**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**January 17, 2024**

**1:00 PM** Selectman John **Quinlan** called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.**

There was discussion on completing the audio/visual system in the Meeting Room. Becci Schwarz will reach out to get the cost to move the current camera for better visibility and also to install a second camera. Joan Cleary will tentatively adjust the R & M line for the Town Hall by $1,500.00.

Fire Chief Jay Wilson came before the Board to discuss SCBA purchase options. Option #1 is a Warrant Article Bond; Option #2 is a Lease Purchase Warrant Article and Option #3 is to add it to the Fire Dept. Operating Budget. This would jump the budget up this year significantly, but the only thing they have in PPE this year is the trial gear to the tune of $5,000. The total cost of the SCBA is approx. $160,000. A 7-year lease purchase would be approx. $27,000 a year. The Board agrees that the lease payment makes the most sense and should be put in the operating budget under line item #422041 Protective Gear. It lines up with what the Strategic Advisory Committee recommends.

The Chief discussed the occupancy load at the MVVS in prep for Town Meeting. They double checked the measurements they had; last year we were really close on occupancy in the building. He shared a diagram on how they want the floor set up for max occupancy and for seating. He stated that we should also be utilizing the school library for overflow and potentially setting up a remote with a tent outside as we had to do in 2020. He feels that whether you support the library or oppose the library, a lot more people are going to be showing up at Town Meeting this year. We will probably exceed the capacity of the building (530); the last thing he wants to be doing is standing up there saying this meeting is shut down until we can address the capacity of the building. He went over the documentation on occupancy capacity and egress capacity. There was discussion on parking issues as well. With the bad weather last year, the parking was a disaster. One option would be to speak with the local bus company to have satellite parking with a shuttle service to the school. We could utilize the Post Office parking lot, the Town Hall parking lot and the McCollom Building parking lot. We will need to discuss options with the Police Department.

Becci came before the Board representing the Planning Board. The Planning Board met last week to discuss a temporary access permit for parcel 2-52 on Caesars Road. Upon hearing the case for temp access, the Planning Board voted to submit to the Board of Selectmen for approval. She produced a copy of the waiver that the Wilkins were required to sign as part of the process when they built on Caesars Road. It acknowledges that we do not maintain the road or hold any responsibility for any damages to the road, etc. We can update this waiver for parcel 2-52 and have it signed and recorded with NH Deeds. **Esposito** motioned to approve the building on Lot 2-52 with all necessary paperwork being approved by Town Counsel seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

The Board discussed the ambulance service situation. We are still waiting for a firm quote from Amherst, and the question remains as to who would receive the insurance reimbursements for the ambulance services. Amherst’s Town Administrator has stated that he should have more information for us after their next meeting.

The Board went over the latest 2024 budget numbers. **Brown** brought up a few things from the Budget Committee:

 #415180 TTF Training line increased to $210 to accommodate training for 3

 #419580 Cemetery Special Projects 40K budgeted – **Brown** will email Cemetery Trustees

 #429002 Emergency Management – increase for stock piling cones/barricades

 #429900 MACC Base up almost 10% - New Dispatcher and increased health ins. Cost

 #431610 Eversource street lighting – decreased to $3,500 Due to LED lighting savings

**Quinlan** brought up the Town Hall Christmas tree. He feels it should be replaced. He wants numbers on getting a 20’-30’ tree to replace what’s there.

The Board set the date for the Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget and Warrant Articles for Monday, 2/5/24 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a snow date of Thursday, 2/8/24 at 7:00pm. The Board set the date for the Public Hearing on Bond Issues for Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room with a snow date of Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

**Quinlan** noted that the Strategic Advisory Committee met last night. They are finalizing their presentation for the public which is tentatively scheduled for February 8th.

There is a work session for the Library Building Committee, Fire Chief and Building Inspector set for Thursday night at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room to work out all the issues they have regarding the sprinkler system and anything else to do with the new library project. **Esposito** asked why this meeting was cancelled last week. **Quinlan** stated that someone put something on Facebook that was inaccurate, and because he thought it was going to hijack the meeting, he cancelled it. They gave the wrong impression of what was going on; it got advertised as something other than a work session. He still met with the principals that night here to explain why he cancelled and why he didn’t want a repeat of that behavior, and they reset the meeting for this Thursday night. It is a work session; people can come but there won’t be any discussion with the public.

**Quinlan** stated that the Library Building Committee is meeting tonight at the library at 7:00pm. **Esposito** asked if they’ve gotten any numbers? **Quinlan** said one thing pending is what happens at that work session tomorrow night with what they require for fire suppression. They’ll have a number after that meeting is settled hopefully. **Esposito** asked what about the road? **Quinlan** stated that they put out 9 bids and unfortunately only got one back. Preston Excavation came in at $594,400. They won the bid last year; they know the project inside and out.

**Esposito** met with the SRLD. The newspapers that we have been holding for recycling sat there for over a year and we had to pay to get rid of it. We are going to combine the newspaper in to the mixed paper. We may try to recycle clear plastic again, though if it gets contaminated again it goes back to trash.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 1/8/24. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 1/8/24 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary