

TOWN OF CANAAN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

For a video of the meeting, please go to the following link:
<https://youtu.be/dwpguCMrrNU?si=1M2rtrRv2M4kK6fL>

Members Present:

In person: Christopher Kinsella, David Barger, and Judy Jacobs

Call to order – David Barger called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Agenda: No action taken

Public comment

Several individuals made public comments. Only Stephen Koshland's comment was received in writing and is attached to these minutes.

Secretary's Report

Judy Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes for The Board of Selectmen's Special meetings held on February 23rd, 2024, as amended. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion; unanimous.

Judy Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting, held on March 11, 2024, and Board of Selectmen Special Meetings held March 11, 2024, March 15, 2024, March 20, 2024, and March 25, 2024. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion; unanimous.

Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Report

Judy Jacobs made a motion to receive the amended December 31, 2023, Treasurer's report. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion for discussion. During discussion Chris Kinsella again stated he felt the Treasurer's Reports should be reviewed and received by the Board of Finance prior to the Board of Selectmen. The motion passed; Judy Jacobs and David Barger voted yes. Chris Kinsella voted nay to receive the report. Motion carried.

Judy Jacobs made a motion to receive the amended January 31, 2024, Treasurer's Report. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion. Dave Barger and Judy Jacobs voted yes; Chris Kinsella voted nay. Motion carried.

Judy Jacobs made a motion to receive the amended February 29, 2024, Treasurer's Report. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion. Dave Barger and Judy Jacobs voted yes; Chris Kinsella voted nay. Motion carried.

Judy Jacobs made a motion to receive the amended March 31, 2024, Treasurer's Report. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion. Dave Barger and Judy Jacobs voted yes; Chris Kinsella voted nay. Motion carried.

Judy Jacobs made a motion to receive the January 31, 2024, Tax Collector's Report as clarified. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion; unanimous.

July Jacobs made a motion to receive the March 31, 2024, Tax Collector's Report. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion; unanimous.

Communications:

1) Written

The following communications were presented: Annual Car Show, Tour of Litchfield Hills, National Day of Prayer and Eversource (all attached)

2) Oral: None noted.

First Selectman's Report presented by David Barger:

a) Spending Plan.

Dave Barger made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance the Municipal Spending Plan for 2024-2025 be increased by \$30,000. \$10,000 for Kellogg Technology Reserve and \$20,000 for Kellogg Capital Reserve. Seconded by Judy Jacobs; unanimous. (It was noted this addition to the Municipal Spending Plan is the result of the same amount being reduced from the Education Spending Plan).

b) CT DOT Tree Trimming: Will continue over the next few weeks along Route 7 and Route 63.

c) Bridge/Infrastructure Update: Chris Kinsella provided an update. (See Discussion below.)

d) Falls Village Car Show: Approved for July 14, 2024 (see New Business below).

e) Tour of Litchfield Hills: Approved for August 4, 2024 (see New Business below)

f) Solar Project Committee: Chris Kinsella provided an update. (see Discussion below)

g) Recreation Commission Events: The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Tour of the Town Farm property was held on March 20th, 2024. The Selectmen praised the Recreation Commission for an excellent event. The Earth Day Celebration will be held on April 20, 2024.

h) National Day of Prayer: Approved for May 2, 2024. (see New Business below)

i) Eversource: Will be changing their hours. (see attached)

j) Special Licensing for Firearms: New requirements/process effective July 1, 2024. (see attached)

k) DEMHS: Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will be performing an audit for cyber security, elections, etc. in June of 2024. (see attached)

l) Opioid Settlement: The Town received \$2452.31 from the Opioid Settlement which will be given to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to assist with the Opioid Crisis on a Regional level.

m) Region One Surplus: Approximately \$31,900 will be returned to the Town due to unspent funds.

n) Undermountain Road Chip Sealing: (See New Business)

o) CEN Proposal: Dave Barger stated he is waiting for a contract from CEN.

Old Business:

a) Early Voting. No action taken. There will be Early Voting in August and November.

b) 35 Railroad Street Sale. No action taken. Dave Barger stated it was still in the hands of the attorney.

c) Economic Development. No action taken. Judy Jacobs will be reviewing the Economic Development documentation received from Dave Barger and will follow up.

d) Curbside Compost. No action taken. Dave Barger will meet with Shamu Sadeh from Camp Freedman to discuss Town use of their compost pile.

e) CEN Proposal. No action taken. Dave is working on a contract.

New Business

a) Tax Abatements/Suspense List:

Judy Jacobs made a motion to recommend approval of the Suspense List by the Board of Finance. Seconded by Chris Kinsella; unanimous. The Suspense list is attached to these minutes.

b) Falls Village Car Show:

Chris Kinsella made a motion to approve July 14th, 2024, as the date for the Annual Car Show. Dave Barger seconded the motion. Judy Jacobs abstained, Chris Kinsella and Dave Barger voted yes; motion carried.

c) Tour of Litchfield Hills: **Judy Jacobs made a motion to give Dave Barger the authority to sign-off on the request for the Tour to be held August 4, 2024. Seconded by Chris Kinsella; unanimous.**

d) National Day of Prayer: **Chris Kinsella made a motion to approve the use of the Town Green for the National Day of Prayer to be held on May 2, 2024. Judy Jacobs seconded the motion; unanimous.**

e) Undermountain Road Chip Sealing: **Chris Kinsella made a motion to table this item. Judy Jacobs seconded the motion; unanimous.**

Discussion:

a) Bridge/Infrastructure. Chris Kinsella reported the Bridge/Infrastructure committee is reviewing the 2020 Bridge Assessment reports along with other Infrastructure needs in town.

b) Solar Committee. Chris Kinsella reported the Solar Committee held their second meeting. Multiple proposals are being investigated. The Solar Committee agreed any solar array on the Town Farm property should be limited to the area where the wood chips are.

Adjournment:

Judy Jacobs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm. Chris Kinsella seconded the motion; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, Denise Cohn.

Attachments:

Stephen Koshland Public Comment

Annual Car Show

Tour of Litchfield Hills

National Day of Prayer

Eversource

Firearm Permit from SFKU

Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Region One

Policy regarding interdepartmental transfer

Suspense list as presented by Tax Collector

Falls Village **CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW**

February 8, 2024

Town of Canaan Board of Selectmen
P.O. Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031

Dear Dave and Chris,

Plans are underway to hold the 14th Falls Village Car & Motorcycle Show on July 14th this year. On behalf of the Falls Village Car and Motorcycle Show committee members, I would like to request that the Town allows us to once again close the roads downtown to designate that area to parking of show vehicles and to use town property for parking and other activities. We will continue to be sensitive to the residents in the Village center to make this as unobtrusive as possible for them. We are very fortunate that the residents have been so supportive of this event.

The past three years the proceeds have gone to the Housatonic Valley FFA, each year raising over \$14,000 for that organization. They have applied the funds to their various programs, including their electric car project. They have also donated some of the proceeds to the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department for all the help the Fire Department does at the Car Show. Other organizations in our town have organized activities during the show and it has become an important fundraising opportunity for them as well. Overall, it has become a great source of fundraising while showcasing our little town in such a positive way.

We hope that the Board of Selectmen will once again support the Car Show and enable us to continue with this popular community event.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Judy Jacobs



THE TOUR

OF THE LITCHFIELD HILLS

Dave Barger, 1st Selectman www.tourofthelitchfieldhills.com
Town Hall
107 Main Street
P.O. Box 47
Falls Village, Ct. 06031

Re: 21st Annual Tour of the Litchfield Hills
 Sunday, August 4, 2024

Dear Mr. Barger:

On Sunday, August 4th, The Cancer Care Fund of the Litchfield Hills, Inc. will sponsor the 21st Annual Tour of the Litchfield Hills, a charity bicycle ride and walk to benefit the Cancer Care Fund of the Litchfield Hills, Inc.

The event will originate at Coe Park in Torrington. The routes pass through the Towns of Litchfield, Goshen, Norfolk, Canaan, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Washington, Warren, Morris, and Cornwall. In your town, the Tour will use Route 7, Under Mountain Road and Route 63.

This event is a charity ride - not a race. The bicycle riders will be reminded that they must observe the rules of the road. No roads are to be closed. There will be several rest stops along the way as well as support vehicles to assist riders who experience mechanical difficulties. We expect to draw roughly 1,200 riders for this event. The web site for the event is www.tourofthelitchfieldhills.com.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation requires that the Tour obtain from your legal Traffic Authority written authorization for this event. Attached please find a draft letter authorizing the Tour to pass through your Town. Please scan (mpdc@outlook.com) or mail (Dr. Matt Pagano, 179 North Main St, Winsted CT 06098) or fax (860-379-3373) this form to us by **Thursday, April 11, 2024**.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (cell) 860-307-7523 or (office) 860-379-3372. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Pagano', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matthew Pagano
Tour of the Litchfield Hills Chairman

Cc: file





First Selectman <firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

SLFU/BFPE Informational Session

1 message

Maurice, Brianna <Brianna.Maurice@ct.gov>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 3:27 PM

To: "Maurice, Brianna" <Brianna.Maurice@ct.gov>

Good afternoon.

SLFU, along with the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners will be doing a virtual informational session regarding the issuance of pistol permits. This session will be a step by step/how to on what to look for, and the process in its entirety from application to issuance. We will also discuss the new law that goes into effect on 7/1 regarding the updates to training requirements, as well as the new federal law and your requirement to respond to record requests. The Secretary from the BFPE will be discussing the hearing process and best practices. We have slotted 3 hours for these sessions; however, our presentation will be approximately 2, and we wanted to make sure we leave enough time for questions at the end.

These sessions will be offered on three different days to try and accommodate people's schedules, please select whichever date/time works best for you. The dates and the corresponding meeting links are below. Please feel free to forward to others in your agency that you think this may benefit.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sergeant Bree Maurice & Colonel (Ret.) Kyle Overturf

Wednesday April 17, 0900 hours

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ODFmMjgwNTgtOTlkMi00ZTk3LTk1NTQtMGRkMjYxZDBiNDMw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22118b7cfa-a3dd-48b9-b026-31ff69bb738b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22439efa02-883a-42ec-b33e-63be0a90e83d%22%7d

Thursday May 2, 1300 hours

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ZjdiMGI2M2UtZGFkNy00MzU1LTkNGYtZjQ5NjYzMzU2MTYx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22118b7cfa-a3dd-48b9-b026-31ff69bb738b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22439efa02-883a-42ec-b33e-63be0a90e83d%22%7d

Tuesday June 4, 1000 hours

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ODhiZDQ3OGEtMmZmMS00M2I4LWFkZWYtODVhYkYtM0tNiZDEy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22118b7cfa-a3dd-48b9-b026-31ff69bb738b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22439efa02-883a-42ec-b33e-63be0a90e83d%22%7d

Sergeant Brianna Maurice



National Day of Prayer

1 message

Chuck & Margo <MLewis16@sbcglobal.net>
To: david barger <davidbarger77@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 09:04

Good morning David,

We pray that you are getting off to a good start today, knowing that every day is an adventure in town government. Anyway, I am getting started on plans for the National Day of Prayer event in Falls Village on Thursday, May 2 this year, and want to be sure that we will be able to use the Town Green at noon on that day? Last year we were driven inside by the rain, but hopefully, the weather will cooperate this year. But even if the weather had been good last year, the Green had not been mowed yet, and was not in good condition for gathering. If possible, could you let Tim Downs know that it would be appreciated if the Town Crew could get it mowed beforehand this year? I don't think that it was in Henry's mindset to do that during his tenure. Let me know, too, if you and Carmela will be able to participate, and I'll get back to you with options for readings or prayers. I look forward to having a 1st Selectman there for whom prayer is important to our Town! God bless - Chuck



First Selectman <firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

Falls Village Substation, Canaan - Extended Work Hours Request

1 message

Waldron, Timothy <timothy.waldron@eversource.com>
To: First Selectman <FirstSelectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 2:25 PM

Good afternoon Dave,

I am reaching out to let you know that Eversource has submitted a request to the Connecticut Siting Council requesting approval to work four (four) 24-hour days as well as three consecutive Sundays on the transformer assembly and testing at Falls Village Substation, Canaan CT.

Eversource Energy is requesting Siting Council staff review and approval for extended work hours over four consecutive days, each of 24 hours at the Falls Village Substation. This portion of work, during the week of April 8 to April 12, is necessary to allow the contractor (TLS) to conduct the transformer vacuum and oil processing procedures which consists of 24-hour monitoring and record keeping of oil temperatures and vacuum pressure. This will consist of a 2-man crew staying onsite overnight to take readings. There will be no additional changes or impacts during the 24-hour workdays.

The three consecutive Sunday workdays, with hours, from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, on April 14, April 21 and April 28 will allow the transformer to be continually monitored, condensing the transformer assembly and testing timeline in an effort to release the temporary transformer from Falls Village for use at a contiguous project.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this request. My colleague Tracey Alston will be able to update you on this work at our upcoming meeting as well.

Best,

Tim

Tim Waldron

Community Relations & Economic Development Specialist

174 Franklin Street, Torrington CT 06790

Cell – 860-995-9351

www.eversource.com**EVERSOURCE**



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY



TO: Municipal Chief Executive Officers, Service Chiefs, and Emergency Management Directors, Town Clerks, and Registrars of Voters

FROM: Brenda M. Bergeron, Deputy Commissioner
William H. Turner, State Emergency Management Director

DATE: March 18, 2024

RE: 2024 Statewide Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI)
Municipal Introduction

As we enter this year's elections cycle, it is critical that we are ready to support the election process and the people who are vital to that process. Therefore, this year's Governor's Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) Statewide Exercise will focus on convening the municipal Unified Command, to include local Information Technology, Town Clerk, and Registrars. The municipal Unified Command should review the local emergency operations plan, the municipal elections contingency plan and consider several potential scenarios that could affect the security of an election, including physical security, natural disaster, and cyber incidents. This exercise is a collaborative effort with the Secretary of the State, and other federal, state, and local partners.

As in previous years, the same exercise will be offered in two sessions, to accommodate both career and volunteer municipal officials: The exercise will be held in the morning and evening of June 12th. This early date will allow municipalities and state agencies to enhance their planning and preparedness activities based on the gaps and best practices identified during the exercise.

More information will follow as we get closer to the exercise date. If you have any questions or if you require any additional information regarding the Governor's EPPI, please contact DEMHS via e-mail at demhs.eppi.questions@ct.gov.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Region One Principals, Board Clerks, Selectmen, and Town Treasurers

FROM: Sam Herrick, Business Manager

DATE: March 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Final Undesignated Fund Balances for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

The final audit of Region One has been officially completed. Financial results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 reflect year-end undesignated fund balances of \$97,994 for HVRHS, \$412,467 for Pupil Services, and (\$411) for the Regional School Service Center (RSSC). These totals, which include the Board of Education retaining 2% of the high school budget to be placed in the Capital Maintenance Reserve account according to Connecticut General Statute, will be utilized to reduce the current year's net expenses in accordance with Section 10-51C of the Connecticut General Statutes. As in the past, this will take the form of a reduction in the current year assessment to Member Towns, applied to the final April 2024 payment.

Accordingly, plan on reducing your normal monthly assessment payment for the month of April 2024 by amounts shown below for your respective town.

Allocation of Undesignated Fund Surplus for Fiscal Year 2023

| | 2022-23 | 2022-23 | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------------|----------|----------------|--------|-----------|
| | HVRHS | Pupil Services/RSSC | | | | |
| Member Town | Assessment | Assessment | HVRHS | Pupil Services | RSSC | Total |
| Canaan | 9.88% | 5.39% | \$9,678 | \$22,244 | -\$22 | \$31,900 |
| Cornwall | 7.72% | 7.63% | \$7,561 | \$31,459 | -\$31 | \$38,989 |
| Kent | 12.35% | 14.18% | \$12,098 | \$58,470 | -\$58 | \$70,510 |
| North Canaan | 38.89% | 17.57% | \$38,109 | \$72,452 | -\$72 | \$110,488 |
| Salisbury | 20.37% | 22.88% | \$19,962 | \$94,378 | -\$94 | \$114,246 |
| Sharon | 10.80% | 7.40% | \$10,586 | \$30,506 | -\$30 | \$41,061 |
| High School | 0.00% | 24.96% | 0 | \$102,958 | -\$103 | \$102,855 |
| Annual Total | 100.00% | 100.00% | \$97,994 | \$412,467 | -\$411 | \$510,050 |

Superintendent: Lisa Carter
lcarter@region1schools.org

Asst. Superintendent: Dr. Jeanine Rose
jrose@region1schools.org

Business Manager: Samuel Herrick
sherrick@region1schools.org

Policy Clarification Regarding the Transfer of Funds within Departmental Budgets

Recommendation: If an amount is requested to be transferred within sub-lines of a department (e.g. 1001 Selectmen Expenses, #1002 Town Hall Expenses etc.) that does not exceed 15% of the department's budget total and will not over spend the department's total budget amount, then the transfer can be authorized by the Board of Selectmen with subsequent notice to the Board of Finance at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Such adjustments will be reviewed in summary by the Board of Finance at the end of the fiscal year for discussion or reconciliation as needed. Transfer requests within a department's sublines exceeding 15% of the department's budget total require Board of Finance approval, with the exception of the Road Maintenance department #3001 and Fire Commission department #2001 which can transfer up to 60% of funds within sublines of those departments due to seasonal flexibility and emergency needs.

For an emergency/critical circumstance requiring immediate budget action, spending exceeding this 15% limit may be authorized by unanimous Board of Selectmen vote, with subsequent timely notice to the Board of Finance for review and approval.

3/19/2021

**TAX COLLECTOR
TO BE RECORDED IN THE BOF MINUTES**

ANNUAL SUSPENSE REQUEST PERSUANT TO SECTION Sec. 12-165.

1. COLLECTOR'S CERTIFICATION TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDING TRANSFER OF UNCOLLECTIBLE UNCOLLECTED PROPERTY TAXES TO THE SUSPENSE TAX BOOK.

To the Board of Finance:

The following attached lists of uncollected Personal Property & Motor Vehicle taxes that have been deemed uncollectable for transfer to the suspense tax book. They will remain with the collection agency until the 15 year collection period expires. They are respectfully submitted for your examination and approval.

Number of Accounts #: 11

Total Suspense \$1032.45

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief each tax listed in this statement has not been paid, is not collectible and should be transferred to the suspense tax book.

Dated at Canaan, Connecticut, the 18, day of March, 2024.

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs

Respectfully submitted, _____
Rebecca M Juchert-Derungs, Tax Collector, CCMC

2. ACTION TAKEN BY BOARD OF FINANCE

To Rebecca M Juchert-Derungs, Tax Collector of the Town of Canaan

A detailed examination has been made of the statement, dated at Canaan, Connecticut, the _____, 2024, recommending the transfer of certain uncollected taxes to the suspense tax book. The taxes listed in such statement are believed to be uncollectible and pursuant to section 395c of the 1935 cumulative supplement authority is hereby given you to transfer such taxes, in accord with law, to the suspense tax book.

Dated at Canaan, Connecticut, the _____ day of _____, 2024.

Board of Finance of the Town of Canaan,

By _____
Chairperson, Board of Finance

**TAX COLLECTOR
TO BE RECORDED IN THE BOF MINUTES**

| Bill # | Name | Prop Loc | AMT D | Reason |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 2020-03-0050812 | OVITT RAYMOND E | 28 ROUTE 63 | 17.99 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2021-03-0050815 | OVITT RAYMOND E | 28 ROUTE 63 | 17.99 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2021-03-0050199 | CLOUSER JOHN W | 388 HOUSATONIC ST | 19.79 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2022-02-0040110 | PALMER JEFF | 80 DUBLIN RD | 21 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2022-03-0050204 | CLOUSER JOHN W | 388 HOUSATONIC ST | 52.5 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2020-03-0050811 | OVITT RAYMOND E | 28 ROUTE 63 | 52.69 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2020-03-0050711 | ESTATE OF, MCGUIRE CAROLE K | 10 CYPRESS PARK APT #1 | 63.99 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2021-03-0050198 | CLOUSER JOHN W | 388 HOUSATONIC ST | 65.79 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2021-03-0050863 | POLLARD GEORGE S | 183 COTUIT ST | 85.88 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2022-03-0050407 | GATTI LINDA L, ESTATE OF | 4534 GREAT OAK DRIVE | 236.04 | 41 - DECEASED |
| 2022-03-0050910 | POLLARD GEORGE S | 183 COTUIT ST | 398.79 | 41 - DECEASED |
| TOTAL - 11 | | | 1,032.45 | |

Municipal suspense tax book. Each municipality shall have a suspense tax book. **At least once in each year each collector of taxes in each municipality shall deliver to the board of finance** or other similar board by whatever name called or, if no such board exists, to the board of selectmen if a town not consolidated with a city or borough, to the common council or board of aldermen if a city, to the warden and burgesses if a borough and to the governing board if any other municipality, a statement giving by rate bill:

- (1) **The name and address of the person against whom each uncollectible tax was levied**, and
- (2) **the reason why such collector believes each such tax is uncollectible.** At the end of such statement, the tax collector shall certify that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, each tax contained in such statement has not been paid and is uncollectible. A detailed examination shall be made by the authority to which such statement has been given of each tax shown thereon and, after such examination, it shall designate in writing each tax which is believed by it to be uncollectible. Thereupon, each tax so designated as uncollectible shall be transferred by such collector to the suspense tax book.
- (3) Each tax so transferred shall not thereafter be included as an asset of such municipality. The amount of each tax so transferred during the last fiscal year and the name of the person against whom each such tax was levied shall be published in the next annual report of such municipality or filed in the town clerk's office within sixty days of the end of the fiscal year.
- (4) Nothing herein contained shall be construed as an abatement of any tax so transferred, but any such tax, as it has been increased by interest or penalty, fees and charges, may be collected by the collector then or subsequently in office. The provisions of section 12-147 shall be applicable to all moneys so collected.

Public Comment by Stephen Koshland at Selectman Meeting April 8th, 2024.

With the success of the Town Hall sign being accomplished at last month's meeting, I would like to continue and move to the replanting of the trees cut on the Falls Village Inn property. If we are looking for a way to cover the cost of the trees, there is the option to attach it to the 35 Railroad Street sale.

Since we are on the topic of trees and budget season, we should look at the towns line item for tree removal. The loss of the ash trees locally will become a larger burden to the town. I took down 18 along the road on Music Mountain last year and it was \$14,000. So I just want to make sure we are looking at increasing that budget line item.

Can there be more than one tree warden in the town?

If we are also looking at taking down trees and that line item in our budget, why isn't there a line item for planting trees? I think that our POCD states that the community would be in support of such a town action.

There was a forestry committee established in 2021. Could they be part of these discussions and tree related issues in the community?

Lastly, I also feel that it is important for us to look at increasing hours of the town hall. Half days on Thursday and closed on Friday is not helpful to our community and town operations. I think we should also consider maybe one day a week being open after 5 or even open for a few hours over the weekend to meet the needs of working families and our weekend community.