

E. Senator Tom Sherman, Senate Update Senator Sherman met with the Board of Selectmen to update them on what he has been working on and to see what the Town has been working on, in order to represent the Town on any specific issues. Senator Sherman presented the Board with a summary of the work that he has done to-date as the Town's State Senator, which includes but is not limited to:

- Mental Health • Substance Abuse • Water Contamination • Funding for the Portsmouth State Pier of \$3.5 million
- The State portion of the Rye Harbor Dredging is in the budget Regional Issues:
- There are nine eagle scouts in the District • The Rail Trail Project Commission and Committee Work:
- Senator Sherman is Vice-Chair of New Hampshire Drinking Water and Ground Water Trust Fund Advisory Commission.

This is the trust fund that came from the MTBE settlement. Senator Morse is the chair and will likely be the prime sponsor. Senator Sherman will be a co-sponsor on a bill that sets up a new funding mechanism, if the State is successful in their lawsuit. The State-wide liability is probably well over a billion dollars. Senator Morse leveraged the funds from the MTBE settlement. There was \$287 million that came in from Exxon. The trust fund is the last funding mechanism for project applications. They do not accept applications above a certain percentage of the project and there has to be multiple sources of funding. Other state and federal programs have to be tapped DRAFT MINUTES of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting 11/11/2019 See Meeting of 11/25/19 for approvals/corrections 9 out and then in order to "close the deal" the NH Drinking Water and Ground Water Trust will step in.

This is almost the same model as LCHIP. Senator Sherman is currently on twelve committees and commissions. Some of the Bills that he is working on for next session include: • A panel of pharmaceutical bills o The ones that Senator Sherman is sponsoring have to do with transparency, pricing and holding the pharmaceuticals accountable

- Health and Human Services
- Rooms and Meals Some of the active issues that are ongoing in Rye that Senator Sherman is involved in include:
- The intersection of Route 1A and Perkins Road o He got the Commissioner of DOT to do a site visit
- RV parking
- Culvert drainage The Board talked to Senator Sherman about the TAP Grant for the Town Center Project. DOT has funds available to possibly help with the 20% match. Senator Sherman reminded the Board of additional funding available for transportation. There is the \$5.00 surcharge on registrations, which is directed towards transportation programs. Other towns have used that quite successfully. There needs to be a warrant article voted on at Town Meeting. It doesn't have to be a permanent fee. It could be just targeted for one project.

He continued that there was discussion regarding the bascule bridge between Rye and New Castle. Changing the bridge design would save the State \$2 million. There are two bascule bridges in the State; Hampton and New Castle/Rye. Looking at height, boat traffic, and costs, it makes a lot of sense to have the bascule bridge in Hampton.

The State has a commitment to preserve one bascule bridge. If Hampton were to go with a fixed bridge, the New Castle/Rye bridge would be bascule. There has been discussion of preserving one of these bascule bridges as a museum, in order to show what a bascule bridge was like and the active bridges could then be fixed. The final decision for Hampton is supposed to be happening within the next few months. Once that decision is made, the decision will be made on New Castle. A lot of people are looking at it being a fixed bridge. A lot of fishermen are concerned about locking in Little Harbor, which a fixed bridge will do.

Chair Winslow pointed out that one of the most serious issues for Rye is the water treatment plant. It is on the CIP at \$7.5 million; however, if it doesn't happen within the next five years, it will be closer to \$10 million. Funding for the plant is critical. Senator Sherman stated that hopefully the funding will come from the settlement, but that cannot be counted on. There was discussion about a bill to allow the Towns to charge a \$2.00 a night fee on over-night rentals. It was tabled in the Senate and is being re-introduced. There is a meeting with the chamber next week to look at the final version of the bill. It is still at "up to \$2.00" and is totally up to the individual towns. If it is not supported, there is discussion of possibly doing it as a trial in certain towns. The towns that are highlighted are Portsmouth, Hampton and Lebanon. If Rye is interested, Senator Sherman could add them to the list. DRAFT MINUTES of the Board of Selectmen's Meeti