**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**December 12, 2022**

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectman John **Quinlan.** Also present was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.**

The Board reviewed the minutes of 12/5/22. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 12/5/22 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

**7:15 Department Head Meeting**

**Chief Mark Slavin – Police Department**

* In NH we now have a 988 Suicide Crisis Line. They met with Rapid Response and Greater NH Mental Health to go over protocol and procedures now that this has been implemented. The problem they’ve faced in the past is when someone is going through a mental health crisis, Rapid Response assembles a team to come on site opposed to us sending someone to the ER. We’ve had trouble in MV finding teams to come on site that are local. We are supposed to be using the NH Greater Health Team; they get very busy working in Nashua and other cities. We’ve had teams come out from as far away as Dover. They had a meeting and voiced their frustration with the response time. They gave some alternate numbers and resources that go directly to NH Greater Mental Health.
* Office Tyler Swenson has started his field training. He uses a different computer system in New Ipswich so he is learning our system.
* For the 2nd year in a row, there is a donation box in the PD lobby for CAST out of Milford asking for donations for youths in need in the Nashua area. They are collecting soup cans, reusable water bottles, hand warmers, hats/gloves/scarves, hand sanitizer, travel size shampoo/conditioner, soap, etc.
* Waiting on the new prosecution contract from Wilton. There will be a 4% increase from last year. There was a question of how many hours of prosecution time Mont Vernon is using. They had us down for 400 hours, but he had that number changed to 110 hours.

**Chief Jay Wilson – Fire Department**

* Getting ready for winter; making room for the cruisers.
* Forestry 1 has had a couple of mechanical issues which have been repaired.
* Waiting on delivery of parts back ordered in October.

**Heather Kennedy – Recreation Director**

* Tree Lighting happened on Saturday night. The tent, heaters and decorations went up beautifully. The Fire Dept. had their chili cookoff and silent auction. The cub scouts and the Souhegan High School chorus sang at the tree lighting ceremony. Thank you to the Police, Fire and DPW for all their help in advance preparing for it and the details of the night.
* Crotchet Mountain Youth Development Program is under way; the deadline has been extended to Dec. 15th. We currently have about a dozen kids signed up.
* We’ve joined forces with Amherst Rec and the NH Recreation & Parks Assoc. to get details about their Southern NH Tour of Lights. There is a map of all of the houses that are lit up.
* The light over the front door of the Town Hall is flickering on and off all night long. The heat on the 2nd floor of the McCollom Bldg. does not seem to be working. Sgt. Daigneault will check it out.

**Bonnie Angulas – Library Director**

* Seats & Feets sock and underwear drive ended on Dec. 1st. They dropped 2 large shopping bags down to SHARE in time for the holidays.
* Letters to Santa is in full swing. You can drop off your letters to Santa in their mailbox for a speedy response until December 20th.
* The Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation had a very successful Giving Tuesday one-day fund raiser. They did about $8,000 after matches and secured 2 naming rights for the new building. An anonymous donor gave $175,000 for the Children’s Room & Reading Room and another anonymous donor gave $25,000 for the vestibule/entrance to the library. They are looking to wrap up as many donations as possible by the end of December as we move into Warrant Article season. All donations are matched 25% by the NEH Grant.
* The Library Building Committee has been meeting to address the sprinkler questions of the Mont Vernon Fire Department. Bill McKinney will be reaching out to Chief Wilson to set up a meeting.

**Ben Crosby – Highway Director**

* Made it through the first storm with no incidents other than a hydraulic hose repair.
* Working on final numbers for the budget; waiting on quotes for replacing the trailer at the Transfer Station.
* There was discussion on the Transfer Station regarding a resident claiming there had always been a demolition dumpster and that we accepted construction debris. The resident went on FB Chatter and tried to start a petition to bring back the demolition dumpster. The proper procedure is to take all construction debris to the Amherst Transfer Station where they have scales to weigh, etc.

**7:40 PM** The Board had discussion with Chief Slavin and Sgt. Daigneault regarding their Holiday Pay line. **Esposito** said it had originally been set up so that the full-timers who were working holidays would get extra pay. Slavin said it had been a scheduling issue at first. They are shift workers so they can’t take off holidays. They don’t get double time for working them; they get straight pay and then a comp day. Since we have 11 holidays, they get 11 days comp time. They have 4 full time officers; that comes out to 352 hours a year that they have to schedule coverage for. The idea was instead of using that comp time, if you hold it, you get paid out at straight pay at the end of the year. It’s an incentive for the guys not to use the comp time during the year, which would result in having to cover that shift at an OT rate.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget numbers for 2023. We can purchase the laptop computer for the Selectmen’s Office out of this year’s budget. **Esposito** noted that the salary line for this year is over due to L. Brown having a very large amount of earned vacation time banked. She did not announce her retirement until after Town Meeting; it was too late to adjust the numbers. **Brown** feels that having the 9% COLA on all the salary lines is pretty self-explanatory for the Budget Committee. **Esposito** noted that when it was only 1% no one complained; we do not have a step system for our employees. Our retention is at almost 100%.

**Esposito** brought up the Highway Dept’s pavement marking line for next year. He asked Crosby to increase that line to include putting white lines on the outer lanes of some of our main roads, such as Old Wilton Road, which are very dark at night.

**Esposito** readdressed the elderly exemption. It has not been updated since 2007. The SCBA grant is still pending; Chief Wilson stated he will not hear until the end of December or beginning of January.

**8:00PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned seconded by **Brown** to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary