Present: Chairman Matthew Frank, Vice Chairman William Winslow, Selectman Richard St. John, Selectman Raymond Laplante, Code Officer John Wentworth, Secretary Melissa St. John

Selectman Achille Belanger late

Absent: Town Manager George Finch

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)

4. Public hearing –

Chairman Frank opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

   a. Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

Chairman Frank closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

5. Approval of Warrants #42 & #43

Motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2016/17 Financial Warrants #42 & #43 made by Selectman Winslow, 2nd by Selectman St. John. Approved 4-0.

6. Approval of minutes – April 13, 2017

Motion to accept the April 13, 2017 meeting minutes made by Selectman Laplante, 2nd by Selectman Winslow.Approved 4-0.

7. Old Business – None

8. New Business
a. Liquor license renewals
   i. Ruby Slipper
   ii. Olde Mill Tavern

Motion to grant Ruby Slipper Café and the Olde Mill Tavern a liquor license made by Selectman St. John, 2nd by Selectman Laplante. Approved 4-0.

b. Town Warrant

Motion to accept the Town Warrant as presented made by Selectman St. John, 2nd by Selectman Winslow. Approved 5-0.

9. Other Business
   a. Dirt roads

Motion made by Selectman St. John, 2nd by Selectman Belanger to keep the dirt roads posted until May 15th. Approved 5-0.

School budget information was discussed and options for dealing with the unfairness of the budget was discussed. The board requested we get in touch with Waterford and Otisfield and invite them to a meeting to discuss some possible options for changing the unfair budget treatment that is happening to our three towns.

10. Manager’s Report

- **FY17 Budget Update** – As the end of April draws near we find ourselves still recuperating from way too much winter and not enough good spring weather. Our audit firm has begun the pre-audit for the fiscal year and by the end of May we will have a pretty good grasp on where we will wind up on June 30th. There is no doubt this has been the toughest budget year we have faced since I arrived in 2010. If revenue to offset municipal operations remains strong we will not have to make a decision to hold off any spring projects.

- **FY18 Budget** - The lack of final numbers for education keeps us in the range of $6,795,867 a change of $79,607 or 1.2% from the FY17 budget. Adjusted for revenues to offset municipal operations this would set the tax required for FY18 around $6,184,331, a change of $36,373 or 0.6% from the FY17 tax. This keeps the hope of a flat mill rate for FY18 at $10.95 or no change over FY17 alive.

- **Municipal Operations** accounts for 27.1% of the budget or 18.2% of your property tax bill after adjustment for municipal revenue. This year we are asking the taxpayers for $1,883,089 a difference of $11,945 or 0.6% over $1,871,143 raised for the current budget. When one looks at no increase in the mill rate and a municipal operation, while up slightly, remains $25,328 or 1.3% less than the budget I inherited when I arrived here in 2010.
As I have noted in the past these savings have come from the productivity improvements and cost avoidance measures we have put into place to maximize the return on your taxes. We have accomplished this without reducing services or taking away from our employees. Implementation of these changes is never easy, often confusing, but necessary for the long term as well as the short term financial stability of the community.

- **Sam Cousin’s Retirement** – As was noted in last week’s update, Sam gave his notice to retire after 28 years of service to the community. Sam began his career with Harrison on Monday, March 13th, 1989 during which time he oversaw the many changes in the type and volume of work the department was called upon to do. Sam was also instrumental in guiding the town towards better roads regardless of the season. I have extended to Sam our congratulations, thanks for his services and best wishes in his retirement years.

- **Harrison 3rd Annual Earth Day Community Clean Up – A Success & Our Thanks** - Not even the weather, (be it rain, snow, sleet or hail), could stop the annual community clean-up which was once again sponsored by Emily Baker’s AM Enterprises. The event which started out and ended at the Harrison Fire Station was once again a success with over 80 participants doing what they could to clean up the Harrison road sides. The program has grown leaves your Friendly Village cleaner and healthier because of it.

The board extended their thanks to Sam for his years of service.

11. Executive Session (if necessary)

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. made by Selectman St. John, 2nd by Selectman Winslow. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Matthew Frank, Chairman

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Melissa St. John, Secretary