

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**  
**2018 AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLE**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018 at 7:00 PM-WILLEY BUILDING**

Those attending: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Bernie Shatney, Jack Daniels, Karen Deasy, Steve Cox, Don Mitchell, Jeff Haslett, Richard Aronson, Lolli Arena, Aldo Nunn, Terri Nunn, Morgan Churchill, Richard Hourihan, David Pike, Bill Wheeler, George and Lynn Gokey, David Covell, Val Covell, Sandy Pond, Bobby Searles, Kenny Gokey, Brittany Butler, David Creighton, Sidney Griggs, Glenn Goodrich, Ruth Goodrich, Michelle Leclerc, and Betty Ritter

1. The Hearing was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – Fred 1<sup>st</sup>, Bernie 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion passed.
3. Review Australian Ballot Article – 2466 Main Street/Fire Department – Mike read a chronology of events reviewing the Fire Department purchase and the process of building the property. Terri Nunn asked if the Ambulance is owned by the town. The ambulance pays for the use of the fire department. They are not one unit but they are two entities. Mike noted that he suggested at one of the Fire Department meetings to have them combined. That has not been moved on. The new building could be used for medical staff, community meetings, law enforcement and a backup location for local emergency disasters. The Committee is hoping to have a conceptual drawing of building very soon. They cannot build onto the old fire house. The building is small and very tight with all the equipment.

Mike was hoping that someone from the Fire Department was here to answer questions. Fred went and investigated the building that was built in the 1960's. The Town should look at it now or later it might cost a lot more. Fred commented that the time came quickly to purchase the property and the Selectboard had to act on it fast before they lost the property. Mike said that the tax payers will vote on any money that the Town will have to spend on this project no matter how much they will need to spend. Steve Cox is saying the timing of the vote is not a good time. It should be done at Town Meeting to get enough people know about the vote. Mike said that the town counsel suggested that they do it as soon as possible. Morgan Churchill is wondering if we would have to pay for design work. No, we won't because the design has been in house. Brittany is thinking the fire department is a dream, but does a town this size need all of this. Her comment is that the town this size doesn't need a \$3,000,000 building. She also commented on how other fire departments are making due with what they have.

Ken Gokey said the property is on a wet land. Sandy thinks you need to look at the whole picture of the pricing during and after the process being done. Jeff doesn't have enough education on this project. There are many things that can be done. He thanked Mike Hogan to make an executive decision to purchase the property when it needed to be done. Jeff thinks the citizens need to spend more time to discuss the purchase. Mike said the timing might be off on voting on August and maybe vote again in November and possibly at town meeting. David Covell commented in a positive way on the vote that in the past those controversial issues were being swept under the carpet. Richard Aronson stated that the Selectboard was not trying to sweep it under the carpet but had to buy it before they lost the property. What will happen if the voters vote this down. Mike commented that the building is not scheduled for demolition until after the vote. Richard Hourihan was wondering about fixing the current department. Fred said we are not going to spend any money and will continue to have meetings and see where it is going. Bobby is wondering if the building goes up if we could have a pole? Steve Cox would like to know if the article will be in the paper again before the vote. Yes, there would be something on Front Porch Forum. George Gokey is made a comment if we will have more votes after it has been turned down? George also made a comment that projects are always over budget. Jack said that the town garage was finished under budget. Fred said that they are listening to the voters. Dave Covell said the town needs an unbiased person to help with this project if it moves forward. The next meeting Working Committee is August 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the

Willey Building. Mike welcomed anyone to attend and be part of the process.

4. Other Business – None.
5. Adjourn – A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Fred to adjourn the Hearing, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. and we resumed the Selectboard Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk, Treasurer