**Selectmen’s Public Meeting Minutes**

**November 27, 2023**

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

Becci Schwarz presented an energy analysis from the Heritage Commission’s architect on the feasibility study which shows that the Town Hall is highly inefficient with an EUI of 76. The national average for similar buildings is 46 and new buildings are required to be at 9. She spoke with the Dept. of Energy representative regarding funding opportunities. He directed her to NH Saves which does have a municipal program that offers several different types of programs including tax incentives, etc. to be able to upgrade equipment at lower maintenance costs. That includes lighting, HVAC, water, heating, weatherization, and custom projects. In order for them to be able to tell us what we qualify for, we need to provide them with some actual quotes. She would like to get some quotes for the building. She doesn’t expect it to be budgeted for this year, but if we get started now and know what we’re looking for, then hopefully we can budget for it next year. The Board agreed that Becci should start getting quotes for the building.

**Quinlan** spoke with the NRPC regarding the Elderly Exemption. They directed him to this Census Report which has some useful information on our town. The Board went over the figures supplied. Currently we have an income limit of $40,000 and an asset limit of $75,000. The Board compared with the towns of Amherst and Hollis. The Board will review further.

The Board revisited the Town Building Usage Policy. **Quinlan** wants to expand the language of the first bullet to include people’s clubs and activities. We will need to come up with some kind of usage worksheet that needs to be filled out and approved by the Selectboard or Town Administrator. **Esposito** noted that we will have to find out if they would be covered by town insurance. If not, they will have to be covered by their own. **Quinlan** stated that he would be willing to go along with having religious or political organizations being prohibited just because he doesn’t want to have to deal with extremist groups at any point. He has read a lot of other town policies regarding this. Most towns don’t allow anything political in the town buildings per se; but they do allow politicking at Transfer Stations and Town Commons. He doesn’t want to oppress political speech.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 11/20/23. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 11/20/23 as amended seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

**Brown** stated that he has heard from a couple of different people saying that they try to get ahold of the building inspector, but they can only get ahold of Kim; not Steve. Kim is blocking people from getting to Steve. Do we see this as a problem? He should be the one carrying the town phone that the Town bought for him; he should be the one answering the messages; not Kim.

**Brown** listed the names of the four new members of the Historic District Commission: Tim Hageman, member at large; Mary Katherine McNamara, member at large; Brett Noble, member at large; and Lina Pepper, member at large. Of the eight members, seven now live in the Historic District. Joan Cleary noted that there are supposed to be a certain percentage of members who reside outside the Historic District. She will research and have an answer for tomorrow.

**Quinlan** noted that the Strategic Advisory Committee has slowed down a bit on the second draft of their CIP. They had hoped to have it ready for the Planning Board tomorrow night; they have rescheduled for the next Planning Board meeting on December 12th.

The Chair of the Library Trustees, Cemetery Trustees and Conservation Commission will come before the Board on December 4th to continue discussion on the Town Center Parcel.

**8:00 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary