**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**January 8, 2024**

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

Eileen Naber asked if there is money in the 2024 budget to complete the hookup needed for broadcasting meetings. We will check with Becci Schwarz to see what needs to be completed.

Mike Fimbel discussed the improperly noticed meeting of 1/3/24. **Esposito** stated that Monday was a holiday so we rescheduled the meeting for Wednesday at 3:00pm. It was posted on the website but not in a second place. It was an oversight. Fimbel asked **Esposito, Quinlan** and **Brown** how many years they have been Selectmen. Fimbel stated that in the minutes of 1/3/24, it indicates that it was a properly noticed meeting. Fimbel asked does the Board still take the position that it was a duly noticed meeting? **Quinlan** stated that it was possibly an oversight, but again, it was a regular meeting that could not happen due to the holiday so it was rescheduled. Fimbel stated that **Quinlan** also said that since this meeting was a work session, he implied that it did not have to be noticed.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 1/3/24. **Esposito** motioned to amend the minutes to reflect that there was an oversight as the meeting of 1/3/24 was not noticed in two separate places, seconded by **Brown.** All in favor. **Esposito** motioned to accept the non-public minutes of 1/3/24 seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

**7:15 PM Department Head Meeting**

**Chief Mark Slavin – Police Department**

* Went over year end numbers:

Criminal Mischief 2020 - 14 cases

2021 – 12 cases

2022 – 8 cases

2023 – 1 case

Criminal Trespass 2020 - 18 cases

2021 - 7 cases

2022 - 2 cases

2023 - 1 case

DUI 2020 - 2 cases

2021 - 3 cases

2022 – 1 case

2023 – 6 cases

Mutual Aid 2020 – 8 cases

2021 – 20 cases

2022 – 23 cases

2023 – 28 cases

Theft 2020 – 39 cases

2021 – 37 cases

2022 – 15 cases

2023 – 15 cases

* All the categories are trending in the right direction. End of year compliance reports are all in which includes firearms qualifications, use of force classes and state mandated training in the areas of ethics, de-escalation and mental health awareness.
* Cruiser 1 has an issue with the control module which is killing the battery. This is the vehicle that is going to be replaced; they’ve done a temporary fix to get through until the budget is approved.

**Chief Jay Wilson – Fire Department**

* Waiting on year end equipment to be delivered.
* Call volume has gone up 20%; there has been a lot of mutual aid calls.
* Some members are going through an Emergency Medical Responder program being held at the Station every Saturday for the next five weeks.
* Repair to be done to a discharge valve on Engine #1.
* Waiting to hear from Milford Ambulance on cost of ambulance service to Mont Vernon so as to compare numbers with Town of Amherst.

**Heather Kennedy – Recreation Department**

* Crotched Mountain Slope Day Ski Program starts up this week on Friday. It’s a 6-week program; there are a dozen kids signed up.
* Christmas tree lights will be turned off tonight after the meeting.
* Wrapping up end of year and starting to plan for the new year.

**Library Director – Bonnie Angulas**

* The Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation was awarded a grant by the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation in the amount of $20,000 which will go towards the library project. The NEH grant will match with $5,000.
* The Library Trustees and the Library Building Committee met last Wednesday after their meeting with Turnstone and are looking forward to meeting with the Fire Dept. this Thursday. They should be coming up with their Warrant Article language. She asked if there is a deadline for Warrant Article submissions, and have we set the date for the bond hearing? **Esposito** stated that we have not received any numbers or any information as of yet.
* Library kicked off the new year with the campaign ‘Read More in ‘24’. Reading logs are available at the library for kids and adults.
* Joann Kitchel is hosting her Winter Lap Sit and Storytime starting this Thursday for 6 weeks.
* Puzzle Swap on 1/27/24; drop off used puzzles to swap out.
* New program called ‘Community Conversations’ aimed at creating meaningful conversations with residents around topics that impact our town. They sent out a short survey and then are inviting people to come in for discussion at the end of the month. The topic for January is Volunteering. The second topic in February is the CIP and Master Plan. The third topic in March is the Town Report.
* 2023 statistics: 14,951 visitors (10% increase from last year)

15,865 materials checked out (10% increase)

Hosted 241 programs with 5,407 attendees (17% increase)

* Bonnie spoke to the Board regarding the Budget Committee meeting last week. There was a bit of upset; the library was on the agenda but no invitation was sent to the library. She zoomed into the meeting to let the Chairman know she never received an invitation. He acknowledged that was his mistake and asked if she could stay in the meeting for a couple of questions. The opening discussion of the meeting was about the behavior amongst the Budget Committee members; the Moderator had sent a letter stating basically to behave. Questions then came in about the library budget and members of the Committee were not behaving in asking questions. It escalated very quickly. The member of the Committee asking the questions was talking over her, yelling on Zoom. She suggested that the Board of Selectmen go back and watch the recording. No business of the budget was done that evening; questions were not answered in a polite fashion because there was yelling back and forth. She knows that the Board just reviewed the Code of Conduct policy which says that employees, volunteers and Board members will be respectful to each other. That did not happen in that meeting. She feels that it makes a mockery of the budget process.

**Highway Department – Ben Crosby (Read into minutes by Joan Cleary as Crosby was absent)**

* 1st snowstorm dropped 8-10” of snow throughout the town over a 24-hour period. The only issues encountered were a few cars parked in the road and residents plowing and/or blowing snow into the town road. This is not allowed. This is not only a town ordinance, but also a state law (RSA 236:20-Snow Obstruction, RSA 47:17, VII and RSA 41:11) which can be a fineable offense. I will ask that this be shared on the main page of the website and social media. It is already on the Highway Dept. page of the website. As we encounter these offenders, it is reported to the PD for enforcement.
* The 2007 International will be going to TMS Diesel on Thursday the 11th to have the dump body piston installed. The cost of the installation is estimated to be $800.
* Randy Wilson asked if the DOT or Ben has shared anything about that spot on the Francestown Tpke. just past Beech Hill Road that they’ve got coned off for a failed culvert headwall. **Quinlan** stated that he will check with Crosby tomorrow.

**7:46 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary