope Valley water line is 4,000 feet long and goes from the Richmond/Hopkinton boundary which is the Wood River near the ballpark and ends at Spring Street Market. There are approximately 68 properties on the water line, which includes the Hope Valley Elementary School. At the time when they studied the area they learned that some properties did not have septic systems and had pipes draining directly into the river. There were other properties where the distance between the well and septic was much less than one hundred feet. To get an idea of the size of some of the properties, she

noted there is a four-family unit along the route which is on .70 of an acre; a three-family home on .14 of an area; a two-family home on .16 of an acre; and, the smallest single family home is on .16 of an acre. There is a restaurant, a store and an apartment on .14 of an acre. There are a lot of properties along that route and throughout Hope Valley where the density is not conducive to wells and septic systems and the distance between. There are approximately 52 users who have tied into the water line. Mrs. Thompson noted that this amendment, as written, will not prohibit development in the Hope Valley Water Line District; for example, if someone had a septic system approved for a three bedroom home but they only had a two-bedroom home, they would be able to add that bedroom because their septic system was approved for three bedrooms. If you wish to add onto your house and it is not a bedroom that would probably be okay, as long as you do not increase the capacity of the septic system. There have been developmental pressures since the water line has gone in. She noted that there was a two-family home which became a five-family home and this is what they do not want to occur. They wish to limit septic system use in the Hope Valley Water Line System. She noted that the Comprehensive Plan in the Land Use section, Public Services section and Recreation, Conservation and Open Space section all support and note that Hope Valley is built out and there are problems with density and with septic.

Councilor Geary noted that any matters that went before the Zoning Board would have a consideration of the septic design.

Councilor Hirst noted there was no one in town who knew more about the Hope Valley water system than Mrs. Thompson and he thanked her for her service to the town. He noted that if anyone needed any information about the water line they should contact Mrs. Thompson.

Councilor Davis felt this was a good idea and felt this should be added to the prohibited activities.

Councilor Marvel felt it made a lot of sense to add this amendment, as did Council President Moffitt.

There were no comments from the public.

Councilor Hirst asked when to schedule for a decision. The Town Clerk provided a date of February 16, 2021.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO CLOSE THE HEARING AND SET A DATE FOR A DECISION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The decision will be placed on the February 16, 2021 Town Council Agenda for consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:
Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes and Workshop Minutes of January 19, 2021; Workshop Notes of January 11, 2021; Approve abatements to 2020 tax roll due to topography adjustments, correction to usable land, adjustments to highest and best use of excess land, adjustment to land value on excess acreage duplicate MV billing submitted by the Tax Assessor; Approve refund due to overpayment by taxpayer on 2019 MV Tax submitted by the Tax Collector.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Council President Moffitt noted that the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council was put on the agenda to let the public know that there was a vacancy which they wished to fill. He noted that they have received one application but anyone else interested should submit an application.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Acting Town Manager Brian Rosso wished to provide an update regarding the Covid vaccine and he introduced EMA Director Ron MacDonald. Mr. Rosso thanked the Town Manager's assistant Alisha Wilbur, the Recreation Department and EMA Director, Ronald MacDonald for their work regarding the Covid vaccines. He noted they have turned the Crandall House into the Covid vaccine call center and Ron MacDonald has put in numerous hours and was attending meetings daily to make sure that everyone in Hopkinton gets vaccinated as soon as possible and the residents are able to access information and questions are answered.

EMA Director Ronald MacDonald thanked the town staff for their assistance and advised that the Hopkinton EMA had started preparing almost one year ago and held Covid-19 trainings for mass vaccination clinics; they updated the town plans; had a meds pod plan which is their mass-vaccination plan; there was coordination to get the police and fire departments, as well as ambulance services, personal protective equipment. They are having meetings weekly, if not daily, with the RI Department of Health and local southern RI EMA Directors and they have been providing information to the local public safety agencies. Mr. MacDonald noted that he is maintaining a social media Facebook page where they try to get out information as it comes in, as quickly as possible and he has worked with Mr. Rosso and the IT Director, Chris Scheib, to set up a Covid-19 page on the town's website to get information out to the public. They also conducted a regional meds pod which is a monitor for our mass-vaccination clinics. At the end of December and first week of January they participated with eight other southern Rhode Island towns and held a mass-vaccination clinic for first responders, home health care, hospice, school nurses and a couple of other groups and they provided approximately 2,640 vaccinations. He noted he is working in various roles at the pods, such as pod commander which oversees the entire pod and he has helped to coordinate all of the volunteers for the pods along with Westerly's EMA Director. He noted that it takes approximately 50 to 60 volunteers, which includes medical directors who are doctors, volunteer pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners, EMS personnel, regular RNs and general volunteers as greeters and observers. The Department of Health allocated forty doses for Hopkinton for a pilot program

which they started on January 31, 2021. There were two days that they vaccinated residents who were age 75 and older for Hopkinton. They administered thirty-seven doses because unfortunately three people took ill so they could not attend. These people were selected from the Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry as well as some residents of Saugatucket Springs and the state only gave them four days to put this clinic together. The federal government in partnership with CVS and Walgreens has provided vaccines to approximately 100 residents and staff at Canonchet Cliffs and also to group homes in town. Currently they are planning for the general age population in Hopkinton of 75+ and they are going to start some clinics on February 21, 2021. The state is providing the town with 60 doses per date. The town's staff has been calling residents and attempting to register them for the regional med-pod held in Wakefield at an old school building on February 21, 2021, February 24, 2021, March 7, 2021 and March 10, 2021 that Hopkinton, Richmond, Charlestown and North Kingstown will be participating in. After that they will plan their second doses. They are using voter lists, tax records and the online form to contact residents. He indicated that they have to follow the state's Department of Health guidance and they are only vaccinating residents 75 and older at this time.

Councilor Davis wished to emphasize that if a resident was not age 75 or older they should not register at this time.

Councilor Hirst noted that the residents should check the town's website for updates on information and people should assure that their elderly neighbors are kept informed.

Councilor Geary thanked Mr. MacDonald for the work he was doing which he felt was extremely well done.

Councilor Marvel asked if Mr. MacDonald was planning on tracking any metrics around vaccinations given such as what his target numbers are. Mr. MacDonald noted that the online registration that everyone gets registered into tracks first dose, second dose and other demographics but there are different lists around so they do not have an accurate count of all the people age 75 and up. Councilor Marvel wished to see numbers placed on the town's website, such as how many

of the target population had been vaccinated each week, so residents can see what is occurring. Councilor Marvel also wished Mr. MacDonald to show how many doses of the vaccine he received on each shipment.

Council President Moffitt thanked Mr. MacDonald along with town staff for their hard work in this regard.

Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road stated that last week he had called the town's Covid hotline and left a message and within an hour received a return call from Alisha who was very helpful and very informative. He also noted that since he is the Director of Public Welfare he was looking for as much information as he could gather so that if someone should call him he would have the information available. He also complimented the town's Covid website which was very informative.

Mr. Rosso reiterated that the state had not announced how they were going to address different age groups, which may be done more at the state level. Once he learned more about that, it would be posted on the town's website.

NEW BUSINESS

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief of Police David Palmer was present. He reported on the acquisition of a Speed Alert 24 Radar Message sign noting that the previous one had been broken in a weather related accident in August of 2020. Captain Carrier spoke with the insurance company and convinced them to purchase a new sign which is currently set up near Crandall Field. This sign has the ability to display messages and the ability to analyze the speed of vehicles hour by hour which is beneficial to them in order to determine the best time to set up traffic enforcement. Chief Palmer indicated that he usually received one to two complaints of speeders per week and asking for the speed sign to be placed in certain areas. He encouraged people to email him at chief@hopkintonpolice.org should they wish this sign be placed near their home; however, he asked for patience noting there was a backlog. Next he gave an update on *The Twenty for 2020* which was the twenty promises of the RI Police Chiefs' Promises to the public, which he first spoke of in November of

2020. Regarding police body cameras, he felt that this was going to come to fruition with the big question being how much money will come from the state or the federal government to subsidize this cost. Chief Palmer explained that the forty-eight police chiefs across the state agreed to promise to the public to be more transparent during the social unrest that started in Minnesota and came up with *The Twenty for 2020*. He advised that every quarter he would speak about a few of the promises and tonight he wished to touch upon six or seven of them. First, he combined no. 6 which was public policy and no. 13 which was uniform use of force and civil rights violations and noted this is an agreement by all of the Police Chiefs to place on our website a Use of Force Policy, Bias Based Policing Prohibited Policies, Complaint forms against our police officers and compliments for our police officers. He noted that there have not been a lot of complaints against his officers but the form is there if somebody wished to fill one out and he would take that complaint very seriously. Any time a police officer has to be hands-on, has to draw his weapon, or uses his weapon, it has to go on a report to the Attorney General's Office. He noted that two issues that came up in the Minnesota incident of George Floyd were choke holds and the duty to intervene. Their department already had a policy in place that states that choke hold techniques intended or designed to cut off blood flow or oxygen to the brain will not be used unless lethal force is authorized. Regarding duty to intervene, their policy states that all officers present and observing another officer using force which is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, safely intercede to prevent the use of such force. Officers shall report these observations to a supervisor as soon as practical. No. 14, face to face interaction with the public is not occurring because of Covid, but prior to Covid they had held an event at Dunkin Donuts to meet residents which went very well. Hopkinton Police became accredited through the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission in October of 2018, which was a three-year accreditation. Regarding their feedback, they have a webpage, have had a Facebook page for five or six years and a Twitter account for approximately three years. Concerning officer wellness, in 2017 they approached the town and the town purchased the Coastline Employee Assistance

Program for all town employees, to be able to obtain counseling for any emotional issues which they may be having. Regarding no. 17, External Training, this was to incorporate training resources or book a speaker from Social Justice/community relations organization at least once a year, but this is difficult right now due to Covid. On February 19, 2021 they have a fair and biased policing training with the State Police that several of his officers will be attending and they have upcoming training on hate crimes. Lastly, no. 18 is a review of the NAACP guidelines which is fifteen policies or subjects that they perceive that each police department should have solid policies on. He noted that the Hopkinton Police have addressed all of those policies and have held trainings on several of those policies.

Councilor Hirst thanked Chief Palmer for attending the Council meeting, noting that he had to wait several hours before he could speak.

Councilor Geary also thanked Chief Palmer for attending.

Councilor Davis questioned Chief Palmer about their policy on choke holds and asked if he would consider totally eliminating them. Chief Palmer noted that they had spoken to their Accreditation regarding that issue and the difficulty there would be that they would like to be able to do that; however, they also would like their officers to be safe.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Resignation Chariho Finance Committee

Agnes Hall had submitted a letter of resignation from the Chariho Finance Committee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO ACCEPT AGNES HALL'S RESIGNATION FROM THE CHARIHO FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH REGRET.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road thanked David Caswell and the staff from the DPW Department for their extensive work during the snowstorms. He also noted they were working hard to remove damaged trees. He stated that on February 6, 2021 he had sent an email to the Acting Town Manager, Town Clerk and all Town Council members which he wished to be placed on record: “Hello everyone. I was part of the original group called Hopkinton Citizens for Responsible Planning to prevent a zone change from RFR-80 to special commercial for solar for a project across from our home on Old Depot Road during the summer of 2018. I also worked to prevent other zone changes in our town. A new group was formed in the fall of 2019 called the Hopkinton Citizens Alliance which I was a board member for two meetings. I resigned from that board on December 15, 2019. I spoke to each board member, except for one, to explain my reasons for leaving the H.C.A. I also asked a board member to read my letter at their next meeting. For the past fourteen months I have been involved in our town in many various ways. As you are aware I was elected to the position of Director of Public Welfare, which I enjoy very much. I have worked with three residents to provide assistance in their time of need. I am currently working with one resident who would like to provide financial help to those in need. I am sending you this email to inform you that I am not part of any group, organization, board, etc. I was never a plaintiff in any legal action either. I would like this email to be read at the next council meeting and be part of the record. Thank you in advance, Joseph Moreau.”

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO ADJOURN IN HONOR OF AGNES HALL FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN, BOTH PAID AND UNPAID.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk