**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**June 13, 2022**

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

Quinlan led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board reviewed the minutes from June 6, 2022. Brown motioned to accept the minutes of June 6th as written seconded by Esposito. All in favor. The Board reviewed the non-public minutes of June 8, 2022. Brown motioned to accept the minutes of June 8th as written seconded by Esposito. All in favor. The Board discussed the ongoing issue at 54/56 Weston Hill Road and our next steps as discussed with Town Counsel. The lawyer is also doing some more research on the junkyard issue as there are weaknesses in our ordinance.

**7:15 PM – Department Head Meeting**

**Fire Chief Jay Wilson**

* They are prepping for hose testing and pump testing which will start in August or September.
* They are going over their budget for the first half of the year to see where they are at for hours and responses. Call volume is average so far; the longest call so far was the New Boston building fire.
* They will be participating with Amherst for a live burn on June 26th on Nichols Road.
* MACC Base meeting on 6/15. Waiting to hear on the numbers for the cost of putting up a tower up on the north side of the building.

**Chief Mark Slavin – Police Department**

* Gala security went well. He wants to thank the Souhegan Valley Community Emergency Response Team. He wanted a body at every single road going on during the parade and they volunteered two men who set barricades and stopped traffic for us.
* Mike Wolinsky is ¼ of the way through field training. He appears to be a great fit so far. He is very community oriented and very good with the public.
* They’ve just finished up the background investigation for the new candidate.
* On Tuesday, Amherst Road will be paved. Traffic going away from town will still use Amherst Road. Traffic coming into town will be detoured over Secomb Road. There will be cruisers and flaggers there. On Wednesday they will be paving Francestown Tpke. There will not be a cruiser there; it will all be done by flaggers through the state. It should be a one-day project; they will be finishing in August.
* They did the Caught in the Act program; they’ve issued quite a few slush puppy tickets.
* He is looking to increase their detail rate for traffic details. Right now, we charge $45.00 an hour for the officer. He’d like to increase that to $55.00 soon. We are low in the area for what they’re making. He will come back within the next two weeks with firm numbers.

**Ben Crosby – DPW Director**

* The backhoe is back in service; repairs were done last week. They will be returning the rental excavator this week.
* The paving company doing the two state roads in town are giving us 500 tons of asphalt millings. He can mix it in with our gravel, use it as shoulder material, etc. When they come back to do the stone seal, he will give them an area to pile it. Anything left over is for the town to keep; it’s a good deal for the town.
* They are getting ready to pave the section of Old Wilton and Hutchinson Road. The two culverts in that section are in good shape.
* He has a new hire going through the screening process. Waiting on the background check and drug screening; if all comes back OK, he will set a start date. He held an interview last Thursday for the other vacancy. He seems to be another good candidate; he has experience with NH DOT.
* The Highway crew has gone on to the summer schedule of four 10-hour days.
* Working with Becci Schwarz on a couple of grants; this should help cover some more of the Brook Rd. culvert project.
* The Fishing Derby was a success. They had 107 registered kids and put in almost 300 fish. They had a 15x15 tent donated by Pelletier Rental Services. Thanks to Lucien Soucy, Jason Johnson and Tim Angulas for all their help. There were a few people there from the Purgatory Falls Club that set up an informational table for a youth shoot they are going to do. They got good feedback from people on holding the Derby on a Sunday.

**Heather Kennedy – Recreation Director**

* Our first Spring Gala following the pandemic was a great success. Thank you to the Fire Department for sending guys over to help set up on the green, they were a tremendous help.
* Summer concert series is next starting on July 6th – August 3rd. They are still finalizing some details for the band commitments. They will be meeting on Wednesday and will wrap that up. Alex Preston is getting married so there is question as to whether he will perform or not. The Fire Dept. will once again do the cooking and they’ll invite some other community members of the town to come and be on the green now that we don’t have to be so cautious.
* Is it possible to get a door on the closet in the McCollom Building? She’d like to be able to lock up the sound equipment, etc. Ben will check the attic to see if there is a door up there. If not, he will get the dimensions of the door.

**Bonnie Angulas – Library Director**

* This year the Summer Reading Program theme is Ocean’s and Possibilities. The entire Village School visited on Wed 6/3 to hear all about the program. They had 146 kids sign up on the first day and registration will continue through July. They hope to top off at 200 children. JoAnn Kitchel has transformed the library into an undersea experience. The program officially starts Tuesday with story time on the green, movies on Wednesday, crafts on Thursday and special programs on Friday. This weekend is the stuffed animal sleep over.
* The Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation participated in New Hampshire Gives on June 7th and 8th. This is a 24-hour online fundraiser that is sponsored by the New Hampshire Center for Non-Profits. It is just for NH Charities. There were 574 Charities that participated. The Foundation raised with the help of 97 doners the amount of $33,772.00 in a 24-hour period. We ranked 15th in the state for the number of dollars we raised; for a tiny town and a tiny project, that was a huge accomplishment. We were awarded Unique Donors for the greater NH area and given an extra $250 for the number of donors we had. The next day they received the news that they received a $10,000 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation’s Amherst Label/Calvetti Family Fund to be used in the Children’s Area of the new library.
* The Senior Summer Program will be kicking off in less than two weeks. It will be held underneath the tent starting on Friday, June 24th for seniors 55 and up, starting with a tour of the museum.

There will be a 4th of July picnic in the yard of the library on Friday July 1st. The Patriotic Committee will do a presentation about the stone wall at the War memorial. Bingo will be held on Friday, July 8th. The MVPD is coming for doughnuts and a meet and greet on Friday, July 15th. There are a lot of senior services that people are not aware of; they will take that opportunity to inform people of what is available. There is also a water painting night and a musical night.

* They are going to the Wilton Town Hall Theatre with the Summer Reading Program to see The Little Mermaid and will wrap it up with the ice cream social.

Quinlan announced the plan for a retirement party for Laurie Brown on Wednesday, June 15th from 11:30 – 1:00pm and invited all town employees, volunteers and friends to attend. He went on to announce the promotion of Joan Cleary to Town Administrator and Rebecca Schwarz to Executive Assistant. He noted that while losing Laurie is a big loss, it also gives the Selectboard the opportunity to fine tune how the town government works. We will all be working through it over the six months as we may be shifting some traditional responsibilities between the two of them. The Selectboard feels that Joan and Rebecca will be a very good team and we are looking forward to doing good things for the town in the future. Brown noted that what goes with this is that we want to have a capital improvement plan. The committee being created will start looking at all the departments and what their goals are, what their budgets could be over the next five to ten years and look at everybody’s pay structures to see if they are in line with similar towns around us to make sure that everything is the same. We don’t want one department to feel they’re being looked down upon; we want everyone to feel they are part of the team.

Esposito noted that on the 25th of June at 10:00am there will be a Celebration of Life on the green for Hazel Milligan. If there is inclement weather, they will use the church. They discussed traffic on Old Amherst Road as there will be a fair amount of people attending.

**7:50 PM End of Department Head Meeting**

8:00PM Esposito motioned to go into non-public session.

8:15 PM Brown motioned to come out of non-public session.

Esposito had a meeting with the SRLD. They still plan to put in a compactor sometime this summer.

**8:20 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Brown motioned seconded by Esposito to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary