**Selectmen’s Meeting**

**March 6, 2023**

**7:00 PM Quinlan** called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown. Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 2/27/23 as written seconded by **Brown.** Two in favor; one abstention. **Brown** motioned to amend the minutes of 2/6/23 to make specific reference to discussion Warrant Articles 1, 2 & 3 seconded by **Esposito.** All in favor.

Town Moderator David Sturm came before the board to discuss Town Meeting procedures. Sturm stated that the only really complicating factor is the fact that there are going to be four bond votes. They all have to be open for an hour. That does not mean that we can’t reconvene and continue the meeting once the line has died down and people are back in their seats. They’ve got different colored voting cards and stamps to make sure no one votes twice. We are ordering 400 chairs; full capacity at the school is 500. There will be police presence. Sturm plans to stress in his initial remarks that we really do need people to keep their comments to three minutes; it’s going to be a very long night.

**7:20 PM Esposito** brought up the recent dialogue regarding the Town Office on the Mont Vernon Chatter. He feels people are creating problems with their statements which he does not understand. There was a statement made a month or so ago about there being a conflict of interest with the Treasurer position being held by the Town Administrator. There is none; we are legal in what we do. We have never had a problem with anything with the Treasurer’s office. A candidate has put a couple of statements out that he wants to change this and that and make us progressive. **Esposito** doesn’t understand what it’s about. We don’t have a problem for the people; he doesn’t know what this candidate is getting at. We don’t invest our money into CD’s because no interest has been paid on them for years. We operate on a shoe-string budget. Even though we have a large surplus number, that’s strictly because of uncollected taxes and the Kaminski property. It makes us look like a rich little town but we are not. We’ve tried many times to have that number taken off, but the DRA won’t allow it. We’ve never had a problem with the Treasurer’s we’ve had, past or present. People read this stuff and they’re perceiving there could be a problem when there is none. **Esposito** noted that when you put something in print it stays there forever. People read it and insinuate that something is wrong when there is nothing wrong. If you have a statement to make, make the statement and substantiate what you’re saying.

**Esposito** discussed the financing of the library bond. If we go with a 2.64 million level debt schedule vs a level principal schedule, the level debt would increase the total payment by $685,800 over the course of 30 years. That would give an initial tax impact of .55 which sounds great but two years later it would jump to .60 and stay at basically that amount. A level principal schedule starts at .72 and goes down progressively a few pennies very year after that. **Brown** stated that the difference between the level debt and level principal is that with the level principal you’re paying down on the principal all through the 30 years; with the level debt you’re not paying it down and the people that are here 30 years from now are going to be making their contribution for it. **Esposito** stressed that it is a $685,000 increase in the cost of the bond to do it with the level debt. That’s a lot of money; it would more than pay for the road. He spoke with the attorney at Devine Millimet who strongly recommends one bond for the library, road and sprinkler system.

Joan noted that we have to make a change to the budget on the floor the night of Town Meeting. We have to increase the health insurance line for an employee who is going from a single plan to a family plan.

The Board decided to delay next week’s Department Head meeting until after Town Meeting. We will postpone indefinitely.

**7:45 P** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary