

Selectboard Meeting

January 6, 2026 . 6:22 PM . ID: 233643381

Transcript

00:00 - 00:03

Selectboard Office

Conference will now be recorded.

00:06 - 00:20

Selectboard Office

Okay so we're gonna skip to the Fert Cod collective highway bid to get that out of the way and then we'll start talking about the school.

00:28 - 00:29

Selectboard Office

So.

00:31 - 00:37

Selectboard Office

Peggy, is this one package here?

00:38 - 00:38

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

00:39 - 00:39

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

00:43 - 00:43

[speaker unknown]

Okay.

00:46 - 00:46

Selectboard Office

Okay.

00:47 - 00:49

Selectboard Office

So, somebody want to make a motion?

00:49 - 00:50

Selectboard Office

Okay.

00:50 - 00:54

Selectboard Office

So, this is just for us to to accept their to be a part of it?

00:54 - 00:54

Selectboard Office

Yes.

00:57 - 01:07

Selectboard Office

So I move that we sign and accept the FY 2027 contract with FERCOG.

01:08 - 01:09

Selectboard Office

I second.

01:10 - 01:11

Selectboard Office

Any discussion?

01:13 - 01:13

[speaker unknown]

Good.

01:14 - 01:14

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

01:15 - 01:15

Selectboard Office

Aye.

01:37 - 01:39

Selectboard Office

It feels a little out of the district.

01:40 - 01:41

Selectboard Office

I know, Franklin can relate.

01:42 - 01:44

Selectboard Office

Yeah, they don't really let you do it.

01:44 - 01:50

Selectboard Office

I think it would be great if they could use it for sharing stuff just regularly.

01:51 - 01:51

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:52 - 01:53

Selectboard Office

Oh, well.

01:53 - 01:53

Selectboard Office

You could ask.

01:54 - 01:54

Selectboard Office

I have.

01:54 - 01:55

Selectboard Office

Oh, OK.

01:58 - 02:00

Selectboard Office

That's way more interesting.

02:01 - 02:14

Selectboard Office

All right, so on to Hampton Regional, Alison sent out materials, and I will put the spreadsheet up on the screen We want a second here.

02:24 - 02:28

Selectboard Office

Does everybody in the room have a copy or do you need me and put it on the TV to?

02:32 - 02:33

Selectboard Office

Anybody in the room now have a copy?

02:37 - 02:52

Selectboard Office

I don't have So yeah, and Alex is here too.

02:53 - 02:59

Selectboard Office

Alex and I and Gretchen are the negotiating committee with Hampshire Regional.

03:00 - 03:08

Selectboard Office

Our current five-year agreement ends June 30th and so we need to negotiate a new agreement.

03:10 - 03:24

Selectboard Office

The current agreement is extremely dissatisfactory to Hampshire but But what it is right now, it's at the top of the second page of the spreadsheet.

03:26 - 03:36

Selectboard Office

So that current agreement for FY22, that was a 10% increase from FY21.

03:36 - 03:43

Selectboard Office

Fy21 and prior, we had the same annual per-cumple cost for several years.

03:43 - 03:46

Selectboard Office

It was \$7 ,500.

03:47 - 03:50

Selectboard Office

And at the time, the agreement was established.

03:50 - 03:58

Selectboard Office

That was one and a half times the school choice reimbursement.

03:58 - 04:01

Selectboard Office

It was considered mutually beneficial.

04:01 - 04:03

Selectboard Office

They were having declining enrollment.

04:03 - 04:06

Selectboard Office

We were guaranteeing them some enrollment.

04:06 - 04:10

Selectboard Office

We were paying more than a regular school choice placement would have.

04:10 - 04:26

Selectboard Office

And they have plenty of capacity in that to help them financially and it helped us and we legally have to have a tuition agreement or provide secondary education within our district or be part of a regional district.

04:27 - 04:41

Selectboard Office

There was a lot of pressure from them when we negotiated this current agreement for us to significantly increase what we were paying in many of the other towns.

04:41 - 04:48

Selectboard Office

I think justifiably asked why we weren't paying the same per pupil that all of the other towns were paying.

04:50 - 04:54

Selectboard Office

But that would have been a pretty significant increase for us to make that jump.

04:54 - 05:08

Selectboard Office

And so we agreed on this, which was a 10% increase from FY21 to FY22, another 10% from FY23, and then 5% annually after that.

05:08 - 05:27

Selectboard Office

And it was written into the contract that the intention was we would continue this 5% increase annually to kind of continue a gradual increase that was quicker than their average annual per pupil increase, but would keep us on a somewhat level thing.

05:27 - 05:37

Selectboard Office

But in this five years of this current agreement, There has been a lot of upset from

the other Hampshire towns continuing to.

05:37 - 05:37

Deb Phillips

Ask.

05:37 - 05:41

Selectboard Office

Why when Wilmington actually has as many or.

05:41 - 05:49

Selectboard Office

More students than many of the other district towns like Ocean and Chesterfield, are we paying significantly less?

05:49 - 06:00

Selectboard Office

Just for comparison, their FY2023 in-district per pupil cost was \$21 ,817.

06:01 - 06:03

Selectboard Office

And I can look up gateways.

06:04 - 06:05

Selectboard Office

I don't have it.

06:05 - 06:08

Selectboard Office

I've got the site up here, but I will.

06:08 - 06:10

Selectboard Office

It's comparable.

06:12 - 06:13

Selectboard Office

Let's see.

06:14 - 06:18

Selectboard Office

Theirs was \$22 ,000.

06:19 - 06:19

Selectboard Office

No, sorry.

06:20 - 06:27

Selectboard Office

Their in-district was 23 ,328 per gateway and their total per pupil was 22.

06:28 - 06:30

Selectboard Office

So, comparable, a little bit more.

06:31 - 06:34

Selectboard Office

Central Berkshire also comparable, a little bit more.

06:37 - 06:48

Selectboard Office

Anyway, so I came back and spoke to you all after our first negotiation with them because we had gone in saying, hey we need to talk.

06:49 - 06:55

Selectboard Office

The last agreement we sort of built in this suggestion that we just continue this five percent.

06:56 - 06:58

Selectboard Office

That was a non-starter for them.

06:58 - 07:08

Selectboard Office

And so this second block on the spreadsheet just projects what that five percent would have looked like.

07:09 - 07:18

Selectboard Office

And you'll see, so the pink line is the tuition, the blue line the transportation, we pay our own transportation.

07:19 - 07:31

Selectboard Office

The two green lines are the special ed costs that Worthington did pay in FY22 to FY26 for grades 7 to 12.

07:33 - 07:47

Selectboard Office

And in these other blocks, they're projected based on what Gretchen knows about our current population who will be entering or staying in secondary school during those years.

07:48 - 08:01

Selectboard Office

Obviously, both the number of students and what the projected special ed costs are going to be are guesses, iffy, based on our current population.

08:01 - 08:09

Selectboard Office

People could move into town, people could move out of town, people could decide to go to Smith Folk, all of that.

08:11 - 08:11

Selectboard Office

Allison.

08:11 - 08:31

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Sorry, can I just also say that the projections for special ed are students that we know and what I did is project for out of district and not maybe thinking that Hampshire

Regional would be able to assume them in their life skills program.

08:32 - 08:33

Selectboard Office

So just kind of.

08:33 - 08:34

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Use the out of district number for that.

08:36 - 08:38

Selectboard Office

Okay, thank you.

08:38 - 08:41

Selectboard Office

So we have real numbers for the current years.

08:41 - 09:11

Selectboard Office

These are projected numbers for future years both number of students and What these special ed costs would be and then because our current agreement does not include special ed costs or transportation Those things the tuition the transportation and special ed costs are total and the yellow line is the total of water cost would be if we had continued the agreement we had.

09:12 - 09:29

Selectboard Office

And then the next block was Hampshire's first proposal to us, coming from their position of, hey, you really should be paying approximately our per-pupil cost and back out your transportation and special ed costs.

09:30 - 09:33

Selectboard Office

So, and they, but they weren't asking us just to meet their per-pupil.

09:33 - 09:59

Selectboard Office

They were saying, let's that so they were asking for a 50% increase in FY 27 and then 50% from what we're paying now so it would be 50% more than \$11 ,006 and then 5% increase every year after that and for us to continue paying our own special ed costs and transportation.

10:00 - 10:02

joe boudreau

Allison, I'm having a hard time reading this spreadsheet.

10:03 - 10:06

joe boudreau

Can you tell me the amount that they're proposing for.

10:06 - 10:13

Selectboard Office

Yes 16 ,509 for next year.

10:13 - 10:13

joe boudreau

The total.

10:13 - 10:28

Selectboard Office

The total tuition at 40 projected students would be six hundred sixty thousand three hundred sixty dollars plus our special ed costs and transportation.

10:28 - 10:32

joe boudreau

Okay I am.

10:35 - 10:37

joe boudreau

737 ,272.

10:37 - 10:37

Selectboard Office

That's correct.

10:39 - 10:42

Selectboard Office

That is tuition plus transportation.

10:43 - 10:48

Selectboard Office

But let me just be clear, this is a proposal that we have rejected just.

10:48 - 10:49

joe boudreau

So you.

10:49 - 10:49

Selectboard Office

Can see.

10:49 - 10:51

joe boudreau

I just want to know what they're.

10:52 - 10:52

Selectboard Office

Asking.

10:53 - 10:56

Selectboard Office

We wouldn't pay that full amount to them.

10:56 - 11:01

Selectboard Office

We would pay the pink to them, \$660 ,360.

11:01 - 11:01

Selectboard Office

Dollars.

11:02 - 11:21

Selectboard Office

Our total expenses in Worthington for our secondary students would be \$737.272 for Hampshire, plus whatever we pay for students to go to Smith Folk, and that transportation plus school choice out.

11:24 - 11:25

Selectboard Office

And this is projected.

11:26 - 11:30

Selectboard Office

And then it would be a 5% increase every year after that.

11:30 - 11:53

Selectboard Office

When we met a month ago, this group had an excellent suggestion, which was, hey, the real wild card is not like the, there's the pressure, this big increase, but there's also the wild card of special education costs being variable and significant.

11:54 - 12:07

Selectboard Office

And so I think might have been part, you'd said what if we absorbed our secondary special ed costs into the per pupil proposal.

12:08 - 12:28

Selectboard Office

And so we went back to them with, and this is the proposal that's currently on the count the table, that we take their per pupil cost, we subtract out one half of their central office fees because we only need their central office for secondary.

12:28 - 12:31

Selectboard Office

We provide our own central office services for primary.

12:32 - 12:45

Selectboard Office

We take out regular transportation, and then they pay for our special ed costs and our special ed transportation.

12:46 - 13:03

Selectboard Office

And we pay 90% of their total per pupil and the 10% discount or like reduction would be to compensate for the fact that we don't actually have any voting leverage because we're not members of the district.

13:04 - 13:23

Selectboard Office

They were, I think, very interested in that because it gets us much closer to their per pupil, be ten percent less than their per pupil, and so I think they felt that the other towns would be much less agitated about feeling it's not fair.

13:24 - 13:32

Selectboard Office

And what we like about this proposal is that it eliminates that up and down of special ed costs.

13:32 - 13:49

Selectboard Office

And if you look at the projected special ed costs over the next few years, FY29, FY30, FY31, they're going to be fairly significant with the students we know, and there could be other students.

13:51 - 14:13

Selectboard Office

So that's where we're at, But because currently their district accounting is sort of in a backlog, it's in a mess, they only know where they're at as of FY23, they can't actually certify what their spending was in FY24 or FY25 yet.

14:13 - 14:16

Selectboard Office

They're still doing audits of their books.

14:17 - 14:21

Selectboard Office

We don't have a number to go by to start this contract yet.

14:21 - 14:30

Selectboard Office

And so the interim proposal we've discussed was to do a one-year agreement at 15 ,000 per pupil.

14:31 - 14:45

Selectboard Office

We would continue to pay our own special ed costs next year, and we would be working on hammering out the details of this agreement that would include special ed.

14:46 - 14:51

Selectboard Office

They were going to take this proposal back to their committee and discuss it and run it by their legal.

14:52 - 14:54

Selectboard Office

We ran it by our legal counsel.

14:57 - 15:04

Selectboard Office

The thing that stood out most to me and Gretchen and Alex, I want to hear your thoughts too.

15:04 - 15:19

Selectboard Office

Layla, our legal counsel, suggested we might want to think about whether we really want do 10 years or whether we want to just stick with five to allow, you know, all the possibilities that we can't predict.

15:21 - 15:42

Selectboard Office

But and Layla was sort of uncertain whether Hampshire would really go for this taking on this burden of the uncertainties of our special ed cusp, though when I look at the between their in-district per pupil and their total per pupil.

15:42 - 15:46

Selectboard Office

Which includes the out-of-district as well, it's not significantly more.

15:47 - 15:53

Selectboard Office

It's so many students that that up and down is much less significant for them than it is for us.

15:54 - 15:57

Selectboard Office

So, you know, they may.

15:57 - 15:58

Selectboard Office

They may go for it.

15:59 - 16:06

Selectboard Office

So, I just wanted you all to know where at and also see what the numbers look like.

16:07 - 16:09

Selectboard Office

And they're big.

16:11 - 16:24

Selectboard Office

So one challenge in me projecting what this would look like in FY27, our counter, is that we don't have those numbers from Hampshire about what their per pupil will be.

16:25 - 16:29

Selectboard Office

But I did have their per pupil numbers for FY23.

16:29 - 16:40

Selectboard Office

So, their total per pupil was \$21 ,901.

16:41 - 16:52

Selectboard Office

Once we take out transportation and half of the central office fees, the adjusted per pupil would be \$17 ,014.

16:54 - 16:56

Selectboard Office

So this is for FY23.

16:56 - 17:07

Selectboard Office

And in FY23, we had 25 students, so the total tuition would have been \$425 ,350.

17:08 - 17:15

Selectboard Office

We paid \$226 ,875.

17:15 - 17:38

Selectboard Office

So it's a significant increase, almost double, but it would approach a much more fair, like going rate, all the districts, it cost them around \$21 ,000, \$22 ,000 to educate a secondary student and it would eliminate some of this special ed risk for us.

17:40 - 17:55

Selectboard Office

A lot of the increase that you see from FY26 to FY27, you'll notice even if you stick with the old model, it goes from 411 ,000 to 539 ,000.

17:55 - 18:00

Selectboard Office

That increase is entirely just because we have more students.

18:03 - 18:07

Selectboard Office

We've got 30 this, 31 this year, 40 next year.

18:09 - 18:19

Selectboard Office

And then, but Gretchen was able to project number of students over five years and sort of hovering up and down between 35 and 40, or actually 25.

18:23 - 18:29

Selectboard Office

Gretchen, Alex, do you have stuff to add to that?

18:30 - 18:35

Selectboard Office

One question I have is the one-year agreement.

18:35 - 18:35

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

18:36 - 18:39

Selectboard Office

Did we actually vote on that in the school committee?

18:39 - 18:41

Selectboard Office

Have she proposed that?

18:41 - 18:52

Selectboard Office

No, what we voted on was that they gave us, No, but they gave us the ability to negotiate with Hampshire.

18:53 - 18:55

Selectboard Office

And so this was something that we discussed with Hampshire.

18:56 - 18:58

Selectboard Office

We said we'd take it back to them.

18:58 - 18:59

Selectboard Office

We had not voted on it.

18:59 - 19:16

Selectboard Office

But it's a middle ground between their proposal and the \$11 ,500 that we would have paid had the old agreement continued, which is not on the table.

19:19 - 19:23

Selectboard Office

When you talk about a five or ten-year limit, are you limited?

19:24 - 19:29

Selectboard Office

Are you not limited the way the town is limited in signing contracts for that kind of period of time?

19:29 - 19:31

Selectboard Office

I don't believe so.

19:31 - 19:34

Selectboard Office

Milla did not say that there was any legal limit.

19:34 - 19:36

Selectboard Office

She just thought it may.

19:36 - 19:37

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Be.

19:37 - 19:39

Selectboard Office

Impractical to sign one that.

19:39 - 19:39

Selectboard Office

Long.

19:41 - 19:45

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Actually, so I'm just reading her her email to us right now.

19:45 - 19:56

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And she said since it would be an intergovernmental agreement and exempt from procurement law, she didn't see any prohibiting us from doing 10 years.

19:56 - 20:09

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

But I think one of the things that we're all hearing in regards to Chapter 70 funding formulas, there's a lot of pressure for the state to do something about that.

20:10 - 20:25

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And so one of Leila's concern was if we signed a 10-year and the state decided to finally do something about the funding formula which would help towns, you know, writing a 10-year agreement might not be in our favor.

20:27 - 20:28

Selectboard Office

Yes, no.

20:28 - 20:29

Selectboard Office

I mean, I see her.

20:29 - 20:31

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Point except that.

20:31 - 20:35

Selectboard Office

If her pupil goes down, so does ours because it's tied to theirs.

20:36 - 20:36

Selectboard Office

Right.

20:38 - 20:45

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

We also, I don't know, Alison, did you didn't mention, but I know we've talked that we we did talk with other districts.

20:46 - 20:46

Selectboard Office

We did.

20:46 - 20:50

Selectboard Office

We talked with Mohawk and Central Berkshire.

20:50 - 20:51

Selectboard Office

Do you want to.

20:51 - 20:53

Selectboard Office

Just share?

20:53 - 20:57

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yeah, I had two conversations, you know, informal conversations with them.

20:57 - 21:02

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And essentially, Mohawk's starting point would be \$22 ,000 per pupil.

21:03 - 21:07

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And that's not even, you know, that was just a, that's where we would start.

21:07 - 21:09

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And it would, you know, probably go up.

21:09 - 21:14

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I think there's another district, Roe, that I think is paying close to \$28 ,000.

21:15 - 21:16

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And then I talked.

21:16 - 21:16

Selectboard Office

To Central.

21:16 - 21:18

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Berkshire, they have a new superintendent over there.

21:18 - 21:34

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And at this point, they don't have capacity to absorb our students for next year, and that it would probably take a couple of years of kind of building capacity there for, you know, for our kids.

21:35 - 21:40

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So, and again, you know, the price tag is roughly the same.

21:43 - 21:45

Selectboard Office

So they gave you a price tag of 23.

21:45 - 21:46

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

,000?

21:47 - 21:48

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Mohawk did, yes.

21:48 - 21:49

Selectboard Office

No.

21:49 - 21:50

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

On Central Berkshire.

21:50 - 21:55

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Central Berkshire didn't, but it would be roughly in that, like what we're looking at right now.

21:55 - 21:57

Selectboard Office

With- That was in my understanding.

21:57 - 21:57

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

22:02 - 22:06

Selectboard Office

And Vogue is around 20.

22:06 - 22:06

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

It's.

22:06 - 22:07

Selectboard Office

20.

22:07 - 22:11

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yep, 20 ,000 now, and I have a feeling that's gonna be going.

22:11 - 22:13

Selectboard Office

Up, so.

22:14 - 22:16

Selectboard Office

And for comparison, Gateway, do we know?

22:17 - 22:26

Selectboard Office

Gateway and FY23, their per pupil was 23 ,328.

22:26 - 22:30

Selectboard Office

Okay, so presumably they'd want something similar.

22:30 - 22:43

Selectboard Office

Yeah, yeah, I mean, I think we had a really great deal while it lasted, you know, but really, this is what it costs to educate a secondary student.

22:43 - 23:00

Selectboard Office

And I think we can try to like keep some downward pressure on that in our negotiations, but it's also at the expense of, you know, the dynamic where there's a lot of resentment and animosity when other towns are paying more.

23:01 - 23:07

Selectboard Office

Did they have excess choice capacity at the moment?

23:08 - 23:14

Selectboard Office

They do, they have, well, they don't have excess capacity, but they have a lot of choice students.

23:15 - 23:27

Selectboard Office

266, I guess what I'm saying is that if we tuition somewhere else for less money and then let all the kids I just have to hamster regional it by a pop that would save a lot of money.

23:27 - 23:33

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I mean, it's certainly something we've Discussed but there's no alternative.

23:33 - 23:34

Selectboard Office

That's gonna be less money.

23:34 - 23:35

Selectboard Office

Sounds like right.

23:36 - 23:41

Selectboard Office

Yeah Alex if you don't mind Asks us into Berkshire.

23:41 - 23:44

Selectboard Office

Do you do you have a number of money?

23:44 - 24:00

Selectboard Office

No, I'm just no I'm gonna be quiet until I hear what finance committee thinks and select board things I'm going to bite my tongue because we voted on this and I voted for the proposal that we had.

24:00 - 24:10

Selectboard Office

I, so I wanted to see what you think about this, how this is going to impact the town and whether or not we think the town's going to go for this.

24:12 - 24:14

Selectboard Office

So that's why I'm sitting here.

24:14 - 24:17

Selectboard Office

I want to hear what you say and what you think.

24:20 - 24:20

[speaker unknown]

So.

24:23 - 24:29

Selectboard Office

Why don't we start in the room and then go up on the screen, so are there others in the room that want to comment or ask questions here?

24:29 - 24:30

Selectboard Office

Yeah, Bart, go ahead.

24:30 - 24:31

Selectboard Office

Just a question.

24:33 - 24:46

Selectboard Office

The per pupil costs, and I know that Hampshire's accounting, you can't probably answer the questions accurately as I'd like, but do you have a sense of what it's been

trending?

24:46 - 24:54

Selectboard Office

Yeah, they gave us, in their proposal, no, it's less than that, their trend, their proposal.

24:56 - 24:57

Selectboard Office

They said.

25:00 - 25:01

[speaker unknown]

Let's see.

25:04 - 25:15

Selectboard Office

They said their FY26 per pupil was 23 ,359.

25:16 - 25:25

Selectboard Office

And so, I took that number and plugged in what that would look like for this year using our formula.

25:30 - 25:36

Selectboard Office

So, it was 21 something two years prior, and then 23 something.

25:37 - 25:38

Selectboard Office

It's up and down also.

25:39 - 25:40

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

25:40 - 25:45

Selectboard Office

Well, that does actually sound like around five percent, a thousand dollars a year on \$20 ,000.

25:45 - 25:52

Selectboard Office

It does, but then when you look at their budget, they had a cap on their budget of like 3%.

25:52 - 25:54

Selectboard Office

And so I don't actually know.

25:55 - 25:59

Selectboard Office

It's also hard because their enrollment has been going down.

25:59 - 26:04

Selectboard Office

So that artificially changes the per pupil costs.

26:05 - 26:06

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

26:07 - 26:09

Selectboard Office

Certainly changes the overall budget.

26:10 - 26:31

Selectboard Office

I guess another way of getting at that question is, You guys in your current agreement three to five year for five percent per year increase In perpetuity or at least until the end of the contract and and in the proposal you continued that so it must have felt like it was a You weren't gonna go way ahead No.

26:31 - 26:43

Selectboard Office

No, I mean if I mean if we were paying 11 and they were paying 21 Yes, so we had a lot of room, but we had so much room that there was also a lot of irritation.

26:44 - 26:57

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I mean, both of all of the all of the proposed little increases are five percent, which suggests to me that they sort of feel like their budget for their per pupil goes roughly five percent-ish.

26:58 - 27:04

Selectboard Office

I think the reason they proposed five percent in their counter offer was because we still weren't at their number.

27:06 - 27:06

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

27:08 - 27:08

Selectboard Office

Alison.

27:09 - 27:32

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I don't think you mentioned this also that we I reached to the Department of Education, to the finance department, to Rob, who's the VP of finance, and he helped us kind of work through those numbers and looking at the per pupil and backing out the special ed and transportation got us down to a round number.

27:35 - 27:47

Selectboard Office

Yes, he subtracted all of their central office costs, but we actually used their central office for our secondary.

27:48 - 27:51

Selectboard Office

But he came up with.

27:54 - 27:58

Selectboard Office

I've got a lot of scribbles on here.

28:00 - 28:03

Selectboard Office

Yeah, yeah, I think.

28:03 - 28:08

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Allison I've got \$15 ,458 and 98.

28:08 - 28:19

Selectboard Office

Cents and yeah, and he was he was proposing that as once he backed out all of the central office all of the in district special education.

28:21 - 28:25

Selectboard Office

And assumed 655 in-district students.

28:26 - 28:30

Selectboard Office

And so he thought that that was around 70% of their per pupil.

28:31 - 28:51

Selectboard Office

So that, just to see if I'm clear, one of the things that has always been a little bit of a struggle is that the towns, the district towns, pay a per pupil cost, which includes central office, includes transportation, includes Fed costs.

28:51 - 29:01

Selectboard Office

And they compare that number, the 21 or whatever, to our 11 ,000 and they're like, wow, these are really different, but they're total apples and oranges.

29:02 - 29:10

Selectboard Office

And I feel like what you're saying is that if you look at their 21 or whatever and you strip out the things we have to pay for, you end up about 15.

29:11 - 29:12

Selectboard Office

In 2023.

29:12 - 29:13

Selectboard Office

In 2023.

29:13 - 29:15

Selectboard Office

Yes, it is no longer 15.

29:15 - 29:16

Selectboard Office

But yeah.

29:16 - 29:16

Selectboard Office

Right, right.

29:17 - 29:23

Selectboard Office

And so in your proposal, we're coming out of 23 numbers, it'll be 17.

29:23 - 29:26

Selectboard Office

So it's a little bit more for central office services.

29:26 - 29:32

Selectboard Office

It's more for central office, but it's also taking them taking over the special ed.

29:32 - 29:33

Selectboard Office

Right, that's the piece.

29:33 - 29:50

Selectboard Office

And so it's that a little bit more per pupil in the years that we don't have any special ed services, we're paying a premium for the years that we have the benefit of not paying an extra \$400 ,000 in special-ed costs.

29:54 - 30:13

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I mean, the little analysis that I did just based on your numbers is that in the last five years, we've averaged about \$50 ,000 a year on special-ed costs at Secondary Normal, and over the next five years, you're projecting about \$150 ,000 with a spent cost per year.

30:13 - 30:15

Selectboard Office

We'd spread it if you spread it out over five years.

30:15 - 30:15

Selectboard Office

Yes.

30:16 - 30:18

Selectboard Office

If you annualize those numbers.

30:18 - 30:19

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

30:19 - 30:20

Selectboard Office

Yeah, we have some.

30:21 - 30:26

Selectboard Office

We've had sort of a quiet secondary special ed situation.

30:29 - 30:37

Selectboard Office

Because FY20 and before, we had several students who were at a high level of need at the secondary level.

30:38 - 30:42

Selectboard Office

But in this five years that we're in now, we did not.

30:46 - 30:50

Selectboard Office

Anybody else that's online want to speak Joe?

30:52 - 30:53

Selectboard Office

Yeah go ahead.

30:54 - 30:58

joe boudreau

Can you tell me who are you negotiating with?

30:58 - 31:05

joe boudreau

Is it the central office or it was a school committee and if it's a school committee what school committee?

31:06 - 31:10

Selectboard Office

It's the chair of Hampshire Regional and the superintendent.

31:15 - 31:24

Selectboard Office

And then they would take a draft agreement back to their committee, the Hampshire Regional Committee, to approve.

31:25 - 31:33

Selectboard Office

If Hampshire Regional Committee approves it, then all five town committees also have to approve it.

31:35 - 31:44

joe boudreau

As you know, there's been a mass exodus a couple of years ago with the central.

31:44 - 31:45

joe boudreau

Office.

31:45 - 31:47

Selectboard Office

Of the first.

31:47 - 31:50

joe boudreau

Persons have left and went to Mohawk.

31:51 - 31:53

joe boudreau

Before I had to.

31:53 - 31:59

joe boudreau

Leave as an accountant in West Hampton.

32:00 - 32:00

Selectboard Office

I.

32:00 - 32:11

joe boudreau

Started to see what was going on and they were hiring people to do what they called

forensic accounting to try to find out what's going on.

32:11 - 32:12

Selectboard Office

Because- Yeah, that's.

32:12 - 32:13

joe boudreau

What I.

32:13 - 32:13

Selectboard Office

Do, yeah.

32:14 - 32:20

joe boudreau

Don't have a clue, and you're saying that we're negotiating with them.

32:22 - 32:25

Selectboard Office

Well, actually, the people who were there didn't have a clue.

32:26 - 32:32

Selectboard Office

The people who are there now are, I think, doing a pretty good job of sorting out the mess.

32:34 - 32:41

joe boudreau

I am saying Denise Cash and Deb Chowley, they were there a number of years ago, and they left to go to Mohawk.

32:41 - 32:43

joe boudreau

They did have a clue.

32:43 - 32:44

joe boudreau

The.

32:44 - 32:46

joe boudreau

Manager, Bobby Jones.

32:47 - 32:48

Selectboard Office

Left to go to.

32:48 - 32:52

joe boudreau

Hampton and the superintendent, Barbara Rippa, retired.

32:52 - 32:53

joe boudreau

So they- Oh.

32:53 - 32:54

Selectboard Office

No, yes, you're right.

32:54 - 32:57

Selectboard Office

In the past and like older history, Joe, you're right.

32:57 - 32:59

Selectboard Office

They absolutely had a clue.

32:59 - 33:04

Selectboard Office

And we actually ran this proposal by some of those people like Bobby.

33:06 - 33:11

Selectboard Office

To sort of get a sense of their sense of it.

33:12 - 33:17

Selectboard Office

The people I'm saying who did, were there who did not have a clue were in the last three years.

33:18 - 33:19

joe boudreau

I agree.

33:20 - 33:21

Selectboard Office

They're not there now.

33:22 - 33:37

Selectboard Office

And so the people who are there this year are hoeing out and I think they wisely said we need to, we need to get our house in order before we enter a longer term agreement, which, and so that's why we're talking about a one year.

33:41 - 33:44

joe boudreau

So Vito Perrone is no longer the superintendent?

33:45 - 33:47

Selectboard Office

No, he is now.

33:47 - 33:48

Selectboard Office

He just started this.

33:48 - 33:48

Selectboard Office

Year.

33:48 - 33:49

joe boudreau

Okay.

33:51 - 33:52

Selectboard Office

Last year, sorry.

33:53 - 33:57

joe boudreau

And Scapparelli, I forgot her first name, is the business manager.

33:59 - 34:02

Selectboard Office

Gretchen, do you know who the business manager is now?

34:02 - 34:07

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I don't know her last name, but she came from Chesterfield or Goshen.

34:07 - 34:09

joe boudreau

As-.

34:09 - 34:10

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yes, so.

34:10 - 34:11

joe boudreau

She's.

34:11 - 34:13

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

From Goshen and she's the business manager.

34:21 - 34:21

[speaker unknown]

Yeah.

34:23 - 34:23

joe boudreau

There.

34:23 - 34:23

Selectboard Office

Was also.

34:23 - 34:29

joe boudreau

Someone named Teresa who was an accounts payable clerk, but that's neither here nor.

34:29 - 34:29

Selectboard Office

There.

34:30 - 34:31

joe boudreau

So for.

34:31 - 34:31

joe boudreau

Me.

34:34 - 34:34

Selectboard Office

I.

34:34 - 34:37

joe boudreau

Certainly hope that you're going to advance your argument on your proposal.

34:37 - 34:39

joe boudreau

But if.

34:39 - 34:40

Selectboard Office

Not.

34:41 - 34:43

joe boudreau

I think Hampshire's got us over a barrel.

34:46 - 34:52

joe boudreau

We can't go to Memorial, can't really go back to Gateway, so it's Hampshire.

34:52 - 34:55

joe boudreau

Or nothing else.

34:59 - 34:59

Selectboard Office

Yes.

35:00 - 35:04

Selectboard Office

And I don't think there's any better barrels anywhere else, really.

35:05 - 35:38

Selectboard Office

You know, like, are the barrels are one of those districts, they all have similar costs or we have our own district or we join a regional it's it's kind of it is it's just what it costs and so in some ways it feels like it's a barrel but it also when i step back it doesn't feel like what they're asking of us is unfair as long as they are doing a good job of managing their district which i feel much better about this year than i did two years ago.

35:39 - 35:52

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Joe just um to put it perspective, my colleague who is the superintendent of Warwick and Warwick is in their I think third year is a brand new school district so we can't say we're brand new anymore.

35:53 - 36:16

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

They just negotiated a contract with MAHAR which is Orange and so I have their contract in front of me and they're they're much smaller than we are I think they have 26 students preschool through their FY26 with orange is going to be \$19 ,965, 27 will be \$20 ,000, close to \$21 ,000 for 28.

36:17 - 36:21

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And again, they have this pretty much the same terms, you.

36:21 - 36:22

Selectboard Office

Know.

36:22 - 36:22

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Get.

36:22 - 36:23

Selectboard Office

Billed special.

36:23 - 36:26

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Ed, they take care of their own transportation.

36:26 - 36:30

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So that's their per pupil that Warwick had to negotiate with orange.

36:31 - 36:34

Selectboard Office

So Warwick is paying their own special ed or it's part of the deal?

36:35 - 36:40

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

No, they're paying their, there will be billed the special ed, so they're going to be paying it.

36:42 - 37:05

Selectboard Office

One thing that we talked about as the school committee is if Hampshire box at wrapping the special ed costs into the agreement, that we would be not comfortable, it would need to be a much lower percentage of their per pupil cost, like 70%.

37:05 - 37:09

Selectboard Office

70, 75, not 90.

37:09 - 37:23

Selectboard Office

And so I think that is a piece of leverage that we have, which is if you want us to pay like we're in the district, then you need to assume some risk for us.

37:23 - 37:25

Selectboard Office

Otherwise we can't pay like that.

37:27 - 37:49

Selectboard Office

So, reading what Joe shared, and the concept of a, whatever it was called, at only a 10 percent difference, it's starting to look like there's something to at least think about.

37:49 - 38:10

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I crunched the numbers and took their central office fees and I sort of spitballed if you estimate how many secondary students they have, I mean, primary students they have in addition to how many secondary students they have.

38:10 - 38:15

Selectboard Office

And then figure out the per pupil cost of their central office.

38:15 - 38:17

Selectboard Office

Ours is still cheaper.

38:18 - 38:21

Selectboard Office

And we have local control.

38:21 - 38:24

Selectboard Office

So I don't know that there's a great benefit.

38:25 - 38:29

Selectboard Office

But getting the voice is a great benefit, or at least it's a benefit.

38:30 - 38:32

Selectboard Office

I mean, it depends who your superintendent is.

38:33 - 38:38

Selectboard Office

The last three years before this were a complete nightmare.

38:38 - 38:42

Selectboard Office

And so I don't know if that's always a benefit.

38:45 - 38:52

Selectboard Office

And there is, I assume there's no middle ground where we keep our own elementary superintendent, but.

38:52 - 38:57

Selectboard Office

Yeah, that's what this would be, is we pay for their secondary superintendency.

38:59 - 39:05

Selectboard Office

Right, but still get a seat on their school committee.

39:06 - 39:09

Selectboard Office

It's not, that wasn't exactly described.

39:09 - 39:14

Selectboard Office

Of course, that article actually used him for example, which was super helpful.

39:15 - 39:18

Selectboard Office

I personally, I don't want to see that their table.

39:20 - 39:21

Selectboard Office

I mean, we sort of have one anyway.

39:22 - 39:27

Selectboard Office

Yeah, there's so much conflict between the towns about how things should be.

39:28 - 39:42

Selectboard Office

And we have so few students compared to towns like Southampton and Williamsburg that our the vote would be basically infinitesimal, I don't know.

39:42 - 39:46

Selectboard Office

Is the school committee weighted by councilman's?

39:46 - 39:46

Selectboard Office

Yep.

39:47 - 39:50

Selectboard Office

So it doesn't feel like a great benefit to me.

39:50 - 39:57

Selectboard Office

I'm certainly open to keeping that on the table and talking about it as they get their house in order.

39:58 - 40:01

Selectboard Office

But right now I don't see how it benefits Worthington.

40:02 - 40:03

Selectboard Office

Yeah, certainly not this year.

40:03 - 40:04

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

40:07 - 40:16

Selectboard Office

It doesn't like it doesn't benefit us financially and Our vote doesn't count for much and we still get a tuition agreement.

40:16 - 40:35

Selectboard Office

I don't see Unless there's pressure from the other towns like you have to be in the

district or we don't want you Then then I don't see how that's gonna happen though No, because if you have two hundred sixty six students paying five thousand dollars a pop You're gonna kick out forty students paying three times that how does that even make sense?

40:35 - 40:38

Selectboard Office

That's gonna hurt.

40:38 - 40:42

Selectboard Office

Sure, they're they're not in the fiscal spot to do that.

40:42 - 41:05

Selectboard Office

So, I don't think there's as much pressure as everybody's saying there is, but yeah, the other thing I wonder about with joining the reason why I would hesitate on doing that is, and this is more of a question in the statement, if we go with one of these agreements that we have in the situation we are now.

41:05 - 41:13

Selectboard Office

Even if they take the special ed, but capital expenditures, we wouldn't be responsible for.

41:13 - 41:15

Selectboard Office

I don't believe that.

41:15 - 41:15

Selectboard Office

So I don't know.

41:16 - 41:16

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

41:17 - 41:19

Selectboard Office

For voting the table, I don't think I'd go near that.

41:20 - 41:20

Selectboard Office

Right.

41:20 - 41:21

Selectboard Office

We didn't even talk about that.

41:22 - 41:22

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

41:23 - 41:28

Selectboard Office

So, and I just heard something about a roof and a couple of boilers, and.

41:28 - 41:29

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

41:29 - 41:29

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

41:29 - 41:40

Selectboard Office

Messages the students were getting messages about how the pre-school three classrooms were full of water and a bunch of others We're like they had under 50 degrees.

41:40 - 41:41

Selectboard Office

Yes.

41:48 - 41:52

Selectboard Office

So everyone's waiting to hear your comments.

41:56 - 42:08

Selectboard Office

So my common is this and and I voted to go to uh central Berkshire with the proposal we have hamstring What did I say?

42:13 - 42:34

Selectboard Office

But anyways, I guess so my cheapskate Thoughts were getting back to the original agreement with them And we are not part of the district and I and I totally Understand why chester field when I was at a school committee meeting yesterday during the public comment section.

42:34 - 42:43

Selectboard Office

Somebody from the public, and I don't know what town they're from, got up and were basically bashing Worthington, saying, you know, why can't we have that agreement?

42:44 - 43:01

Selectboard Office

And I'm sitting there thinking, and I said, the issue really is, is that Central Burton's, there we go, Hampshire is not doing their job and saying, this is why Worthington's for their own special act.

43:01 - 43:02

Selectboard Office

They don't have a vote on the board.

43:02 - 43:29

Selectboard Office

All of these things that the reason why we're doing and you have 266 students paying \$5 ,000 a pop that aren't adding anything to your so to me that's where the negotiations need to start and the other thing is and Gretchen I'm not putting you up to I'm not trying to hang you out here but when you describe the conversations you

had with Central Berkshire and Mohawk.

43:29 - 43:30

Selectboard Office

You said they were informal.

43:31 - 43:34

Selectboard Office

Well, what we really need is we need formal discussions.

43:35 - 43:43

Selectboard Office

We, this is, this is not, we have no time to sit here and, you know, if, if, and that's why I want to hear from Select Board and Finance Committee.

43:44 - 43:47

Selectboard Office

If everybody's fine with these numbers, I'm fine with these numbers.

43:47 - 43:50

Selectboard Office

I'm too old to, to worry about this stuff.

43:51 - 43:52

Selectboard Office

You know, I'd rather go fishing.

43:53 - 43:53

Selectboard Office

So.

43:53 - 43:54

Selectboard Office

Well, I would say.

43:54 - 43:55

Selectboard Office

I want to hear what you guys have to say.

43:55 - 43:58

Selectboard Office

That's why Well, I took what you gave us as gospel.

43:58 - 44:00

Selectboard Office

So if it's not then that does make a difference.

44:01 - 44:02

Selectboard Office

I you're right.

44:05 - 44:11

Selectboard Office

But we should have a real number from those guys so but that's 23 You know isn't a real number.

44:11 - 44:20

Selectboard Office

Then Then I think that's an issue because I think people in town will want to know That we at least shopped around in essence So those are.

44:20 - 44:21

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yeah.

44:21 - 44:22

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

No, those are the real numbers.

44:22 - 44:35

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I mean I had I didn't have a formal conversation with their business manager and chair and whatnot because we didn't want to create kind of hysteria, so to speak, that we're moving.

44:35 - 44:42

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yet those were the numbers that were given to me by superintendents and business managers as a starting point.

44:43 - 44:47

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So there wasn't a formal meeting with all parties at the table.

44:48 - 44:48

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

But.

44:48 - 44:56

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Both of the, well, I don't know about Central Berkshire, But Mohawk already does this with tuition agreements with Roe.

44:57 - 44:59

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So that was basically like, this is where you'd begin.

45:00 - 45:01

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And I can imagine it would.

45:01 - 45:02

Selectboard Office

Go up.

45:02 - 45:03

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So I think Roe's at 28.

45:06 - 45:08

Selectboard Office

Can you speak a little bit?

45:08 - 45:16

Selectboard Office

So this tuition agreement you're talking about with Mohawk, that would be still us paying transportation and special ed?

45:16 - 45:21

Selectboard Office

Or can you make an apples down to what we do.

45:21 - 45:22

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Today?

45:23 - 45:37

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

No, I mean, as I explained it to the business manager and superintendent, the agreement that we have now and what we would be paying for, which is our special ed and transportation, and that was the number that they came back with.

45:38 - 45:41

Selectboard Office

So then we would add transportation and special ed on top of that.

45:41 - 45:42

Selectboard Office

Correct.

45:42 - 45:44

Selectboard Office

And it would be pretty close to that 20-game pretty quick.

45:44 - 46:01

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yeah, and I also want to say that when talking with Layla, our attorney who represents many school districts, you know, she has she said, you know, there are many districts that I know are paying upwards of 20 for, you know, tuition

agreements.

46:02 - 46:03

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So I just, you know.

46:03 - 46:13

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Again, I think I do think that that seems to be as we just look at the contract with Warwick orange.

46:13 - 46:16

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I mean that seems to be the going rate.

46:18 - 46:22

Selectboard Office

Yeah, not that it's not that it's the the market rate.

46:23 - 46:23

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

It's exactly.

46:23 - 46:24

Selectboard Office

What it.

46:24 - 46:24

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Costs.

46:25 - 46:25

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Right.

46:25 - 46:25

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Right.

46:27 - 46:30

joe boudreau

We're getting the numbers about Mohawk.

46:30 - 46:32

joe boudreau

Mohawk is in Buckland.

46:32 - 46:33

joe boudreau

How.

46:33 - 46:33

Selectboard Office

Many.

46:33 - 46:37

joe boudreau

Children in Worthington are going to want to go to Buckland?

46:39 - 46:40

Selectboard Office

I live.

46:40 - 46:40

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

There.

46:41 - 46:42

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I live in Shelburne.

46:42 - 46:44

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So, I drive it every day.

46:44 - 46:45

Selectboard Office

So, you'll be.

46:45 - 46:50

joe boudreau

Good for you but I don't see how kids that live in Worthington is going to want to be.

46:50 - 46:51

Selectboard Office

On a bus.

46:51 - 46:53

joe boudreau

To go to Worthington to go to Buckland.

46:54 - 46:54

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Well, exactly.

46:55 - 46:59

Selectboard Office

That's the plan and they all school choice out at 5000 plus we save a million.

47:10 - 47:20

Selectboard Office

I guess this question is just kind of what means something to me, and I'm sure it means something to you, but gives that a go in Hampshire, are they happy with Hampshire, and are the parents happy with Hampshire?

47:22 - 47:22

Selectboard Office

Go for it.

47:22 - 47:23

Selectboard Office

I know what I am.

47:24 - 47:26

Selectboard Office

Is there anyone else here that's got kids over there?

47:27 - 47:28

Selectboard Office

I love it.

47:28 - 47:30

Selectboard Office

I think the faculty have been amazing.

47:40 - 47:56

Selectboard Office

I think at one of the earlier meetings that we had you were talking about sort of the extracurriculars available at Hampshire that seemed incomparable of something like Mohawk or something like that right and you know that's so important.

47:56 - 48:01

Selectboard Office

Central Berkshire has a great great extracurriculars and sports, too.

48:01 - 48:04

Selectboard Office

That's also a great system.

48:04 - 48:18

Selectboard Office

I think academically, Hampshire was a better fit, and a lot of families are sort of, you know, like oriented more toward the Valley than toward the Berkshires, too.

48:20 - 48:31

Selectboard Office

But yeah, I have not talked to many families who are really not happy for any big

reason, and a lot of kids love it.

48:32 - 48:46

Selectboard Office

And I think also telling, I only hear positive things from other school committee members and faculty and superintendents and principals about Worthington's addition to their community, like they feel like it's a good fit.

48:48 - 48:55

Selectboard Office

Gretchen, do you know how many kids choice out on secondary, choice out of Worthington to other schools?

48:55 - 49:01

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Well, I had that number at one point and I can email that to you.

49:01 - 49:03

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I think it's at school on a file.

49:03 - 49:06

Selectboard Office

I won't say you said it was like 11.

49:06 - 49:06

Selectboard Office

It's.

49:06 - 49:08

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Very small.

49:11 - 49:15

Selectboard Office

Williston Northampton is about 54.8 for high.

49:15 - 49:15

Selectboard Office

School.

49:16 - 49:17

Selectboard Office

There's an option.

49:25 - 49:43

Selectboard Office

So sitting because I'm sitting there listening to the Hampshire School Board meetings and I do have to say that the group that they have working there now seems to be really trying to get their hands around.

49:43 - 49:44

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And.

49:44 - 49:52

Selectboard Office

Fix the mess that was there or the way that they described at the last meeting is they see the end of the tunnel.

49:52 - 49:56

Selectboard Office

You know, they're getting rid of that anchor that's been dragging them down.

49:56 - 50:08

Selectboard Office

And it looks like a lot of the additional costs that they had with the forensic accounting, I think 70% of that's going away for the next budget because they're that close to the end.

50:09 - 50:15

Selectboard Office

The other thing is I have heard same thing is a lot of good reports from the teachers and that.

50:15 - 50:27

Selectboard Office

The one thing that I will comment that I have heard that twice is from people whose students are doing the extracurricular activities.

50:28 - 50:36

Selectboard Office

And I had a phone call from somebody this weekend and said that their daughter was at a, I'm assuming it was a cross-countryman scheme.

50:36 - 50:38

Selectboard Office

And that some of the other.

50:38 - 50:48

Selectboard Office

Parents were kind of like shunning the Worthington students because of this issue with the inequality and an agreement.

50:48 - 50:51

Selectboard Office

So they feel, you know, hey, you're not paying your fair share.

50:51 - 50:54

Selectboard Office

You know, don't associate with either don't give the word.

50:54 - 50:55

Selectboard Office

You think kids do you damage that?

50:56 - 51:00

Selectboard Office

So I, you know, that's petty stuff, but that's the only thing I've heard.

51:00 - 51:04

Selectboard Office

So if this goes away, you know, I think it's a good school.

51:04 - 51:06

Selectboard Office

It's better than where we were.

51:07 - 51:08

Selectboard Office

So I.

51:08 - 51:09

Selectboard Office

Think.

51:13 - 51:24

Selectboard Office

What you guys are looking for is a sense from finance committee and forward as to whether this feels like a track worth pursuing.

51:25 - 51:27

Selectboard Office

Am I right about that?

51:27 - 51:33

Selectboard Office

I think, yeah, your basic endorsement that this is fair and reasonable.

51:34 - 51:43

Selectboard Office

But then the other question I have, Gretchen and I were talking in preparation for this, and Gretchen said, well, what questions do you anticipate?

51:43 - 52:14

Selectboard Office

And I said, well, the question I would have if I was on the finance committee is, What do you do if you agree to this and then the budget doesn't pass and and I think that's a fair question No, because this is it's not a huge increase But it's it's an increase and we just had an override that failed and so I think You know one we had a similar

conversation with Tom Cleary and dr. thrown at our last negotiation.

52:14 - 52:16

Selectboard Office

Like how are you going to pass your budget?

52:17 - 52:29

Selectboard Office

And I said, well, in the past, Craig Jorgensen came to our annual town meeting, and he walked people through the Hampshire Regional Cross, and he was here helping us pass the budget.

52:29 - 52:35

Selectboard Office

And we went together to the other towns to, you know, to pass this tuition agreement.

52:36 - 52:48

Selectboard Office

And so I think one of the things that would help us is to get that budgeting process in Worthington started very quickly So that we have a lot of time to answer.

52:51 - 53:08

Selectboard Office

Yeah, and be able to really answer questions and help people understand Okay, why why is this necessary They're off off and questions about wouldn't it be cheaper if we were at Gateway or you know?

53:08 - 53:11

Selectboard Office

Why can't we just school choice and not have a tuition agreement?

53:12 - 53:15

Selectboard Office

And understand the implications of not passing the budget.

53:18 - 53:37

Selectboard Office

I think that for me, just sitting here looking at it, the problem that I have is that fiscal 26 with this total cost of 411 ,000 for 31 students is like 12 ,000 a year, 12 ,000 per pupil cost, which is ridiculously cheap.

53:38 - 53:41

Selectboard Office

There's nobody else, well, maybe there's somebody in the state, but that's crazy.

53:41 - 53:45

Selectboard Office

There's no way you can actually educate a kid for 12 ,000, right?

53:45 - 53:50

Selectboard Office

Unless you know just will choice everybody which that looks like I like that.

53:54 - 54:17

Selectboard Office

So it's it's a What's what it's too low, right it's it's a It's unnaturally low and when when I take your 18 9 10 number And say okay next let's just use that for next year obviously go up some but and take your 40 kids the total when you add up that column.

54:17 - 54:38

Selectboard Office

It's 820 ,000 or so I can't remember exactly but it's double what we paid last year or this year and that that's a hard pill to swallow And so then I get more attracted to the 676 number down at the bottom which is somewhere in the middle, it does suggest a way to sort of ease into the pain.

54:39 - 54:39

Selectboard Office

Yes, absolutely.

54:40 - 54:43

Selectboard Office

I mean, I think the core problem is we've been underpaying for years.

54:43 - 54:43

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

54:44 - 54:47

Selectboard Office

And we gotta, I mean- It is not, yeah.

54:48 - 54:49

Selectboard Office

It's not actually- I don't know.

54:50 - 54:52

Selectboard Office

Well, I don't, again, I don't agree we were underpaying.

54:52 - 54:53

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I got it.

54:53 - 54:56

Selectboard Office

We were, you know, the whole agreement when we did this is we were helping them out.

54:57 - 55:09

Selectboard Office

Because if you're taking 266 students at 5 ,000 a month, So how are we, how are we a burden to them when we're giving them one and a half or two and a half times what they're giving now.

55:10 - 55:12

Selectboard Office

And that's my whole argument with this whole thing.

55:12 - 55:22

Selectboard Office

I mean, that's, that's the thing that, I mean, when we propose this to Hampshire, the work on Tom and Vito's face was like Christmas is coming.

55:22 - 55:23

Selectboard Office

We just gave a big basket.

55:24 - 55:28

Selectboard Office

That was my instant binary is we screwed up.

55:28 - 55:31

Selectboard Office

But that's personally, that's me being the cheap guy I am.

55:31 - 55:37

Selectboard Office

But I totally get this part about really, we need to get away from that to get be part of that community.

55:37 - 55:37

Selectboard Office

Right.

55:37 - 55:40

Selectboard Office

I have two, two responses.

55:40 - 55:55

Selectboard Office

One is, it is not actually practical and possible for us to solidify our counter by February 1, which is when we would need those numbers in order to do our budgeting.

55:56 - 55:58

Selectboard Office

So that's not going to happen this year.

55:58 - 56:14

Selectboard Office

So it's on the table as a goal, but I think we're going to have to do a one year at this point, because they need to get their budget solidified and if we're going to be doing our budgeting ahead of time this year, then we need numbers by February.

56:16 - 56:17

Selectboard Office

So that's that.

56:17 - 56:49

Selectboard Office

And then I think, I hear you Alex and we have this conversation a lot and I think the difference between all their other school choice kids who are paying five thousand and us is that all those sending districts also have a district where they are paying full fee and these are just school choice kids you know Holyoke sends ten kids East Hampton sends ten kids I don't know how they got up to 200.

56:49 - 56:56

Selectboard Office

I don't remember where they all come from, but this and that, but none of those towns doesn't have a secondary district.

56:56 - 56:57

Selectboard Office

No, and I agree.

56:57 - 56:59

Selectboard Office

And I understand that.

56:59 - 57:06

Selectboard Office

And I think that's where Goshen says, hey, how do you get off not having a secondary district?

57:06 - 57:07

Selectboard Office

That's not fair.

57:08 - 57:11

Selectboard Office

And I would agree with that if we were part of the district.

57:11 - 57:12

Selectboard Office

But we're not.

57:12 - 57:16

Selectboard Office

And I guess That's the, that's the, but yeah, I'm, I'm okay.

57:18 - 57:29

Selectboard Office

As long as everybody else realizes this is going to be what I don't want to see happen that I don't think anyone wants to see happen is you go to a town meeting and people look at these numbers and they go, where the **** did this come from?

57:29 - 57:31

Selectboard Office

You guys aren't doing your job.

57:31 - 57:37

Selectboard Office

And then it goes down in a spiral because, and if it does, then what do we do?

57:38 - 57:41

Selectboard Office

Because it can't, because we have to be part of the district.

57:41 - 57:49

Selectboard Office

Right, so I think we'll really need to work together on whatever the agreement is.

57:50 - 58:00

Selectboard Office

So that, I think, why we're here is to have your buy-in, if that feels appropriate.

58:00 - 58:09

Selectboard Office

And if not, then we have to have a serious, if this does not feel doable or acceptable, we need to have a serious conversation about, okay, what do we do?

58:09 - 58:14

Selectboard Office

Because as a school committee, we don't want to go before town meeting and be hung out to dry.

58:23 - 58:31

Selectboard Office

I've been listening to the conversation for a bit now, and you've done a fantastic job.

58:32 - 58:36

Selectboard Office

You and the school board and Alex and Gretchen have done a fantastic job.

58:36 - 58:47

Selectboard Office

You are all very good at presenting information and all of the information and the best cases and why you've chosen the case that you have.

58:48 - 58:56

Selectboard Office

I think for me, it costs \$20 ,000 per pupil to get a secondary education.

58:57 - 59:00

Selectboard Office

And I mean, yeah, you can save a few dollars here and there.

59:00 - 59:09

Selectboard Office

And I think you've done a really good job with thinking about the special education and how to wrap that in and save money.

59:09 - 59:10

Selectboard Office

And I think that's a compelling story.

59:10 - 59:19

Selectboard Office

I think it's going to be hard at town meeting because I'm pretty sure yours aren't the only costs that are going to increase, right?

59:20 - 59:36

Selectboard Office

I mean, we have health care costs that are going to increase, and so I think it's just going to be a hard meeting, but I think that I'm supportive of where you all are going and all the work that you've done to get us here, and I just say thank you.

59:38 - 59:42

Selectboard Office

Will you remind me about Central Berkshire?

59:43 - 59:44

Selectboard Office

Could they not fit us in?

59:44 - 59:45

Selectboard Office

Not this year.

59:45 - 59:49

Selectboard Office

They were willing to entertain future talks.

59:51 - 59:58

Selectboard Office

But my sense, Gretchen, of what you said was that it would be at basically their per

pupil.

59:58 - 59:59

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

59:59 - 01:00:01

Selectboard Office

I just, I couldn't remember.

01:00:02 - 01:00:10

Selectboard Office

And as long, you know, as you certainly like to have you've done your due diligence and you've checked out of the area of places to make see what was real and what where we.

01:00:10 - 01:00:13

Selectboard Office

Can and they've been great.

01:00:14 - 01:00:16

Selectboard Office

I just couldn't.

01:00:16 - 01:00:17

Selectboard Office

I.

01:00:20 - 01:00:22

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Had a question.

01:00:22 - 01:00:23

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Oh, sorry.

01:00:23 - 01:00:24

Selectboard Office

Go ahead.

01:00:25 - 01:00:27

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Well, I just had a question in regards to Deb.

01:00:27 - 01:00:33

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Thanks so much for what you said about just the, you know, education and communication the committee has done.

01:00:33 - 01:00:37

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I think they've done an amazing job navigating this.

01:00:37 - 01:00:44

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

You know and it is, it's secondary education and this is these are the costs that we're looking at.

01:00:44 - 01:01:00

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Does the town, because I don't hear it at town meeting, but has the town ever received any questions around Smith Boak at a \$20 ,000 price tag or does that just kind of go through without question?

01:01:01 - 01:01:06

Selectboard Office

No actually both school budgets generally go through without any Any argument.

01:01:06 - 01:01:07

Selectboard Office

Yeah, for the class.

01:01:08 - 01:01:12

Selectboard Office

Since we pulled out of gateways, we've never been in a row.

01:01:12 - 01:01:17

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Having that be a secondary tuition, just curious at what kind.

01:01:17 - 01:01:18

Selectboard Office

Of fee.

01:01:19 - 01:01:24

Selectboard Office

I did look, and it's \$21,300 or something per student.

01:01:25 - 01:01:26

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Just curious.

01:01:26 - 01:01:27

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Sorry, Charlie.

01:01:27 - 01:01:27

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I didn't mean to interrupt.

01:01:28 - 01:01:33

Selectboard Office

No, I was just going to try to start wrapping things up here and express my opinion.

01:01:33 - 01:01:38

Selectboard Office

And certainly speaking for myself, the one-year agreement, it makes total sense.

01:01:39 - 01:01:55

Selectboard Office

I would want to explore as you explore a future agreement, at least the possibility of

the superintendency and what that would involve, including obviously some responsibility for maintaining their buildings that would go with it, obviously.

01:01:55 - 01:02:06

Selectboard Office

So I don't know what that would look like, but I guess I'd want to see what those numbers are and understand what kind of voice we might have and what's going on there.

01:02:06 - 01:02:17

Selectboard Office

Yeah, it would be numbers and it also would be what kind of legal and logistical miscegas we'd be involved in.

01:02:20 - 01:02:22

Selectboard Office

I will interject one other thing.

01:02:22 - 01:02:54

Selectboard Office

When I was at the meeting yesterday night, again, they brought up that they have the most inefficient system that there is their costs are for the trying to manage five different school committees is just crazy so again they didn't say what the alternative was but I know they're they've talked about a full regionalization which is not a superintendency district it's you like we're and it's what we have yeah but that's a big step to make that change I know all the towns would have to vote for that.

01:02:55 - 01:02:55

Selectboard Office

Right.

01:02:55 - 01:02:55

Selectboard Office

Right.

01:02:56 - 01:02:59

Selectboard Office

So that would be a huge negotiation for them.

01:02:59 - 01:03:01

Selectboard Office

Does Chester Bill negotiation not have one school committee?

01:03:02 - 01:03:03

Selectboard Office

They actually have separate school committees?

01:03:03 - 01:03:05

Selectboard Office

No, they have one.

01:03:06 - 01:03:06

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:03:06 - 01:03:07

Selectboard Office

I'm pretty sure they're together.

01:03:08 - 01:03:08

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:03:10 - 01:03:18

Selectboard Office

I also like the one-year option which will get us through this year, you know, which will get us somewhere and then we can see where they are.

01:03:19 - 01:03:41

Selectboard Office

But having once had to do forensic accounting for somebody it was like oh yeah that's a quite a nightmare you know so but if you can come through the other side at least you know where you are and obviously they have no clue or they're getting closer put it that way from what you're saying they're getting closer to having a clue nice you know yeah but.

01:03:44 - 01:03:49

Selectboard Office

Any other finance committee feedback or input?

01:03:58 - 01:04:00

Selectboard Office

I guess not.

01:04:02 - 01:04:10

Selectboard Office

I mean, I think that I said before, I think that you're basically paying for insurance policy around special needs.

01:04:10 - 01:04:16

Selectboard Office

I think it's not a bad idea at all to put that on the district that can better.

01:04:19 - 01:04:29

Selectboard Office

I think it makes sense to wait until they've got their books in order to be able to project it out a little better and try to sell it.

01:04:32 - 01:04:34

Selectboard Office

Grant, I have a question for you.

01:04:35 - 01:04:56

Selectboard Office

If we go down this path with Hampshire and sign this agreement and they do take our special education costs, the costs that we pay now for the high school, let's just say, and we combine that with our elementary to get to that circuit breaker level.

01:04:57 - 01:05:01

Selectboard Office

Is there a danger that we won't reach that level for our kids and lose that?

01:05:02 - 01:05:03

Selectboard Office

You know what I'm saying?

01:05:03 - 01:05:05

Selectboard Office

Or is that not an issue?

01:05:06 - 01:05:08

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

That's a really good question.

01:05:09 - 01:05:14

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

It's going to depend on the grids and the kids and the grades.

01:05:15 - 01:05:20

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So right now, the impact.

01:05:20 - 01:05:21

Selectboard Office

Won't.

01:05:22 - 01:05:23

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

We won't feel that impact.

01:05:25 - 01:05:35

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Just knowing the kids that we have for the next five years, we'll be, we'll be taking a good chunk of circuit breaker based off of the needs of the students that I.

01:05:35 - 01:05:36

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Know.

01:05:37 - 01:05:39

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

After that, who moves in?

01:05:39 - 01:05:42

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

I can't, I don't have the crystal ball, yeah.

01:05:42 - 01:05:47

Selectboard Office

So that's the danger is that because we lose that population so it's not going on.

01:05:47 - 01:05:48

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Our-.

01:05:48 - 01:05:49

Selectboard Office

Well, the circuit.

01:05:50 - 01:05:50

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Right.

01:05:50 - 01:06:05

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So the easiest, cleanest way for them, you know, if they take our special ed costs, they'll be filling out the circuit breaker for those students, right, and then taking the refund, so to speak.

01:06:06 - 01:06:19

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

And then again, right, so right now, when I look over the next five years, we have, we have a, you know, a large refund coming back, so to speak.

01:06:21 - 01:06:21

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So.

01:06:21 - 01:06:27

Selectboard Office

Our population is going to be in the elementary school is still going to reach that circuit breaker level.

01:06:27 - 01:06:28

Selectboard Office

That's what you're saying.

01:06:28 - 01:06:29

Selectboard Office

For the next five.

01:06:29 - 01:06:29

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Months.

01:06:29 - 01:06:31

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

We will be receiving circuit breaker money.

01:06:32 - 01:06:32

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yes.

01:06:32 - 01:06:32

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Ok.

01:06:33 - 01:06:33

Selectboard Office

Yep.

01:06:34 - 01:06:36

Selectboard Office

So Alex, thank you for reminding me.

01:06:36 - 01:06:39

Selectboard Office

I always forget about circuit breaker, and I don't understand how it works.

01:06:40 - 01:06:46

Selectboard Office

But I look at these projected costs, and I tally them up, and I divide by five, and I get \$150 ,000 a year.

01:06:47 - 01:06:52

Selectboard Office

But I think, well, Gretchen, are these numbers the non?

01:06:52 - 01:06:55

Selectboard Office

Would some portion of those costs get reimbursed by Circuit Breaker?

01:07:00 - 01:07:04

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Depending on the threshold, yes, some of it could be.

01:07:04 - 01:07:14

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Again, depending on the year and the formula, and again, guys, we're working at a crystal ball here.

01:07:14 - 01:07:17

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

These needs could change, right?

01:07:17 - 01:07:20

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

But what we're looking at, yes, there will be some Circuit Breaker money.

01:07:21 - 01:07:37

Selectboard Office

Well, so I guess from a financial projection perspective, it would be really nice to

have another line that showed that these are listed as costs, but they are partially reimbursed.

01:07:38 - 01:07:51

Selectboard Office

Is there a way to show what that partial reimbursement, which I think is a year delayed, so it confuses everything, what that is, so that you get like a real out of pocket cost per year.

01:07:54 - 01:07:58

Selectboard Office

Obviously, it's all guesses, but you guessed here.

01:07:59 - 01:07:59

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

So.

01:07:59 - 01:08:01

Selectboard Office

Whatever those assumptions were.

01:08:01 - 01:08:11

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Yeah, I would have to punt that to Lori Farkas, our special ed director, because she does the circuit breaker, and I could certainly ask her to kind of do the hypothetical grid on that.

01:08:14 - 01:08:18

Selectboard Office

But we're going to go with the one-year agreement, so we have some time for that.

01:08:19 - 01:08:27

Selectboard Office

There's no real rush to make it, like we need that by February 1st, but we need to put that on our list.

01:08:27 - 01:08:31

Selectboard Office

Yeah, it just feels like that's a really important part of the sales.

01:08:31 - 01:08:32

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Pitch.

01:08:32 - 01:08:49

Selectboard Office

Is that we've been in this really cheap time of special needs, and it's not guaranteed to last forever, and fact it looks like it's coming, and here's a guess at what that might be, and making that guess be pretty accurate.

01:08:50 - 01:08:53

Selectboard Office

Obviously it's a guess, feels important.

01:08:53 - 01:08:53

Selectboard Office

Educated.

01:08:54 - 01:08:54

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:08:59 - 01:09:01

Selectboard Office

Thanks, everybody.

01:09:01 - 01:09:01

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:09:02 - 01:09:03

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

01:09:03 - 01:09:03

Selectboard Office

Thank.

01:09:03 - 01:09:06

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

You.

01:09:07 - 01:09:09

Selectboard Office

Not really a fun conversation.

01:09:10 - 01:09:12

Selectboard Office

Bring to you.

01:09:12 - 01:09:13

Selectboard Office

How do you feel about.

01:09:13 - 01:09:14

Pam Thompson

Talking.

01:09:14 - 01:09:21

Selectboard Office

About how we're going to approach the budget next year.

01:09:22 - 01:09:25

Selectboard Office

I just need one minute for myself.

01:09:26 - 01:09:27

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Thanks everybody.

01:09:27 - 01:09:28

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz

Happy.

01:09:28 - 01:09:28

Selectboard Office

New Year.

01:09:33 - 01:09:34

Selectboard Office

Amy, can I ask you a question?

01:09:36 - 01:09:47

Selectboard Office

In 2021, a map of the water supply protection district was submitted to the AG's office.

01:09:47 - 01:10:00

Selectboard Office

The AG's office signed off on it and therefore there's Patrick doesn't know why it was submitted, she doesn't know why it was generated, and there's no mention in the town meeting warrant of a map.

01:10:00 - 01:10:02

Selectboard Office

There were changes, there was the renumbering.

01:10:03 - 01:10:05

Selectboard Office

Oh, well we renumbered everything.

01:10:06 - 01:10:11

Selectboard Office

Do you have any memory of a conversation with PBPC who came out and were like, oh we should make a new map?

01:10:12 - 01:10:13

Selectboard Office

No.

01:10:23 - 01:10:36

Selectboard Office

No, I think there was trouble finding a map there's something about submitting it and since there had been a map Attached to the original part.

01:10:36 - 01:10:43

Selectboard Office

We had to submit a map and I think that might have been the only map you could find You know, so maybe you had a generator.

01:10:46 - 01:10:47

Selectboard Office

It's cool.

01:10:50 - 01:10:58

Selectboard Office

Yeah, no, that's the only thing I can think of that's actually one of the Problems we've had with planning board records that all of these things that were done.

01:10:58 - 01:11:11

Selectboard Office

There's no central place where they're stored I mean, there's things up there on flash drives But mostly those are people's and ours and then there was somebody who sent me to my personal email She's got a problem.

01:11:11 - 01:11:17

Selectboard Office

I gave her my personal emails and you could do she sends me here blasted A & R other do not send this to me.

01:11:17 - 01:11:24

Selectboard Office

I do not want this You know, I said that I don't think she ever said to anybody else So I think I put it on a flash drive.

01:11:24 - 01:11:28

Selectboard Office

I Haven't gone to look oh, yeah.

01:11:33 - 01:11:41

Selectboard Office

No, but that's the only thing I could think but there's no there was no redraw on the map there was no request to do it, it was just because it was a part of something.

01:11:43 - 01:11:45

Selectboard Office

Okay, but maybe that sort of makes sense.

01:11:47 - 01:11:53

Selectboard Office

All right, so let's talk about how we're going to approach the budget.

01:11:54 - 01:11:58

Selectboard Office

Joe, do you want to lead off here?

01:11:58 - 01:12:09

Selectboard Office

I mean, first of all, I'll just say this time last year, we unfortunately didn't have your presence, so it's good to have you here this year, so we get an earlier start on the process.

01:12:10 - 01:12:12

joe boudreau

Let me say this before we start.

01:12:13 - 01:12:22

joe boudreau

I don't want to have a recurrence of last year where I was having meetings in my hospital bed.

01:12:23 - 01:12:23

Selectboard Office

Yeah, exactly.

01:12:25 - 01:12:41

joe boudreau

And because I can't project what will happen with my health, I would like to ask that one the members of the finance committee step up and take over the chairmanship.

01:12:48 - 01:12:53

Selectboard Office

So I don't think you probably want to do that tonight, but maybe you're all here.

01:12:53 - 01:12:54

joe boudreau

Well, we're all here.

01:12:54 - 01:12:56

joe boudreau

I'd like to do that tonight.

01:12:56 - 01:12:57

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:12:57 - 01:12:58

Selectboard Office

Well, that's up.

01:12:58 - 01:12:58

Selectboard Office

That's your call.

01:13:01 - 01:13:03

Melinda Rose

I nominate Bart.

01:13:09 - 01:13:10

Selectboard Office

I.

01:13:12 - 01:13:15

joe boudreau

Will second that motion.

01:13:18 - 01:13:20

joe boudreau

Barton you can't you can't vote on this.

01:13:44 - 01:13:48

Selectboard Office

I don't think I'm the person right now.

01:13:48 - 01:13:56

Selectboard Office

I literally can't get anything done, so I don't think I can do finance committee at a chair level.

01:13:58 - 01:14:06

Selectboard Office

But I recognize that two of the members are very new, and Melinda, you and I are the middle-aged ones, and that leads.

01:14:06 - 01:14:07

Melinda Rose

Joe.

01:14:12 - 01:14:19

Melinda Rose

I mean, the spring semester at UMass is pretty busy, and I don't.

01:14:19 - 01:14:20

Selectboard Office

Know.

01:14:20 - 01:14:22

Melinda Rose

How much time I'm going to have.

01:14:24 - 01:14:24

Selectboard Office

But.

01:14:24 - 01:14:26

Melinda Rose

I'm certainly willing.

01:14:26 - 01:14:28

Selectboard Office

To.

01:14:28 - 01:14:30

Melinda Rose

Help out and.

01:14:30 - 01:14:30

Selectboard Office

Do.

01:14:30 - 01:14:31

Melinda Rose

What I can.

01:14:35 - 01:14:38

joe boudreau

Are you suggesting that you could try.

01:14:41 - 01:14:44

Melinda Rose

Him I suggest co-chairs.

01:14:44 - 01:14:51

Selectboard Office

I would I would try to co-chair with you okay.

01:14:51 - 01:14:52

Melinda Rose

All right let's do.

01:14:52 - 01:15:07

Selectboard Office

That perfect I think that might be the best that you could do I just cannot see how you could be the chair with the planning board issues that are there and I just yeah not the soul no He's already in here every day as it is.

01:15:07 - 01:15:10

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I mean, you know, you're just asking for a breakdown.

01:15:11 - 01:15:12

Selectboard Office

And I don't think that's fair.

01:15:13 - 01:15:23

Selectboard Office

That's a throw of wrench in it, but does our charter allow co-chairs, or do you have to have a chair and a vice chair, which you could then divvy up the responsibility as co-chairs?

01:15:24 - 01:15:28

Selectboard Office

I think we looked at that with our school committee, and I don't think we could have co-chairs.

01:15:29 - 01:15:31

joe boudreau

Don't go looking into the charter.

01:15:34 - 01:15:37

Selectboard Office

I mean, we're going to have to ask Catherine, I guess, right?

01:15:38 - 01:15:43

Selectboard Office

But you can, I mean, you can divvy up the responsibilities in whatever way.

01:15:44 - 01:15:44

Selectboard Office

Just a title.

01:15:45 - 01:15:45

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:15:47 - 01:16:02

Selectboard Office

Maybe the question for you, Joe, is what is the, I think that the fear for me in stepping into chair of the Finance Committee is that you hold just an incredible volume of institutional memory and knowledge.

01:16:04 - 01:16:12

Selectboard Office

And getting up to speed at that, I mean, I don't know how many years I've been on the Finance Committee, and I am nowhere near up to speed on, not even close.

01:16:14 - 01:16:14

Selectboard Office

So.

01:16:14 - 01:16:20

joe boudreau

There's again, if my health doesn't go south, I will still be here.

01:16:20 - 01:16:25

joe boudreau

I'm just going to be the.

01:16:25 - 01:16:33

Selectboard Office

The historian and so I guess the part is like the question is what is it that you that needs to be?

01:16:34 - 01:16:35

Selectboard Office

I don't know take it over.

01:16:35 - 01:16:53

Selectboard Office

There's it feels like you do a lot of Sort of oversight of the Expend expenditures each month, but there's also this just sending out the silly, you know Departmental budget request forms and getting them all back and collating them that stuff.

01:16:53 - 01:16:58

joe boudreau

Yeah, the first thing that a.

01:16:58 - 01:17:05

joe boudreau

Co-chair person would do is develop the memo that goes out with the budget request forms.

01:17:06 - 01:17:11

joe boudreau

So once everybody decides when the process is going to.

01:17:11 - 01:17:11

Melinda Rose

Start.

01:17:11 - 01:17:14

joe boudreau

And when you want the budgets back.

01:17:14 - 01:17:15

Selectboard Office

It's just.

01:17:15 - 01:17:20

joe boudreau

Making the memo that goes with the budget request forms.

01:17:20 - 01:17:36

joe boudreau

And then as they come in, normally as chairman, I would be putting them into the spreadsheet, which again, you guys know, I've done all of that over the last couple of weeks.

01:17:37 - 01:17:39

joe boudreau

Not because I had time on my hands.

01:17:40 - 01:17:43

joe boudreau

Again, to avoid the situation.

01:17:43 - 01:17:47

joe boudreau

So the budget request forms are done for fiscal 27.

01:17:47 - 01:17:51

joe boudreau

The spreadsheet is done for Fiscal 27.

01:17:52 - 01:17:57

joe boudreau

So again, those are still there and I emailed them to everyone.

01:17:58 - 01:18:00

joe boudreau

So they're available.

01:18:04 - 01:18:09

joe boudreau

It's usually the role of the chair to put those budget request.

01:18:09 - 01:18:09

Selectboard Office

Forms.

01:18:09 - 01:18:10

joe boudreau

Into that.

01:18:10 - 01:18:11

Selectboard Office

Spreadsheet.

01:18:13 - 01:18:13

joe boudreau

But I.

01:18:13 - 01:18:13

Selectboard Office

Don't.

01:18:13 - 01:18:16

joe boudreau

Know if the finance committee has to do.

01:18:16 - 01:18:17

Selectboard Office

That.

01:18:17 - 01:18:19

joe boudreau

With the board, so that's been around a bit.

01:18:22 - 01:18:32

Selectboard Office

So I was going to say that Melinda and I and Peggy basically did various parts of that process and I did a big chunk of it last year.

01:18:35 - 01:18:37

Melinda Rose

Yeah, we could do that again.

01:18:37 - 01:18:39

Melinda Rose

I mean, that's not, you know.

01:18:39 - 01:18:42

Selectboard Office

And you've already done the first step, like you said, Joe.

01:18:42 - 01:19:04

Selectboard Office

Right and then the access to your huge spreadsheet Joe um is there he sent it out well is it the complete spreadsheet going all the way back or is it just the I know usually you ex you take a certain section of it and make that available but you can't go back beyond whatever.

01:19:04 - 01:19:09

joe boudreau

It has on the right column is fiscal 27 and.

01:19:09 - 01:19:09

Selectboard Office

They don't have.

01:19:09 - 01:19:15

joe boudreau

In front of me but then there's prior years columns also to look back on.

01:19:16 - 01:19:16

joe boudreau

In.

01:19:16 - 01:19:16

Selectboard Office

A sense.

01:19:17 - 01:19:20

joe boudreau

In Excel version, it's not a PDF.

01:19:21 - 01:19:21

joe boudreau

Right.

01:19:22 - 01:19:22

joe boudreau

Ok.

01:19:23 - 01:19:30

Melinda Rose

Are we going to be asking the departments to trim their budgets like we did last year?

01:19:31 - 01:19:37

Selectboard Office

Well, I think that's a big question here after we settled, I think, the first one.

01:19:39 - 01:19:41

Selectboard Office

That's certainly my question anyway.

01:19:41 - 01:19:50

joe boudreau

I mean, that could be said in the budget memo that's sent out, if you're saying to put, you.

01:19:50 - 01:19:55

joe boudreau

Know, what would it take for whatever we had last year, an 8% and a.

01:19:55 - 01:19:56

Selectboard Office

12% cut.

01:19:56 - 01:19:58

joe boudreau

Most of them didn't do that.

01:19:58 - 01:20:06

joe boudreau

And it gets very complicated when they have multiple items, not just one account.

01:20:07 - 01:20:10

joe boudreau

So I would not suggest doing that again.

01:20:10 - 01:20:11

Melinda Rose

But you.

01:20:11 - 01:20:15

joe boudreau

Can surely put in that cover memo.

01:20:17 - 01:20:18

joe boudreau

How.

01:20:18 - 01:20:23

joe boudreau

Much, you know, an appreciation if they cut their budget, the best they can.

01:20:23 - 01:20:23

Selectboard Office

Do.

01:20:24 - 01:20:25

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:20:27 - 01:20:33

Selectboard Office

It does seem to me that there are a handful of key budgets where this really matters.

01:20:33 - 01:20:33

Melinda Rose

So.

01:20:33 - 01:20:37

Selectboard Office

You've got highway, obviously, and school.

01:20:38 - 01:20:44

Selectboard Office

And after that, this sort of catch-all that we call select board and then police and fire.

01:20:44 - 01:20:50

Selectboard Office

And then once you get below that, they're pretty much peanuts as far as the cuts go.

01:20:50 - 01:20:51

joe boudreau

Exactly.

01:20:52 - 01:20:56

joe boudreau

I mean, again, you have a new words, we've intended.

01:20:58 - 01:21:06

joe boudreau

I don't think I read that you replaced You know, how many road crew people do you have right.

01:21:06 - 01:21:06

joe boudreau

Now?

01:21:07 - 01:21:08

joe boudreau

Two.

01:21:09 - 01:21:11

joe boudreau

So you have a superintendent plus two.

01:21:12 - 01:21:12

Selectboard Office

Yep.

01:21:13 - 01:21:13

joe boudreau

Okay.

01:21:16 - 01:21:19

joe boudreau

You can consider not hiring a third.

01:21:19 - 01:21:21

joe boudreau

And that's a big chunk of money.

01:21:21 - 01:21:22

joe boudreau

And that's 60 grand.

01:21:23 - 01:21:23

joe boudreau

That would.

01:21:23 - 01:21:24

joe boudreau

Help.

01:21:30 - 01:21:45

Selectboard Office

And it seems to me like if we could get these budget request forms out relatively quickly and get the big ones back relatively quickly, then, or at least a first step, then we could have an idea of where we were sitting roughly.

01:21:46 - 01:21:50

Selectboard Office

I mean, Joe usually does it, you know, just bring everything forward a year and see how we're sitting.

01:21:51 - 01:22:27

Selectboard Office

We get the highway and school to give us at least, you know, whatever they can do relatively quickly and I'm sort of thinking about you because I know you your budget takes time we've always had it to you by the end of February there shouldn't be a problem if that's early enough and I think what I was going is if we could get something back that gave us a just a ballpark then we would know are we in trouble or not yeah and then we could have a conversation with you guys about like this is where we sit and we can give you a ballpark after our meeting on Eighth.

01:22:27 - 01:22:27

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:22:28 - 01:22:42

Selectboard Office

So, yeah, shifting it forward, we might avoid having to ask every department eight to 12 percent and just have more informal conversation with the departments that

actually have the ability to have an impact.

01:22:43 - 01:22:43

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:22:43 - 01:22:46

Selectboard Office

Christine, were you working last year during budget?

01:22:47 - 01:22:48

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:22:48 - 01:22:48

Selectboard Office

Yes.

01:22:48 - 01:22:51

Selectboard Office

So you think you could pull something together?

01:22:51 - 01:22:51

Selectboard Office

Sure.

01:22:52 - 01:22:53

Selectboard Office

Yeah, you won't like it.

01:22:56 - 01:23:01

Selectboard Office

I already told JP last town meeting, like this year, you're not gonna like this.

01:23:02 - 01:23:03

Melinda Rose

So if.

01:23:03 - 01:23:03

Selectboard Office

The budget-.

01:23:05 - 01:23:05

Melinda Rose

So.

01:23:05 - 01:23:06

Selectboard Office

If the budget.

01:23:06 - 01:23:10

Melinda Rose

Request forms went out, say January 15th.

01:23:12 - 01:23:17

Melinda Rose

And asked people to get them to us by, what, the first week of February or something?

01:23:19 - 01:23:28

Selectboard Office

Yeah, in fact, do you have a sense of how long it usually takes people to- They have to put the **** out of people, But it's really, again, it's the big ones that matter here.

01:23:28 - 01:23:31

Selectboard Office

I see Mike has joined us for the meeting.

01:23:31 - 01:23:33

Selectboard Office

So Mike, you're on the, probably on that list.

01:23:34 - 01:23:40

Selectboard Office

I don't know how much of the conversation you heard, but a budget sooner rather than later.

01:23:40 - 01:23:41

Mike Dondiego

Is.

01:23:41 - 01:23:41

Selectboard Office

That doable?

01:23:42 - 01:23:43

Mike Dondiego

I think so.

01:23:43 - 01:23:45

Mike Dondiego

I've been on since the start.

01:23:45 - 01:23:46

Mike Dondiego

I was on the phone during the school.

01:23:46 - 01:23:47

Mike Dondiego

Committee.

01:23:47 - 01:23:48

Selectboard Office

Oh, okay.

01:23:48 - 01:23:48

Selectboard Office

I finally.

01:23:48 - 01:23:50

Mike Dondiego

Got home and now I'm on video.

01:23:51 - 01:23:52

Selectboard Office

So that was you on the phone.

01:23:52 - 01:23:52

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:23:53 - 01:23:53

Selectboard Office

Got it.

01:23:55 - 01:23:58

Selectboard Office

Melinda, you said out on the 15th and back by when?

01:24:00 - 01:24:06

Melinda Rose

I didn't pick a date, but maybe the end of, I don't know, February 10th or something.

01:24:06 - 01:24:07

Melinda Rose

Does that make sense?

01:24:08 - 01:24:08

Melinda Rose

Whatever day.

01:24:08 - 01:24:09

Selectboard Office

That is.

01:24:09 - 01:24:11

Selectboard Office

February 1st.

01:24:11 - 01:24:12

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I think maybe February 1st.

01:24:13 - 01:24:14

Melinda Rose

February 1st, okay.

01:24:15 - 01:24:17

Melinda Rose

Yeah, because they don't meet the deadline anyway.

01:24:18 - 01:24:21

Selectboard Office

But three of the departments are here and you're hearing about it right now.

01:24:22 - 01:24:24

Selectboard Office

And we're not always the worst, right, Peggy?

01:24:25 - 01:24:25

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:24:26 - 01:24:28

Selectboard Office

I have to bug everybody else.

01:24:29 - 01:24:32

Selectboard Office

If you could give people the heads up tomorrow.

01:24:33 - 01:24:33

Selectboard Office

Yes.

01:24:33 - 01:24:35

Selectboard Office

I can send a sheet around to everybody.

01:24:36 - 01:24:40

Selectboard Office

So we have the full sheet with everybody and we can get that out tomorrow.

01:24:40 - 01:24:49

Selectboard Office

Because different departments will have their meetings at different times during January and you don't want to miss a meeting and then have them say, well, we can't do it until late February.

01:24:49 - 01:24:53

Selectboard Office

So we won't bother breaking it down last year.

01:24:53 - 01:24:55

Selectboard Office

Yeah pulled everybody's tab out and send them separately.

01:24:55 - 01:25:03

Selectboard Office

We'll just send the whole sheet Yeah, I.

01:25:03 - 01:25:07

Melinda Rose

Can bug the chairman 24 hours a day to get his.

01:25:11 - 01:25:19

Selectboard Office

So not to be not to be a pain but so has the Finance Committee decided on its chairs Plural?

01:25:23 - 01:25:23

Selectboard Office

Or are you?

01:25:23 - 01:25:24

Selectboard Office

There's a motion.

01:25:24 - 01:25:25

Selectboard Office

There's a motion.

01:25:26 - 01:25:27

Selectboard Office

Well, there was a motion for Bart.

01:25:28 - 01:25:30

Selectboard Office

You were nominated and seconded.

01:25:32 - 01:25:32

Melinda Rose

Well, but.

01:25:32 - 01:25:32

Selectboard Office

Then.

01:25:32 - 01:25:34

Melinda Rose

We decided co-chairs.

01:25:35 - 01:25:35

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:25:36 - 01:25:38

Selectboard Office

Co-chairs or vice chair and a chair.

01:25:39 - 01:25:39

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:25:40 - 01:25:40

Selectboard Office

I don't know.

01:25:40 - 01:25:41

Selectboard Office

We're in the middle, right?

01:25:41 - 01:25:43

Selectboard Office

It was seconded and we're in discussions.

01:25:44 - 01:25:44

Selectboard Office

I don't know.

01:25:44 - 01:25:56

Selectboard Office

I'd like to amend it and make Melinda the chair and I'll be whatever the vice chair or whatever and Joe Teramardis and Joe Teramardis Institutional Mapping.

01:25:56 - 01:25:59

Selectboard Office

Yeah so okay.

01:25:59 - 01:26:08

joe boudreau

So I think I heard a motion that Melinda is chair and Martin will help out how's.

01:26:08 - 01:26:11

Selectboard Office

That yes.

01:26:11 - 01:26:13

Melinda Rose

11.

01:26:13 - 01:26:25

joe boudreau

Second okay All of the Finance Committee, I'm not too sure of the Finance Committee who's in the room, but I'm going to, what I can see is I'll ask for a vote.

01:26:25 - 01:26:27

joe boudreau

Melinda, how do you vote?

01:26:28 - 01:26:28

joe boudreau

Aye.

01:26:29 - 01:26:29

joe boudreau

Bart?

01:26:30 - 01:26:31

joe boudreau

Aye.

01:26:31 - 01:26:32

joe boudreau

Aye.

01:26:34 - 01:26:36

Selectboard Office

We're missing um...

01:26:37 - 01:26:38

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:26:40 - 01:26:42

joe boudreau

So it passes.

01:26:43 - 01:26:43

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

01:26:45 - 01:26:45

Selectboard Office

Thank you, Joe.

01:26:45 - 01:26:46

Selectboard Office

Thank you, Joe.

01:26:46 - 01:26:46

Selectboard Office

Congratulations.

01:26:46 - 01:26:48

Selectboard Office

So, thank you for.

01:26:48 - 01:26:48

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:26:49 - 01:26:51

Selectboard Office

How many years has it been, Joe?

01:27:00 - 01:27:00

Selectboard Office

Did you hear the question?

01:27:01 - 01:27:02

Selectboard Office

Did you hear the question?

01:27:02 - 01:27:03

joe boudreau

Uh I'm sorry.

01:27:04 - 01:27:04

joe boudreau

I didn't hear anything.

01:27:04 - 01:27:05

Selectboard Office

How many years total?

01:27:05 - 01:27:08

Selectboard Office

How many years has it been for you total?

01:27:10 - 01:27:12

joe boudreau

A little under 100, I think.

01:27:14 - 01:27:15

Selectboard Office

That's what it feels.

01:27:15 - 01:27:16

Selectboard Office

Not the real field.

01:27:18 - 01:27:22

joe boudreau

You would have to go back through the archives, but I think it's about 30.

01:27:23 - 01:27:24

Selectboard Office

Wow.

01:27:25 - 01:27:26

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

01:27:27 - 01:27:28

Selectboard Office

Thanks, Joe.

01:27:30 - 01:27:37

Selectboard Office

All right, I think we made it through that piece then there was any else relative to finance committee in the budget.

01:27:37 - 01:27:38

Selectboard Office

Who's going to write us the memo?

01:27:45 - 01:27:48

Selectboard Office

So, Melinda and Bart, you're going to write the memo, right?

01:27:50 - 01:27:51

Selectboard Office

Between the two of you?

01:27:51 - 01:27:54

Melinda Rose

Yeah, I mean, I can use last.

01:27:54 - 01:27:54

Selectboard Office

Year's.

01:27:54 - 01:27:55

Melinda Rose

As a guide.

01:27:55 - 01:27:56

Selectboard Office

And.

01:27:56 - 01:28:00

Melinda Rose

I'll send it to Bart.

01:28:00 - 01:28:01

Selectboard Office

And if.

01:28:01 - 01:28:03

Melinda Rose

He has any edits and then we'll get it to you.

01:28:03 - 01:28:03

Melinda Rose

Guys.

01:28:03 - 01:28:12

Selectboard Office

All right, yeah, so, you know, shoot me a text or call in case I don't see an email that comes in because I don't see anything.

01:28:12 - 01:28:13

Selectboard Office

I try not to look.

01:28:14 - 01:28:15

Selectboard Office

True.

01:28:17 - 01:28:19

Selectboard Office

All right, so next up.

01:28:21 - 01:28:22

joe boudreau

Good night.

01:28:25 - 01:28:27

Selectboard Office

Thank you, Melinda.

01:28:27 - 01:28:31

Selectboard Office

So, I'm not.

01:28:31 - 01:28:34

Melinda Rose

Leaving, but I'm finishing my dinner, so I'm going up.

01:28:34 - 01:28:34

Selectboard Office

Here.

01:28:37 - 01:28:49

Selectboard Office

Um, so do we want to talk about setting a date for a meeting that includes all the relevant boards around the large scale solar issue.

01:29:04 - 01:29:10

Selectboard Office

Next week is a regularly scheduled select board meeting, that's why I put 113 there

with a question mark.

01:29:10 - 01:29:16

Selectboard Office

And I think it's on my gallery because I think that- We talked about 113, that's a possibility, yes.

01:29:16 - 01:29:18

Selectboard Office

So are you good with that?

01:29:18 - 01:29:21

Selectboard Office

And I think, I think the planning board and I talked about it and that's why it's on my calendar.

01:29:21 - 01:29:26

Selectboard Office

So I think, I think it would work because we need more meetings.

01:29:27 - 01:29:28

Selectboard Office

We're not, we only have two this week.

01:29:29 - 01:29:29

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:29:32 - 01:29:33

Selectboard Office

I have three.

01:29:35 - 01:29:50

Selectboard Office

The board in regard to the solar project board is deserved to know how their representatives think and these large scale industrial energy projects will property values, environmental resources, municipal costs, and long-term planning.

01:29:50 - 01:30:02

Selectboard Office

So I think residents have a right to know whether a select board member is inclined to encourage, discourage, or remain neutral on such developments so they can evaluate whether their values are being represented.

01:30:02 - 01:30:17

Selectboard Office

So I ask in light of the serious public health concerns formally raised by the Board of Health, will the select board clarify its statements from the prior meeting regarding whether it supports industrial solar development in the town of Worthington.

01:30:18 - 01:30:25

Selectboard Office

Specifically, I'm referring to the statements found in the town minutes from last slide board meeting.

01:30:25 - 01:30:28

Selectboard Office

I quote, and then we survived.

01:30:28 - 01:30:37

Selectboard Office

And you know, the only difference with that is that once the sheep farmers weren't able to make money, the natural vegetation came back because the natural vegetation in New England is trees.

01:30:38 - 01:30:41

Selectboard Office

Every time you clear a lot, you've got to put a lot of energy to keep that thing open.

01:30:43 - 01:30:59

Selectboard Office

And then end quote and then I quote and then it becomes it's okay if it's in somebody else's backyard and not in mine and that doesn't seem right or fair because historically the people whose backyard it's gone are those that are underserved end quote.

01:31:01 - 01:31:04

Selectboard Office

Now the minutes are they don't you said what?

01:31:05 - 01:31:12

Selectboard Office

My phone was cutting out so I didn't really hear I know Deb said the last quote and I know Charlie said the first quote.

01:31:13 - 01:31:18

Selectboard Office

So how do these statements relate to the select board's current position on industrial scale solar projects?

01:31:19 - 01:31:24

Selectboard Office

Keeping in mind the concerns brought up by our board of health.

01:31:25 - 01:31:38

Selectboard Office

Because honestly reading the minutes and reading those it scares me so I I'd like to know your current position, Charlie and Deb, Owen.

01:31:39 - 01:31:41

Selectboard Office

So I'll just speak briefly.

01:31:41 - 01:31:48

Selectboard Office

This is not on the agenda, so we're not going to really discuss this, but I certainly want to respond.

01:31:48 - 01:31:50

Selectboard Office

As best I can.

01:31:51 - 01:31:56

Selectboard Office

I don't recall saying the first statement, and I can't remember exactly what you said it was, but regardless.

01:31:58 - 01:32:04

Selectboard Office

First of all, I haven't had a chance to fully absorb what Diane and the health board of health wrote.

01:32:04 - 01:32:06

Selectboard Office

So I don't have an opinion on that yet.

01:32:08 - 01:32:15

Selectboard Office

And I and I'm doing my best to remain neutral on the entire issue until I learn more about it.

01:32:15 - 01:32:17

Selectboard Office

So I have not.

01:32:17 - 01:32:20

Selectboard Office

I mean, I have opinions, but I have not formed.

01:32:23 - 01:32:24

Selectboard Office

I've not taken sides.

01:32:25 - 01:32:29

Selectboard Office

So I'm trying to remain neutral and I'll continue to do that.

01:32:30 - 01:32:35

Selectboard Office

So we get to a point where there's going to need to be some kind of vote, which

won't happen here on the select board.

01:32:35 - 01:32:45

Selectboard Office

It's really not our issue until it comes, you know, when and if this thing gets approved, then we would have to be negotiating some, you know, whether to do a pilot or not.

01:32:46 - 01:32:49

Selectboard Office

But beyond that, we're not really part of this.

01:32:50 - 01:32:56

Selectboard Office

So, you know, I'm certainly trying to facilitate by setting up this meeting with other boards.

01:32:56 - 01:33:00

Selectboard Office

So I think that's part of our job, but, so I'm not sure if that's the answer.

01:33:00 - 01:33:01

Selectboard Office

Did you personally sign any good neighbor agreements?

01:33:02 - 01:33:04

Selectboard Office

Did you sign any good neighbor agreements?

01:33:04 - 01:33:06

Selectboard Office

I'm not even sure what that is, sorry.

01:33:06 - 01:33:14

Selectboard Office

It's just basically an agreement you may have signed with a solar company saying that you won't say anything bad about solar.

01:33:14 - 01:33:14

Selectboard Office

No.

01:33:14 - 01:33:17

Selectboard Office

All right, just a fair question, because.

01:33:17 - 01:33:17

Selectboard Office

I haven't been approached.

01:33:18 - 01:33:19

Selectboard Office

I haven't been approached.

01:33:19 - 01:33:32

Selectboard Office

Construction is supposed to start this fall, so to remain neutral for this long on a project that has the potential to, you know, harm everyone in town and drastically change our landscape.

01:33:32 - 01:33:38

Selectboard Office

I would hope you remain, I mean, soon rather than later.

01:33:39 - 01:33:43

Selectboard Office

I think you're making a lot of statements that clearly you believe.

01:33:44 - 01:33:47

Selectboard Office

I'm not sure they're necessarily all proven or true.

01:33:48 - 01:33:54

Selectboard Office

Well, I'm just saying voters deserve to know if you're going to welcome in these or be

against them or remain neutral just because.

01:33:54 - 01:34:02

Selectboard Office

Well I'm not running for election so when and if by all means I'll certainly make my opinions known or if appropriate before.

01:34:02 - 01:34:04

Selectboard Office

You're not running for an election but you do represent.

01:34:05 - 01:34:08

Selectboard Office

Exactly I represent the entire town and I'm trying to be.

01:34:08 - 01:34:12

Selectboard Office

We feel like we should at least know how you feel about these projects.

01:34:12 - 01:34:19

Selectboard Office

Well I think I just said I'm trying to learn just like the rest of us and you.

01:34:19 - 01:34:19

Melinda Rose

Know.

01:34:19 - 01:34:41

Selectboard Office

I think I'm getting attacked for some reason and I'm I'm wondering why you're still neutral, is because from the planning board meetings, minutes in July, 2015, the building inspector worked her words and she was approached, they were approached by large wind and solar companies that were interested in large open spaces in Worthington.

01:34:41 - 01:34:47

Selectboard Office

And they were told to approach the planning board back in 2015, while you were on

the planning board in 2015.

01:34:47 - 01:34:49

Selectboard Office

He's never been on the planning board.

01:34:50 - 01:34:51

Selectboard Office

Why were you present?

01:34:51 - 01:34:55

Selectboard Office

It said regrets for Charlie for that meeting, Charlie Rose requests.

01:34:56 - 01:34:57

Selectboard Office

I don't know.

01:34:58 - 01:35:01

Selectboard Office

Well, anyway, it's been 10 years and I'm just wondering why.

01:35:02 - 01:35:08

Selectboard Office

Sir, very briefly on the ZBA till we figured I as a select board member really shouldn't be on that.

01:35:08 - 01:35:11

Selectboard Office

Sorry, I guess that's what I saw in the minutes that you were on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

01:35:11 - 01:35:19

Selectboard Office

Yeah, for like, you know, a couple of months and really didn't do much because it turns out I really shouldn't have been without getting a waiver from the town.

01:35:20 - 01:35:23

Selectboard Office

I appreciate it, just looking for transparency.

01:35:23 - 01:35:23

Selectboard Office

Yeah, sure.

01:35:27 - 01:35:27

[speaker unknown]

Okay.

01:35:28 - 01:35:42

Selectboard Office

Amy has shared the dump, and we had a good conversation, and Devin, if you could clarify the not in my backyard statement kind of freaks out a lot of people because this is our backyard, and I just was hoping you could clarify.

01:35:42 - 01:35:43

Selectboard Office

Well, that's the point, right?

01:35:44 - 01:35:45

Selectboard Office

What, do we have to move our backyard?

01:35:45 - 01:35:55

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I mean, you know, I moved here because of the ruralness of this community, right?

01:35:57 - 01:36:03

Selectboard Office

And we own a good chunk of land or farmers.

01:36:03 - 01:36:05

Selectboard Office

I don't want to develop it.

01:36:05 - 01:36:10

Selectboard Office

I think the agricultural nature of Worthington is what makes it special.

01:36:10 - 01:36:20

Selectboard Office

I think also that we have the right in this country to make decisions with our property.

01:36:22 - 01:36:30

Selectboard Office

And I'm not, I did say the last select board meeting that I am personally pretty conflicted about this.

01:36:31 - 01:36:40

Selectboard Office

I do not from everything that I've read, believe that as it stands right now, that solar is neutral or green.

01:36:40 - 01:36:47

Selectboard Office

I think it takes an awful lot of electricity and power and resources to make solar panels and everything else.

01:36:50 - 01:36:55

Selectboard Office

I don't see from what I've seen that we have a way out of it.

01:36:57 - 01:37:00

Selectboard Office

The state law is pretty clear on this.

01:37:00 - 01:37:15

Selectboard Office

And I think that if this town wants to preserve the characters of this town, it's not

going to be by trying to stop this project.

01:37:16 - 01:37:17

Selectboard Office

I don't know that we can.

01:37:18 - 01:37:23

Selectboard Office

I think people that are more familiar and smarter than I am are saying I don't think that we can.

01:37:24 - 01:37:45

Selectboard Office

And I think there might be, I don't know this, this is my opinion, but there might be some unintended consequences of the laws that were put in place in Boston to the character of Western Massachusetts and the Hill towns and the Berkshires.

01:37:46 - 01:37:48

Selectboard Office

And I find that very troubling.

01:37:49 - 01:37:54

Selectboard Office

And I'm not, I don't know what we can do in this town.

01:37:56 - 01:38:08

Selectboard Office

And so I'm not sure that my, I'm not sure that where I'm struggling personally comes necessarily into play of my role on the select board.

01:38:09 - 01:38:18

Selectboard Office

I think my role as a select person is that I need to follow the law and support those that are following the law and the regulations and our authority.

01:38:18 - 01:38:20

Selectboard Office

And that's what I have to do.

01:38:21 - 01:38:22

Selectboard Office

Appreciate the clarity.

01:38:22 - 01:38:25

Selectboard Office

I mean, from the minutes it was...

01:38:25 - 01:38:26

Selectboard Office

Those aren't actually minutes.

01:38:26 - 01:38:29

Selectboard Office

You're looking at the transcript from the meeting.

01:38:29 - 01:38:30

Selectboard Office

Yeah, it's completely different.

01:38:30 - 01:38:31

Selectboard Office

Transcripts and minutes.

01:38:32 - 01:38:35

Selectboard Office

Transcripts are not acceptable as minutes, according to the Attorney General.

01:38:35 - 01:38:40

Selectboard Office

Well, in the transcripts, computer-generated, they don't go to meetings, so you can't cover the bigger ones.

01:38:40 - 01:38:42

Selectboard Office

So there are not minutes released yet from last?

01:38:42 - 01:38:43

Selectboard Office

I don't think so.

01:38:43 - 01:38:43

Selectboard Office

Not yet.

01:38:44 - 01:38:45

Selectboard Office

And the minutes won't tell you what everybody says.

01:38:46 - 01:38:47

Selectboard Office

And our minutes aren't word-for-word.

01:38:47 - 01:38:47

Selectboard Office

No.

01:38:47 - 01:38:51

Selectboard Office

The minutes are, the purpose of minutes is that they give you an idea of what happened.

01:38:51 - 01:38:52

Selectboard Office

It is a summary.

01:38:52 - 01:39:02

Selectboard Office

A word-for-word transcription, it will be rejected as minutes if you attempt to submit them to the Attorney General's office, they will refuse them, they're not minutes.

01:39:04 - 01:39:16

Selectboard Office

And I think the best thing, you know, if you really want, the way this is for people to stop selling their land or leasing their land for this, it's the individual homeowner, you know, or the landowner.

01:39:16 - 01:39:42

Selectboard Office

The property rights thing ends when you're poisoning your neighbor well you can't your property rights end as soon as you're as soon as you start to acknowledge that you cause them to others you can't yeah you only do what you want your property up to a certain way so that argument yeah of course now i don't think everybody's arguing you at the last at the transcript i saw that you had mentioned that something about property rights and um deb just something about property rights?

01:39:43 - 01:39:47

Selectboard Office

No, I completely acknowledge, and again, I think we're going way beyond where we should be.

01:39:48 - 01:39:56

Selectboard Office

I completely acknowledge that to the extent what I do on my land harms somebody else, then clearly there's an issue, and I don't disagree with that.

01:39:56 - 01:40:07

Selectboard Office

But just as far as transcripts are concerned, GoToMeeting generates a computer-generated transcript from what it hears, and it's only so accurate.

01:40:07 - 01:40:09

Selectboard Office

And of course, there's only one microphone in this room.

01:40:10 - 01:40:14

Selectboard Office

So everybody that speaks in this room just goes in as select for an office.

01:40:14 - 01:40:17

Selectboard Office

So unfortunately, it doesn't distinguish between people.

01:40:17 - 01:40:23

Selectboard Office

Because I know some of the things you just quoted were definitely spoken by people that were in the room, but not necessarily by us.

01:40:24 - 01:40:26

Selectboard Office

And I would just add one other thing.

01:40:26 - 01:40:28

Selectboard Office

And I think I mentioned this previously.

01:40:28 - 01:40:35

Selectboard Office

I don't think this really changes anything there, but full disclosure, I have ground mounted solar in my backyard.

01:40:35 - 01:40:37

Selectboard Office

I don't have a battery.

01:40:37 - 01:40:43

Selectboard Office

And half of my system is financed by Blue Wave, coincidentally.

01:40:43 - 01:40:44

Selectboard Office

That's funny.

01:40:45 - 01:40:47

Selectboard Office

It's ironic, but yeah.

01:40:47 - 01:40:49

Selectboard Office

I mean, they're just my bank, is all that it wants to.

01:40:49 - 01:40:55

Selectboard Office

And they handed off that part of their business a while ago, and the payments go to somebody else, so I'm not even positive.

01:40:58 - 01:41:01

Selectboard Office

So they were licensed in Massachusetts when they installed your store?

01:41:01 - 01:41:02

Selectboard Office

They didn't install it.

01:41:02 - 01:41:05

Selectboard Office

Apex from New York installed it.

01:41:05 - 01:41:07

Selectboard Office

They just helped me arrange for that.

01:41:07 - 01:41:16

Selectboard Office

I had heard a funny story about the water inspector in town being pressured to sign out on your permit, but I guess it's not either here nor there.

01:41:17 - 01:41:18

Selectboard Office

Ok, good.

01:41:18 - 01:41:18

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

01:41:19 - 01:41:21

Selectboard Office

Thank you for your generations.

01:41:23 - 01:41:23

Selectboard Office

Thanks.

01:41:25 - 01:41:29

Selectboard Office

All right, so yeah, so we've settled on the 13th.

01:41:29 - 01:41:31

Selectboard Office

Can we just establish who needs to be there?

01:41:33 - 01:41:34

Selectboard Office

Good question.

01:41:34 - 01:42:05

Selectboard Office

So our Board of Health and planning board and select board who else what the list that we send out the cyclone energy includes fire the zoning board although they're you know weird position right because they're the Board of Appeals so you can send stuff to them for.

01:42:06 - 01:42:15

Selectboard Office

So they sort of have a sense of what's going on, but they don't usually wanna be involved in over a year of conversation because they may be called in to deliberate later.

01:42:16 - 01:42:18

Selectboard Office

So I don't know if they'd wanna come or not.

01:42:19 - 01:42:22

Selectboard Office

Joe's been in the chair, so we can ask him.

01:42:23 - 01:42:35

Selectboard Office

The people that I've been wondering but haven't had a moment to send the announcement up to or the tree committee, it's a company.

01:42:35 - 01:42:36

Selectboard Office

Yeah, the shade tree committee.

01:42:36 - 01:42:38

Selectboard Office

I think that I was interested in this project.

01:42:39 - 01:42:42

Selectboard Office

And that's, so actually, all right.

01:42:43 - 01:42:45

Selectboard Office

We know Steve is, for sure.

01:42:46 - 01:42:48

Selectboard Office

I don't know if you guys would be.

01:42:48 - 01:42:51

Selectboard Office

It can be an all boards meeting if we get an invitation.

01:42:51 - 01:42:53

Selectboard Office

Yeah, this isn't really an all boards meeting.

01:42:54 - 01:42:55

Selectboard Office

This is mainly, this is.

01:42:55 - 01:42:56

Selectboard Office

It's almost all boards meeting.

01:42:56 - 01:42:57

Selectboard Office

It is almost now.

01:42:57 - 01:43:06

Selectboard Office

And you're welcome to come and see where relative but yeah, we have a meeting tomorrow, right?

01:43:09 - 01:43:13

Selectboard Office

But can you see what they say, I mean I was we are overdue for an all boards meeting but.

01:43:17 - 01:43:30

Selectboard Office

So what I get a moment my thought was to go through the boards and committees that I don't even know who they are So, and try to figure out the ones we aren't required to send to us and just send them.

01:43:31 - 01:43:34

Selectboard Office

Here's where we sit in case they care.

01:43:35 - 01:43:36

Selectboard Office

I think the committee could.

01:43:36 - 01:43:38

Selectboard Office

Actually give us some feedback, which would be useful.

01:43:39 - 01:43:43

Selectboard Office

Parks and Rec might, I don't know, but I'd rather ask them and have them say no than not ask.

01:43:44 - 01:43:49

Selectboard Office

So I don't know, it'd be useful for me to have that list of all the boards and committees.

01:43:50 - 01:43:51

Selectboard Office

I'll send it to you.

01:43:51 - 01:43:52

Selectboard Office

I've got that.

01:43:52 - 01:43:52

Selectboard Office

That would be great.

01:43:53 - 01:43:55

Selectboard Office

And then you'll We're not missing much here.

01:43:56 - 01:43:56

Selectboard Office

Cemetery.

01:43:58 - 01:44:01

Selectboard Office

Yeah, but even have all the contacts.

01:44:05 - 01:44:05

Selectboard Office

What else?

01:44:05 - 01:44:06

Selectboard Office

What are we missing?

01:44:09 - 01:44:10

Selectboard Office

Building inspector gets it from us.

01:44:10 - 01:44:12

Selectboard Office

So building inspector, I would put on place.

01:44:13 - 01:44:14

Selectboard Office

What did you say, Mike?

01:44:15 - 01:44:17

Mike Dondiego

Just a few other thoughts.

01:44:17 - 01:44:19

Mike Dondiego

That's the emergency management director.

01:44:20 - 01:44:21

Selectboard Office

Oh, yeah, yeah, for sure.

01:44:21 - 01:44:23

Selectboard Office

Do we have one?

01:44:23 - 01:44:23

Selectboard Office

Yes.

01:44:24 - 01:44:24

Selectboard Office

David.

01:44:25 - 01:44:27

Selectboard Office

No, he's talking about it.

01:44:27 - 01:44:28

Selectboard Office

Talking about it.

01:44:28 - 01:44:29

Selectboard Office

Coa's not coming.

01:44:31 - 01:44:35

Selectboard Office

We do send the site land review things to the assessors.

01:44:36 - 01:44:38

Selectboard Office

They're not, we're not required to, but it has seemed like a good idea.

01:44:38 - 01:44:40

Selectboard Office

And so they did get the mailing.

01:44:41 - 01:44:41

Selectboard Office

So.

01:44:41 - 01:44:42

Selectboard Office

Assessors.

01:44:42 - 01:44:42

Selectboard Office

Include them.

01:44:42 - 01:44:44

Selectboard Office

Yeah, for sure.

01:44:45 - 01:44:49

Selectboard Office

Okay, so maybe we should meet out in the hall then, huh?

01:44:49 - 01:44:52

Selectboard Office

And the finance committee.

01:44:54 - 01:44:54

Selectboard Office

Finance.

01:44:54 - 01:44:54

Mike Dondiego

Too.

01:44:55 - 01:44:55

Mike Dondiego

Yeah.

01:45:00 - 01:45:02

Selectboard Office

So we'll just send the notice out to everybody.

01:45:02 - 01:45:03

Selectboard Office

Everybody, okay.

01:45:05 - 01:45:11

Selectboard Office

And make clear that, you know, that we understand that in some cases it's only so relevant.

01:45:11 - 01:45:13

Selectboard Office

So yeah, Mike, go ahead, please.

01:45:13 - 01:45:16

Mike Dondiego

So yeah, just a couple of the related questions.

01:45:16 - 01:45:19

Mike Dondiego

So I don't know which department necessarily in.

01:45:19 - 01:45:20

Selectboard Office

Town, whether.

01:45:20 - 01:45:21

Mike Dondiego

It's.

01:45:21 - 01:45:22

Selectboard Office

Conservation.

01:45:22 - 01:45:23

Mike Dondiego

Or board of health, but who would.

01:45:23 - 01:45:24

Selectboard Office

Interact.

01:45:24 - 01:45:25

Mike Dondiego

With.

01:45:25 - 01:45:25

Selectboard Office

The department.

01:45:25 - 01:45:26

Mike Dondiego

Of.

01:45:26 - 01:45:27

Mike Dondiego

Environmental protection?

01:45:28 - 01:45:38

Selectboard Office

So Mike, I can speak a little bit to that because I asked town council whether DP had a role in this project or in this process.

01:45:38 - 01:46:10

Selectboard Office

And his answer was pretty clearly no, That they he said they're likely to know about it because people often go to them pretty quickly if they have a concern But that there's really no role for them Conservation Commission only the wetlands not the water And is is Fox Denman and a butter or anything they are they Whoever is in a butter got a notification I've never heard back from the state on anything.

01:46:10 - 01:46:10

Selectboard Office

So.

01:46:10 - 01:46:14

Mike Dondiego

Department of Fish and Wildlife, I believe, is listed as the abutter there.

01:46:15 - 01:46:16

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I'd have to look at the list.

01:46:18 - 01:46:22

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I think that they own all the land to the west.

01:46:22 - 01:46:24

Selectboard Office

I mean, I'm pretty sure, but I have to.

01:46:24 - 01:46:26

Selectboard Office

So Mike, was there something else?

01:46:28 - 01:46:28

Selectboard Office

Yeah, the woods.

01:46:29 - 01:46:29

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:46:29 - 01:46:30

Mike Dondiego

It's.

01:46:30 - 01:46:31

Selectboard Office

Really, you know.

01:46:31 - 01:46:32

Selectboard Office

Something.

01:46:32 - 01:46:33

Mike Dondiego

Ok.

01:46:33 - 01:46:33

Mike Dondiego

Sorry.

01:46:34 - 01:46:35

Selectboard Office

Go ahead.

01:46:35 - 01:46:38

Mike Dondiego

And trying to understand code requirements and so forth.

01:46:39 - 01:46:45

Mike Dondiego

A lot of it is all about containment and so forth if there were an incident there.

01:46:45 - 01:46:50

Mike Dondiego

And if there were an incident there, then that's where some of these other agencies.

01:46:50 - 01:46:51

Selectboard Office

Might get.

01:46:51 - 01:46:54

Mike Dondiego

Involved, right, DEP, right?

01:46:54 - 01:47:05

Mike Dondiego

That truck that tilted over on Cold Street and spilled some hydraulic fluid and diesel, I had to get DEP involved there for the cleanup.

01:47:06 - 01:47:09

Mike Dondiego

So I guess maybe they're not necessarily right off the.

01:47:09 - 01:47:11

Mike Dondiego

Bat, technically involved.

01:47:12 - 01:47:13

Selectboard Office

But.

01:47:13 - 01:47:17

Mike Dondiego

There's somebody I would think we would want to get weighed in at some point.

01:47:17 - 01:47:19

Selectboard Office

On this.

01:47:19 - 01:47:24

Selectboard Office

Well, that happened, that at Cold Street, that was right on a wetland.

01:47:25 - 01:47:27

Selectboard Office

I mean, that was, there's a brook, there's a pond there.

01:47:27 - 01:47:29

Selectboard Office

I mean, that's why that was able to get involved there.

01:47:29 - 01:47:34

Mike Dondiego

Well, the concern there was that it was heading towards a storm.

01:47:34 - 01:47:42

Mike Dondiego

Drain and a fuel and hydraulic fluid spill that we had to contain.

01:47:42 - 01:47:44

Mike Dondiego

And then we had.

01:47:44 - 01:47:44

Selectboard Office

To get them.

01:47:44 - 01:47:45

Mike Dondiego

Involved in the cleanup.

01:47:47 - 01:47:58

Selectboard Office

The other thing town council told me, Mike, was that we're in the process of hiring an engineering firm to do technical review and that they will be able to help us with that question.

01:47:58 - 01:48:19

Selectboard Office

The Board of Health, I believe, I think I got this right in their, in their list of concerns which I believe they, well, my memory is that they asked us to ask the applicant to reach out to DEP and basically ask DEP whether DEP should be involved.

01:48:19 - 01:48:39

Selectboard Office

And we will certainly ask the applicant that, whether they agree to do that, I can't speak but I think that the one of the reason to get technical reviewers involved is

that they know this stuff a lot better than we do and so they can speak to when DEP gets involved.

01:48:39 - 01:48:44

Selectboard Office

My memory of talking with the Board of Health is they said yeah DEP gets involved afterwards.

01:48:44 - 01:48:50

Selectboard Office

They're involved in the cleanup, they're involved in the post issue, not the pre.

01:48:52 - 01:48:55

Selectboard Office

So happily we're not They're there yet.

01:48:58 - 01:48:59

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:49:00 - 01:49:01

Selectboard Office

Anything else Mike?

01:49:02 - 01:49:03

Mike Dondiego

I think that's it for now.

01:49:04 - 01:49:09

Selectboard Office

So I have something for you real quick before while we're speaking.

01:49:09 - 01:49:15

Selectboard Office

I came from a Hilltown ambulance meeting to this meeting.

01:49:16 - 01:49:23

Selectboard Office

And there's just some confusion over an email they sent to you about first responder training.

01:49:24 - 01:49:25

Mike Dondiego

Okay.

01:49:25 - 01:49:31

Selectboard Office

Apparently, Lily Dufresne is interested in the training.

01:49:31 - 01:49:38

Selectboard Office

It's a three-day training and I think she responded saying she wanted to come one of the days.

01:49:38 - 01:49:39

Selectboard Office

Well, it's not a one-day.

01:49:39 - 01:49:40

Mike Dondiego

Training, it's a.

01:49:40 - 01:49:40

Selectboard Office

Three-day training.

01:49:42 - 01:49:46

Mike Dondiego

Right, I had clarified that with Lily that she has to attend all three sessions.

01:49:46 - 01:49:48

Mike Dondiego

It's 24 hours over three days.

01:49:49 - 01:49:58

Selectboard Office

So somebody needs to get back to them by Monday to confirm whether she's coming or not and that we will be paying for the seat.

01:50:01 - 01:50:03

Mike Dondiego

I will follow up with her.

01:50:03 - 01:50:08

Mike Dondiego

I think she was she was contacting Jade Rice who's coordinating that for Hilltown.

01:50:08 - 01:50:09

Selectboard Office

Yeah that's what.

01:50:09 - 01:50:10

Mike Dondiego

I talked to.

01:50:10 - 01:50:14

Selectboard Office

Jade tonight and she's been trying to reach you or her and getting having no luck.

01:50:15 - 01:50:17

Mike Dondiego

Okay I.

01:50:17 - 01:50:18

Selectboard Office

Don't know why.

01:50:18 - 01:50:18

Mike Dondiego

Aren't.

01:50:18 - 01:50:19

Selectboard Office

You trying.

01:50:20 - 01:50:25

Selectboard Office

You're not but you're not Well, four of the other towns are just as difficult.

01:50:25 - 01:50:25

Selectboard Office

So.

01:50:25 - 01:50:27

Selectboard Office

Thank.

01:50:29 - 01:50:29

[speaker unknown]

You.

01:50:31 - 01:50:32

Mike Dondiego

Okay, sure.

01:50:33 - 01:50:34

Selectboard Office

All right, good.

01:50:35 - 01:50:37

Selectboard Office

So something else?

01:50:38 - 01:50:39

Selectboard Office

You have that look on your face.

01:50:39 - 01:50:41

Selectboard Office

I have that look on my face, sorry.

01:50:42 - 01:50:58

Selectboard Office

Oh, I just, Mike reminded me, I had this conversation with town council partially because of a conversation with Mike where he, whatever, was meeting with BlueWid and they've got a fire expert that's talking to Mike.

01:50:59 - 01:51:13

Selectboard Office

And one of the things that the fire expert says that the new fire code, or I don't know what, some aspect of the law around fire says that the fire department needs annual training to deal with battery systems.

01:51:13 - 01:51:16

Selectboard Office

And so this led to this question of like, who pays for that and how do we deal with that?

01:51:16 - 01:51:18

Selectboard Office

So I asked them, Councilman.

01:51:18 - 01:51:30

Selectboard Office

There are a bunch of other things like inspections, There are various required inspections, I can't quite remember, but I feel like you have to inspect it at the start, but also when they change the batteries out, you're supposed to inspect it.

01:51:31 - 01:51:48

Selectboard Office

So there's this sort of ongoing expense around fire stuff, but there's also going to be, there's agricultural production that gets proof of that, or there's a statement around that gets submitted to the state, but we think it should also get submitted to the town, Somebody has to look at that.

01:51:48 - 01:52:46

Selectboard Office

We got to track their their bond values to make sure that they're sort of appropriate and there's a renegotiation there's all these kinds of ongoing not very big but Hard for a little town Somebody I think it was somebody has to do it and that was the question for town council like how do we deal with this and so some of them can be put on to the Site plan review approval if it happens as this notion of conditions And so like the the annual training we can say look this regulation calls for trainings and the applicant agrees to pay those And here's the structure they can use a 53g account like there's all thing there so that can be handled as part of the zoning review But there's other smaller Miscellaneous things that are hard to predict I would say one approach for the town is to come up with some kind of fee and town council's explanation to me which maybe you guys know is a fee is different from taxation.

01:52:46 - 01:52:47

Selectboard Office

Taxation brings.

01:52:47 - 01:52:47

Mike Dondiego

Revenue.

01:52:48 - 01:52:51

Selectboard Office

A fee has to be revenue neutral at least in theory.

01:52:52 - 01:53:04

Selectboard Office

He did talk about a town where they charged \$18 ,000 for sewer hookup which probably cost about \$750 so he's always told them like you probably want to change that it seems a little high someone at some point will complain but far no one has.

01:53:08 - 01:53:19

Selectboard Office

It seems like at some point the select board might want to consider having some kind of licensing fee associated with large-scale solar or batteries or whatever.

01:53:20 - 01:53:21

Selectboard Office

There's no particular timeline.

01:53:21 - 01:53:25

Selectboard Office

It says if you if you do it tomorrow then it'll apply when they open.

01:53:33 - 01:53:41

Selectboard Office

If But I want to do like so could the engineer your hiring help us to assess what those costs will be?

01:53:41 - 01:53:43

Selectboard Office

Help us to figure out how much true examples.

01:53:43 - 01:53:45

Selectboard Office

Yeah, there's got to be stuff out there.

01:53:45 - 01:53:49

Selectboard Office

Yeah, so Write it down.

01:53:52 - 01:53:53

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

01:54:05 - 01:54:06

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:54:14 - 01:54:25

Selectboard Office

So I think so, and Evan and Kate are, I think, joining us at our meeting tomorrow to

help us sort of look at those proposals, and they've been super helpful.

01:54:25 - 01:54:26

Selectboard Office

Let me go up.

01:54:26 - 01:54:26

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:54:26 - 01:54:27

Selectboard Office

Yeah, that's great.

01:54:30 - 01:54:31

Selectboard Office

So the last thing.

01:54:31 - 01:54:32

Selectboard Office

Okay, good.

01:54:34 - 01:54:35

Selectboard Office

Are we meeting in here?

01:54:35 - 01:54:36

Selectboard Office

Are you meeting up there?

01:54:36 - 01:54:37

Selectboard Office

There's yoga in the hall.

01:54:38 - 01:54:39

Selectboard Office

So we'll be in here.

01:54:39 - 01:54:39

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:54:40 - 01:54:42

Selectboard Office

Yeah, be prepared for overflow, I'm sure.

01:54:43 - 01:54:43

Selectboard Office

I'm really sorry.

01:54:44 - 01:54:44

Selectboard Office

Yeah, thank you.

01:54:45 - 01:54:47

Selectboard Office

I'm good at ignoring it.

01:54:49 - 01:54:49

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:54:50 - 01:54:58

Selectboard Office

I mean, we're dwindling here, but if there's people online that are thinking of being at that meeting tomorrow, you might want to be online versus in the room.

01:54:58 - 01:55:01

Selectboard Office

It's your choice, obviously, but the room may get crowded.

01:55:06 - 01:55:15

Selectboard Office

And I'm working really hard to try to improve the sound situation when we meet in the hall on Wednesday and Thursday night, especially for the people online.

01:55:19 - 01:55:20

Selectboard Office

So let's move on here.

01:55:20 - 01:55:21

Selectboard Office

Mark, are you here?

01:55:21 - 01:55:22

Selectboard Office

Are you on the phone?

01:55:22 - 01:55:23

Deb Phillips

Yes, I'm here.

01:55:24 - 01:55:25

Selectboard Office

Ok, great.

01:55:26 - 01:55:28

Selectboard Office

So you asked to be on the agenda.

01:55:29 - 01:55:30

Selectboard Office

You had sent us a.

01:55:30 - 01:55:30

Deb Phillips

Letter.

01:55:30 - 01:55:34

Selectboard Office

About difficulty on a snowy Tuesday.

01:55:35 - 01:55:39

Selectboard Office

Was that two weeks ago, I think, when your oil truck had trouble on Lindsay Hill Road?

01:55:39 - 01:55:40

Selectboard Office

Is that correct?

01:55:41 - 01:55:44

Deb Phillips

Yes, with.

01:55:44 - 01:55:53

Deb Phillips

Propane to be a model to freeze Mr. Brooks out.

01:55:54 - 01:56:12

Deb Phillips

I mean, what's going on here is prior to the Hampshire County government ruling to open up Lindsay Hill Road, The trucks would come in from the town center up past Senas and.

01:56:12 - 01:56:18

Deb Phillips

They'd go up past Henry's and they'd turn around at the turn around while the snow bank would go back out.

01:56:19 - 01:56:32

Deb Phillips

And on the other end they'd come in from 143 and go up past Babcock's, Burke's 217 and they'd turn around and go out.

01:56:33 - 01:56:34

Selectboard Office

Now what's.

01:56:34 - 01:56:37

Deb Phillips

Going on is we got some contractors.

01:56:39 - 01:57:00

Deb Phillips

Subcontractors that maybe they plow, but not in conjunction with the big trucks, and so what happened here was a propane guy came out of Ridge Road, turned down to Buffington-Lindsey Hill Road.

01:57:00 - 01:57:03

Deb Phillips

At Senas, where the maintenance had stopped.

01:57:04 - 01:57:06

Deb Phillips

So he refused delivery.

01:57:09 - 01:57:12

Selectboard Office

So was this in the morning on that Tuesday?

01:57:12 - 01:57:17

Selectboard Office

Because I remember it was snowed overnight that night.

01:57:18 - 01:57:19

Deb Phillips

Yeah, it.

01:57:19 - 01:57:19

Selectboard Office

Was in.

01:57:19 - 01:57:20

Deb Phillips

The morning.

01:57:20 - 01:57:23

Deb Phillips

It was probably at 10 in the morning, something like that.

01:57:25 - 01:57:42

Selectboard Office

So Riala's here, don't need to put you on the spot here and I don't know, and I think Devin was still in charge at that point, I'm not sure, but regardless, I mean obviously there's a rotation as to when you can get to what road, we only have so many trucks and so many cars.

01:57:42 - 01:57:51

Selectboard Office

We start with all the paved roads and we maintain all the paved roads to the best of our ability to get them clear and then we move on to the dirt roads.

01:57:53 - 01:57:56

Selectboard Office

Well, that's because.

01:57:56 - 01:57:59

Deb Phillips

The road doesn't stop at Sena's.

01:58:01 - 01:58:01

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:58:02 - 01:58:03

Selectboard Office

Well, you've got to prioritize.

01:58:04 - 01:58:07

Selectboard Office

You can't plow every road at the same time.

01:58:07 - 01:58:08

Deb Phillips

So, well, what.

01:58:08 - 01:58:09

Selectboard Office

I was.

01:58:09 - 01:58:13

Deb Phillips

Saying, what I was saying to you, Charlie, was that wasn't always the case.

01:58:15 - 01:58:19

Deb Phillips

Lindsay Hill Road is a 66 foot wide county road.

01:58:19 - 01:58:22

Deb Phillips

They were plowing it with big trucks.

01:58:23 - 01:58:30

Deb Phillips

There is no issue why that big truck is turning around at Sena's and not going through.

01:58:33 - 01:58:36

Selectboard Office

Wasn't that plowed with a big truck on December 22nd, Priya?

01:58:37 - 01:58:37

Selectboard Office

No.

01:58:43 - 01:58:47

Selectboard Office

That the big truck went down on the 22nd of December?

01:58:47 - 01:58:48

Selectboard Office

Oh, yes.

01:58:48 - 01:58:49

Selectboard Office

Yes.

01:58:51 - 01:58:54

Selectboard Office

So you didn't actually plow the big truck that day?

01:58:54 - 01:58:56

Selectboard Office

The big truck did plow that, yes.

01:58:59 - 01:59:05

Selectboard Office

Just in this separate, I mean, so it came once doing the paved roads, which does end up seeing this.

01:59:06 - 01:59:06

Selectboard Office

Yep.

01:59:06 - 01:59:10

Selectboard Office

And so then proceeded to do something else and came back later did the rest of it?

01:59:10 - 01:59:15

Selectboard Office

We have, so it's not the same material that goes down paved roads as dirt roads.

01:59:15 - 01:59:16

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:59:16 - 01:59:17

Selectboard Office

And you can't have both in the trucks.

01:59:17 - 01:59:18

Selectboard Office

Ah, yeah.

01:59:18 - 01:59:25

Selectboard Office

So you have to take care of the paved roads with more salt and the dirt roads is the sand.

01:59:25 - 01:59:26

Selectboard Office

Right.

01:59:26 - 01:59:31

Selectboard Office

As we can't put the salt on the dirt road to the capacity that we do on the paved roads.

01:59:31 - 01:59:32

Selectboard Office

Makes sense.

01:59:36 - 01:59:37

Selectboard Office

It's just a matter of timing.

01:59:37 - 01:59:40

Selectboard Office

Like I said, you can't follow every road at the same time.

01:59:41 - 01:59:42

Selectboard Office

Something's got to go first.

01:59:42 - 01:59:46

Selectboard Office

And the ones with the most traffic, which are going to be the paved roads, are obviously going to get paved first.

01:59:46 - 01:59:49

Selectboard Office

We have primary, secondary, and tertiary roads.

01:59:51 - 01:59:52

Selectboard Office

And what's going to happen?

01:59:53 - 01:59:55

Selectboard Office

It's a tertiary, it's a dirt road.

01:59:55 - 01:59:55

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:59:58 - 01:59:59

Selectboard Office

So Mark, did they get down there?

02:00:00 - 02:00:00

Selectboard Office

Did you get your delivery?

02:00:02 - 02:00:09

Deb Phillips

Oh, I had to go through another company, because this is a routine.

02:00:09 - 02:00:14

Deb Phillips

Last year, Real Labrie referred to me as the ***** who got the road open.

02:00:15 - 02:00:22

Deb Phillips

And what he didn't realize was the propane driver he was talking with, or maybe he did realize, got fired.

02:00:24 - 02:00:26

Deb Phillips

I'm not going to put up with this.

02:00:27 - 02:00:30

Deb Phillips

This has been going on for too long.

02:00:31 - 02:00:32

Deb Phillips

The trucks used to do it.

02:00:33 - 02:00:35

Deb Phillips

There's no reason why it stopped.

02:00:37 - 02:00:38

Deb Phillips

And for.

02:00:38 - 02:00:38

Selectboard Office

You.

02:00:38 - 02:00:47

Deb Phillips

To say, oh, we use different material, I mean, they were using the trucks before and they didn't have a problem with the material.

02:00:49 - 02:00:57

Deb Phillips

So I'm really at a loss where a truck goes up to Sena's and turns around.

02:00:57 - 02:00:59

Selectboard Office

That could simply.

02:00:59 - 02:01:04

Deb Phillips

Be going forward and finish the job and go right out to 143.

02:01:05 - 02:01:15

Deb Phillips

And to employ third-party contractors I would think would be more expensive and it does an inferior job.

02:01:15 - 02:01:17

Deb Phillips

Cars are sliding off the road.

02:01:19 - 02:01:22

Deb Phillips

And I just think that it doesn't make any sense.

02:01:25 - 02:01:28

Selectboard Office

Okay, we appreciate your comment and they're doing their best.

02:01:28 - 02:01:37

Selectboard Office

We're down one person and we've got a budget that we're trying to keep in line, but we appreciate your concern and we'll try to do a better job.

02:01:37 - 02:01:38

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

02:01:41 - 02:01:44

Selectboard Office

Okay, so we've got some minutes to sign.

02:01:45 - 02:01:46

Selectboard Office

And then we'll get out of here.

02:01:49 - 02:01:52

Selectboard Office

So, I know you described dirt roads as tertiary roads.

02:01:52 - 02:01:58

Selectboard Office

I always think of mine as being like, you know, fourth level, fifth level, just because it's so limited.

02:01:59 - 02:02:00

Selectboard Office

What comes after tertiary?

02:02:01 - 02:02:03

Selectboard Office

You know, something with a four.

02:02:07 - 02:02:08

Selectboard Office

Yeah, what comes after tertiary?

02:02:10 - 02:02:10

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

02:02:12 - 02:02:16

Selectboard Office

Jp, are you leaving town for an extended period?

02:02:16 - 02:02:29

Selectboard Office

So I go away Thursday to Tuesday, Thursday night to Tuesday, and then we're back just long enough to develop the band, and then we go away for the winter.

02:02:30 - 02:02:31

Selectboard Office

We'll miss you.

02:02:31 - 02:02:32

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

02:02:33 - 02:02:33

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

02:02:33 - 02:02:36

Selectboard Office

You won't miss me.

02:02:36 - 02:02:39

Selectboard Office

All right.

02:02:39 - 02:02:42

Selectboard Office

So, that brings up a question.

02:02:42 - 02:02:44

Selectboard Office

When is now meeting this year?

02:02:44 - 02:02:46

Selectboard Office

Well, it's for Saturday, May.

02:02:46 - 02:02:48

Selectboard Office

Okay, I wasn't sure if that was changed now.

02:02:48 - 02:02:50

Selectboard Office

No, no, no.

02:02:51 - 02:02:53

Selectboard Office

So, hang on everybody.

02:02:53 - 02:03:01

Selectboard Office

Just before we adjourn, A, Mike's got his hand up and B, if somebody else has something they wanted to say, then that's certainly going to give you the chance.

02:03:01 - 02:03:03

Selectboard Office

So, Mike, did you have something else?

02:03:03 - 02:03:13

Mike Dondiego

Yeah, Charlie, I just wanted to ask, at one point we were talking about a special town meeting to handle town finances, etc., and I still have one.

02:03:13 - 02:03:13

Selectboard Office

Or.

02:03:13 - 02:03:15

Mike Dondiego

Two items from, you.

02:03:15 - 02:03:18

Selectboard Office

Know, invoices.

02:03:18 - 02:03:21

Mike Dondiego

That I couldn't pay in the 25 time frame.

02:03:22 - 02:03:22

Mike Dondiego

Right.

02:03:23 - 02:03:24

Mike Dondiego

June bills we got.

02:03:24 - 02:03:26

Selectboard Office

Late, I think.

02:03:26 - 02:03:27

Mike Dondiego

I had sent the.

02:03:27 - 02:03:29

Selectboard Office

Info to Paul because.

02:03:29 - 02:03:29

Mike Dondiego

I.

02:03:29 - 02:03:30

Selectboard Office

Have.

02:03:30 - 02:03:30

Mike Dondiego

Two.

02:03:30 - 02:03:31

Selectboard Office

Invoices I.

02:03:31 - 02:03:35

Mike Dondiego

Think I need to still take to some kind of special time meeting to get approved with a.

02:03:35 - 02:03:36

Selectboard Office

Pledge.

02:03:36 - 02:03:41

Mike Dondiego

From this year's budget for bills that were invoiced on last year's.

02:03:43 - 02:04:00

Selectboard Office

So Joe looked at those, I assume those were part of what he was considering and he felt there was nothing that couldn't wait for annual town meeting and that there was no reason that we didn't really need to hold a special time meeting just for not only yours, but there were a few other things.

02:04:01 - 02:04:17

Selectboard Office

And then secondly, we don't know whether the folks that are circulating the solar petition are going to ever turn that in and essentially require us to hold one, in which case we would certainly bring those to that warrant.

02:04:17 - 02:04:19

Mike Dondiego

But are.

02:04:19 - 02:04:21

Selectboard Office

We wrong that your stuff can't wait until annual?

02:04:23 - 02:04:23

Mike Dondiego

No.

02:04:23 - 02:04:23

Selectboard Office

We.

02:04:23 - 02:04:25

Mike Dondiego

Can't, we can't wait.

02:04:26 - 02:04:26

Selectboard Office

Okay.

02:04:26 - 02:04:29

Selectboard Office

Their prior year, their prior year bills, right?

02:04:29 - 02:04:30

Selectboard Office

Not this current year.

02:04:31 - 02:04:32

Selectboard Office

Yes, exactly.

02:04:32 - 02:04:34

Selectboard Office

Yeah, so that's why they have Donnie and Elton.

02:04:34 - 02:04:35

Selectboard Office

Or a special.

02:04:35 - 02:04:36

Selectboard Office

So that's the plan.

02:04:37 - 02:04:41

Selectboard Office

We'll see, we may, you know, end up having a special, whether we want to or not, but.

02:04:41 - 02:04:41

Mike Dondiego

We'll see.

02:04:41 - 02:04:43

Mike Dondiego

Okay, all right, no, that was.

02:04:43 - 02:04:44

Mike Dondiego

It, thank you.

02:04:44 - 02:04:44

Selectboard Office

All right, cool.

02:04:45 - 02:04:47

Selectboard Office

Anybody else have anything before we sign off?

02:04:48 - 02:04:49

Selectboard Office

Okay, thanks, everyone.

02:04:50 - 02:04:52

Mike Dondiego

Thanks everybody, have a good night.

02:04:52 - 02:04:52

Selectboard Office

You too.