

Town of Danville  
**APPROVED** Selectboard Minutes  
Special Selectboard Meeting, January 14, 2025  
Danville Town Hall (5:00 pm)

**Board Members Present:** Janice Ouellette, Glenn Herrin, Alison Low and Matt Choate

**Board Members Present Using Teams:** None

**Board Members Absent:** Eric Bach

**Others Present Using Teams:** None

**Others Present:** Michelle Leclerc, Keith Gadapee

**Meeting called to order** by Chair Janice Ouellette at 5:00 pm.

**Additions to the agenda:** None

**Visitors/Public Comment:** None

**Budget Discussion – Proposed Changes to Draft Budget**

First point for discussion was the **McDowell Road Project**. Keith stated that there were some questions that came up in the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> that he felt he could not answer. He can answer them now. The cost for the culvert for the McDowell Road project as designed would be \$175,000 – that's for a 50' concrete box culvert. So the risk, he said, would be for the town to go out and purchase the culvert and then not receive the grant. Is the grant determining the contingency here? Is it worthwhile to pursue this without the grant? What are our chances of getting the grant? As of now, Danville is 19<sup>th</sup> on a list of 30 towns eligible for this grant, but that doesn't mean that the towns ahead of us in the list will apply for the grant. Guildhall, for example, is ahead of us but has not applied for a Structures Grant for many years. We'll have a better idea of what our chances of funding are on April 15<sup>th</sup>, when all the grant applications are in. Keith also inquired about a design alternative, and he found out that squashed aluminum pipe could possibly save about \$70,000 on the project. That figure gets us closer to the \$200,000 figure that aiming for (driven by the cap on the grant ask.) And, if we chose this design, we'd have a better possibility of getting the project done this year. There are some drawbacks to this alternative: The project would have to be redesigned, and we'd have to raise the road by about 2', meaning that the property owner would have to drive downhill to get into their property. This alternative would also have a shorter life span and greater risk of damage from having to work around it. Glenn asked what happens if we don't do it this year? Answer is that we can apply for it this year and have two years to get it done. If we don't get it this year, we'd go up the list for the next funding round. If we get this grant, we go down the list for potentially other projects. Are there other projects that are in need? The last time we received a Structures grant, we put a new deck on the Joe's Brook Road bridge (about 5 years ago). There are some other bridges that have some scour, but nothing that rises to this level. We looked at impacts to the budget. Decision was to apply for the Structure grant this year, but give ourselves time to get the work done. This year, we can start setting aside of about \$50,000 (maybe an infrastructure fund) which would posture us to get this done in 2027 and we'd likely need another \$60,000 next year. When we budget for this, we should not put in revenue (from a potential grant). That's because even if we get the grant this year, we won't receive the grant funds until the project is done next year.

Next up for discussion was the **heating system for the Town Garage**. A brief overview on the heating situation: The Blue Garage (the old Town Garage) now houses the recycling center and for a time was used to house the school buses. The heating system in that building went caput. And, there were some recommendations from a building inspection. The school decided to stop using it. They took out their provisional heating system, and the building was completely unheated. The Town took it over again, and when the chunk firewood boiler went into the new garage, a few lines from the boiler were added to the Blue Garage. That's the only heat that goes to the building-- but it keeps it above freezing. Now that it the Blue Garage houses recycling, it's not optimal. It should be a bit warmer.

Now, Keith is thinking that a wood burning system for the Town Garage might not be appropriate for his predecessor. The Blue Garage has no bathroom – so, there's nothing at risk from freezing. So, he's wondering why spend the money on a boiler when we can just use a propane heater for about \$12,000? Will probably burn about 1200 gallons of propane for the year. As for the new Town Garage, there is an existing oil system that dates to about 1998. His suggestion is to disconnect the Blue Garage from the wood boiler and just install a propane heater in the Blue Garage. We would continue to use the wood boiler to supplement the oil furnace. There could be some upgrades to that furnace that could be made more efficient, and it has been well maintained. He would be comfortable going with the existing wood boiler for

now and making do – and the boiler would be less stressed by having to heat the Blue Garage. Keith doesn't want to leave a burden of an alternative heating system for his predecessor. This is just a decision for the Town Garage, not the North Danville School or the Town Hall. The board still stated support for wood heat systems for North Danville and the Town Hall, like what was presented by Lyme Green.

The proposed budget change is to change the figure in buildings and maintenance in the highway budget to \$30,000. This would cover the propane heating for the Blue Garage with about \$12,000 to \$15,000 and provide another \$15,000 to do general maintenance, overhead doors, and roof repairs; Also the board decided to put \$20,000 in the building fund, paving back up to \$100,000, and increase infrastructure to \$70,000, still adding to a negligible difference. We would also add for propane to heat the Blue Garage.

**General fund:** The board looked at the transfer of the building fund and decided to take \$20,000 out of the building fund to cover anticipated expenses.

**Adjourn –** *Motion by Alison Low, to adjourn at 6:07 pm.*

Minutes taken by Alison Low submitted January 16, at 8:00 p.m.