**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**Public Hearing on Bond Issues**

**February 22, 2023**

**7:00 PM Quinlan** opened the Bond Hearing and reviewed the Warrant Articles with bonds related to them:

* Warrant Article #4 Construction of New Library Building

**Esposito** stated that he has seen nothing other than these numbers presented here in the warrant. Raspiller stated that they have a bid from Turnstone Construction who was selected from the four bidders who responded to the RFP. Esposito asked if that has been presented to the Select Board? Raspiller stated that it has been presented to the Library Trustees. The Library Trustees voted to accept it on February 4th. It includes the Turnstone bid of $5.5 million give or take and the soft cost determined by the Library Building Committee to support that with the overall cost of the two together being capped at no more than $5.95 million for the project. $3.31 million is available between the commitment of the Daland Trust, the Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation, the Library Capital Reserve and a pledge from the Friends of the Library. They are looking for $2.64 million in a bond to support $3.31 million in private and other funds that have already been established for the building. **Esposito** noted that all we are doing is approving the bond amount.

* Warrant Article #5 Installation of New Library Sprinkler System

Peter Tedder asked why this is not included in the cost of construction of the library? Bill McKinney responded that the building fire codes do not require a sprinkler system as an addition to the cost of the library. It is a significant cost issue and not required by code. The Library Trustees felt it was best to add it as a Warrant Article if the Town’s people wanted to spend the additional money on the library. Chief Wilson stated that we do not know that it is not required by code; the Library Building Committee has asked for a waiver to the requirement. The State Fire Marshal has not yet ruled on that. The Fire Chief stated that he and his consultants believe that the building meets the requirement for a sprinkler system both for fire flow and occupancy load. The Fire Marshal has the final say on the waiver request; until he rules on this as the state authority, we cannot say that it is or is not required. **Esposito** said they’re asking the town to accept a $6.5 million building and won’t put a 150K sprinkler system in it. He doesn’t think that’s good advice; the sprinkler system should go in. **Quinlan** thinks we leave the design to the architects. Raspiller noted that the Trustees have no concerns about including the sprinkler system if it is required. Amy Wyman asked when we expect to hear from the Fire Marshall; is there an anticipated deadline or date? McKinney said he had communication with the State Fire Marshal office last week and asked him to clarify the email by Deputy State Fire Marshal so that we can go to our public information session on March 2nd to clear everything up so that we can be ready to answer any of these questions at Town Meeting.

* Warrant Article #6 Construction of Access Road

McKinney noted that the Access Road is necessary whether the library is built or not. The purpose of this access road is actually providing access to the cemetery, and secondary to that, to the library. Jay Wilson, speaking as Cemetery Trustee, said the cemetery will not need access to that property until 2028-2030 to begin development and construction. Peter Tedder, speaking as a member of the Conservation Commission, said that during the review process of the road, there were a lot of drainage issues. They were told that the issues have been corrected, but they were never resubmitted to the Conservation Commission for review. McKinney said he would be happy to spend some time and go over the plans with Tedder.

* Article #7 New All-Wheel Fire Truck

The rates are anticipated to be around 5%. We won’t know until July when the bond rates come out. We won’t get the money until mid-August.

**7:30 PM Quinlan** closed the Bond Hearing. The Board reviewed the minutes of 2/13/23. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 2/13/23 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

**Brown** questioned if they need to make a motion to reject all the original road bids and then open the RFP up again. **Quinlan** stated that they don’t need to do that. The two written ones they saw were way out of whack. A couple of the road people who originally bid the road project last year came back with bids. Next week they should be done with the analysis and it can be presented next week. One thing that has really affected the cost of the project is the cost of the asphalt which is based on the cost of diesel. **Quinlan** stated that they are fairly confident in the analysis so far that they will be able to get underneath the $700,000 place holder number.

**Quinlan** stated that he would like to vote on the warrants because he was indisposed last week; he would like to re vote on the Warrant Articles. Joan stated that we are too late to change this in the Town Report as it has already gone to print. **Quinlan** said we can have a flyer showing the re-vote on the day of Town Meeting. **Brown** noted that the Budget Committee will be doing the same thing and will have an addendum at Town Meeting.

The Board voted on the Warrant Articles:

Article #1 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #2 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #3 The Board supports two for; one against.

Article #4 The Board supports two for; one against.

Article #5 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #6 The Board supports unanimously

Article #7 The Board supports two for; one against.

Article #8 The Board supports two for; one against.

Article #9 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #10 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #11 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #12 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #13 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #14 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #15 The Board supports unanimously.

Article #16 The Board supports unanimously.

There is a question on Article #3 Increase Board of Selectmen to 5 members. Eileen Naber feels that it should be voted on by secret ballot on Wednesday. The Town Clerk said it will be voted on Tuesday; Eileen thinks it should be on Wednesday at Town Meeting. Joan will check in the morning with the Town Clerk, Town Moderator and the State.

**Quinlan** made the public announcement that he is going into the hospital tomorrow morning for heart by-pass surgery. He will be out of commission for at least five days before coming home from the hospital. The Board wished him the best.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary