Present: Chairman Matthew Frank, Vice Chairman William Winslow, Selectman Achille Belanger, Selectman Raymond Laplante, Selectman Richard Sykes, Town Manager George Finch, Secretary Melissa St. John

Public:LRTV

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Chairman Frank

2. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Frank

3. Public Participation (Non-Agenda Items) - None

4. Approval of Warrants #22 - #24

Motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2017/18 Financial Warrants #22 - #24 made by Selectman Laplante, 2nd by Selectman Winslow. Approved 5-0.

5. Approval of minutes November 28, 2017

Motion to accept the November 28, 2017 meeting minutes made by Selectman Laplante, 2nd by Selectman Winslow. Approved 5-0.

6. Old Business
   a. Debris Plan

Motion to accept the Debris Management Plan for the Town of Harrison made by Selectman Sykes, 2nd by Selectman Belanger. Approved 5-0.

7. New Business
   a. Pole permit – Maple Ridge near Haskell Hill Road

Motion to grant CMP a pole permit on Maple Ridge Road near Haskell Hill Road made by Selectman Winslow, 2nd by Selectman Sykes. Approved 5-0.
b. Formal manager evaluation

Currently an executive session is called and the Selectboard requests the manager to meet with them with an attorney if he chooses and go over what they are happy with and what they would like to see changed. Request to have a formal evaluation with goals and objectives moving forward with the new town manager. Samples given would need some changes to apply to Harrison.

c. Lien relief policy

Overview of the lien process and the foreclosure process. The town has now cleaned up all the previous foreclosures and we are at the point of any properties going into foreclosure this year will need to pay their 2015 taxes before February 11th or they will need to pay all 3 years after 30 or 60 days, depending on the date set. Board will set that deadline at the January meeting.

d. Water runoff issues on Main Street

Dawes Hill has a major water runoff issue. There are ditching, culverts, sidewalk and road issues in the short stretch from the bottom of Dawes Hill to Rt. 117. The problem is not being ignored but it is a complex issue to fix and we will be looking at it as we move forward with the road program.

e. Revisit meeting schedule

Discussion included going to additional meetings when a new town manager is hired so the Board will be available for the new person to get up to speed.

f. Budget 2019

Town manager has been asked to provide the numbers for the next budget so the new manager won’t be faced with creating a budget being new to town.

8. Other Business

9. Manager’s Report

Holiday Wishes – I would like to take the first moment to share my best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you the best of all your dreams, wishes, prosperity and most of all good health.

FY18 Budget Update – We are half way through the 6th month of the fiscal year and for the most part we are within the margin of previous year’s same time numbers. With winter upon us there is always the question of how public works plowing and sanding will wind up but at this point in time winter has been kind to the crew and budget. There is one department, Solid Waste, I could say is a bit of bad news, good news and mixed news. The bad being demolition debris disposal is over budget for the first five months, the good
news is revenue rises with the amount of demolition debris we take in, the mixed news, is the amount of new construction and renovations taking place which increase the values of our property and ultimately the revenue from taxation. In addition, it is great to see our local contractors having an extended construction season. As with other years we will adjust departments as necessary in the months ahead to finish the year within budget.

2015 Property Tax Foreclosure – As much as I dislike sending out the 45-day tax foreclosure notices right after Christmas it is in accordance with state statutes. This warning gives the taxpayer 45-days to pay, at a minimum, all 2015 tax, interest and lien costs due to prevent automatic foreclosure. While this seems severe we are talking about taxes that are now 3-years old and in many cases no payments have been made at all. Currently there are 38-properties on the list and I do want to clarify most of these will be paid within 45-day time frame by either the owner or their mortgage company. It is important for folks to understand the process of 45-days requires only the 2015 fully payment, failure to do so requires full payment of all 2015, 2016 & 2017 principal, interest and taxes to be paid in full within 60 days. Failure to do following within the time period following automatic foreclosure for the owner to reclaim the property via quit claim.

Disposal of surplus town equipment – We have two pieces of capital equipment we now consider surplus. The 1993 Engine 3 which was just replaced with the new 2017 Engine 3 and the 2004 One ton plow and sander which was replaced with the new 2017 One ton with new plow and sander. The Town meeting approves annually for the Board of Selectmen to dispose of surplus equipment in the manner they believe to be best.

Fire Department - Engine 3 and Tanker 6 – While we are on the topic of equipment I will bring you up to date on the status of two pieces of in-service fire equipment.

- The pump on Tanker 6, a new in 2007 Freightliner fitted with a used tank and pump, has pump issues. We are reviewing all options from fixing the pump, to a new pump, to a portable pump to no pump at all. I should add also the question of fully overhauling or even replacement should be on the table even though highly unlikely.

- Engine 3 sustained some damage following a recent structure fire in an area with limited access and egress. The damage is on the step ups to the passenger front and rear compartment and while for the most part are somewhat cosmetic repairs will need to be made. We are currently working with the insurance carrier and will be requesting full descriptive cost estimates for the insurance adjuster to work with. I expect we will have sufficient data available in January to determine direction.

10. Executive Session 1 MRSA 405(6)(E) – Legal matter

Motion to enter executive session made by Selectman Winslow, 2nd Selectman Belanger. Approved 5-0. 8:25 p.m.

Motion to come out of executive session made at 8:36 p.m. Approved 5-0.

11. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Matthew Frank, Chairman

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Melissa St. John, Secretary