**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**June 6, 2022**

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Quinlan, Jr. Also in attendance were Selectmen Howard Brown and John Esposito and minute taker, Laurie Brown.

Quinlan led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Fire Chief, Jay Wilson, came before the Board to make sure that he, as the Town’s MACC Base Representative, and a member of the Board of Governors, and the Board of Selectmen were on the same page before he attends the next meeting (6/15/22). Specifically, he wants to use these 4 points as the Town’s starting position. 1) the removal of the section that allows leaving MACC with notice and adding that towns must stay for the whole IMA term. 2) Minimum of 10-year term if town bond for upgrades. 3) Removal of Milford’s weighted vote with only one representative – Milford must have two representatives at each meeting. Representatives must be from two different Town departments. 4) Re-negotiation of Mont Vernon’s percentage of cost taking into account that we do not use EMS and that we do not have a 24-hour PD.

Board agreed with the above 4 points as a starting position to negotiate for a new IMA.

Wilson also asked the Board if this year’s MACC Base surplus (approx. $15,000) could be used to add a radio tower to the north side of the fire station. It will not interfere with what we have now because it would have a different frequency.

The Board said that they would take that under consideration, but Quinlan asked Wilson to bring in a rough sketch of what the station will look like with the new antenna.

[Ruth Milligan Infanti](https://www.facebook.com/ruth.milliganinfanti?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWU7MIQr69g6z78oulR4z36-h03MA0q6UfMBe2C9OuNFpR3GsEoMefwEAGB8R6qmv3YA41eGglfO3QIJUgVUl1PhLVYV6Tc8fNsZZEejyRjBYzQDaS-niooPHJkHjndHWl4h6AgtE4hSnd8jEZeyUs3&__tn__=-%5dC%2CP-R) came to see the Board to ask if her family could hold a Celebration of Life for Hazel Milligan. Hazel passed away on May 31, 2022, and Infanti would like to use the Town Green for the celebration on Saturday, June 25th at 10:00 AM.

Esposito told her that she was more than welcome to use the green for the celebration, but that she needed to coordinate with the PD for parking etc.

Becci Schwarz brought in a letter for signature authorizing her to apply for the Locality Equipment Purchase Program. Quinlan signed the authorization.

Esposito motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of May 23, 2022 as written. All in favor.

Board also agreed to accept the minutes of their meeting with Town Counsel on 5/16/22 as written.

DPW Director, Ben Crosby, came to the Board with an updated paving quote for 2 areas in Town. One is a section of Francestown Turnpike and the other is the intersection of Old Wilton and Hutchinson. ($143,812.50)

Esposito asked if this price was guaranteed.

Crosby explained that the labor quote was guaranteed, but that there is an escalation clause for liquid asphalt, as it is petroleum based.

Crosby related that Schwarz had looked into other grants to fund the Brook Road Culvert project, and found that 20% can be used for the engineering etc. We can also use with the ARPA funding. We have 36 months to complete the project.

Esposito motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the quote from Advanced Paving. All in favor.

Quinlan asked Crosby about the Fishing Derby.

Crosby said that it went very well; they had over 100 kids register. There was a good amount of donations to get us started on next year’s derby. The whether was perfect.

Quinlan thought that it helped by having it on a Sunday, as a lot of families are running their kids around for sports on Saturdays. He asked Crosby to get him a list of volunteers so that we can thank them for helping.

Quinlan spoke with Town Counsel last week who suggests that the Board move against the owners of 54/56 Weston Hill Road on both fronts; getting a C/O for the second residence, and running a junkyard business.

Steve Roberge, Building Inspector, and Kim Roberge, his assistant, explained that they had spoken with the owners back when they received the report from the structural engineers. They went over, in detail, all of the listed violations and what they would need to do to remedy them. They insisted on building permits for everything so that there is a paper trail, and so that the BI is called out to inspect each element.

Esposito said that the Board is just insisting that the homeowners make the residence safe for people to live there.

K. Roberge said that the rehab people knew that they could make the 2nd residence compliant if they joined the two buildings together. The current owners know that they need to open up the attic to see what needs to be brought up to code there, then they need to get the engineer back to inspect the repairs.

Esposito thought that the engineer reported that the building was “not too bad” except for the snow load.

Quinlan said that, at this point, we don’t expect them to bring it up to code, but we need to give them the option of doing that or vacating the building. He suggested a 90-day timeframe. Board agreed.

Quinlan discussed the “Retirement Party” being planned for L. Brown on June 15th from 11:30 – 1:00. He wants all Town employees and members of all boards, commissions and committees to be invited, along with her family and friends.

Esposito asked if the Town Clerk had turned in the minutes of the Town Meeting held on March 8, 2022 yet.

L. Brown said that she had not received them yet, and that they were due to the State on March 28, 2022.

L. Brown stated that she called a staffing agency (Robert Half) and sent them the Town Administrator job description. They said that there would be some stumbling blocks given this economy. Applicants want full-time, a full benefits package, including retirement. They want to be able to work from home, and won’t want to work every Monday night. They will also want more money. There is nothing about this job that would entice an applicant to come to work here with all the other jobs available that are offering these things.

H. Brown asked about the Strategic Planning Committee.

Quinlan said that he will be discussing it with the Planning Board at their next meeting, and asked if we had gotten any volunteers.

L. Brown said that she has gotten 5 people to volunteer so far.

Quinlan asked her to send him their contact information.

Quinlan said that the NRPC is looking for the names of Mont Vernon’s 2 representatives.

L. Brown said that the current reps are Tim Berry and Mike Fimbel.

Esposito said that Berry wants to stay on, (Board agreed), and that he will check with Fimbel.

L. Brown handed out a packet from the Tax Collector with the deed waivers for tax deeding.

Quinlan asked L. Brown to ask Leger to come in at 6:45 on Monday to go over these.

L. Brown requested that Quinlan sign the CAP Agreements for Primex regarding the Workers Compensation and Property & Liability policies. Quinlan signed.

L. Brown let the Board know that the Town Clerk would be going over her budget line for Computers. The out going Supervisor of the Checklist bought 3 new laptops that have home versions of the operating system. They will not connect with the State Election Server. They must purchase an upgrade for each, and it should cost an extra $300 for all three – not each.

L. Brown let the Board know that employees have been asking about Juneteenth. Last year the Federal Government instituted a new holiday (June 19th) to commemorate the emancipation of [enslaved](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_United_States) [African-Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Americans). It is a paid national holiday, but not for State Employees. L. Brown said that she added it to our calendar for holidays, but wasn’t sure if it should be paid or unpaid.

After a short discussion, the Board decided that Juneteenth will be a paid holiday for full-time employees celebrated in 2022 on Monday, June 20th.

L. Brown brought in a request, in writing, from the Chairman of the Planning Board. They wish to replace two alternates who no longer, or never come to the meetings.

Esposito motioned, seconded by H. Brown, to remove Eric Will and Mike Lewis from the Planning Board as alternates effective immediately. All in favor. L. Brown will have the PB admin. let them know.

The Board had a short discussion over what Comcast was charging for service for each department. It seems as if there is no rhyme or reason to what level of service is required, not what the cost is. L. Brown will contact our representative, Bryan Christianson to have him do an analysis of needs vs. cost.

H. Brown thinks that we should not be forced to have a commercial account – that a residential account would suffice.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown