

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 25, 2016

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Mark Lufkin, Peter Corey, and Wendy Hersom. There were approximately 30 people in attendance.

The Board met with Steve Lafrance of Horizons Engineering. Andy Nadeau of Horizons was also in attendance. Steve had a list of things to talk about.

The Town received an Administrative Order of Consent from the EPA for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. We have an aerated lagoon system constructed in the late 80's with a 20 year life span. EPA has reduced the limits on certain pollutants that are discharged. The old aerated lagoon system was a good system when it constructed in the 80's. It is a fairly easy system to run, but they are becoming less common because it has become difficult for those systems to meet effluent requirements. The solution to pollution is dilution. The plant here discharges to the John's River so the effluent limits are much more restrictive. EPA issued a new limit and the plant does not meet those limits so EPA has said they want the Town to look at alternatives for improvements to the treatment system so it can meet the effluent limits. The effluent violations were for BOD, E-Coli, total suspended solids, total recoverable copper, acute and chronic whole effluent toxicity, and pH. The EPA sent a draft of the Administrative Order of Consent on April 6th for the Town to review. They would like the Town to sign that order and within 18 months the town has to do a study to look at options to upgrade the plant. The problem is the nutrients become difficult to remove. There is a process you go through. A preliminary engineering study is done to look at alternatives to bring the plant in to compliance. We want to have an alternative to work for the design life, at least 20 years, hopefully 30 years and to address anything that may come down in the future. You look at costs because that is an important factor. What will it cost over time? There are a number of new options—one of the things we were talking about, and we have done it at some other plants, is where we get use rapid infiltration basins. The plant at Bretton Woods is an example. The nice thing about that is you don't have the EPA permit any longer. That is attractive. You have to find a site suitable for the infiltration basins. There were a couple of sites that have been in play or discussed and one of them is off Parker Road. Years ago Ed Betz and Steve talked about this as an alternative—it is an old gravel pit site. It is not new information. You want an adequate depth and you want really course material so it percs through. Wolfboro had a new system fail that they installed when the spray irrigation system wasn't working. You want to be careful and you want to do adequate investigation. There is a potential site over the bank out back here from the town office. You would do test pits and borings and that can be part of a preliminary engineering study. If it makes sense to go in that direction, it would only require minor changes in the treatment plant. You would look at all these options and see which ones make the most sense. That report would have to be reviewed by the Town and EPA. It is premature to say how much the actual upgrade will cost. The town has a significant wastewater improvement project within the next four years. It is very important that the town agree to do what is identified in the administrative order. Towns have chosen to ignore the administrative order, and that is not the route to go—EPA will get their lawyers involved and you will end up in court. . DES and EPA, to their credit, say they want to help the Town address their problem. You can sign on voluntarily or you can be forced to do it.

Horizon's recommendation is to agree with the administrative order and do the preliminary study. Sewer projects are eligible for federal assistance as well. Steve said it is premature at this point to think about project costs and user rates. Steve said he would be focused on the wastewater issues now—these wastewater issues are important. Wendy said we met with the EPA and DES before town meeting and got them to give us 18 months to get the study done so we could raise the money at next year's town meeting for the study. Wendy is wondering what the cost would be for the preliminary study. Steve said you get out what you put in to these studies. Steve is thinking \$25,000 to \$30,000. Steve said if we thought the infiltration basins was the route to go, we would evaluate these sites, get landowner permission and do test pits with the town excavator. Ultimately you want to do soil borings. Steve said after we did some test pits and if we get good material then it is worth further evaluation. Steve said you want to keep EPA happy. Wendy said we are working on it. Steve said they would submit their scope of work which would include: summary/inventory of existing treatment processes and facility data; determine existing and future requirements; analyze existing facility; identify upgrade alternatives including making maximum use of existing unit processes; evaluate the use of Rapid Infiltration basins in lieu of direct discharge, identify alternatives for compliance with the Order & Permit requirements; prepare opinions of probable project cost for the alternatives; recommend preferred alternative; and prepare summary report for review by the Town, NHDES, and EPA. Steve said they would take it in a step by step matter, and they would not spend money on anything that doesn't have merit. Wendy explained that we don't have funding until next year at town meeting to do this. Shawn White thought Merritt Drive was another area that Ed was looking at.

Peter Corey asked if there are other options rather than rapid infiltration. Steve said there are other options but they are more expensive as they require a change in treatment. An aerated lagoon is easier. Other systems are more effective at removing nutrients. In Littleton and Woodstock, there are oxidation ditches and different treatment processes, which are equipment and power intensive. It is a whole different process, and they are expensive. Steve said in retrospect he is glad we didn't do it 3-4 years ago when we thought we had reached our capacity at the plant. We did determine that the flow meter was not calibrated properly, and the measured flow dropped dramatically. We do actually have capacity. If we had gone ahead, we would have built a plant larger than it would have had to be. The decisions you make are only as good as the information you have. The study would look at options. It was asked if the rapid infiltration basins have a life capacity? Steve said once they fill up with contaminants they would no longer provide the expected or desired results, but Steve said generally no. Steve said the one they did at Bretton Woods in 1988 is still working today, and it was the first rapid infiltration basin in the state. Steve said it has been working going on 30 years and it is working as well as the day it was put in. They have been working going on 30 years and they are working as well as the day they were put in. That particular system has some monitoring wells and the wells are tested for phosphorous and so far so good. There was always a concern that phosphorous is being taken up in that sand and gravel in those basins. When the phosphorous does show up, the treatment system will have to be changed. You want to try to secure a big enough piece of land so you don't have the basins right next to the system.

Wendy said when we met with the EPA and Des, they were talking about you can get exemptions from doing these things if you are a poor town and they look at rates and they told us

that in no uncertain terms Whitefield's sewer rates are too low. Steve said that Rural Development looks at a water and wastewater program and they treat both programs similar. They apply the same rationale. They are looking at an average sewer rate of \$500 a year before they will apply much grant assistance. If we were to do a project with Rural Development, the first loan payment is actually one year after you start the project. We always recommend towns raise rates before the project. They have told us that we need to increase our rates. Steve said that the draft order doesn't say anything about those rates. Whitefield rates are pretty low, but the reality is they are not that high. Steve is not advocating a huge rate increase, but there are some on the horizon. Steve suggested that we sign the Administrative Order and work with EPA.

The next item Steve wanted to discuss was the Whitefield Sidewalk Project. Steve understands from Judy and Ed that we had a meeting with DOT last week that was unpleasant. Steve fortunately wasn't there. For everyone's benefit, the Town was involved with a TE project to assist with Transportation Enhancement projects going back to 2009. Ed Betz worked with the Board to put together a grant application to do some sidewalks on King Square and a sidewalk up the old emergency access road. Initially Horizons was not selected to do the project, but after some period of time, the original firm did not work out and the Town then contracted with Horizons. Steve explained that the process is complex because it comes through the federal government. There were some issues with getting that project done at the town level and at Horizons. Steve said that Horizons experienced staff changes within their company and there were multiple delays that occurred throughout the project for a variety of reasons. In January of 2015, DOT said there are some issues with the rights-of-ways. Earlier on, DOT said they wouldn't fund the trail up to the school because it couldn't be ADA compliant with grade. Steve said that they finished the plans and specs and were right down to having the thing ready to go out to bid. The final issue was right-of-way and there was no written record the Town owned the land. When you are dealing with federal money, following the processes are very important, and the state said that the town didn't follow the process, and DOT said you are out of time. We didn't initially think it was necessarily all bad. The grant program is really made for larger projects. The administration for a small project is the same as a large project. Steve and Ed were both disappointed and the Board. Steve said Horizons was disappointed DOT stopped the project, but he thought we can proceed with the project on our own and do it cheaper. The Board at that time did not want to pursue it further. Recently DOT said we want our \$12,200 back that we reimbursed you for the project so the town filed an appeal and it was not seen favorably. At this point Horizons has plans and specs complete for the project. We estimate it is about \$150,000 to do the work. Steve's question to the Board is how do you view the project? Is it something you want to pursue and do you not want to do it? Wendy said it was clear at town meeting that the people want us to do something with the sidewalks. Phil Beaulieu at the district office is the person we would be dealing with and he would know the plans for Route 3. Phil may not have seen the plans Horizons did for the sidewalks. Steve said he could send the plans up to Phil, and ask him what are your plans for next year and see what he says. He knows they are paving north of here. Shawn said District 1 is starting paving past the old town building and going up to the top of the hill. They are putting a shim on top of the pavement. He hasn't decided if they are doing side to side. There is nothing on the ten year plan for Union Street—trying to get something done there. Peter Corey said he wanted to add some perspective, as he attended the meeting last week. Peter said it was extremely cordial. It was a group of people

trying to understand what occurred on both sides. Peter said it was clear there were failings on both sides. Peter said he feels that DOT was wrongfully vilified by some. Peter said there were failings on the engineering side of the house and failings on the town side. There was no way for the project to be completed, as the program expired. In four years we never met the requirements to build the project. Peter said he hasn't spoken with the other two board members about the meeting yet, but the State did open the door to compete in another program to finish our sidewalks. They did say they would entertain an application under TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) and thought Whitefield would compete very well. We have the engineering designs—the thing is ready to go to bid with minimal adjustments. We have a design that is almost ready to go to bid, and we would have a huge advantage over the applications. The key is to secure the rights of way. The sticking point was the town offering a price for assessed value, and we didn't hire an appraiser to determine the fair market value. Mr. Betz thought it would be an easy process to obtain the rights of way. He thought we could get those right-of-ways for less than \$1500. Peter said we need to discuss and decide if we want to apply. Steve LaFrance said be very careful with what the requirements are. Peter said that Mr. Rose had indicated we were just about there. Andy said he did the survey for the project and determined that the Town didn't own the sidewalks. Andy said it was a two month process to do that. Andy said he would be interested to see what the state has on this. It was hard to determine who actually owns the road. Wendy wondered what if we included the Union Street in a new application. Would that make it worth it to go through the TAP? Steve said we are basically done with the design. If you want to do more design, it would cost to do that design. He said it would expand the project to add to it and it would expand it quite a bit. Shawn said when he was involved with the project, it was 60% administration and 40% project costs. Peter said he feels that the more you do here with these funds is an opportunity to get a project done with someone else's money and the highway can continue to do their projects. The Board asked that we get a copy of the application and see what it entails.

Sondra Brekke asked what the plan is that we have now--what sidewalks does that include? Steve said just King Square. Steve said that \$150,000 project did not include the bridge. It all adds up. Sondra asked if we put new sidewalks in and the state disturbs those sidewalks. Would it be the state's responsibility to fix those? Steve said they only do paving and they wouldn't tear up the sidewalks to do their project. Shawn said that there is a possibility they will replace the sidewalks on Union Street, but is not even on the 10 year plan. Steve said the state has detailed plans of what they own. Drainage replacement makes it become much more expensive.

Mr. Brekke asked about the sidewalks on the bridge. Shawn said that the State DOT is planning on doing work on the bridge. Steve said we did not include the bridge in our King Square project because it would have involved Historical Resources, which is a process we wanted to stay away from. The State will have to go through this when they do their project, which is better than the Town incur the cost to do it. What is the time frame the state is talking about? Shawn said the bridge was scheduled last year, and Shawn said it is back on the schedule for next year so that is where we are at—2017. Shawn also said that the state would be doing the sidewalks, and the bridge right now is deficient for width wise and there has been rumors and comments that they would take one sidewalk off. They would basically repair the bridge. They repair anything that looks like it needs to be repaired. Mark said some of those abutments have

been replaced because it was beyond repair. Mark thinks the last time it was done was 20 years ago. The sidewalks are going to get worse.

Steve explained that we are putting in a new booster system for the Bray Hill portion of the water system. A large water main break up on Bray Hill system happened last July. Some calls were made to DES, which stirred up some concern and Steve attended a meeting with DES representatives and they addressed concerns with Whitefield's water system. Whitefield Water system runs but could use some work. DES was pretty adamant they wanted something to happen in Whitefield. There were folks in town that approached CDFA about a grant to replace the Bray Hill booster system. Bill Thompson, Water Superintendent, didn't think the booster station was the most important thing to be addressed. The Town got a CDBG emergency grant late last fall. The pump station that is being replaced had been identified by DES as a sub-standard booster station. We were originally talking about a very extensive water project and user rates. It is complex. We were able to get a \$350,000 CDBG emergency grant. Bob Stiles donated the land and the project came together. It got rid of a sub-standard booster station with a new above grade system. It bought us some time with DES, and they see the Town is being proactive. It is a better station than what was there before. It was paid 100% by grant money. It does not address all the issues, and it does not mean there won't be another water line break. It provides a station with new equipment, easier access, there are now two pumps that can pump 120 gallons a minute compared to the 90 gallons a minute it is pumping currently. It will keep up with the average day demand. The state has been after the Town to abandon that well as the Town doesn't have protective radius around the well, which can be a health concern if something were to happen in that area. The reality is in Steve's mind is that it is a good producing well, and Steve said he is not convinced we don't need the well. There are millions of dollars in infrastructure in those well. Steve said let's take this carefully and not be shutting wells off until we know it is the right thing to do. The issue at Bray Hill last July was a broken water line.

Steve said there have been questions about adding additional homes to the Bray Hill portion of the water system. Dexter sent a letter a couple of months ago that said you can probably connect 30 more homes to the system. Steve has concerns about adding another 30 homes to that system based on past history and the town has for records between what they pump and what they meter. The town is pumping a lot more water than we are using—not sure where that water is going. Steve can't say exactly how much excess capacity the Bray Hill system has. Steve wouldn't want to add a lot more demand on the Bray Hill system before the booster pump station is even on line. The message Steve is trying to give is he doesn't think adding 30 more homes is a good idea. Is 5 ok? Maybe, Steve said today he wouldn't add any. He suggests that we wait until the system is up and running and see how things go. We want to get our arms around what exactly we are pumping and using before we make a recommendation for the Town to add new users.

Dick Harris said the Planning Board told Dick he could get 23 more hook-ups, and that was figured in to their capacity same for Brown Builders and Mirror Lake. Dick said he has used 19 hook-ups and he has four left, which was in 2006. Wendy said she doesn't know the answer to the question. Dick said at the time the Planning Board gave approval they had capacity at the time so he is not asking for anything more than he was originally granted.

Steve said we don't want to create more problems for people on the system. Steve is not prepared to say tonight this is the way it is. We want to work with Dick and the Town to figure it out. Dick said he feels he is next in line if anything was available. Mark said there is a house being built at Brown Builders and Mark said there is a garage with a house being planned to be built in the future.

Steve said we had discussions last year about a larger water project, which has been going on for a long time. 25 years ago we did a water project where we put in a new well on Bill Robinson's property, put in new storage tanks up at Bray Hill and behind the high school, and did water main work in town. The water system is like a pick-up truck and you keep driving it. We had a comprehensive water study done with a grant from Rural Development, and we came up with a whole list of potential improvements. They talked with Bill and the Board. We sent the study in to Rural Development to do an undefined project. It was last minute and the Board felt we wanted a little more time to do more planning. The Board decided not to move forward with a bond vote at this year's town meeting, and it sits in Horizon's files. The State has their ideas on what has to be done on the system and Bill has his idea. The latest sanitary survey identified the Bray Hill well, the Dodge well, they would like to abandon Cherry Mt. well, and Bill has concerns about the water main in town. The state has changed their tune a little bit. They want more investigation done into the lost water. Last year we submitted a grant application for a leak detection survey, and the grant was approved. The state continues to be interested and concerned about lost water. There is a lot to consider. Steve reviewed our funding sources for Rural Development and they expect the average water user rate would be at least \$500 a year. The average water bill is \$485 in N.H. Rural Development doesn't want to give grants to towns with a lower than usual water rates. Steve determined the Town can borrow \$2,5 million then after that the water grants would kick in.

Steve said he started out tonight stating that he thinks the wastewater project is the priority. You have to make decisions on what you are going to do and not going to do. Dealing with the wastewater administrative order is very important. Steve said we need to get going on that and see what we are going to do. We can see what is on the horizon for a project. We can't let the water system lie either. Steve would work on the administrative order at this time, but we have some public health and safety concerns with the water as well. Steve thinks we should submit the application to Rural Development and see what we get. Steve said that we need to get a handle on the unaccounted water, upgrade the Dodge well, and try to make them happy and by then we will know what is happening with the wastewater treatment plant then start talking about the water project.

Dick asked what protective radius is? It is land the town needs to own around the wells. The problem up at Bray Hill is that the land up there at Bray Hill is owned by multiple owners. Steve is not suggesting drilling a new well. Bill said we can't get a sanitary radius around that well. A land purchase to get some control would probably be the most cost effective option. We want to keep DES happy.

Steve said he has tried to lay out what the priorities are, but sometimes we have to change direction.

Bruce Brekke asked what the terms of the bond would be?

Steve said that Rural Development wants to see the loan on just the users. Usually the water users pay for it. The lowest water rate in New Hampshire is \$106 a year. The highest rate is New Hampton, \$1440 a year. The middle range is \$473. Whitefield is in the bottom third of the rates. Whitefield is \$336 right above us is Hooksett and below us is Derry. Berlin is \$615. Another one is Jaffrey, \$1,000, Franconia \$920 so they are all over the place.

Rural Development funding is made for rural communities with populations under 10,000. Many communities don't qualify. It is a good program. A rate increase is in our future. There has been deferred maintenance. As a consequence it has been 25 to 30 years since we have upgraded the water system.

Dick Harris asked how long would it take for us to determine about more water hook-ups. Steve said what we need to do is finish the pump station and look at the flow rate and see what Bill has for more meter readings and see if we can reconcile what is being pumped and what is being used—then it will be up to the Board to decide. Steve said it should take a couple of months to do the reconciliation.

Department Head Meeting:

Bill Thompson, Water Superintendent

We have the Sunderman water line, and the state has held us up on it and the only way we can fix the water line is to upgrade it to 4 inch—two inch galvanized is what is currently there. That water is off since last year. We were supposed to fix it this past winter, and we couldn't get our permits from the state. We could upgrade it to four inch or we could have the Sundermans and Mr. Burke provide us with an easement and go out of the state water line and use the materials Bill got in December to do the project. The Sundermans will have to get in touch with Mr. Burke because his water line will be running across their property. Can we approach them and see if this would be something they would be willing to do? Bill said he will speak with Mrs. Patterson.

There is a leak at a residence on Snow Street. The leak is up by the house away from the main water line. The homeowner has counsel out of Vermont saying it is the Town's issue and the PUC is involved. It is a private water line with a private leak. They need to hire a contractor and Wendy said they should be treated like everybody else. Fred had talked with the owner, and they talked with this construction company out of Vermont and they said the PUC says it is the town's responsibility. Who notifies the residents? They have been notified. Wendy said let's put something in writing to them explaining it is their responsibility and what has to be done.

The water line at the ballfield. Bill said he doesn't know much about it. Shawn said he will discuss it at his time.

Bill said that Fred Ingerson took care of the problems while Bill was away and he did what Bill would have done. He had several complicated problems that he handled very well.

Josh Welch – Whitefield Sewer Treatment Plant

Josh said the Treatment plant: he would like to get the Hartigan truck over here to clean out the wet wells – the Brown Street one needs to be done before we put the new pump in. We need another truck to pump the septage in to. Hartigan is \$2,000 for the day and the septage truck is \$150 an hour. Josh thinks it can be done in one day. It is in the budget. Josh will see if Joel will do it, but he has been downsizing. Shawn said the depth you are sucking from the regular haulers won't do it. Hartigan is out of Vermont. They need to do the cleaning, but they can use someone else to pump out of the manhole. Mark asked if they have tried Rexford's, and Josh said he has not.

Peter asked about the catheters, and Josh said it will tell when we clean out Brown Street. We did put out the notice in the bills and took some around. Josh will keep an eye on that. Shawn said he went up in the manhole and we didn't put a screen down there and spent time down there and we didn't get anything and Shawn hopes putting this flyer out there will help this situation.

Edward Samson – Whitefield Police Department

Ed Samson said the emergency management purchases for the building are complete, and we will be installing what we got. Ed said the hazard mitigation plan is just about complete. The last meeting is Thursday and that plan will be complete then we will do the emergency operations plan. Ed said on the police side of things Eoin got in to the police academy, and he will be starting a week from today for the 16-week program. There will be some overtime costs incurred while he is gone until the middle of June when the SRO will be available after school gets out. It is tough. Ed said our best option is to get someone who is part-time certified, which we are working on. Wendy suggested an individual who is working with Lancaster part-time and is looking for part-time work.

Ed said we had some issues with our mobile data terminals so we ordered some new air cards.

Ed said the other thing he has is the building itself and air conditioning for the downstairs area. It gets pretty miserable down there. He is not sure what options to take or what to look in to.

In reference to IMC, Ed said he will have a plan together next month for the board to approve.

Can we get cost estimates to put some air conditioning in? Shawn said he will look into it. Jerry McGee had told us about some mini-split units that might work well down there.

Shawn White – Public Works Department

For the last couple of weeks we have been up at the Legion Field getting the field ready. We have done some major repairs with bleachers, buildings, etc. Fences were taken down and replaced. We would like to try to get some water to the building, for the building and for irrigation. Shawn spoke to Bill and Fred to come up with a plan to hook up the water. The shut-off for the building is now buried under the Legion's addition. They didn't see a problem with us hooking on to the line at the Legion. Shawn said that Bill had an issue hooking up to a private line as per the ordinance? They plan to keep the snack bar open for the games. Peter said it

opens a bigger can of worms. Shawn said from there he received an e-mail from someone making a complaint the highway crew was trying to hook the water up and the sewer was running out back, and we received a visit from them last week and today. We showed them what was done in the building. The only plumbing that was done was they put in a connection if bathrooms were put in to the building. In two weeks the report will be done and we can get a copy. Bill Rines got a warning because he put the fixtures in the concrete. We have done no plumbing work on the building. Wilbur the rat was who sent in the complaint.

Ed said Opening Day Ceremony is scheduled for this Saturday in Whitefield.

Shawn said Tim White was asking about renaming the field from the Legion Field to Pinkham Field. Mark said he felt we should find out why it was named the Legion Field. We will speak with John Tholl of the Legion.

Frank Lombardi asked about hooking up the town water. The ordinance says one service, one house. If the selectboard decides they want to do it, who becomes responsible? There was a problem with water usage at the Legion at one time when the town was hooked on with them. We could drill under the road and hook on the fire hydrant line. That is a huge project. Is there a way to run a hose or some type of temporary service from the fire station. The Board suggested looking into some type of temporary line. A seasonal line would make sense to start out with.

Peter told Shawn about the new official's workshop at the McIntyre buildings. Peter thought some of the training would assist him in what he would do. Shawn said it is local here in town – some of the continuing education he has to go to Concord for. Ethics, right to know law, dealing with employee issues, stuff department heads deal with. It is free and it is in Whitefield this year. It will count towards his continuing education. The Board was o.k. with this. Peter said it is great. It will be good.

Shawn said that Dave Scalley approached him about putting in a sidewalk in from the Greenwood Street area up to his apartment buildings. He is willing to take on all the costs, easements, and engineering. The Town will get a sidewalk for free, and we just have to take it over. He will have it engineered and follow the state standards. Mr. Scalley told Shawn he has spoken with the state and they fine with it as long as it is certified to state standards.

Shawn said they are hopefully going to start working on Old East Road. They will start with the ditching.

Shawn said DOT is going to start paving on Route 3, and they need the utilities marked that need to be raised so they are ready for pavement. Shawn said he will give Bill the sheet with the dates that this needs to be done by.

Shawn is going to hold off on uniforms for this year not knowing what is going on with personnel at this time.

Shawn said in reference to the cell phones, we are not like normal contracts, and this is the first time they have a deal out for government. Shawn said this is a good time the water department

gets their own cell phone on their line. They will give them \$300 towards that line. It is \$199 and they will give you \$300 and it will give you \$100 towards their bill. That goes until the end of the month. Shawn said current the highway pays for their line, and now is the time to get them on their own line. We pay for their line out of the highway. The Board is o.k. with this.

Peter Corey asked when the weight limits were coming down? Shawn said the majority of them came down today. Gould and Kimball Hill Road are still up.

The next item is to discuss the proposal for the N.H. Army National Guard. Peter said the Board has a decision to make – either to support it or not to support it. Peter said if we support it we should get our attorneys to talk to see what a lease would look like. The National Guard time is of the essence, start the process, as far as environmental assessment and preliminary engineering we would be looking at two years.

Peter's question is: are we prepared to vote on it tonight or when will we be prepared to vote?

Sondra Brekke asked what their time frame was. Peter said they have to go through a federal process to get the funding.

Wendy said she had some questions for the guard and Wendy sent an e-mail to Col. Mikolaities. Wendy asked him what his timeframe was for when he needed a response. His response was “a yes in three months is better than a no tomorrow. He said no later than August 1st would be appreciated. This allows them the ability to hire a consultant before the end of the federal fiscal year, which is September 30th, in order to develop a more refined concept. He said what has been provided so far is a very rough and conceptual, and they need a more defined concept to base their environmental assessment on.

Wendy had a list of questions she e-mailed to Col Mikolaities. The Airport Commission is in a state of flux. Mr. Ash, who is Whitefield's representative to the Commission, spoke about the master plan for the airport, and he said that this proposal doesn't fit in with the master plan, but it may be out of date. Wendy wanted to know from a FAA standpoint, what effects does a military basis have on our grant assurances. Wendy did inquire about what responsibilities would the town have if we are going to do this. Wendy said she is concerned we are a small rural airport and plowing has been an on-going issue. What does that do with our requirement for plowing? Col. Mikolaities said in reference to plowing they usually have snow plow contracts with local contractors or would pay the Town to have it plowed. With a limited use facility, their requirements to immediately plow after a couple of inches of accumulation would not be as strict. Wendy said the other question she had was what is the requested lease term for this property. She said she didn't get a good answer. He said he was not the expert on this and that they have only one parcel that they lease and it is for 50 years. He is not sure if they can go less than 25 years, preference is 50 but he believes 25 is minimum. He can get more information to confirm this. Wendy said she feels that there are a lot of things in flux. We have gotten a number of letters in support and against. Wendy spoke with Joe Kenney who seemed to believe this is going to be a great thing for search and rescue. He didn't understand it was a part-time proposal. He told Wendy that the Town should negotiate with them to have them here 365 days

a year. Wendy thinks we need more information, and she doesn't want to rush into a decision if we have until August 1st. Wendy said she is moving to table discussion of this.

Kathy Moody, who did not attend the last meeting asked what the project entailed? Wendy briefly reviewed what was discussed at the last meeting. What town services will be utilized? Wendy said she did ask Col. Mikolaities what the anticipated costs of maintenance and operation of the facility would be and what if any town or airport services will be utilized by the facility, i.e. water, sewer, etc. He replied that he was not really sure what the maintenance costs would be. He thought minimal since the facility would be new. He was not sure about water. He said in reference to sewer they would put in their own system or contribute costs to upgrading the existing airport building septic system.

Heidi Mathieu asked what is the decibel of the helicopter? Peter said it would be considered in the environmental assessment.

Bruce Brekke said a Black Hawk is considered a stealth helicopter. Frank Lombardi disagreed and referred to the packet of information he gave to the selectmen that states at 500 feet directly overhead it is over 80 decibel. Frank said that compares to the sound levels of a garbage disposal.

Peter said they have to adhere to a flight path. Heidi asked if they would like it in their backyard. Edie Worcester asked if this went through, would the town look at lowering the valuation on their houses or purchasing their property? Edie said there have been lawsuits won over this. Edie said it is the noise and the loss of privacy, loss of enjoyment of your property. In these lawsuits, people did win, and the Town had to drop their valuations and the Town would have to compensate us for our properties. This is for real and it has happened in these types of situations. Edie wants the town to look in to these situations.

Mark seconded the motion to table the discussion.

Katie Lombardi asked if we allow what they want now, can we stipulate that they have to come back to us if they do anything else? Wendy said there a host of things we can negotiate for. The only thing they said is aviation use. Wendy wants a better answer to her questions before she makes a decision.

Sondra Brekke suggested that we propose to limit what they can do. Anything other than the two helicopters would need to come back to the Town for approval.

Frank Lombardi said in reference to the training exercises, it takes them half an hour to come up here and fly around for an hour. When they do an actual search, they won't be utilizing the Whitefield Airport. They will do it like they do now. The fuel tanker goes to the closest location to the search where they can land. It doesn't make sense for them to utilize the Whitefield Airport to refuel. Frank said he doesn't think search and rescue is part of their project.

Peter Corey said do we want an airport? We have extended a significant amount of money to do something at the airport. Here is an opportunity to do something.

What direction do we want our airport to go? Is this the project we really want to go ahead with?

Wendy wants to get more information. She said she has a personal concern that lots of military facilities are abandoned all over the country. What is their long term plan? The guard is not going to provide a jet fueling depot. Col. Mikolaities said he believes the leverage that they bring is that the Town could politically capitalize on the use of the airport in order to potentially obtain funding of a fuel point, and that they would probably buy the fuel off of us if we built it. He said from what he has heard is this would allow us to expand the current use of the airport. He said doesn't believe there would be any negative impact.

There is no purpose for us to host this? Wendy doesn't know the answer to the question.

Peter said the original plan, he used to work for the National Guard, was that they Guard had a plan to revitalize the Lancaster Armory and they wanted to build two helipads but they had decided that putting an aviation facility in the middle of a residential area would not be that great of an idea. They asked about the Mt. Washington Regional Airport in Whitefield. Peter told them that he could facilitate a meeting with the National Guard and the Mt. Washington Regional Airport. A decision was made by National Guard leadership that they need this training facility, and they want to use the Lancaster Armory. If doesn't make sense to try to overcome opposition in Lancaster when there is already an airport in Whitefield. That is how it all came out. They see it as an airport, and it has been an airport for 58 years.

Dick Harris suggested that we request that if they abandon the buildings that they would go the Town.

Wendy said you can only lease the land at the airport—you can't sell it. There is a federal law exempting military facilities from paying taxes. We won't get a payment of taxes like the other hangers. There is a provision for a payment in lieu of taxes. Lease terms and the length of lease would be negotiated. They have never paid any taxes on any of their buildings.

Frank Lombardi said he thinks this is becoming a bigger impact than the current operations. Currently, the impact on Yankee 1 or Yankee 2 is an hour fly time. Whoever lives on Yankee 1 or Yankee 2 will be impacted greatly now that they can fly entire weekends at a time. This is impacting a larger area than we originally thought. Frank feels the abutters who live along those flight paths should be notified.

Peter said that the purpose of the Environmental Study is for this information to be asked and discussed.

Peter said he will honor the request by his fellow board members to table this request. Peter is going on record to say it is an airport—it has been an airport for 58 years. The Town's Master Plan views the airport as an asset. We have never put any resources in to the airport to turn it in to a true asset. It is a true airport. There is a process for all the concerns to be heard and evaluated. We will never get to that process if we shout emotionally. This community is dying.

There are 80 people who have started meeting because they are tired of what our community has become, infrastructure is crumbling, the roads are a mess, people's properties are a mess. Peter said if we can't say yes to the National Guard who would bring some activity to the airport a federal entity that has to adhere every federal law, than what can we say yes to?

Eddie Worcester asked Peter if he had a conflict of interest?

Peter said he retired from the National Guard last year, and he gets no money from the National Guard. He did not propose this project. He offered to put them in contact with the right people. He does not feel he has a conflict of interest. He is not going to fly around in a helicopter. He doesn't need to go in helicopters anymore. He has done that his entire career. Peter said he will honor the Board's decision on this. He said that if Whitefield votes this down, we are saying Whitefield is closed for business and Peter feels other towns will withdraw their support from the airport. Wendy says she takes exception to this.

Eddie Worcester asked what about tourism – the tourism is what pays us. The working people work in tourism. If you have lost your job, you can get a job in tourism. Are people going to come if we fill the North Country with towers and helicopters?

Leon Rideout, a Selectman from Lancaster, is here as a State Representative. Leon said he is a 26 year military veteran, and training for the military is absolutely everything. You cannot do a mission if you are not properly trained. This is a proposal for 8-9 weekends a year. He is hearing this is too much of a burden for people around the airport. The Town of Lancaster has contributed to the airport for years, and we are told Whitefield is looking to expand the airport. Leon said that it used to be in N.H. anyways that if our military needed something we gave it to them. Leon said his support of the airport has actually gone down. He said the Town of Lancaster supports the airport, he believes for \$5,800 a year, and if we are not going to use it as an airport and expand it, let's close it and be done with it. Leon said he feels it is a huge mistake to not at least go through the studies. The National Guard could be the first cornerstone of a solid airport. Other companies looking might see that as a positive move.

Katie Lombardi asked about the impact on Pondicherry's wildlife and tourism? Peter replied that would be part of the environmental assessment. Katie said we shouldn't even get to that point. We have a nice little airport that we would like to expand recreationally, not with military helicopters coming in.

Mark said they are still going to train whether this proposal is approved or not, but Leon said they want to maximize their training time. Leon sees this as a positive step. Mark said the land they want is the prime land that we would get lease payments on, taxes, pay lease fees, - that is the area they are going to. Leon said we have some legitimate questions. Leon said we should at least go through the Environmental Process.

It was asked if it will impact planes coming in and out, and the reply was no it won't.

Mr. Edward Piatek, said he moved up here from Southern Connecticut. He said those weekends they trained it was atrocious. He said that this proposal should not really be considered. We need to consider the people who live next to the airport.

Bruce Brekke asked if there are plans to expand the runway by 1000 feet?

Wendy said that is the hope. That concept is part of the master plan. It is not anything that is going to happen immediately.

Jim Ash explained that the 135 operators are not able to come to Whitefield because the runway is not long enough. They can't get in there with the current length at the airport.

Heidi Mathieu said she doesn't have a problem with the regular planes. She said they are in and then out compared to the helicopters, which are eight hours continuously on the weekends. It was explained that the FAA designates all kinds of airspace, Yankee 1 or Yankee 2. They are defined a minimum floor they are not allowed to operate in. They are restricted.

Sondra Brekke asked if we have had the airport for 58 years and have not done anything with the "prime" piece of property that the Guard wants to use, what are we holding it for? Wendy said that Mr. Corey is correct we have had ad hoc operations, and the size of the runway limits certain planes. If we do the expansion, there is potential to approach FedEx or UPS who would be a paying customer. Mrs. Brekke said it seems like the whole thing is stagnant. Wendy said there has been activity with upgrades.

Katie said if we are looking at improving the town, it seems we want to improve our town in the right way. Pondicherry is a big draw. It is a big turn-off to have a military base in that location. It is a fear-orientating thing. People who come to Pondicherry don't want Blackhawk helicopters. These trainings will occur on the weekends when people go out to Pondicherry. It is a big turn-off. What is the facility going to look at? Are we responsible for securing that area? Katie said these are our concerns before we go ahead with any type of environmental study. Katie says she doesn't want a fear atmosphere.

Peter said as to the point of a fear factor of having this military installation, there is an armory in Lancaster, Littleton, they have been there for years, and it hasn't frightened off tourists. It will be surrounded by an ordinary fence. Peter said Katie is exaggerating. Peter gave a couple of examples in Concord at the National Guard headquarters and in North Carolina where the National guard has spent large amounts of money and done things required to preserve the habitat of an endangered specie of butterfly, the Karner butterfly and the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. Peter said that you will never find a more respectful entity of the environment then a federal entity, and that is what you are going to find with this proposal.

Eddie said it seems like a lot of money to spend on something that is only going to be used for 12-16 days a year.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved at 9:50 p.m. to enter in to non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b), the hiring of any person as a public employee; RSA 91-A:3, II(c), matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of

any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting; and RSA 91-A:3, II(d), consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

The public meeting reconvened at 11:30 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to seal the minutes of the non-public session because it is determined that divulgence of this information would likely affect adversely the reputation of another person other than a member of the Board and render a proposed action ineffective.

The Board approved the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting with emendations submitted by Duncan Nevers.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.