**Selectmen’s Public Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2023**

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectman John **Quinlan.** Also present was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.** Amy Wyman, Wallace Road, came before the Board to praise and thank the DPW. With all of the wet, mild weather we have had, Salisbury Road is drivable and passable, unlike the New Boston end of Salisbury Road. The Board reviewed the minutes of 1/4/23. **Esposito** motioned to approve the minutes of 1/4/23 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor. **Brown** has started looking at updating the Employee Handbook. Our policies and procedures have not been updated since 2011. **Quinlan** discussed finishing the 2nd half of the audio/visual project in the Town Hall.

**7:15 PM Department Head Meeting**

**Chief Mark Slavin – Police Dept.**

* DARE starts up next week with the 5th grade class at the MVVS.
* They have been approved for a $12,564 100% funded grant through the DOJ which will allow them to purchase 3 new portable radios and a pistol rated ballistic shield which would be used for a barricade in an active shooter situation. He gives a big thank you to Becci Schwarz for assisting with that grant.
* Slavin spoke with the NHMA about posting Brook Road open to local traffic only. It is enforceable by police action; it just needs a majority vote of the Selectmen. Crosby will reach out to APD tomorrow to discuss their end of it; we will have to divert traffic.

**Ben Crosby – Highway Dept.**

* Crosby discussed the extension of the Brook Road project. The repair of the large culvert seems to be holding up well; it should be good until we schedule the replacement. We had originally discussed waiting until school is out to do the project, but with the compromised culvert, we may need to push the date up. They will need 2-3 weeks to install the bridge. Joan can call the school bus company to find out how many bus stops will be affected.
* The 2007 Int. is down temporarily. They need to replace the sprockets on the spreader chain; they are waiting on parts.

**Chief Jay Wilson – Fire Dept.**

* Getting ready to start January/February maintenance schedule with the trucks. They have new mechanics lined up.
* The total cost to replace the SCBA equipment was around $162,000 as of last year. They will be applying for a new grant this month with the help of Beci Schwarz. The equipment will expire at the end of 2023.

**Library Director – Bonnie Angulas**

* Preparing the end of year statistics for the National Public Library Survey. They had 13,902 visitors; a little over 14,000 checkouts; 205 programs with 3,749 attendees. JoAnn performed 117 of those programs.
* Town Report submission will be sent in once the Library Trustees approve on January 17th.
* The library received a grant from the Greater Nashua Smart Start Coalition for $2,000 to support early literacy and social/emotional development in children’s programming. They’ve applied these funds to lap sit and story time for the winter and they’ve added a program for February vacation week for all the kids of Mont Vernon.

**Recreation Director – Heather Kennedy**

* The lights on the tree will be turned off this week.
* Ski Club starts up officially on Friday, January 13th; we have 15 kids from Mont Vernon enrolled in the program at Crotchet mountain.
* They are collaborating with Lamson Farm and the CC to clear up some of the trails at Lamson Farm area to encourage outdoor activities such as hiking, x country skiing etc.
* Tentative dates for 2023 events are posted in the the Flyer and online. They will meet tomorrow night to start planning for the big events.

**7:40 PM** Chief Wilson came to the Board to make the Board aware of a situation with MACC Base. In December, the Fire Dept. went to a frequency with VHF in anticipation of moving off low band in the next couple of years. They needed to get the MACC Base radio that is in the station programmed to that frequency. They hit a roadblock dealing with the Milford Rep who blocked the expenditure of $500 - $1000 for that project. That will be brought up again at next week’s MACC Base meeting. Hopefully, the expenditure will be put through because they are now a month behind in having our mutual aid companies talk to them. They meet with MACC Base next Tuesday at 4:00pm.

**Esposito** brought up the SRLD meeting. The power to operate the compacters in Amherst and Hollis is electric. The towns pay the electric. Slocomb was filling the fuel tank on our engine with on road diesel; we should fill it with our own diesel which will save the SRLD approx. $150. The Amherst state rep is pushing composting; Hollis is doing it. We might be forced into it in the future.

Eileen Naber questioned if the Planning Board Hearing was posted correctly? She did not see it posted on the website and only saw it posted on FB today for the first time. She does not know if it is posted at the post office. Usually, these types of hearings prior to placement on the Warrant have to be posted so many days ahead of time; she does not think the meeting has been posted properly. We will check with Becci Schwarz to make sure it has been posted in three places.

The date of the public hearing on the proposed 2023 budget will be Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00pm with a snow date of Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00pm.

The Board reviewed the two bids that came in on the access road to the proposed library/cemetery. The first bid came in at approx. $767,000 and the other at approx. $818,000.

**Brown** questioned where we stand with Sheehan on this. **Quinlan** stated that he’s called them; they are working on it but he has no definitive answer. **Esposito** noted that one bid has an estimated start date of 5/1/23 with a completion date of 8/11/23. The last day for the Select board to publish notice of time, place and subject of public hearing on a bond/note issue over $100,000 is Monday, February 20, 2023.

**8:10 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary