**Selectmen’s Public Meeting Minutes**

**October 2, 2023**

**7:00 PM** Selectman John **Quinlan** called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.**

**Brown** invited MVVS Principal Tom Lecklider to tonight’s meeting to acknowledge that MVVS placed 4th in the state for elementary schools. In 2018 MVVS placed 200th; in 2021 it placed 80th and in 2023 it placed 4th. To put that into perspective, the average % of students achieving math proficiency in NH is 38%. MVVS is at 74%. The average for reading in NH is 52%; MVVS is at 84%. We need to realize that although approx. 80% of our tax impact is from the school, we are really excelling. Principal Lecklider thanked the Board. He stated that he is humbled and honored to serve the community as the Principal of MVVS. They could not do this without the full community; it takes a village to soar together. He is amazed at the pride of the families in the community. The staff and students are amazing. **Quinlan** said congratulations to the faculty, staff and students. That’s a fantastic outcome. **Brown** feels that the people not directly involved in or following the school on social media do not realize what they have gone through; to be able to tell people that we are 4th in the state is huge. **Esposito** feels it’s a great accomplishment.

Becci Schwarz was present with Jay Goodell of 6 Westgate Road. Goodell wishes to join the Planning Board as a full member; the Board discussed the position with him. **Brown** motioned to accept Jay Goodell as a full member to the Planning Board second by **Esposito.** All in favor.

Joan Cleary was contacted by Ray Anderson of MACC Base regarding the 2nd NH Tpke. There is a new home in Mont Vernon under construction which has not yet been added to the 911 Database. The issue is that this portion of the 2nd NH Tpke where the home is being built is a Class VI road that turns into Boston Post Rd at the Amherst town line. 2nd NH Tpke is not in the 911 Database for Mont Vernon and any calls for service to this address will most likely be difficult for the dispatcher to enter. Also, 2nd NH Tpke in Lyndeborough may make for confusion to emergency services. It was recommended that we change the name of the road. Sgt. Daigneault, Ben Crosby and Jay Wilson were all present to speak. The Planning Board, our Police Dept. and MACC Base support changing the name and suggests Caesars Brook Road. They had proposed the name Wilson Road but feel that it is too close in sound to Wilkins Road. Jay Wilson disagrees with the Planning Board. He feels that there would be nothing wrong with having a Wison Road and a Wilkins Road. There are many roads in towns that have similar names. He feels that if we are going to change the name, it should be to the name of the people who own the property out there and have maintained the road for the past 60 years. Crosby has put in a call to the NHMA to get clarification on what the town’s responsibilities are on Class VI roads. We don’t want to compromise anything; if we change the status of the road and it becomes a Class V road, we would then have to maintain it. He wants clarification on putting up signage, etc. **Quinlan** suggested that we wait for Crosby to get an answer from the NHMA before moving forward on this.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 9/25/23. **Esposito** motioned to accept the public minutes of 9/25/23 as amended seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

The Board reviewed the 3rd quarter budget numbers. **Brown** feels that we really need a spread sheet for the grants so we can keep track of what is the grant for, when’s it due, how much is it for, etc. Somebody asked what kind of grant have we applied for re the Town Hall and he didn’t know. He has no information; he’d like a spreadsheet so we can track all of it and know what we’ve received, what’s pending and how it will affect the budget. Cleary will have Becci make up a detailed list. **Brown** feels that we should advertise for the Recreation Director position now for the spring of ’24. That way anything going forward through the end of the year, she would still be available to help train if somebody else took over the job. She can still put in for the job again and might be able to get it. He feels there is too much confusion going on. He saw a FB post where somebody asked about Halloween candy and was answered by someone who is not even on the Recreation Committee. The Rec Director should be the one talking and putting up posters and that kind of thing; there is a lack of communication and that needs to be fixed in his opinion. **Quinlan** stated that the Budget Committee will be meeting mid-month. He suggests that there may be the need for shuffling some people’s responsibilities on that committee. He heard that last year it was not as organized as it should have been because some people weren’t well suited for their positions. There was a lot of rancor last year; it takes a strong hand to control that. **Brown** noted that it did get out of control a couple of times. **Quinlan** said it has been suggested to him by more than a few people that maybe we should change things up a bit inside the Committee. **Brown** noted that neither he nor Cleary are voting members; we are there to present the town budget. **Esposito** noted that there were several people on the Budget Committee last year who were just one-sided on everything. The only thing that mattered was one item. For example, the road painting was cut which is ridiculous, but another item went up 38% and no one said anything.

**8:05 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary