

Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023

7:00 PM Selectman John Quinlan called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Jack Esposito and Selectman Howard Brown. The Board viewed a moment of silence for all of those lost in the attacks in Israel last week.

Randy Herring of 13 Beech Hill Rd. came before the Board to discuss the state of the bottom of Beech Hill Road at the Frankestown Tpke intersect. It's become dangerous to travel; the pot holes are horrible and everyone driving ends up in the middle of the road. There is a foot deep crater that has been full of water/ice for over a year and it needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Crosby stated that he is aware and is waiting for the paving company to come back through to do some road patching. Herring next addressed Chief Slavin regarding the whole new influx of teenage drivers on Beech Hill Road. There have been some near misses; he is asking for increased patrols in that area. People are going way too fast.

Michele Thomas of 32 Horton Road came before the Board to discuss recycling. She doesn't understand the changes that have taken place at the Transfer Station. Crosby reiterated why we no longer take in used furniture, etc. That situation was being taken advantage of; we do not have the area to store people's furniture. People can have their own yard sales. As to the plastic recycling, he explained that clear plastic was the only thing being accepted. The plastics bin was being contaminated by people throwing all kinds of plastics in; it then has to go to the incinerator. It then recycles that energy back into power which is sold back to the grid.

She next asked Crosby about the stone walls on Horton Road. She said that the Highway crew does a great job, but sometimes when get to the end of the road and they have gravel, they dump it on the side of the road or on the stone wall. Crosby stated that may happen during plowing season when things get pushed up. He will add it to his list.

Sheila Sturm of 14 North Main Street came before the Board to lodge a complaint about the performance of the Recreation Director. Jamie Kennedy spoke in support of Heather stating that she works tirelessly for the Town. Mike and Erin Lemieux also spoke in support of Heather. Esposito feels this whole thing on MV Chatter was very unprofessional and out of place. For the last 2 years, because Heather has disagreed with some people in town, they have been after her. She has done a wonderful job and he supports her 100%. Nobody is perfect; we are all volunteers. Anyone can run for any position. The Selectmen agreed that they would take this under advisement and will discuss at a future meeting. Kim Roberge was present via zoom and sent an email to be read into the minutes (see attached).

Spencer Lovette came before the Board to talk about Fidium. He was told by a Fidium sales rep that there had been a meeting between the MV Rep and Fidium Rep who decided where Fidium would provide access in town. Lovette was advised that this never happened; he then asked if we can appoint a rep to work with the Fidium people to determine whether Fidium comes into our town.

7:35 PM Department Head Meeting

Chief Mark Slavin – Police Department

- In the process of hiring another part-time officer. This will bring the staff to 9; 5 part-time and 4 full-timers. The officer is coming to us from Milford; he is full-time certified.

- Last week the Souhegan High School Golf Team won the State Championship for the second year in a row. They held a rolling rally where they drove them down Main Street and raised a flag in front of the Fire Dept.
- On Halloween they will be doing something different; this year they will set up the PD parking lot and invite families to come decorate cars and do a trunk-or-treat.
- Have obtained 8 new portables radios from the grant from Jean Shaheen's office.
- Chief Slavin requests to update the PD firearms. They are 9 years old and the lifespan is 10 years. He's gotten a couple of quotes. He wants to switch from a 40 caliber to a 9 mm. They currently have the Glock 23; he wants to go to the Glock 45 which has the optic on it. He's looking at 10 firearms, with trade-in, the cost will be around the 9-10K mark. The Board agreed with the purchase.
- Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, October 28th from 10:00am-2:00pm.

Bonnie Angulas – Library Director

- Friends of the Library had a successful fund raiser called the Harvest Market. All funds received went to support the library.
- Staff & Friends of the Library cleaned out the gardens and bought mums and mulch.
- Friends of the Library spent \$600 on Halloween treats to be handed out on Halloween.
- Candy collection box is at the library
- JoAnn Kitchel has updated the story walk at Carleton Pond with a Halloween story; the fairy garden has been flipped to a fall Halloween theme.
- Library Trustees had the first of their three library listening sessions this past Saturday. The purpose of this is to have residents drop in, ask questions, express concerns and give feedback about the new library project instead of waiting until Town Meeting time. The second session is Saturday 11/18 from 10:00am – noon and Saturday 12/9 from 10:00am – noon.
- Superintendent's office called and wants to arrange a gathering at the library on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:00pm to talk to the residents about the FY 2024 Budget.
- Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation will host their last fundraiser Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Hampshire Hills. Tickets are available for "One for the Books", which is a live charity auction. It's a night of food, drink and music and there are a ton of donated items that people can bid on.

Randy Wilson – Fire Department

- Engine #2 is back from being repaired so everything is up and running. They did hose testing last week; ladder testing is coming up.
- SCBA bottles have been delivered; they are training on them tonight.
- Call volume is at 118 for the year.
- Noted to JoAnn Kitchel that one of the story walk posts on the right side is very close to where they draft water from; they don't want to damage it. They will connect to discuss.

Heather Kennedy – Recreation Department

- Had a successful Lamson Farm Day despite the rainy forecast. The pony rides were a great hit. They had a dozen volunteers who helped run all the children's games, plus the pocket lady and the cider press. All in all, it was a great day.

Approved

- Halloween candy collection is under way and the green will be decorated for Halloween Trick-or-treating; the MVVS teachers will be located in the gazebo again this year.

Ben Crosby – Highway Department

- Almost done with fall grading; will then send the rental roller back.
- They have almost 50% of stop lines painted as well as the two cross walks; looking into possible grant money for strobe lights for the cross walks.
- Backhoe emission sensor has been repaired.
- Advanced Paving will be coming back to do some patching due to washouts.
- There is a culvert failing on Brook Road near #81. Road will be closed to thru traffic on Thursday & Friday from 7:00am – 2:00pm.

Sgt. Daigneault – MACC Base

- Voted to accept Lyndeborough Fire as a customer. This should reduce our increase starting next year because they will be paying a user fee.

8:05 PM The Board discussed the renaming of 2nd NH Turnpike. The problem is it is a Class VI road that was abandoned a long time ago. There is a new home being built off of it and needs to be assigned an address. MACC Base is concerned about the fact that it is still listed as the 2nd NH Tpke., which there are segments of all through NH. They are worried about confusion with emergency services and dispatch. They are requesting that we change the name of the road at that segment so there are no mistakes to be made by mutual aid coming into town and perhaps not showing up at the right place. Fire and Police prefer that we change the name to something completely different and we do have that power as a safety issue. Ben Crosby spoke with Atty. Buckley at the NHMA for clarification. He confirmed that the Board can change the name of any road if there is a safety concern. **Esposito** motioned to rename the former 2nd New Hampshire Tpke from 2nd NH Tpke to Wilson Road seconded by **Brown**. All in favor.

8:15 PM Esposito noted that the 2024 COLA increase came in at 3.2%. He stated that we have always historically given the employees in town the COLA increase. He questions the 3.2% that they came out with; he doesn't feel it's legitimate. We don't give merit increases to our employees; he feels that with the cost of goods going up as much as they have, we should give a little bump and make it 5%. It's a whole year before they get another increase; in his opinion, the extra 1.5% we could give would be in our best interest. He went on to state that the SRLD 2024 budget should be just about the same as last year.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 10/2/23. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 10/2/23 as written seconded by **Brown**.

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

Joan Cleary

From: Kim Roberge <kroberge7701@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 8:13 PM
To: Joan Cleary
Subject: Re meeting

My question to the selectboard would be why did they not immediately support town employees as to having people with concerns, email town employees? Not using social media

My next question would be why they allowed heresay in regards to Leslie Haas and Nina Zocavage. Finally why did they not stop the issue immediately and discuss in non public based on 91A

Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself.

Because what was being said seemed to clearly fit that...

Thank you for your response to above.

Kim Roberge

Salisbury Rd Sent from my iPhone