

Board of Selectmen
SPECIAL MEETING — 10:00 AM
August 13, 2018
Town Hall Conference Room
MINUTES

Members Present: First Selectman Betsy Petrie and Selectmen Glen Coutu and John Bendoraitis

Others Present: Town Planner Phillip Chester and Administrative Assistant Bernard Dennler; Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department Chief John Lyon and Deputy Chief Mark Elliot; and John Nickerson (principal/owner), Nicholas DeLia (consultant), and Thomas Negrelli (manager — arrived at 10:12 AM) of JLN Associates, LLC

1.0 **Call to Order:** B. Petrie called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

2.0 **Discuss public safety with JLN Associates, LLC**

B. Petrie stated that the fire department is looking at improvements which may include the lease of a bay garage from a campground on the west side of Town for use as a substation. She welcomed representatives of JLN Associates, LLC, a fire protection and industrial safety consulting company.

J. Nickerson introduced JLN Associates, LLC. He said the group can conduct a risk assessment for a town and then make recommendations on how to mitigate the risks described. The purpose of the report they produce is to provide insight to the fire department, community, and local officials.

N. DeLia said the firm produces its assessment by examining data from the department from the previous five to 15 years. The goal is to give clients a roadmap that will allow them to make financial plans so there are “no surprises” when they try to implement the recommendations. They also conduct interviews with firefighters and can do a public forum with taxpayers.

T. Negrelli arrived at 10:12 AM.

B. Petrie asked how long the assessment is likely to take. J. Nickerson said it would take two months. J. Bendoraitis asked about an estimated cost for the project. J. Nickerson said they charged East Lyme \$18,000 for two departments and estimated for Lebanon’s one department there would be a cost of about \$10,000. However, he emphasized that is an estimate and not a quote for services. B. Petrie asked if that would include EMS and EMD. Nickerson said it would.

B. Petrie asked if JLN Associates could explain for the Board of Selectmen the impact ISO ratings have on residents. N. DeLia said ISO ratings are more important to the price of insurance for residents than they used to be. He said if the Town lowers its ISO rating, residents will pay less.

J. Nickerson said that as fire chief of a rural town, he reduced his town's rating from a Class 9 to Class 6 which resulted in rebates for residents, not just owners of commercial property. B. Petrie noted they have had trouble quantifying what those savings to residents would actually be.

N. DeLia mentioned that there are many issues facing departments that will need to be considered, including that volunteerism is way down across the country.

B. Petrie asked what some of the competitors to JLN Associates are. They mentioned Matrix Consulting.

The representatives of JLN Associates, LLC left at 11:05 AM.

M. Elliot asked if today's consultation with JLN is a sign that the potential lease is on hold.

B. Petrie said she cannot comment. She has recused herself from the garage lease negotiations because she is also a member of the fire department.

G. Coutu and J. Bendoraitis responded they would prefer to move ahead with the study rather than sign a contract in the short-term. G. Coutu said the Town needs to be careful about kneejerk reactions and that the consultation and potential study could help them make an informed decision. J. Bendoraitis said the Board of Selectmen needs to evaluate the information from the discussion with JLN to decide whether to pursue a study. B. Petrie said if there is to be a study, there will probably need to be a request for proposals.

NO ACTION TAKEN

3.0 Adjournment

B. Petrie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 AM. J. Bendoraitis SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED: 3:0:0

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Bernard Dennler, Administrative Assistant

Please see the minutes of future meetings for any corrections hereto.