**Selectmen’s Public Meeting Minutes**

**November 20, 2023**

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

**Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.**

Zoe Fimbel inquired about homes that go back to the Town for unpaid taxes. She asked if town’s people purchase those properties. **Quinlan** explained that if the town seizes property, we have to hold it for a certain amount of time before it can go up for auction. We then take our portion of what is owed.

Eileen Naber had discussion about researching our zoom accommodations for our meetings. It was explained that the Planning Board is in the process of purchasing a monitor; they are very much in need of a mans of displaying maps, plan sets, etc. They are looking at a 75” which is a good size. They have the funds in their budget to purchase this year. They will also need a bracket and a 25’ HDMI cable. The Board agreed on the purchase; Joan will let Becci know tomorrow.

The Board reviewed the 2024 draft budget line items. **Esposito** motioned to set the COLA increase at 4% for the town employees for 2024 seconded by **Brown.** All in favor. The Board discussed the ambulance service situation; we are waiting for more information from Amherst.

The Board discussed shifting our funds from Citizens Bank to TD Bank. We have not been happy with the service given by Citizens; TD Bank seems like a much better fit. We would aim to make the change shortly after January 1, 2024. **Esposito** motioned to move Mont Vernon’s funds from Citizens Bank to TD Bank seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

The Board discussed updating the Elderly Exemption. **Quinlan** will reach out to the NRPC for income levels and breakdowns of other towns to help us determine the amounts.

The Board discussed the Town Building Usage Policy template that **Esposito** had provided. **Quinlan** thinks it looks good except there is the issue of whether or not to prohibit political/religious organizations. He knows we have done that by tradition. **Esposito** noted that if you open it up to one, you have to open it up to everyone. In today’s world there are so many political organizations out there; we are not covered by insurance with a third party. It leaves us wide open for a problem. The school is always an option. **Brown** feels it is silly to use the school for a meeting of 10 -11 people. His opinion is that most of these people wanting to use these rooms are town people and now we are going to take away these meeting rooms from town people just because we had one incident where a Republican screwed it for everybody else.

Joan Cleary addressed an email sent from the auditors asking if the Town accepted the 2022 Highway Supplemental Aid under RSA 31:95b as unanticipated revenue. In one of the August minutes the Board acknowledges that the SB401 funds were received, but there was nothing noted as accepting the funds. **Quinlan** stated that the Board did accept the funds; it was an oversight on the minutes. **Esposito** and **Brown** agreed. **Esposito** motioned to amend the minutes of 8/22/22 to reflect that we did accept the unanticipated funds from SB401 seconded by **Brown.** All in favor. We just received a one-time highway payment in the amount of $26,582.29 based on the passage of House Bill 2 effective in June 2023. **Brown** motioned to accept the one-time payment in the amount of $26,582.29 seconded by **Esposito.** All in favor.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 11/13/23. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 11/13/23 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

**8:30PM** As there was no further business before the Board, **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary