**Selectmen’s Meeting**

**March 25, 2024**

**7:00 PM** Selectman Jack **Esposito** called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman John **Quinlan** and Selectman Mike **Fimbel.**

Jill Weber came before the Board with questions regarding the recount of votes on the library. She voiced concerns regarding the church doing business at the Village School. She plans to go to the School Board about it. This church has offered to stuff the eggs for the Rec. Dept. Easter Egg Hunt. She wants to go on record that nothing religious be put in these eggs. Toys, candy, whatever traditionally is done is fine; but no religious messaging because that would get into the complication of church and state. Her concern is that this is a solicitation effort on their part and she wants us all to be very vigilant that it doesn’t become that. **Esposito** will contact the Recreation Director. Zoe Fimbel stated that the Rec. Dept. provides all the goodies that go inside the eggs. This church wants to participate; they came to the tree lighting; they want to be part of the community and volunteer. **Esposito** stated that this is why he advocated that no political or religious groups should be allowed to meet in town buildings; when we do for one, we have to do for all. Weber disagreed; political is civic, part of our free speech, but religion is separate. **Esposito** stated that Town Counsel advised us that we can authorize or not authorize political or religious groups to use town buildings.

Zoe Fimbel followed up with the Board on what happened last week with Howard Brown. She gave Howard a note on the 21st stating that of the 62 Lamson Farm Comm. meeting minutes he requested, 48 have been delivered to the Town Hall along with the financials. Of the remaining 14, 8 are from 2020 when meetings were not happening due to Covid; she is working diligently on the rest.

The Board went over the debt schedules from the NHMBB to decide the option for the terms of the bond. **Esposito** feels the most advantageous for the Town for the library bond of 1.99 million would be a 25-year level principal bond. Initially for the first year, it would add 50 cents to the tax rate and then decrease after that. Going with a level debt bond would add 41 cents initially but over the life of the bond would be about 150K more in cost as amortized. This is using a rate of 3.75% as an estimate. **Esposito** noted that we did not allocate any money at Town Meeting for the road and the bond funds may not be distributed until August. **Quinlan** noted that he will be setting up a meeting with the Library Building Committee to get both the building contractor and the road contractor together to work out the details of a timeline and when money will be required, etc. They probably would want to wait until May to start on the road in order to let the ground dry out. **Esposito** noted that we can’t use Highway Block Grant money to build a new road. **Quinlan** stated that we could use a line item such as the Tarring and Sealing line; there may also be a solution from the Daland Trust where they could front the money. **Quinlan** motioned to seek out a 25-year level principal bond for the construction of the library building seconded by **Fimbel.** All in favor. The Board next discussed options for the road bond. **Esposito** feels we should go with a 15-year level principal bond for the road in the amount of $700,000. This would be 24 cents on the tax rate using a rate of 3.75% as an estimate. **Quinlan** motioned to seek out a 15-year level principal bond for the road project seconded by **Fimbel.** All in favor. **Esposito** stated that we have to find out what level the road has to get to in order to get the construction material up to the top. We will have Ben Crosby act as Clerk of the Works for the road project. **Quinlan** feels we will just have to rough the road in; get a couple layers of gravel down.

**Esposito** took a moment to recognize that Al Smith’s wife Joann passed. She was a big part of the town for many years and we offer our condolences.

**Esposito** noted that Howard Brown did a lot of work rewriting and revamping job descriptions and policies, etc. **Esposito** wants to continue moving forward with these things as soon as we get the bond issues settled.

**Fimbel** noted that he spoke with someone at NRPC. They have the ability to check site distances and help us with the entry of the road to the library in case we need their guidance on that. **Fimbel** would like to see that hill broken down a bit; the site distance even at the post office is not great.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 3/18/24. **Quinlan** motioned to accept the minutes of 3/18/24 as amended seconded by **Fimbel.** All in favor.

**7:50 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Quinlan** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Fimbel.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary