

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #13-20
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020
6:30 PM

This meeting was held online/virtually, using Zoom teleconferencing

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
John Egan, 38 Curtis Road (Chair)	x		
Eric Horne, 62 Pine Street	x		
Henry Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road	x (arrived at 7:02)		
Daniel Piltch, 25 Quarry Lane	x		
Douglas Reighley, 2 Harbor Ridge Road	x		
Sarah Tracy, 2 Pettengil Road	x		
Tawni Whitney, 56 Baldwin Road (Vice Chair)	x		

Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via zoom and welcomed everyone. He explained the process for members of the public who wish to participate this evening. He took the roll. He expects Councilor Lawrence will be attending but all other Councilors checked in as well as Town Manager, Peter Joseph.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Egan urged everyone to direct their eyes to Councilor Whitney who is holding the flag. The Pledge was recited.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #12-20 held on May 19, 2020 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the Minutes of Meeting #12-20 held on May 19, 2020 and accept the Minutes as printed. (Reighley & Tracy) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements

Chair Egan advised that yesterday he, the Town Manager and the Police Chief worked on a statement that is on the Town's website related to the situations that are going on in cities and states across the country as a result of the situation in Minneapolis. He read the statement into the public record

- The Freeport Community Library book drop has reopened and is planning to provide curbside pickup starting on Monday June 8th, 2020. The Library has put together a virtual Summer Reading and Math Program for kids and teens which started June 1st. For more information on the Library, go to their page on the town's website at www.freeport-maine.com.
- There will be a SHELLFISH LOTTERY on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. for the following Commercial Licenses:

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- (1) Resident Adult Commercial Shellfish License
- (1) Resident Student Commercial Shellfish License (age 14 to 26)
- (2) Non-Resident Adult Commercial Licenses

Applications will be available on the Town of Freeport website or can be mailed upon request. Applications may only be received June 1-15, 2020. Please inquire with the Town Clerk 865-4743 x123 as to special requirements for Students.

- The Primary and RSU5 Budget Validation Election will be held on July 14th, 2020. Absentee ballots are now available by going to <https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> or contacting the Town Clerk at 865-4743 x123.

Please be aware that due to the pandemic, the Annual Clean Up Days which usually occur in June have been postponed. Currently plans are being made to reschedule the Clean Up Days for some time in the fall.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange

Chair Egan pointed out that Suki Rice has stepped down from the Sustainability Committee to focus on health issues. He acknowledged her service for many years on this Committee as well as many other Freeport activities. Josh Olins noted the amazing work that Suki has done for our town, our state and our planet. He felt fortunate to have been able to work with her for five years. She has been instrumental in the plastic bag ban, solarize Freeport and some of the other solar projects, electric vehicles, composting, lectures and the Youth Climate event she and her husband hosted. He has such awe and respect for her professionalism, personal strength and calm attitude.

Councilor Reighley pointed out that Suki taught piano lessons to his daughters for many years. She has done a lot for Freeport. On today's agenda for the Complete Streets Committee, they are continuing to work on the policy that will eventually come to the Council. He appreciated that Chair Egan was also in attendance for that meeting. He feels they went much further than they thought they could. He feels when the document comes out, it will be well presented. It will move through the Ordinance Committee and then hopefully will be recommended by the Ordinance Committee to the Council.

Vice Chair Whitney advised that she attended a FEDC meeting and was able to update them that the Council did approve funding to consider a consultant to help re-envision downtown and bring life back down there. The FEDC group was very pleased to hear that. They also had a meeting to start gathering local key players for their input on the vision going forward. At the FEDC meeting they discussed and finetuned the loan program to help local small businesses. Hopefully that will be approved at tonight's Council meeting. She also attended a meeting on opening up downtown with the Chief herself. They discussed one-way streets, closing Main Street for a weekend and a lot of work has already gone into that. Caroline Pelletier was also in attendance with the hope of opening on July 1st.

Councilor Tracy mentioned that she attended the PACTS Executive Committee meeting this morning. Towns are not sure but are looking at whether there may be additional federal funding for municipal and city projects coming out of stimulus funding related to the COVID-10 pandemic. On the docket today it was clear that cities like Portland and Biddeford are identifying shovel-ready projects that aren't yet funded but will be when and if that money becomes available. Money is not available yet and it is unclear if it will become available. She reached out to our Town Manager and Town Engineer today to start that discussion. She hopes we will be well positioned to be in that line if and when the money becomes

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available and we have projects that fit the bill. She also attended the neighborhood meeting of the Wolfe Neck Club last night on economic development in Freeport. There is a lot of interest and a lot of concern with the state of our downtown which obviously was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. They helped them by communicating to them how they could participate in the efforts to revitalize downtown. There is clearly a lot of interest and it underscores the work we are doing in the near term by closing down Main Street and opening it up for businesses to sell their wares. It also supports the work we have dedicated to the funds for a consultant to re-vision Freeport for the next steps. She wanted to let the Council know that residents are paying attention and are very interested in this topic.

Councilor Piltch noted he has information on the loan program but the Council does not need to take action because we previously approved \$100,000 for small businesses impacted by the pandemic. He, Vice Chair Whitney, Keith McBride and Mary Davis from FEDC have met a few times to determine the details around the loan program and how it would be administered. They are hoping to have an application within a day or so and able to accept applications on June 8th. As applications come in, they will convene and review them. The loans would be for up to \$5,000 a piece but businesses would be eligible to come back again after waiting 60 days. The initial loan would be for \$5,000 with an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000. There would be no interest for 24 months and no payments for the first 6 of those months. After those 6 months, it would be 18 months to pay it back. This is for small for-profit businesses that are not part of a franchise or larger organization in general who have been affected by the pandemic. Businesses owned by employees of the Town of Freeport or FEDC are not eligible to receive any funds. The loans are not for home occupations. There are documents that will be required such as tax returns, financial statements, etc. They propose that there will be a loan committee of three. Two members from the Council and one from FEDC. Any small business with a long-standing history in Freeport will be given priority. The Town will administer the loans. He pointed out that when the Council initially approved the funds, there was discussion about an initial \$50,000 allocation and up to \$50,000 in matching funds to be raised privately. What we wound up approving that night was actually \$100,000 so we need to scale that back to the original \$50,000 plus \$50,000 only if it is matched. That is something we should discuss but if there is no opposition, he will assume we have the full \$100,000. He asked if there are any objections or questions.

Chair Egan thanked Councilor Piltch for that work. He expects that he will see some applicants. Mr. Joseph noted he has the loan program document and offered to put it up so everyone could look at it. Councilor Tracy asked how businesses will find out about this program. Councilor Piltch advised that FEDC has offered to get the word out. Councilor Tracy suggested asking the Chamber to send it out to their membership. Vice Chair Whitney added that Visit Freeport, the Chamber and FEDC felt they could get in touch with all the businesses and would have a few people make personal calls.

Councilor Horne advised that he met with the Active Living Committee and they will be meeting again on Thursday. They have a mapping effort going on to identify the assets Freeport has as a community and put them in a visual product of some kind. Some work is happening with the Town Engineer so he asked the Council to stay tuned for material coming to that effect. He feels it is refreshing to be having conversations on topics that are not necessarily about COVID but about things the Town will be doing when we are all on the other side of this.

Councilor Piltch mentioned he has questions for Chief Nourse. He has been getting questions and comments from constituents about what has been going on in Minneapolis. While it hasn't been a big issue in Freeport, he wants that to continue to be the case. He feels it is a good time to sit and pause and reflect how we do things. He read an e-mail into the public record he sent to the Chief asking for a workshop in the next week or so with the Council. Chair Egan noted that he feels we should do something like this to stem off immediately the tendency for people to make a general assumption that they see certain things happening with police work and police enforcement in other cities in completely different

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circumstances. It is extremely important for our community to know specifically what our officers are trained to do and how we respond to things and the relationship that our officers have to our community which he believes is very strong and positive. He is hoping we can engage that dialogue. Our police force is a vital part of our community and it would be great for more people to understand and be able to ask questions towards that end.

Chief Nourse thanked Councilor Piltch for starting this conversation. She is very interested in doing this and responded to him with a yes and let's talk tomorrow about a date, time and format that makes sense. Education and conversation about what police do and how they get trained and interact with the community is what she is about. It is an important conversation to have especially in these times. She is happy to participate in that.

NOTE: Chair Egan welcomed Councilor Lawrence at 7:02 p.m.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Manager's Report

Mr. Joseph reported that he and the Police Chief have had several conversations on what is going on in the community. He is happy that our department is taking this seriously. There is nothing drastically wrong right now at least we are aware of but if we can be careful to examine and see if there are things we can improve; this is not the time to be complacent and say something like that will never happen in Maine. Now is the time to look at our operations and identify ahead of time. He thanked the Chief and department for taking it seriously.

Town Hall is now open to the public. Mr. Joseph apologized for the wait because there has been a crush of people trying to register their new car or boats. We are getting caught up on those so as the days go on, the lines get less and less. He described the safety procedures that have been put in place. They are following the State guidelines which requires mask use inside or where you can't maintain physical separation from people. Employees are willing to wait on people outside if they are unable to wear a mask or have medical conditions and would be afraid to come into Town Hall. Just let them know and they will try to wait on anyone with the least amount of exposure. He noted the on-line services listed on the Town's website. He thanked the public for their patience.

There is contactless curbside service at the Community Library as of Monday, June 8th. Details are on the Town's website under Municipal News section. There is a graphic showing where you can pull up and have curbside delivery. He is working with the Library staff to develop a plan for opening to full customer use inside. They are working towards getting small tables set up outside and making sure WIFI is available outside since we can't let people into the Library directly. The Children's summer reading program will start on June 15th.

Mr. Joseph thanked the staff working in the business community on exploring what Main Street usage and potential vehicle closure would look like. They have had two meetings with the business group working on this with business groups. There is a Town Staff group working on this and are hoping to have a proposal to bring in front of the Council at the next Council meeting. Some combination of Chamber, Visit Freeport and FEDC will be doing business outreach to Main Street businesses that would be potentially affected by this to get feedback directly from them before any plan is put forward. It is moving forward and they are hoping to have something to the Council quickly. The whole goal is to allow continued access to businesses with people being spread out. There will be places for people to walk with more space to walk around.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Public Comment Period – (30 Minutes) (Non-Agenda Items Only)

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Chair Egan invited members of the public to speak.

Amy Sheehan introduced her son, Finn Sheehan and explained that they want to discuss the renewal of his Student Commercial Harvesting License. Mr. Joseph advised that Mrs. Sheehan has reached out to a few Councilors on this so a few people know about this. This came up after the agenda was published. The question is whether the Council would be willing to look at allowing a student commercial shellfish license that came in after the due date to be processed. The Ordinance does not allow it. He asked where it should be placed on tonight's agenda. Councilor Piltch suggested taking this up after the Public Comment Period. Councilor Horne agreed with Councilor Piltch. Chair Egan asked if there are any other members of the public wishing to speak.

Keith McBride of FEDC wanted to commend the Council. He has lots of conversations with local businesses lately and a lot of them have been asking what is the Town doing. They understand that a lot of what they have had to deal with over the past few months has been handed down from Augusta. He made the point to them that the Town is really doing everything it can to try to work with businesses through this difficulty and being very understanding of it. He commended the Council for taking the extra effort to try to make it easier for businesses in this difficult time. A lot of communities are not making the extraordinary efforts we are and it sends a powerful message about Freeport and our business community. On behalf of them he will say thank you. He knows there is a lot of work yet to do. Mr. Joseph noted that we would do whatever we can.

There were no other public comments provided so Mrs. Sheehan and Finn were brought back. Chair Egan advised that everyone got the communication from Chris Wolfe that laid this out succinctly. Mr. Joseph suggested that the Council could take up an order specifying that this application be handled differently. Under a legal challenge he didn't think it would be a problem but using common sense, it is a fair way to handle the issue. If the Council would want to take up the request under order, that we not advertise that position, we not hold a lottery for that position and allow them to apply late, that is one way it can be addressed. There is not a formal process laid out on how to handle this. Chair Egan asked Chris Wolfe approximately how many applications do we get each year for the student license. Ms. Wolfe advised that last year we got 2 or 3. This year she has run the ad and announced it and she has not received any yet but they still have a 2-week period in which to submit. She noted that the student license is not the coveted license. It is the adult license that are super coveted and she has a stack of maybe 10 for the adult licenses already. She estimates getting 30 or 40 applications for the adult licenses, both resident and non-resident. She explained that the Shellfish Committee makes a recommendation to DMR each year on the number of licenses we should have. When Finn didn't renew, we moved forward thinking we were going to have that license available for the lottery.

Councilor Reighley noted he heard tonight that the lottery will take place for the student license and Chris indicated it was posted knowing there was a vacancy and we have gone past the filing period for people who had licenses in the past. It is pretty clear in our Ordinance stating they had the right to apply but need to apply before something happens but it didn't happen so they should fall right into the lottery.

Councilor Tracy suggested giving Finn an opportunity to make a statement. Finn explained that he was very caught up in the on-line schooling and actually went to the Town Hall twice but it was closed both times. He was overwhelmed trying to get all his school work done in order to graduate this year. What was on his mind was graduating, not renewing his license and he was a couple of days late. Clamming has always been his summer job Downeast and now he doesn't have any other job options. He is hoping to pay for some of his tuition to Bridgton Academy next year and this job would really help. He likes clamming and it was a bummer when he heard he couldn't get his license back.

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Councilor Tracy advised that the Council has two options. It can give hard love or show a little mercy. She feels their whole world has been turned upside down and she doesn't think it is the only reason but it is not insignificant either. She feels people learn from mistakes like this and the Council should show a little grace and let a hard-working young man earn a living particularly with the aspect that nobody else has applied yet. Under these unusual circumstances she feels entirely comfortable making an exception in this case even if it would not hold up at the Supreme Court. She doesn't think anyone will challenge it.

Councilor Whitney agreed with Councilor Tracy as well and would be in favor of letting Finn have his license. Councilor Pilch mentioned that he spoke to Finn on the phone earlier today and also got a call from another constituent in support of Finn and what he was trying to do. He reached out to the Harbormaster. He noted that normally applications are due in April but the Council decided to postpone the date for applications. He commended the Town Clerk for doing everything right and proper. In light of the fact that things are very unusual this year, he would be willing to make an exception. He congratulated Finn for graduating.

Councilor Horne pointed out that he served as Chair of the Shellfish Committee for a long time and the Student License Program came about a number of years ago. It has had a varying degree of interest throughout the years. He is willing to make an exception but feels it is important for Finn going down the road to recognize that these are really hard deadlines and it is tough to make exceptions. He, too, has a Senior and it has been a very difficult road for these kids. He thinks it is appropriate to give a little in this situation. Councilor Lawrence noted these are unprecedented times. He was only a day or two over the line and said he tried to go into Town Hall but it was closed. He made an attempt. He is in favor of granting the license.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To make an exception by allowing Finn Sheehan to renew the Student Shellfish License even though the deadline was missed that the Student Shellfish License be allowed to be applied for renewal and that the advertising and the position not be put out for lottery. (Reighley & Tracy)

Finn thanked the Council and noted this was a really good life lesson for him.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Nays-Reighley & Egan).

Chair Egan pointed out that he hopes Finn pays attention to deadlines in the future. State applications and permits, etc. have really hard deadlines. He congratulated him on his graduation. Councilor Tracy pointed out that she hopes he thanks his mother and grandmother who advocated on his behalf this afternoon. Mr. Joseph thanked the Town Clerk for her attention to detail and wants there to be transparency. He appreciates it so much.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: To take action on the following items of business as read by the Council Chairperson:

ITEM # 95-20 To consider action relative to adopting the June 2, 2020 Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That June 2, 2020 Consent Agenda be adopted. (Egan & Horne)

Chair Egan reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for members of the public. Councilor Horne

recognized Kate Rosenfeld's contributions to the Sustainability Committee. She has been fantastic and they have done a lot of hard work over the last several years that she has been participating. She should be

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commended for her service and Chair Egan echoed that having served with her on that committee for years. He is sorry to see her go.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM 96-20

To consider action relative to the temporary Suspension of Certain Ordinance Standards to Safely Accommodate Expanded Outdoor Business Activities due to COVID-19, previously approved by the Town Council on 05/19/20. PUBLIC HEARING."

MOVED AND SECONDED: to open the public hearing. (Whitney & Piltch)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Mr. Joseph did not have anything to add but **wanted the Town Planner to provide a 30-second update on what action we have already had under this in terms of applications, etc.** Chair Egan invited members of the public interested in speaking.

Amanda Kent mentioned that as a business owner in Freeport, they appreciate the Council's consideration on this matter. Most businesses are struggling with the concept of how they go about proceeding to be open, safe, serve Freeport and allow people to come in in a safe manner and support the State of Maine as well. It's been a struggle to figure out the best way to do that. She feels that expanding the exterior and outdoor option, it at least gives an option for very small businesses to consider a safe way to present merchandise for people to purchase. She wanted to acknowledge they appreciate the Town trying to make an effort towards small businesses. She encouraged the Council to consider extending it throughout the summer. They are afraid that the continuation of growth of COVID is going to happen with so many summer people coming in. Having a tent outside to be able to at least manage the quantity of people that come into their business is really critical. The restaurant is another big issue. Everyone that works for them is over 65 so they are all at risk and they don't want to be putting their employees in that situation or other members of Freeport or visitors that come to town. She supports what the Council is doing.

Mr. Joseph clarified that extending it through the summer, the intent was to consider extending it when it was passed. The Council only has two-month emergency ordinance authority but they are allowed to re-extend an ordinance several times or unlimited so they can re-up the emergency ordinance when it expires in two months. If it works, Staff will bring it back to Council at the second meeting in July. That is the intent.

MOVED AND SECONDED: to close the public hearing. (Whitney & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

Town Planner, Caroline Pelletier explained that this past week she got some calls. There is some confusion from the business community. People thought this change was a directive from the Governor so she did have to clarify that the ordinance the Council enacted is really just to help them from the Municipal level with our regulations. She attended the Freeport Business Community COVID Response panel and got to answer questions from about 20 members of the business community which she felt was a good opportunity. We have four applications that have already been processed and we have two more that are pending. We are having an issue that everything is not coming in at one time from the applicants. They are trickling in. We have approved two breweries for outdoor seating. We have a retailer that wants outdoor tents for outdoor retail sales. The biggest retailer that was approved was for Berenson and the Denney Block. They have been approved for outdoor seating, some temporary signs and a large area for outdoor sales. They approached us about changing an existing loading area for curbside parking. She

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worked with the appropriate Town departments they were able to make that happen and signed off on it today. Stuff is happening. She hopes that as many more businesses re-open in the next two weeks, we will see more requests come in to further support them.

Councilor Horne asked what has been the reaction to the idea of closing Route One. Mrs. Pelletier replied that reactions have been mixed. Some people support it for mostly on a weekend. There is a level of unknown. How many people will be in Freeport a month from now. She is working closely with the group that is going to bring something to the Council. Sue Nourse has been in close contact with MDOT. She is hoping to get some maps out. It seems that this is something that the residents are in favor of for the most part. Councilor Horne asked if MDOT is aware of what we are cooking up. Mrs. Pelletier feels that they seem to be willing to work with communities to help in the economic recovery. Mr. Joseph added that MDOT seems to be open to everything that is within our realm of consideration at this point. Chair Egan noted that this is moving forward and we can put it as an update on subsequent meetings as the summer goes forward. He thanked Mrs. Pelletier for her work.

ITEM # 97-20 To consider action relative to FY21 Operating, Capital and TIF Budget. PUBLIC HEARING.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the public hearing. (Reighley & Piltch)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0) Nays)

No public comments were received.

Finance Director, Jessica Maloy advised that everything will be handled under Other Business.

MOTION: To close the public hearing. (Reighley & Lawrence)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0) Nays)

ITEM # 98-20 To consider action relative to a Use of Town Property request from Freeport Yoga Company.

BE IT ORDERED: That the Use of Town Property request from Freeport Yoga Company for the use of Leon Gorman Park be approved. (Piltch & Reighley)

Mr. Joseph explained that this is at 81 Bow Street and in June and August on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. Yoga in the Park. The maximum size of the class is for ten people and will not be taking over the whole park. It is a registration class but the public can sign up.

Councilor Horne did not have any objection to this.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0) Nays)

ITEM # 99-20 To consider action relative to awarding the construction contract for the West Street Culvert Replacement project.

BE IT ORDERED: That J Pratt Construction be awarded the construction contract for the West Street Culvert Replacement project in the amount of \$261,000

Note: This project is primarily grant funded. The local grant match in the amount of \$75,000 is available through the Concord Gully Brook Watershed Restoration

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Capital Program funded in prior fiscal years. (Horne & Reighley)

Town Engineer, Adam Bliss explained that this project is an opportunity to do some significant stream restoration work in the Concord Gully Brook watershed. It is considered one of, if not the highest priority project in our Watershed Management Plan. We are fortunate that we can apply two grants to pay for this piece of work and the majority of the funds are paid through a grant with a \$75,000 match as a local match. The money was previously appropriated in other fiscal years so this project is fully funded. He mentioned there is a window between July 15 and September 30 to complete the work according to Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It would require the closure of West Street from the Woodlawn Cemetery to South Street and would impact two houses on that street. He will be reaching out to them personally and there will be detour signs. Reaching out to homeowners always goes a long way in terms of building rapport and support. Councilor Piltch asked Mr. Bliss if he plans to send out notification to other neighborhoods who normally use West Street to get to town. Mr. Bliss would be happy to send out notifications to abutters and fully expecting to use electronic message boards to communicate to the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes)

Chair Egan noted it is nice to know we can award this bid and know that the funds have already been appropriated.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Liquor License signing authority

Chair Egan asked if the purpose of this is to lighten the load of these things appearing on Council agendas. Mr. Joseph advised that the Council will still approve liquor licenses but default by State Law is that the majority of the Council or all those voting on the license when it is granted on the first issuance have to physically sign the license in renewal years. The Town Clerk can sign the license and send it to the State. The Council would still have to approve the license. We have had to chase down signed liquor licenses before because they get passed down and they end up in somebody's pile of meeting materials at the end of the meeting. This would do away with that process and let the Town Clerk do a verified and certified statement that the Council approved it at the meeting. He doesn't see any reason not to do this. He would want a motion and an action item since there is a legal citation that needs to be put in the agenda. Councilors indicated that they were not opposed.

2. Discussion regarding reopening of campsites at Winslow Memorial Park.

Neil Lyman advised that he sent the Council a list of precautions and changes he would be making going forward. His biggest issue right now is getting staff back on. Currently it is he and one of his rangers taking care of parking enforcement so he needs to get people back in to get things going again. He feels he needs to expand their limited parking a bit. They have been enforcing it really heavily the past few weekends. He has seen a lot of people coming in one person per car, they can fit 50 cars in the parking lot and they have 70-80 people in the whole park. He feels he can bring parking forward a bit to allow people to use it without it being quite as condensed. He hopes the Council has read through what he sent out. It will take a week or two weeks to get it going but he feels it will work out okay. He recommends no same day requests for reservations with a minimum of 24 hours. When someone makes a reservation, they can post their paperwork on a bulletin board. When they pull in, they will be advised to go there to get their paperwork and go directly to their campsite. There won't be any interaction between anybody. He will have somebody drive around and check people in in the afternoon. He has seen a fair amount of demand but not as much as he would have expected. He feels a lot of people are still staying in and not jumping to

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get out. He is seeing a lot of calls from the same people over and over that really want to get out. It is not to the extent he thought it would be.

Chair Egan asked what the pet policy is at the park and if it has been an issue in the past. Neil feels that dogs are an issue they always deal with. They have had to enforce it more this year because they don't have people in the campground. They have had to talk to people having dogs off leash more than normal and it has been a constant for decades. It is a hard transition from off leash to on leash.

Councilor Horne noted he is glad that the parking lot will be opened up some more. He has had some folks asking him if it was going to happen. When folks are there with boats, they are taking up a lot of parking and they are not at the park. They are out on their boats. He asked Neil when he is doing his density calculations and figuring out how much more parking to open up, if there is a way to factor in the boat part of the equation, the more room the better for trailers, particularly the larger ones that need turnarounds. This is feedback from constituents and thoughts for him to think about. Neil agreed that it is a problem but a lot of the parking lot is used for kayak and boat trailer parking. He does need to take that into consideration but doesn't feel he should open up the entire part for parking right away but feels he can expand it to accommodate that and make things easier. Councilor Horne noted he is part of the problem since he has a boat trailer down there.

Councilor Reighley asked if all seasonal campsites get taken this year. Neil advised that they did not. He does not have regular bookings open yet. This year will be a slow start. They will have about nine seasonal sites open next year.

Councilor Tracy asked Neil if he is having staff issues due to health concerns. Neil is worried about staffing. He has a couple of college students that might work out and he has lined up the ones willing to come back. He feels it will be a bit of a struggle at first. Councilor Tracy noted she is aware that for upper level high school kids and college kids the bottom of the market has just fallen out. They have no job prospects with restaurants being closed. She encouraged Neil to not replace his employees but while they are not comfortable coming back, maybe we can employ people in our youth who really need something to do. Mr. Joseph noted that he can work with Neil if he can identify some employment opportunities there. He asked Neil to let him or Judy Hawley know what he needs so they can advertise for that. He is confident that there will be a large segment of the job seeking population that would be interested in temporary employment. Neil feels he can scrape up some supervisory staff that if he has some high school/college age he could make it work. He will discuss with the Town Manager how to deal with cash at the gatehouse. Councilor Tracy explained what is working at Bradbury Mountain State Park. Neil noted he has options and can figure it out. Neil advised that he would like to make reservations available as of Monday, June 8th and let some of the Maine seasonals come in early as of a week from Friday or next Wednesday or Thursday. He would like to start next weekend if people are okay with it. He will work as fast as he can.

3. Discussion on the Governor's 14-day quarantine for summer visitors

Chair Egan explained that the discussion item was simply to see if there is any appetite for our Council to reach out to other communities along the coast that have a high concentration of hospitality businesses and see if collectively there would be any interest in those communities that are dramatically impacted by the lack of a summer visitor economy. Making a more specific request through the Department of Economic Community Development towards the Governor to have a discussion about different ways to manage what is currently now a 14-day quarantine. He has had ten constituents call him and ask him to bring it up. We do not have control here in town in terms of managing how we collectively or individually as businesses respond to Executive Orders and Directives from the State. We do not have jurisdiction for

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those but we can speak. He wanted to have a short conversation about that and the reason he wanted to see if there is any discussion is because there was an interesting point made to him that various segments of the Maine economy have been open all the way through COVID shutdown. Various segments of the economy have been given direction on how to function with managing their customers and social distancing at their place of business while other segments, rightfully so, have been closed due to the high risk of transmission. He is far from any kind of a public health source and is not proposing that we counter or come up with some particular public health recommendation. He is asking if there is any interest in our group here collectively joining with other communities that are going to be dramatically impacted in the hospitality sector in their business communities with the 14-day quarantine for out of state visitors. That is the reason and context for this particular item. He is simply asking if we want to reach out to other communities and have a louder voice to share with the Governor about being able to manage the summer economy in these extraordinary times.

Councilor Reighley advised that he would be happy to contact GPCOG on this. He feels we have a good group with GPCOG in this area but asked about the Maine Municipal Association. Chair Egan noted there are business groups that the collective voice of these towns could speak to and speak through as well. He is looking to have a conversation. He has not concluded that we are going to say this or say that. He just wanted to raise the topic and see what other Councilors are thinking.

Councilor Tracy mentioned that she, too, does not want to contravene the Governor's Executive orders but feels there are people better educated on public health than her but from the seat she sits which is to help guide our town forward, it does seem like small local businesses are being disproportionately impacted by this shutdown. We have had large businesses deemed essential during this entire time and she thinks it is important in the balancing that the State has to do is hear from cities and towns such as ours on behalf of our businesses voice our concerns about the impact that that has had on the people that have invested in our town by opening a business and employing people here. She feels entirely comfortable, words matter and it matters how we do it. She doesn't want to undermine the State's decision but feels comfortable with us participating in a letter of concern about the impact of this policy on our local economy, our small businesses, our residents and our taxpayers.

Councilor Pilch noted he is always in favor to discuss and learn more especially when other folks are having similar problems in their towns. He would like to consider anything before lending our voice or stamp of approval to might what come up. He does not want to presume that by having the discussion we are lending our voice but would like to hear what other voices are saying.

Councilor Horne asked if the thinking here is specifically on the Governor's 14-day quarantine, not any other elements in the Governor's position on COVID. Chair Egan didn't feel it was specifically limited to that. That was the context that this item was even on our agenda that he was hearing from constituents asking him how some businesses could open and manage people going into their business or shop and the hospitality business can't. The message to 14-day quarantine is without specific direction on how you do that, who is going to enforce it, when does it start, does it start when you get here, does it start when you sign into your room. The business owners in this sector are asking for guidance and as yet none has been offered. He is responding to what people have been asking him. The 14-day quarantine is the lightning rod that brought it forward. Councilor Horne noted he does not have a problem communicating Freeport's concerns but at the end of the day, the public health piece is going to trump all of us. It seems to be the way the Governor is moving at this point. He is not opposed to a conversation but does not want Freeport to be leading a charge that is contrary to what our Governor is trying to do for the state at large.

Keith McBride noted that FEDC put out a statement dated May 7th where they addressed their concerns about the 14-day quarantine and the impact it will have. In a word, it is devastating on Freeport businesses, particularly hospitality. He thought he sent it to the Council but is happy to send it again. He

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explained what it contained and how it was supported by our businesses. At a meeting of the State and local Chamber of Commerce Directors this morning, details were discussed of an alternative plan to the 14-day quarantine. He spent a good portion of today rallying members of our local hospitality group to have a private meeting with Commissioner Johnson and share the details of that plan so that they could speak with her. That is coming at the request of Commissioner Johnson and Speaker Sara Gideon. There is a lot going on behind the scenes on this and he was asked to not speak about a lot of the details publicly. He wants the Council to know that the timing is good on this. There is some action and some attention at the State level to alleviate some of the issues with that 14-day quarantine specifically on hospitality. He will circulate the FEDC statement on Governor Mills' plan to the Council tomorrow. It might present some groundwork from which to craft a statement or position from the Council. He asked the Council to stay tuned. Freeport is very much involved in working on the challenge to hospitality on this quarantine and trying to get a better option.

Chair Egan asked if Mr. McBride sees a channel for municipalities to aggregate together like a Chamber of Commerce to have a channel to be able to address things from a municipal perspective about businesses that have invested in our community and are paying taxes. We are trying to find a way to go to bat for them. He asked if Mr. McBride sees an opportunity for municipalities to have a similar concerted voice the way the business industry does. Mr. McBride advised that municipalities have an obligation at this point to inform Augusta the collapse of a lot of their commercial properties will impact their ability to provide municipal services if none of those commercial properties are able to make their tax obligations which is something he is hearing from a lot of them. The impact on the town of Freeport would be drastic and Augusta will feel the brunt of that as well so they better be thinking about what happens if. Freeport has an opportunity to say, this is how it affects us and we have municipal services to provide that are critical to our community and here is how it impacts our ability to do that. He feels it is an important step in this process that probably isn't being talked about enough. It needs to be discussed and he hopes that Augusta is conscious of it.

Councilor Tracy asked Mr. McBride if he has a sense of the timeline in which we might hear more of this alternative plan. Mr. McBride did not have a sense on the timeframe but a lot of the actions are very sensitive to the fact that we are already in what should be the beginning of a very busy tourist season. Every day that goes by is another opportunity lost. In his opinion, it is unfortunate it has taken this long to start looking at other options.

Councilor Reighley stated that we really don't know what took place today but we could really have things cleaned up in a hurry if they are going to waive the 14-day quarantine because they will be able to test. Councilor Lawrence mentioned that we talk about property taxes but think of the sales tax revenue we will be losing since hospitality puts a lot of taxes into the coffers. We have a lot more information about COVID now than we did three months ago. Social distancing seems to be working.

Mr. Joseph advised that he is more concerned about the State revenue than the local revenue. The local revenue disruption would be temporary and a sting to residential property owners. Municipalities in general aren't going to blink when a few hotels go out of business in their communities. It will be a temporary cash flow problem. From the State perspective, he is hugely concerned because what will happen here with higher State expenditures because of COVID-19, unemployment, things like that. Without generating that revenue at the State level really scares him if that means things are going to be shifted down from the State level to municipalities from above. If there is no attention being paid to this right now because of the fact the State is missing out on tens or potentially hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue by the time this thing is over, he doesn't know what will get the attention from an economic standpoint. It is a big chunk of State revenue right there and that is his point. It concerns us and we should be concerned from the Town level but the State should be downright scared without that money flowing into State coffers and with higher expenditures and outlays.

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Councilor Whitney agreed with most everything that has been said tonight and feels a respectful word is something she would be willing to put her name behind. She feels there is a face of Freeport she wants to save. She wants to save the hotels, the little shops, the big shops and there is an urgency. If anyone goes to Topsham, it is wide open and it is hard for us to hold back so tightly when our neighbors are footloose and fancy free and there is such an urgency and the businesses that are open are doing a fantastic job.

Chair Egan noted he would take this conversation and move it forward in coordination and potentially with GPCOG and the other managers to start with and see if we can craft up a draft message that will be back in front of the Council before it gets transmitted. Two weeks might be too long of a time but we can at least share the message before it goes forward so we can amplify the voice of the municipalities being affected by this. He asked Mr. McBride to provide a little guidance on the channels we can transmit this through. Mr. McBride indicated he would be glad to help. Chair Egan thanked everyone for the conversation.

4. Continuing workshop on FY21 Operating, Capital, and TIF budget.

Chair Egan noted that the Council made it most of the way through the Operating Budget at its last meeting on the 19th of May.

Finance Director, Jessica Maloy mentioned that the only section the Council did not get through was the Revenues for the Operating Budget. She referred to page 44 of the packets provided. In looking at it there are some minor changes here and there. For exercise tax revenue she increased it by \$100,000. She decreased the State Revenue sharing by \$100,000 so those two items wash. One of the only other items of interest is the addition of FEMA money of \$40,000. That is a direct asset to anticipated expenses to the Town for PPE supplies we are anticipating will be incurred. This line will only be used if the expenditure line is used. It is basically to make it a zero impact to the taxpayers for the purchase of those supplies with potential reimbursement from FEMA down the road. She referred to the last page of Revenues. Interest on investment she increased it significantly by \$55,000 based on the rate environment. We went from really being able to ramp up and was seeing great numbers in 2019, and conservatively increasing it in 2020. At this point she is very grateful because we will meet our budgeted revenues and will exceed them for interest income. She is glad she didn't increase it last year because as everyone know, things have really tanked so it is nice that Freeport continues to take a conservative approach in budgeting for their revenues. In 2021 that budget is being reduced to \$45,000. For example, in the November to January timeframe we were seeing monthly interest around \$15,000-\$18,000 on our General Fund account. In April it was less than \$3,000 with not a significant change in the balance of the account. We've taken a major hit. She pointed to Account 9995 on the last page. It is listed as Transfer Other. This is the money we transferred due to the local share for road work. We typically take a portion of those fees and offset roadwork that needs to be done in the General Fund. She believes we have six years to use the money that is brought in for those purposes. For fiscal 2021 we would be looking to use the majority of our balance in that account up so we are increasing it from \$80,000 to \$175,000.

Chair Egan asked about Line 3420 which is Library Fines. Since the Library has been closed and we actually waived fines, is there any intention to modify that. Ms. Maloy noted that she budgets \$11,000 and our current actuals as of the end of April is \$10,123 so we are pretty close to our budget. She feels safe leaving it at \$11,000.

Chair Egan noted this is an excellent time to ask questions of our Finance Director on elements of the budget before it moves forward. He believes it will be adopted at our next meeting and Mr. Joseph confirmed that the Council has it queued up for a vote on the 16th.

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Councilor Tracy recalled there were questions raised last time and asked Ms. Maloy if she could follow up on them.

Ms. Maloy explained that the County Tax is \$1,243,618. The RSU is currently at \$19,676,615, We have Transit at \$77,934, The Town of Freeport Tax Component is at \$5,307,981 which is flat over last year. When you start looking down, she has broken down the revenue increase and the expense increase components of these budgets so the Council can see what makes up the total budget for the Town of Freeport with the increased revenues in total by \$96,900. That is all non-tax revenue not the \$5,307,000 up above. Mr. Joseph noted that he did not want to give the impression that we are expecting more revenue when we just talked about the State Revenue Sharing, Excise and all that will be taking a hit. It is primarily from transferring large sums of money as a one-time use to offset some of these costs we are expecting.

Ms. Maloy pointed out that the expense lines have increased by \$90,744,00. She explained what she took away from the last meeting that Councilors were looking to see. She looked at all the Travel lines to see what could be reduced and all the Travel reductions totaled \$4,800. She looked at the Cable wages and there was a \$10,000 savings she and Mr. Joseph were comfortable with. She removed the funding for the Fourth of July Parade. They pulled out \$600 for the recording of Minutes for Traffic and Parking. They looked at street lights and were comfortable reducing that line by \$2,000. They were able to come up with \$19,400 that they were comfortable reducing this current Operating Budget by. The items that were also on the list that were brought up at the last meeting are listed under the items to discuss.

Mr. Joseph mentioned Chamber dues and a potential increase in those. We have not received any notification from them to this point so they left it at no impact and will stay at the \$1,000 currently budgeted. There was discussion about reducing the amount of tree work that we were increasing in this budget by \$7,000. It is not reflected in any of the budget numbers. It is an item for discussion. There was discussion about reducing GPCOG but they do not have enough information from them to be comfortable reducing it. They think it will be a 2022 reduction that they will see. The train station was brought up. The wage and staffing levels that will be needed she and Mr. Joseph feel will still be necessary with the train service and the requirement to meet the trains. Any building of maintenance savings would be immaterial based on that length of time. They left that as is at this point. Mr. Joseph added that it is assuming that there is no directive from the Council to eliminate it. We are still doing that function and only based on changes that would be necessary due to delay in service. They are expecting the service to start back up pretty close, if not before the fiscal year. If we continue as currently practicing, we don't warrant a reduction there.

Chair Egan asked Ms. Maloy if the \$19,400 and the \$15,250 are additional savings to come off of the \$10,501,000 and she agreed. Mr. Joseph added that we are at \$10,501,000 with the proposed budget but the potential changes of \$19,400 and \$15,200 would bring us to \$10,466,731 down from \$10,500,000.

Ms. Maloy advised that there was discussion about the Service Agencies and donations to those. On the table for discussion is whether or not to remove the Port Teen Center. They have not requested their funding in 2019 and she has not received a request for 2020. She asked for Council directive if that amount should be left for the 2021 appropriation. She explained that if the Council were to implement the changes of \$19,400 in total it would take us from a levy impact of .0034 to a levy impact of .010. The inclusion of the \$15,250 would make it negative .022. Mr. Joseph noted we are starting to shave basis points off the tax rate here.

He pointed out that the Cable wage does not anticipate reducing staffing levels beyond where we are now. We just did a bad job of estimating our needs for next year. It should not be anticipated as a cut. We need

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to acknowledge that if we take out the \$19,400 this year, there are base line items that will likely be back in a budget proposal unless we are in a state of budget crisis next year. We have gone pretty deep here in order to keep a flat budget. Likely if we go back to where we should be, there would be an increase proposed next year but obviously we won't make that proposal if the crisis is economically worse than it is now. He asked the Council to keep in mind that we are shaving things off that should go back in at some point in the future if we are able to from an operational standpoint. These are not permanent eliminations or permanent revenue sources either we are using to offset some of these costs. Ms. Maloy noted that the revenue we are using is not a long-term fix for the Town. This is a one year getting through the crisis to present a flat budget. Mr. Joseph advised that there are other tools available to us in an emergency scenario. Chair Egan mentioned that when we enter our budget discussions for FY2022 in late February or early March of calendar 21 that we look back at the Minutes of this meeting and remember we made a number of adjustments that were essentially one-time only in order to achieve the flat tax rate in this particular moment. We are likely to forget that and have a harsh reaction for Jessica "where is this 4% coming from?" Mr. Joseph advised that the Council will never see a 4% budget from him. Chair Egan wanted to off the opportunity to ask questions on this list and give Jessica and Peter some direction about moving forward with the \$10,500,00, the \$10,481,000 or the \$10,466,000.

Councilor Tracy asked about the removal of the Port Teen Center. She understands that we allocated last year and it was not used and they also have not requested that amount for this coming budget year. She asked if that is accurate. Ms. Maloy advised that we budgeted in FY2019 \$8,250.00 and they had to make the request to receive it. They never made a formal request to collect those funds. For 2020 they requested \$8,600 and we gave \$8,250 but they have not yet asked to collect that funding. We do fairly active reaching to them to say, "hey, you have been awarded these funds. Please submit an e-mail to us or an invoice asking for that." For two years we have not gotten that request from them. For FY2021 they did fill out another application implying that they received \$8,600 last year and asked for \$8,600 again. She feels they resubmitted the same application from FY2020, not knowing what they were awarded and ended up not getting. She did not know the person's name but Johanna has reached out 3 or 4 times at this point trying to get the funds to them.

Councilor Tracy asked about the train and if we are required to have somebody meet the trains based on our commitment to having a train stop. Mr. Joseph advised that we are supposed to have someone meet the train but it does not need to be an employee. The only other way to do it would be with volunteers. We have obligations to make the ticket machine available but do not have obligations to provide indoor waiting space or covered space other than the platform. The two biggest obligations would be a place to house the ticket machine but it does not need to be indoors at the current location but it would have to be tethered to something or like an ATM, it can't just walk away. We need to have people there. Over the years we have determined that the only way to do the greeting of the trains and have it work effectively is to have paid employees and that cost is pretty minimal. By agreement we are supposed to do those things.

Councilor Piltch asked about the Cable TV line and asked where the \$150,000 comes from. Ms. Maloy explained that franchise fees are paid to municipalities for having Cable service. Everybody that is a Cable subscriber has a fee that is added onto their Cable bill. This funding is a component of what we take in for Cable fees. There is a small amount that remains in the Cable Reserve and the rest is transferred to the General Fund to offset Cable expenditures so primarily it is used to offset the 0609 Department. Currently the way this budget stands, we have \$100,790.00 that is expended in the 0609 budget and we are offsetting it by \$150,000 in revenue and that difference will primarily be under Employee Benefits for retirement, health insurance, tax costs associated with employees and the General Admin overhead costs. Mr. Joseph mentioned that the Cable Reserve Fund got so high in the \$400,000 range because we had years when we were not transferring that much money into the General Fund to offset Cable costs. This was corrected 4 or 5 years ago.

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Councilor Piltch had the same question for the Rescue Funds. Ms. Maloy advised that this is similar to the Cable Funds. That is money the Town receives for performing emergency and primarily Rescue transfers. A portion of those payments get set aside for the Reserve in order to refurbish or replace the ambulances in our fleet and the rest of the money is used to offset General Fund expenditures within the 0203 Department labeled Rescue. Councilor Piltch had questions about Line 9900 Use FB for \$600,000. Ms. Maloy indicated that this is for the use of Fund Balance. That is when the end of the year she will tell the Council what our Fund Balance is and where we stand in relation to our policy. Determination is made by Council off the recommendation made by staff if the excess fund balance should be transferred to Reserves or used to offset a future tax rate. This is basically a built-in buffer where we automatically assume a component of Fund Balance is going to be used to help keep the tax rate stable. We have used this account once in the last five years. It is typically more of a budget balancing mechanism which is why as department heads, they work very hard and diligently to try to minimize how much we actually have to use so we don't dip in the Fund Balance. The understanding has always been that when we don't have to dip into the Fund Balance, the moneys get returned to the Reserves to upgrade our Capital Reserves, our infrastructure. Mr. Joseph advised that the easiest way to consider Fund Balance is to consider it a bet that we are going to beat our budget number by \$600,000 as opposed to budgeting to raise an additional \$600,000 by taxes. We have raised that money and held on to it for an extra year. Essentially, we have taken it from people and we have \$600,000 in extra surplus at the end of the year that we would have to decide what to do with. He termed it good sloppy budgeting because we are beating the budget. Chair Egan felt it was fiscally prudent.

Councilor Horne thanked Jessica for keeping track of all the things the Council nitpicked last time. He supports the cuts totaling \$10,481,000. He mentioned that he wants to keep the tree piece alive and make Freeport's campus looking good is a strategic priority for us. We have not as a community proactively gone about enhancing our tree cover in any substantial way. We have a huge opportunity to make Freeport's campus a real gem. He is aware that this is not the greatest time to be making these kinds of investments but the sooner we start on something like this, the better. He still hopes we can do the green islands on the stretch leading into town. He knows the Council approved funding on that in the past. Mr. Joseph advised that we were awarded a Project Canopy Grant that was worked on by several volunteers as well as Caroline and part of that would be used as a match for that grant. The total amount is \$8,000. He noted that we should not feel obligated that we can't turn that down. He is just putting it out there. Part of the match would also be in-kind and volunteer work. Caroline advised that most of it is cash with a little in-kind. Although it is a grant match, we do have to fund the cost up front and then it would be a reimbursement.

Chair Egan noted that we need to give final direction so we can have the completed number and full package at our next meeting.

Councilor Horne wanted to make a motion to keep the tree item alive but Mr. Joseph advised that he would have to rescind the motion because right now it is in the budget. The negative has to happen for it to come out. It is technically in. Chair Egan noted that in the budget now is the \$10,501,000 and Jessica quantified those items we talked about to get us down as low as \$10,466,000. Ms. Maloy advised that the \$10,466,000 includes the reduction for the tree work and the removal of the Port Teen Center donation. If the Council does not want those two and just wanted the Travel reduction and other items, it would be \$10,481,980. Mr. Joseph added that they felt the tree work and the Port Teen Center were more political discussions than they were comfortable making at the staff level. Chair Egan asked if the \$10,501,000 gives us a positive number or a negative number on the levy. Ms. Maloy advised that at \$10,501,381 it is a negative .0034 projected. Chair Egan pointed out that we have endeavored over the last several weeks and many meetings to instruct the Staff to get us to the point of a flat budget and the dollar amount of the \$10,501,381 achieves that. We had some additional conversation at the last two meetings which are properly represented here in those subsets of additional items to consider which could take the

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\$10,501,000 down to \$10,466,000 recognizing that we are already at a just slightly under tax position for the coming fiscal year. He is seeing it as providing direction on one of those three numbers, either at the budget we have now in place at \$10,501,000 or to recognize the Travel savings at \$10,481,000 or to go deeper to the \$10,466,000.

Councilor Reighley asked for the projected mil rate. Mr. Joseph advised caution in projecting a mil rate but asked Ms. Maloy if she could put it together using the current values right now. He is cautious in presenting to the public since they are expecting to see some pretty big moves in valuations over the off season and he is anticipating that there may be some commercial valuation moves due to what is going on right now. The tax rate would go up as a result but the levy wouldn't change. The mil rate would go up if the aggregate of valuations goes down in the town.

MOVED AND SECONDED: We bring the budget into the middle ground of \$10,481,981 to reflect reasonable cuts and expenses that we believe will not be occurring within the next year but with recognition that they may have to be added in the following year. (Tracy & Reighley)

Councilor Piltch noted that the Port Teen Center is not included and it seems odd that they haven't used their allotted funds for the last two years. Councilor Whitney advised that the Teen Center does not exist. Ms. Maloy agreed that it was her impression as well but they have submitted an application. She was told that at some point this summer the teens congregate at the center to start and they are bussed to some sort of event for the day and then they come back and get picked up and disbursed. Mr. Joseph clarified that our description is inaccurate. It is not Port Teen Center. It is Teen Center Programming. Councilor Tracy explained that the Council would have the opportunity to cut it at the next meeting but recommended that the Town Manager or Finance Director go right to the top and get the real skinny. We don't want to cut it if they budgeted for it and needed it and actually think they received it and it is just an oversight and they intend to use it next year. Maybe we do want to cut it but it is a different thing. Instead of speculating, we should do a little more homework. Ms. Maloy pointed out that on the application they filled out, they are listed as the Port Teen Center/RSU5 Community Programs. It was filed by Peter Wagner, the Executive Director. He is the individual Johanna has been contacting but has not gotten any response. She offered to look into this further before the next meeting.

Councilor Reighley suggested looking at this through the RSU5 to see where their budget line is on the same subject and see if they are only using the money out of their own budget line and really don't need our money. Councilor Horne likes the idea of doing the homework and bringing it back. Councilor Lawrence mentioned that if they don't ask for it, we still have the money. Mr. Joseph advised that it becomes General Fund money.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan thanked Jessica and Peter and their team for a transparent process. He feels it is satisfying to know that we looked at every single dollar in the budget and understands how they were developed. Mr. Joseph advised that the team is really Jessica with him and she deserves all the credit.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 9:49 p.m. (Reighley & Horne) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Respectively submitted, Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary

