**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**April 10, 2023**

**7:00 PM Quinlan** called the meeting to order. Also in attendance was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.** Eileen Naber verified the roster for the Strategic Advisory Committee members. The current members have signed on until the end of this year. She noted that the Patriotic Committee members had not been listed in the Town Report.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 4/3/23. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 4/3/23 as amended seconded by **Brown.** All in favor. **Brown** commented on the second page of the minutes pertaining to the Rec Director position. He had discussed reposting the position and writing a policy. Someone made the comment that the Rec Director was in her second year of her second term. He researched everything and she was never reappointed. He still feels that we should reopen that position to everyone else. **Esposito** recalls that she was reappointed. Jessica Pomeroy noted that the current Rec Director has received the stipend every year; if she has been getting paid at the end of the year that would imply that she was reappointed. She feels that the lack of reappointment was an oversight. **Brown** said that his point is that we should open the position back up if there are other people that want to take on that position, and it’s fair to do so because she was not reappointed. Pomeroy said if it’s a three-year term, that person should be allowed to fill that three-year term. Eileen Naber feels this is a position that has to serve for a calendar year. The year has started, the dates are set for events through Christmas Tree Lighting. She feels the decision could be made for 2024, but she doesn’t see how we can cut the position this far into 2023. **Esposito** does not feel we should be changing mid-stream on this. It all started last October for Halloween; that’s what started this whole thing. Zoe Fimbel noted that this is a three-year position. Just because somebody overlooked putting that in our minutes, it doesn’t mean that she wasn’t reappointed for a three-year position. She feels that we shouldn’t even be considering changing this until this term is finished. Historically we know it’s been a three-year position. **Brown** stated that it’s his opinion that if it’s not in the minutes, then it didn’t happen. You can’t prove to him that it happened because it’s not in the minutes.

**7:15 PM Department Head Meeting**

**Chief Mark Slavin – Police Department**

* Office Tyler Swenson has resigned from MVPD. He worked full time for the New Ipswich Police Dept. and he has transferred to the Amherst Police Dept. Amherst PD does not allow outside employment so he had to resign with us to stay with Amherst. We did hire Officer Roman Soboliev so we are back at eight even with the loss of Swenson.
* They are finalizing the purchase of eight body cameras. He should have the quote within a day or two. He hopes to be up and running by July 1st. He still has to rite policies and procedures. Becci Schwarz has applied for an additional 25K in congressionally directed spending through Shaheen’s office. We are waiting for a response on that. **Quinlan** asked how much storage space they have and how long will they keep the footage? Slaving stated that by statute they have to purge most of the stuff. The only time they don’t purge is if there is a use of force, if there is an arrest. There are certain things that by law they have to keep for a certain amount of time; everything else gets purged after a few weeks.
* The new cruiser is finally being built. They are dropping off the unmarked vehicle Wednesday. They will remove the radar, the radio, the computer repeater systems to then install into the new Ford Explorer. He should have the new vehicle within three weeks.
* April 22nd from 10:00am – 2:00pm is the semi-annual drug take back day through the DEA. They collected 8lbs of prescription drugs the last time.
* They’ve started doing Department workshops once a month. As a group they go over different felony cases, any issues with the PD, etc. It’s completely voluntary; there were six of them last time. The Hillsborough County Attorney’s Office department liaison showed up last time to answer questions about the County Attorney’s Office.
* April 19th they are hosting a class called Rules and Laws for Youth Drivers. It’s geared for new drivers or soon to be drivers with their parents. They are finding that kids are going through Driver’s Education and not really being educated on the youth operator consequences and actions of the first 6-months. There are different rules that youths have to abide by such as not being able to use hands free in the vehicle. It’s a good education for the parents as well. They have 15 people signed up for the class as of now.

**Fire Department – Chief Jay Wilson**

* Waiting on truck repairs from the two incidents they had in November of ’22 and the past one in March. They’ve both been evaluated by Primex.
* The activity level is twice what it was last year; they were in New Boston last night for a building fire.

**Highway Department – Ben Crosby**

* They are doing spring cleanup from all the storm damage; brush, trees, etc. He has Ray Lyons from Northeast Tree Removal assisting as our one truck set up for the chipper is out of commission. **Brown** suggested we start a chip pile seeing as it’s too dry out to burn and the burn pile is enormous.
* Still collecting quotes on the office trailer. He will meet and discuss the setup with Dennis Slocomb so as to know the available space for a new trailer.
* They have found a grant for roadway safety. Becci Schwarz stated that the purpose of Safe Streets for All is for planning, infrastructure, behavioral and operational initiatives to prevent serious injuries on roads and streets involving pedestrians/motor vehicles; anything that uses the streets. Crosby stated that there are some dangerous sharp curves on our roads as well as a lack of sidewalks and other items that need to be addressed. The money that is available for us that we would qualify for would only be for studies at this point. There are certain things that need to happen before we can qualify for implementation money. The first step is to get the BOS permission to even begin the process. Then we would need to get a third-party survey to gain statistical information on what’s needed. There is a 20% match required; the grant will cover anywhere from $100,000 to $1,000,000. If the BOS chooses to approve going forward with this grant, the next step would be to form a committee consisting of a member of the PB, Highway and PD to work together on it.
* The tentative date for this years Fishing Derby is Sunday, June 4th. Purgatory Fish & Game Club has expressed interest in being part of it again and will share responsibilities.
* The bridge on Brook Road is still scheduled to be installed after the school year ends in June so as not to interfere with the bus routes.

**Recreation Director – Heather Kennedy**

* The Crotchet Mountain Ski Club wrapped up in mid-March. There were 11 families and 20 kids that took part in that.
* The Egg Hunt took place Saturday; it was a great turn out and an overall successful event. There were a dozen people helping to fill over 3,000 plastic eggs. Kennedy thanked Lucien Soucy for transporting the Easter Bunny by firetruck to and from the event.
* The Lamson Farm Commission, Conservation Commission and Rec Dept. are coordinating a trail cleanup day at Lamson Farm on Saturday the 15th from 9:00am – 12:00pm. The Conservation Comm is planning another one at Herlihy Swamp the following Saturday the 22nd.
* Spring Gala is scheduled for Saturday May 20th. They will start off with the Firemen’s Pancake Breakfast. They are trying to make sure that the 5K Run happens, but with N2N disbanding, it’s taking a bit more work. The middle school marching band will join the parade. They are trying to get approval to have the seniors march in the parade with the 6th graders. Tom Wahle has agreed to be Parade Coordinator this year. The theme for this year is the Groovy 70’s.

**Library Director – Bonnie Angulas**

* She is submitting the 2022 Library Annual Report to the State Library as required by State RSA. It consists of hundreds of questions about number of visits, circulation, programs, services, salaries, etc. She mentions this because her statistics were questioned on social media right before Town Meeting and at the microphone at Town Meeting. She wants everyone to know exactly how they collect those statistics. She produced a statistic sheet and a worksheet she has to follow and questions she has to answer. All libraries in NH have to answer these questions; they don’t allow her to apply for grants if they don’t fill out the annual report and it is required by law. She also has to put it in the Town Report and it is published on the NH State Library website. It was disappointing to see the speculation about the statistics; that they were inflated or the numbers weren’t accurate. There is no incentive for her to change the numbers because from year to year there is different information and she did submit in the 2021 Town Report all of the statistics from 2015-2021 so there could be a comparison. She doesn’t know what else she can do to be transparent about it. The daily statistic sheet is on the front desk. The minute they open, they track the people that come in the door. Somebody asked if she counts Amazon drivers; yes. If an Amazon driver comes through the door to use the restroom, we count them. She doesn’t make the rules; that’s what the State Library says. If they cross the door, she’s supposed to count them. They also let you do an average per day; she chooses not to do an average per day. She likes to know the information of how many people are coming in and how many people are coming to programs. It helps her to understand where they are falling short and where they are exceeding expectations.
* JoAnn is hosting her Wizarding Week again this year the last week of April. She’s registered over 64 kids in two days and they are looking forward to a fun week. She is accepting volunteers for set up or breakdown.
* The Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation will be the recipients of the NH Charitable Gaming Funds from Filotimo’s Casino in Manchester from April 16th to the 20th and then five more days in June. 35% of the proceeds from gaming during that period goes to a non-profit. They applied and were chosen for two of those weeks. The Foundation promised that they were going to continue to fund raise this year.
* She will be attending the NH Library Association Conference May 4-5 up in Meredith representing Mont Vernon.

**7:50 PM** Jay Wilson brought the Board up to date on MACC Base regarding the last meeting with MACC Base and the BOG and the misrepresentation that changing the frequency is an upgrade. Changing the frequency is not an upgrade; it’s a frequency change. Milford still refuses to deal with us over $1600 in costs. At this point in time Jay believes that have violated the intent of the IMA. He has highlighted the sections he thinks they have violated. They are to provide emergency communications to the member towns. They are failing to do that by not changing their frequency. Right now, they’re putting fire officer’s safety, fire fighter’s safety and the citizens of this town at risk by not changing frequency. He requests that the Board send a letter to the other two Boards. If they still will not comply, he feels the second option is to tell MACC Base to get their unused radios out of Mont Vernon. They have a couple of radios still plugged in using our electricity. Then we will have to put in our own radio system which will be about $3,000.

**Esposito** motioned to appoint Joan Cleary as Deputy Treasurer seconded by **Brown.** All in favor. **Brown** discussed in 2024 putting in a warrant article to change the position of Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position. As it stands now, the only qualification is to be a town resident. If it is made an appointed position, the Board can go through the vetting process so as to make a well-informed decision.

**Quinlan** spoke of our 2023 goals. He feels we need to have some written personnel policies. Hewants to implement giving annual performance evaluations to our employees. **Brown** wants to do a cost analysis of the area; what are different towns paying for that same position. He suggests that the three Selectmen each submit the top 5 policies on different topics that they want to see implemented.

**8:25 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary