**Selectmen’s Public Meeting Minutes**

**January 24, 2023**

**5:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectman John **Quinlan.** Also present was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.** Eileen Naber came before the Board to confirm that the land the MVVS building sits on and McCollom Field belong to the Mont Vernon School District. She supplied the Board with supporting documents (attached). Cleary will make the appropriate changes in our system.

Becci Schwarz came before the Board requesting the Chairman’s signature so as to appoint her as the entity administrator for the Town’s SAM registration, which is necessary for grants. This will be the third time she has submitted this form. The issue she is running into is that it keeps getting returned stating that information is incorrect. It clearly was not set up by somebody that works in this office; it has the wrong tax ID and the wrong street address. The Town’s SAM registration is expiring on February 5th. She’s come before the Selectmen to request that it be noted somewhere that the only people that can have access to it for the Town’s purposes are herself and Joan in the Town Office. She has been trying to get this corrected for 6 months.  **Quinlan** stated that going forward, only the Town Administrator and Executive Assistant can have access to that information.

**5:15 PM Library Discussion of Repayment of Funds**

Library Trustee Jane King and Library Director Bonnie Angulas came before the Board to discuss the salary overage that occurred in 2022. There was an overage on the payroll line which then created an overage on the FICA/Med line and they had an overage on their benefits line. The total amount of all three is $5,623.79. Joan will prepare an invoice breaking down the three amounts.

Angulas asked for dates on bond hearings, deliberative session, etc. The public hearing on the proposed budget and warrant articles is Monday, 2/6/23. The last day to **post** notice of a public hearing on a bond/note issue over $100,000 is Monday, 2/20/23. The last day to **hold** a public hearing on a bond/note issue over $100,000 is Monday, 2/27/23. **Esposito** asked if they will be proposing a bond issue over $100,000? King said they haven’t decided; there are two meetings left with the Library Building Committee. Angulas stated that the bids just came in; they have to interview the construction firms. **Brown** stated that they are going through and comparing the bids. **Esposito** stated that he’s part of the Board yet this is the first he’s heard about this. He asked how much they have raised in contributions? Angulas said 3.3 million which includes the money in the Library Capital Reserve and the Daland Trust pledge. **Quinlan** stated that there are more bids coming in on the road. The one who had the best bid last year is going to resubmit a new bid, and there are three or four more coming in. He explained that there were 6 construction firms that got the complete bid, for both the road and the library. They got 2 bids back on that. There were six additional road construction firms that the RFP went out to. As of last week, he had not seen any of those. He had a conversation with Spencer Tate who said that there are at least two or three more coming in. **Esposito** noted that in the December ’21 estimate, they gave a price ‘plus site work’ as a separate item. He is concerned that the site work is going to be an excessive amount given the wetlands, etc. **Esposito** asked if a Clerk of the Works will be required; **Quinlan** answered yes; that’s a soft cost not included in the bid. Joan requested the RFP to send to the Budget Committee. **Quinlan** will have it forwarded to the office.

**Esposito** spoke to Eileen Naber regarding the position of Town Treasurer and the post she made on the Mont Vernon Chatter page stating that there is a conflict of interest with the Town Administrator also being the Treasurer. He stated that it is technically not a conflict of interest. The way we’ve done it for years is that we have a system that works where the three Selectmen sign the manifest; they sign checks requiring two signatures and they all look through the invoices and checks going out every week. We don’t have criteria set up for who could be Treasurer; anyone can run for it without being qualified for it, which is our shortcoming. Laurie Brown was the Treasurer; Joan was the Assistant Treasurer and everything worked fine. He can understand the concern, but he does not feel that there has ever been a conflict of interest. Also, if someone other than in the office does become Treasurer, we will have to supply office space and a computer. **Quinlan** noted that the auditors would frankly say that the safeguards aren’t what they could be; we would respond that yes, we understand that but we take all the extra precautions we possibly can, given that we only have two people running the Town Office. At their recommendation, we added a second signature line to both payroll and payable checks. The Treasurer signs as well as one Selectman on all checks. Our bank verified that they will not accept a check without two signatures. **Esposito** stated that the way Eileen worded her post, it insinuates that something is not right, and that is not the case. He’s not trying to put her on the spot, but people don’t understand the way things work here and what we do to safeguard every penny. We’ve never had a problem; it’s been working well. Eileen said that perhaps she worded it too strongly; she will make another statement tomorrow.

The Board went back over the bid proposal for the pressure washer dedicated circuit and fuel station light as part of the diesel tank project at the Highway Garage. The bid came in higher than expected; the Building Inspector is requiring more under a wiring code that has a grey area for diesel pumps. The Board asked for Ben to get another quote or two for comparison.

**6:00 PM** The Board reviewed the minutes of 1/9/23. **Esposito** motioned to approve the minutes of 1/9/23 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

The Board discussed the status of the Weston Hill Road property.

The Board discussed the Elderly Exemption limits. Joan will ask the Tax Collector to come in next meeting to discuss eligibility and tax impact.

The Board discussed tentative dates for a bond hearing.

**Brown** spoke of a conversation he had with Earle Rich. Rich is taking all of his photos through the years and putting them on thumb drives and distributing to the Library, Historical Society, etc. **Brown** feels we should reimburse for the thumb drives. **Esposito** and **Quinlan** agreed.

**6:15 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary