

## **MINUTES OF SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

**Place: Smithfield Town Hall**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

### **Present:**

Town Council President John J. Tassoni, Jr.  
Town Council Vice President Angelica Bovis  
Town Council Member Michael P. Iannotti  
Town Council Member Rachel S. Toppi  
Town Council Member Thomas Winfield (excused)  
Interim Town Manager Robert Seltzer  
Town Solicitor Anthony Gallone  
Town Clerk Lyn Antonuccio

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### **I. President Tassoni calls the Tuesday, May 19, 2026 Smithfield Town Council Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.**

At 6:30 p.m. at motion is made by Member Iannotti, seconded by Member Topp, to convene into executive session to consider, discuss, and act upon matters pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; to interview Maya Giguere and Linda Hawkins for possible appointment to a Town board or commission, Section 42-46-5(a)(2); Potential Litigation and Pending Litigation: GDM ESS, LLC vs. James S. Busam, et.al. PC-2025-02038, and Section 42-46-5(a)(5) Real Estate; potential acquisition, sale or lease of real property.

Solicitor Gallone states that there was one motion in executive session to approve a settlement in the pending litigation of GDM ESS, LLC vs. James S. Busam, et.al. PC-2025-02038. The terms of the settlement will be as follows: The Town will acquire the property designated as AP43/ Lot 53 on Mountindale Road consisting of 93,646 sq. ft. for the sum of \$350,000. Said property will be utilized as open space. We further authorize the Solicitor to draft a Sales Agreement incorporating said terms and direct the Town Manager to execute the same. **Motion was approved by a 4/0 vote.**

### **II. President Tassoni offers a prayer**

### **III. Salute to the flag**

### **IV. Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification**

### **V. Presentations:**

#### **A. Receipt of the Budget and Financial Review Board's Recommended Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.**

Member Iannotti explains that the BFRB will be meeting tomorrow night, and they will be sending the council a revised budget.

**Motion** is made by Member Iannotti, seconded by Member Toppi, to table this matter. **Motion is approved by a 4/ 0 vote.**

### **VI. Minutes:**

**A. Move that the minutes of the April 21, 2026 Executive Session meeting held pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; to interview Dante DiGregorio for possible appointment to a Town board or commission, Section 42-46-5(a)(2); Pending Litigation; West Greenville Road, LLC vs. Town of Smithfield PC-2025-05420 and GDM ESS, LLC vs. James S. Busam, et.al. PC-2025-02038, and Section 42-46-5(a)(5) Real Estate; potential acquisition, sale or lease of real property be approved as recorded and sealed.**

Motion is made by Member Toppi, seconded by Vice President Bovis, that the minutes of the April 21, 2026 executive session be approved as amended and sealed. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**B. Move that the minutes of the April 21, 2026 open session meeting be approved as recorded.**

**Motion** is made by Member Iannotti, seconded by Vice President Bovis, that the minutes of the April 21, 2026 open session meeting be approved as amended. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**C. Move that the minutes of the May 5, 2026 open session meeting be approved as recorded.**

**Motion** is made by Member Iannotti, seconded by Vice President Bovis, that the minutes of May 5, 2026 open session meeting be approved as recorded. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**VII. Consider, discuss and act upon the following possible appointments and reappointments: None**

**Motion** is made by Member Iannotti, seconded by Vice President Bovis, that the Smithfield Town Council move up on the agenda, Item 11 (E) under New Business, regarding the consideration discussing and acting upon the bid award of school bus transportation on behalf of the School Department, up to this point in the agenda for consideration. **Motion is approved by a 4/ 0 vote.**

Solicitor Gallone explains that legal jurisdiction over the bus contract rests with the School Committee, and the council does not have the authority to overrule the School Committee regarding the contract.

Denise Howard, a bus driver with twenty-six (26) years of experience and a lifelong Town resident expresses her concerns with this contract which will merge the Town's bus transportation with Lincoln. Ms. Howard states the following: All drivers and monitors will be treated as new hires, and Lincoln would automatically have seniority over all the Smithfield drivers. Lincoln would also have first pick of the bus routes. Smithfield's most senior driver has forty-two (42) years of experience, however, under this merger, this driver would fall to number eighty-seven (87) on the seniority list. Lincoln has eighty-six (86) bus drivers. Some, or all, of our drivers could lose our jobs. The bus drivers were not notified of this merger.

President Tassoni urges Ms. Howard and her colleagues to voice their opinion before the School Committee. President Tassoni states this was strictly a cost saving measure, but they have hurt forty (40) to forty-five (45) families in the Town. President Tassoni further states that he would like to see the contract, as this "boggles" his mind that a contract between two (2) towns would put one (1) town over the other instead of merging them together to try to make communication better.

**VIII. Public Hearings:**

**A. Schedule a public hearing on June 2, 2026 to consider, discuss, and act upon amendments to Chapter 145 of the Smithfield Code of Ordinances entitled “Boats and Waterways”.**

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council schedule a public hearing on June 2, 2026 to consider, discuss, and act upon amendments to Chapter 145 of the Smithfield Code of Ordinances entitled “Boats and Waterways”. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**B. Schedule a public hearing on June 2, 2026 to consider, discuss, and act upon sewer usage rate changes.**

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Sewer Authority hereby recommends the Smithfield Town Council to schedule a public hearing June 2, 2026 to consider implementation of a phased approach modified sewer modified sewer usage rate of \$500 for fiscal year 2028, and \$600 for fiscal year 2029. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**C. Schedule a public hearing on June 16, 2026 on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.**

**Motion** is made by Member Iannotti, seconded by Vice President Bovis, that the Smithfield Town Council schedule a public hearing on June 16, 2026 on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**D. Conduct a public hearing to consider, discuss and act upon approving a new Class B-Victualler Beverage License for Black Dog Tavern Inc., d/b/a “Black Dog Tavern”, 566 Putnam Pike, Units 1 & 2 , with the hours of operation to be Monday through Sunday, 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

President Tassoni declares the public hearing open.

Attorney Frank Sharke representing “Black Dog Tavern” states the following: His client. Jose Jacome, also operates a restaurant in Pawtucket, he was a chef on the East Side for many years and has a great deal of experience. Mr. Jacome’s bartender is TIP certified. This restaurant will be similar to the prior restaurant that was there, “Cook & Dagger”. The hours of operation will be 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, and Friday and Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

President Tassoni questions the hours listed as 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Town Clerk Antonuccio states that those hours mimic those of RI General Laws.

Attorney Sharke states that Mr. Jacome has received all the required licenses from the state.

Hearing no further comments, President Tassoni closes the public hearing.

**Motion** is made Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council approve a new Class B-Victualler Beverage License for Black Dog Tavern Inc., d/b/a “Black Dog Tavern”, 566 Putnam Pike, Units 1 & 2, with the hours of operation to be Monday through Sunday, 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.

**Motion is approved by 4/0 vote.**

**IX. Licenses:**

**A. Consider, discuss, and act upon approving a new Victualling License for Black Dog Tavern, Inc. d/b/a “Black Dog Tavern”, located at 566 Putnam Pike, Units 1 & 2 as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council approve a new Victualling License for Black Dog Tavern, Inc. d/b/a “Black Dog Tavern”, located at 566 Putnam Pike, Units 1 & 2 as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**B. Consider, discuss, and act upon approving the annual renewal of two (2) Massage Establishment Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

- 1. Permanent Cosmetic Solutions d/b/a “Soothing Touch Spa, LLC”,  
180C Pleasant View Avenue**
- 2. Sarah Fisette d/b/a “Wildflower Wellness Studio”, 592 Putnam Pike**

Town Clerk Antonuccio states that these licenses are in order for approval.

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council the approve the annual renewal of two (2) Massage Establishment Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances:

- 1. Permanent Cosmetic Solutions d/b/a “Soothing Touch Spa, LLC”,  
180C Pleasant View Avenue**
- 2. Sarah Fisette d/b/a “Wildflower Wellness Studio”, 592 Putnam Pike**

**Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**C. Consider, discuss, and act upon approving the annual renewal of two (2) Massage Therapy Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

- 1. Rhonda Rohelia working at “Soothing Touch Spa, LLC”,  
180C Pleasant View Avenue**
- 2. Sarah Fisette working at “Wildflower Wellness Studio”, 592 Putnam Pike**

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the annual renewal of two (2) Massage Therapy Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances:

1. Rhonda Rohelia working at “Soothing Touch Spa, LLC”,  
180C Pleasant View Avenue
2. Sarah Fisette working at “Wildflower Wellness Studio”, 592 Putnam Pike

**Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**D. Consider, discuss, and act upon approving a new Solicitation License for “Do it Right Solar” soliciting solar panels, as applied subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinances, and the following conditions: The Smithfield Police Department is to be notified each time the applicant is soliciting, including which area of town solicitation will take place. Solicitation may take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. April 1st through September 30th and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October 1st through March 31st. If conditions are not adhered to, the applicant will be required to appear before the Town Council.**

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Toppi, that the Smithfield Town Council approve a new Solicitation License for “Do it Right Solar” soliciting solar panels, as applied subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinances, and the following conditions: The Smithfield Police Department is to be notified each time the applicant is soliciting, including which area of town solicitation will take place. Solicitation may take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. April 1st through September 30th and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October 1st through March 31st. If conditions are not adhered to, the applicant will be required to appear before the Town Council. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**E. Consider, discuss, and act upon approving a new Mobile Food Truck License for Michael Strout d/b/a “Team Gotta Q BBQ”, to sell barbeque from a truck with RI Reg# 1NP25596745, 24 Barberry Hill Road, Cumberland, RI, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

Motion is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Toppi, that the Smithfield Town Council consider, discuss and act upon approving a new Mobile Food Truck License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances. 1. Michael Strout d/b/a “Team Gotta Q BBQ”, to sell barbeque from a truck with RI Reg. # 1NP25596745, 24 Barberry Hill Road, Cumberland, RI. **Motion is approved by 4/0 vote.**

**F. Consider, discuss, and act upon approving one (1) One-Day Beer/Wine License for the Smithfield Senior Center as follows:**

- “Wine and Cheese Event” to be held on Friday, June 5, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The party will take place at the Smithfield Senior Center, 1 William J. Hawkins, Jr. Trail from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., as applied, subject to all State regulations and local ordinances.

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council approve one (1) One-Day Beer/Wine License as follows:

- “Wine and Cheese Event” to be held on Friday, June 5, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The party will take place at the Smithfield Senior Center, One William J. Hawkins, Jr. Trail from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.

**Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**G. Consider, discuss, and act upon approving one (1) One-Day Beer/Wine License for the Smithfield Senior Center as follows:**

- “Summer Celebration” to be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**The party will take place at the Smithfield Senior Center, 1 William J. Hawkins, Jr. Trail from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., as applied, subject to all State regulations and local ordinances.**

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Toppi, that the Smithfield Town Council approve one (1) One-Day Beer/Wine License as follows:

- “Summer Celebration” to be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The party will take place at the Smithfield Senior Center, One William J. Hawkins, Jr. Trail from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.

**Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

#### **X. Old Business:**

- A. Consider, discuss, and act upon adopting a resolution in support of House Bill 7911 and Senate Bill 3012 on recycling reforms.**

President Tassoni suggests tabling this matter for further study.

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council tables this matter. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

#### **XI. New Business:**

- A. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing a bid award for pavement crack sealing services.**

DPW Director Gene Allen explains the following: We go to bid every three (3) years for this contract, and the funding for this contract comes out of the DPW operating budget.

Member Iannotti states that the total amount of funding available is \$100,000 for each fiscal year, and the contract is \$169,700. Director Allen explains that when they put a contract out, they put down numbers so everyone is bidding on an equal basis.

Member Iannotti questions if the council is only voting on the amount of \$16.97 per gallon. Director Allen confirms this.

**Motion** is made by Member Toppi, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to enter a three-year contract for pavement crack sealing, with an additional one-year extension option, with the lowest responsible bidder, Sealcoating, Inc. d/b/a Indus of 825 Granite Street, Braintree, MA 02184, for the unit price listed on the attached bid of \$16.97/gallon.

**Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**B. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing a bid award for street paving services.**

Director Allen explains the following: Four (4) years ago we went out to bid for this service, and T. Miozzi was awarded the bid, and they are the low bidder this time as well.

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Toppi, that the Smithfield Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to enter into a three-year contract, with an additional one-year extension option, for street paving services with the lowest responsible bidder, T. Miozzi, LLC, of 80 Compass Circle, North Kingstown, RI 02852, for the unit prices listed in the attached bid. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**C. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing a bid award for elevator repair services at the Gallagher Middle School on behalf of the School Department.**

Director of Building and Grounds, Angelo Mencucci, explains the following: This will be treated as a Stage II project under emergency projects so that the School Department can receive reimbursement. The School Committee did approve options two (2) and three (3) which is the entire package: reskimming the doors to stainless steel, refurbishing the cab, and all electronics. The total for this project is \$145,000. The work cannot commence before July 1, 2026 because procurement for materials is almost ten (10) weeks.

Vice President Bovis questions if there will be an issue with this project being done before the school year ends. Director Mencucci explains that there the School Department has a year to complete the project ( June 30, 2027).

Member Iannotti questions this being a capital item as the memo states the funding source is the operating budget. Director Mencucci confirms that the funding source is capital and the project was a part of the capital plan program.

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Toppi, that the Smithfield Town Council, on behalf of the Smithfield School Department, Award RFP # 26323 to Atlantic Elevator South Co., Inc., located at 1900 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771 a company capable of providing the needed repair 1 services at Gallagher Middle School for an amount not to exceed one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars and zero cents (\$145,000.00). **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**D. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing a bid award for boiler cleaning services at six (6) school building locations on behalf of the School Department.**

Solicitor Gallone explains the following: With this matter, it is the same rationale as the school busing contract. This will be funded from the School Department's operating budget. The School Committee voted on a vendor who is performing services already.

Vice President Bovis thinks this would be a good item to look at for combining with Town services moving forward rather than having a separate contract.

Director Mencucci states the following: There are multiple vessels in six (6) schools, and all are state of the art. He thinks it is a good idea to go out to bid on this, but he also thinks that within the Town, the school may have the most infrastructure as far as HVAC. They are the most expensive to clean as well.

Member Iannotti states that Solicitor Gallone has advised that the council should table this matter because this has been approved by the School Committee and is being funded through their operating budget.

**Motion** is made by Member Iannotti, seconded by Vice President Bovis, that the Smithfield Town Council table this matter. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**\*Item E was moved to the beginning of the agenda**

**F. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing a bid award for the purchase of a used Ford F-350 4x4 pickup truck with plow package on behalf of the School Department.**

Member Iannotti questions if this is being purchased with a culinary grant. Director Mencucci confirms this purchase will be funded through a grant.

Vice President Bovis questions the new 2026 truck costs \$46,800, and a used 2024 truck costs \$49,000. Director Mencucci confirms this and explains the following: He did withdraw his bid because the morning the bids were opened, he had sold the truck. He is dealing with a company from Iowa. The amount falls within the grant funding; however, grant funding will not fund the transportation. Vice President Bovis questions if it would be prudent to go out to bid again and states because if he were able to get a new price for less than what we would be paying for a used truck, there may be another truck available.

Director Mencucci explains the following: He would be getting a new Ford F-350 for \$45,000, where he was asking for used. When this truck was presented to him, he had to ask twice and told the seller that he was looking for a used vehicle. He also stated to the seller that he was unable to go over the grant amount, negotiations took place, and the seller agreed to the expenditure. This is funded through a grant, and he must close by June 30, 2026 (truck and service trailer) to comply with the grant.

**Motion** made by Member Toppi, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby Award RFP 260406 for the purchase of one (1) used Ford F-350 4X4 super duty Pick Up with factory Plow Package to the sole responder Workload located in 2027 US-34, Red Oak, IA 51566 for an amount not to exceed forty-six thousand eight hundred dollars and zero cents (\$46,800.00). **Motion is approved by a 3/1 vote. Vice President Bovis votes nay.**

**G. Discuss and review snow plowing services at six (6) school building locations on behalf of the School Department.**

Director Mencucci explains the following: The School Department did not approve any bids. He is bringing this to the council because they just went out to advertise. The council had asked for two (2) items; why is the School Department going out to bid when they should be speaking with the Town and five (5) years' worth of data showing what the School Department paid for snow plowing services. Five (5) bidders bid on this project and there is a cost. He was not sure if the Town wanted to have a discussion on how the School Department should move forward with these services.

President Tassoni questions the School Committee not voting on this. Director Mencucci states that the School Committee tabled this because they did not make an award. Director Mencucci reminds the members that at a prior council meeting, the members questioned why the School Department was going out to bid because the Town should be helping with this.

Member Iannotti questions this item being on the agenda for review and discussion only. Director Mencucci confirms this. Member Iannotti states that the School Department would like the council to review this and determine if it makes more sense to have the DPW do the plowing or contract the services out.

Steve Preston, 1 Mayfield Street, explains the following: He is the previous snowplow contractor, and had performed these services for many years. He knew that the contract was up, however, he did not know that the bid was out. He has seen the prices, and if you compare them to what his prices previously were, there is a drastic difference. For a Town that is money sensitive, as a taxpayer, he thinks that the School Department should go back out to bid or contact a previous provider. President Tassoni questions the name of Mr. Preston's company. Mr. Preston states that his company is P & K Landscaping.

Member Iannotti suggests placing this matter on the council's next workshop agenda with the School Committee.

**H. Consider, discuss, and act upon adopting a resolution in support of House Bill H-8149 relating to motor and other vehicles' size, weight and load limits.**

Town Manager Seltzer states that this was requested by Representative Santucci, and Solicitor Gallone worked with Representative Santucci on the resolution before the council this evening. Solicitor Gallone states that this is a good resolution which supports legislation that protects the municipal infrastructure by limiting wear/tear from overweight vehicles.

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Iannotti, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby adopts a resolution in support of House Bill H-8149 relating to motor and other vehicles size, weight and load limits. **Motion is approved by a 4/0 vote.**

**I. Discuss update on the status of the Overbrook Academy/60 Austin Avenue information packet.**

Town Manager Seltzer explains the following: He has given the members two (2) items; an overview of the different projects and a list of potential uses/ideas that were based on the tours.

Member Toppi states the following: She asked that this item be placed on the agenda. She asks that both lists be entered into the record. In January 2026 the members asked for an informational packet on Overbrook consisting of inspection reports, costs of utilities, maintenance costs, etc.

People have made claims that there is asbestos in the building, however, she does not know if this is true, and she wants to be able to respond to these claims by viewing the actual inspection reports. This is one (1) example of many, and she asks where the Town stands and when the members can expect the inspection reports.

Town Manager Seltzer states that there is no asbestos, and he suggests that if people have questions that they contact him directly so that he can put them in touch with the Building Official who is part of the team that is responsible for the building.

Member Toppi states that as a council member she asked for the reports. Town Manager Seltzer reiterates that there are no reports, and as he explained at a previous meeting, there is the report on the value of the property and the P & S Agreement. Town Manager Seltzer reminds the members that this process was started but was halted due to the second person that wanted to purchase the facility. Town Manager Seltzer states the following: The person who looked at the facility found asbestos in some of the pipes in the trenches. Everything was halted when the Town was underbid, and the person never charged for the inspection and there was no report. This part was never finished and there were no significant findings.

Member Toppi questions if inspections will be done with the RI Infrastructure Bank. Town Manager Seltzer states that the RI Infrastructure Bank is going to help the Town with that. Member Toppi questions when this is expected to be done because it has been four (4) months. Member Toppi also questions if the Town is waiting on them. Town Manager Seltzer states that a great deal has been going in the last four (4) months and little by little they are getting things done.

Member Toppi questions public tours taking place without inspections having been done. Town Manager Seltzer states that he does not have anything further to report on this, and there was no need for an inspection because the facility was occupied and is up to date with the building/fire codes. Member Toppi again questions when the members can expect to get those reports. Town Manager Seltzer reiterates that he does not have a date. Member Toppi questions if the members could have the costs and if those can be retrieved by the Finance Director. Town Manager Seltzer states that there have been minimal costs, and that information can be retrieved by the Finance Director.

Member Toppi questions what activities have been taking place at the facility, as she has been receiving calls about activities taking place (meeting with the East Smithfield Library about selling it and potentially moving it to the Town Hall) that she was not aware of. Town Manager Seltzer states that he provided this information to the members last year about potentially selling the East Smithfield Library, and he asked the director if he thought it would be feasible to move into this building. Member Toppi explains that she has a great deal going on, and she likes to see things in writing.

Member Toppi further explains that getting this information would be helpful to the members so that they can answer questions when they are asked. Town Manager Seltzer reiterates that anyone wanting information should contact his office so that he can put them in touch with the team in charge of the building because they have the most up to date information. Member Toppi states that the members can do that, however, as a council member, she needs to know this information as well.

## **XII. Public Comment:**

Emily Zabato, a sophomore at Smithfield High School, expresses her concerns about hearing that due to local, state and federal budget cuts, five (5) teachers were getting laid off. Ms. Zabato reviews the FY26/FY27 budget numbers that she read. President Tassoni states that her information is incorrect, the council does not have a budget yet, and the BFRB is meeting tomorrow evening.

Member Iannotti explains the following; What Ms. Zabato is referring to is the capital portion of the budget which does not have anything to do with salaries. Capital expenditures are used for renovating the bathrooms, computers, etc. Salaries are from the operating budget. Member Iannotti explains the process of how the council receives the final budget.

Ms. Zabato questions if the School Committee lays off teachers. Member Iannotti explains that based on state law teachers must be noticed a certain number of days before the school year ends.

Kenneth Sousa, 2 Williams Road, states the following: The last BFRB meeting lasted four and a half hours, and he is not sure what happened. It was nothing that the board did. He questions after what happened today (bus contract) what number the board should use. The board is unsure if the contract will be extended.

Member Iannotti questioned if the School Committee Chair and Superintendent have been asked to attend the BFRB meeting tomorrow evening because it is important for the members to have up to date figures. Mr. Sousa reminds the members that the board is coming up upon the deadline, and the board would be just plugging in numbers. President Tassoni suggests using the highest amount, and if the amount is less, a little money will be made. President Tassoni feels that the Carullo Act needs to be revisited.

## **XIII. Adjournment:**

**Motion** is made by Vice President Bovis, seconded by Member Toppi, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourns at 8:23 p.m.

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Town Clerk