**Selectmen’s Public Meeting Minutes**

**September 19, 2022**

**7:00 PM Quinlan** called the meeting to order and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Steve O’Keefe came before the Board on behalf of the Souhegan Cooperative School Board. There is a meeting at the high school on Thursday, 9/22/22 at the Wilkins School regarding space consideration. They will be proposing some alternatives to the Amherst building project. One idea being presented is leasing that space to the 7th & 8th grade students. They are working with our Mont Vernon Schoolboard counterparts to set up a public meeting at the Fire Station in October. This will allow the public to come ask questions or provide feedback as the budgetary process begins. O’Keefe wants to create more equality between the Town of Amherst and the Town of Mont Vernon in terms of how we utilize the school and more importantly how the school treats both communities. One idea he has, with the BOS support, is to follow with what Amherst does when a sports team wins a state championship. They fly a flag in downtown Amherst and have a ceremony. He would love to have that tradition up here. He will try to raise funds to buy a flag that we could fly from the Mont Vernon Town Hall flagpole and invite the kids up after their ceremony in the Amherst Village. He has spoken with the Police Chief who is willing to volunteer his services along with O’Keefe to escort the kids up to have a ceremony up here so our Mont Vernon athletes can feel that our community is a part of the school as well. He is hoping to find ways to bridge more of an equal participation in both communities; our events are just as important as Amherst events. He suggests possibly having the high school chorus singing at the Tree Lighting event. The Board is in favor of flying a flag from the Town Hall flagpole. O’Keefe will reach out to the Superintendent to let him know he’s OK’d it with this Board and hopefully we can start to include this community more in these events. O’Keefe will email the Building Report to the Board and will keep us updated.

**7:20 PM** The Board reviewed a let from Attorney Quinn regarding Crosby & Riley Road. **Quinlan** will review and we will table until our next meeting.

The Board reviewed a letter from Spruce Building & Development regarding a scheduled inspection of a sprinkler system.

The Board reviewed the minutes from 9/12/22. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 9/12/22 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

The Board discussed the aftermath of the Halloween discussion and the subsequent emails sent. **Brown** brought up how the position of Recreation Director was developed. He searched back though the last five years of Selectmen’s meetings. One of the things he came up with was in the Town Report of 2016 there was an ad saying there was an open position for Recreation Director which stated that the term was for three years. The current Director is on her fourth year. She is welcome to put her name back in if she wants, but it should be opened back up because it’s supposed to be only a three-year term. All of the other committees have three-year terms. **Quinlan** feels we need to look at all the positions in town and start defining them so they know exactly what the jobs are, what the limits and responsibilities are, etc.

**Esposito** discussed the MACC Base agreement proposal. The Board needs to discuss this further with Chief Wilson.

**Brown** was approached at the polls about the view lot heading down the Route 13 hill. Fred Ries has been mowing the yard, but there are some scrub trees growing up that are starting to block the view. He wonders if we should contact the Conservation Commission and see if they can cut the trees down. **Esposito** thinks we should talk to Ben Crosby; he may want to contract Ray Lyons to take them down. **Quinlan** was approached at the polls by a resident who is concerned about using the voting machine. He wanted to know if we could go back to paper ballots. He was told he could put in a petition warrant for next years Town Meeting to let the voters decide.

**Quinlan** noted that the Strategic Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow night. They are almost done with the Land Use chapter of the Master Plan.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary