**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**April 8, 2024**

**In attendance: Jack Esposito, Chair, John Quinlan, Board Member, Mike Fimbel, Board Member, Bonnie Angulas, Library Director, Mark Slavin, Police Chief, Ben Crosby, DPW Director, Jay Wilson, Fire Chief, Randy Wilson, Deputy Fire Chief, Lucien Soucy, Fire Department Lieutenant**

**Community Members: Zoe Fimbel, JoAnn Kitchel**

**Zoom: Cindy Raspiller, Howard Brown, Karen Mitchell, Eileen Naber, Charlie, and Meg Baker**

**7:00pm: Esposito** calls the meeting to order and leads the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Review of Minutes: Quinlan motions to accept the April 1, 2024, minutes as written, second by Fimbel, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed.**

**Esposito** confirms that the other Selectmen are available for a Zoom meeting on Thursday at 10am with bond counsel to discuss the library and road bonds. **Quinlan** asks **Crosby** about Daland Circle maintenance. Received a text from **Kim Lavallee** regarding storm damage. **Crosby** reports the edges are soft and damage is part of normal aging wear and tear. **Esposito** asks **Crosby** about trees on Old Amherst Rd near Springhill. **Crosby** reports he will look tomorrow but he believes this is on private property.

**7:15pm: Department Head Meeting:**

**-Chief Slavin** reports that during the latest storm they had approximately 30 calls in 30 hours. Kudos to the DPW for their quick response to tree-work and keeping the roads maintained.

-Reports that from the PD perspective, the parking arrangements for Town Meeting worked well. Roads remained passable, and although people had to park further, the shuttle was available.

-Car 4 has multiple issues, possibly due to driver learning technology and multiple drivers. Repairs have reduced the budget line to $700 already. Repairs and Maintenance line for this vehicle will go over this year. They do plan to replace the vehicle with the new vehicle that is currently on order. **Esposito** asks if it is worth repairing the car if it is to be replaced and **Slavin** believes it is.

-The department has received their new firearms. **Officer Wolf** is signed up at the Sig Sauer Academy for their Red Dot Instructor course which pertains to the optics on the new firearms. He will then train the rest of the department and Chief Slavin and Officer Morgan will qualify them.

**Fimbel** asks about the Ambulance Contract. **Chief Wilson** advises they check mutual aid call numbers. **Slavin** asks about staffing between the companies being considered, **Chief Wilson** says they are similar in numbers, but that training may differ. **Quinlan** asks that **Chiefs Slavin** and **Wilson** prepare a report on the competitors by June 1, they agree.

**Angulas** reports that it is National Library Week starting April 7, theme Ready, Set, Celebrate. Activities include their eclipse party on Monday the 8th which was attended by 100 people, Community Conversation on Civic Pride Tuesday, and the Story Walk will be updated by weeks end.

-The Girl Scouts are hosting a community cleanup April 20 and 21. The Library will be a pick-up location for free trash bags.

-Wizarding Week will be held at the School April 22-26

-Friends of the Library will be hosting the Plant Sale during Gala on May 18. **Sue Ries** is heading it up, this will be her last year.

**Crosby** reports that there have been two significant storms in the past two weeks with heavy tree damage. We had about 48% of the Town without power/internet for multiple days. **Ray Lyons** will be helping with the cleanup. Thanks to PD and FD for all their work.

-Carleton and Spring Hill Roads have been identified as needing paving and are on the list for this year. Other roads will be identified when he completes his winter roads damage survey, and when the RSMS survey is complete.

-**Ryan Boisvert** has left the DPW so there is a position open on the crew which has been posted on the Town website, Indeed.com, and the NHMA website.

-Trucks are in good shape, the F250 is in the shop getting rocker panels done. New truck has been ordered.

**Quinlan** asks about Eversource tree work. **Crosby** knows Eversource is budgeting money toward it, but he hasn’t received any calls yet. **Fimbel** asks about the trees with blue and white ribbons on them and **Crosby** states those are Asplundh/Eversource specific ribbons. **Soucy** mentions dead branches over Route 13 and is told to call the state.

**Crosby** asks if the new library access road project has engineering oversight, **Quinlan** states yes, a retired engineer will be liaising with **Crosby** and Meridian. **Quinlan** states they intend to break ground on the library the first week of September and the road on the first week of July. **Esposito** asks where the money is going to come from to pay that early and **Quinlan** states that Preston Excavation is willing to start the job and take first payment at the halfway point, so the bond coming in August should be fine. **Esposito** asks whether the funds are to be disbursed from the funds on hand or the bond first and **Quinlan** states he does not know. **Raspiller** comments that when she spoke to the Bond Bank, they told her they don’t want the Town earning money on the bond so the money should be spent from the bond before the funds on hand.

**Esposito** passes out the policies that had been updated or created by **Howard Brown** when he was in office and tells the board to review for next week’s meeting.

**As there is no other business before the board, Quinlan motions to adjourn, seconded by Fimbel. Meeting adjourned 7:50pm**.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Schwarz