**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**February 20, 2024**

**2:00 PM** Selectman John **Quinlan** called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Jack **Esposito** and Selectman Howard **Brown.**

Town Moderator David Sturm, Town Clerk Belinda Yeaton, Highway Director Ben Crosby and Police Chief Mark Slavin came before the Board to discuss preparations for Town Meeting.

Sturm stated that he wonders if we should start Town Meeting at 6:30pm vs 7:00pm. **Quinlan** feels that the majority of residents have commuting time that would make it difficult for people to get there any earlier than 7:00pm. **Esposito** and **Brown** agreed. Sturm suggested having two lines for voting on bond issues; one on each side of the room in an attempt to save time. The Board next discussed limiting the length of time that people can make comments at the microphone. Sturm feels that 3 minutes is a fair amount of time; it’s the amount that he sees a lot of other Moderators using. There was discussion on where to put any overflow of voters should we reach full capacity in the MPR. We can use either the library or the kindergarten room; the kindergarten room is closer to the MPR and therefore may work out better. The biggest problem with having people in two rooms is will the audio/visual be sufficient and if someone is the other room wants to speak, they will have to come into the main room to do so. Also, when it is time to vote, voters will have to come into the main room to ballot vote, all of which will be more time consuming. **Brown** wants to find out from the SAU if there is a way to set up a microphone in the other room so that questions could be asked directly from that room instead of having to walk into the main room. We would have to have an Assistant Moderator stationed in that room. Crosby will take care of ordering 500 chairs. The Board discussed the parking situation. There was an issue with having cars park on both sides of Kittredge Road last year; it is much too narrow. Chief Slavin noted that if we needed fire apparatus or an ambulance we’d be in trouble. If the weather is cold and dry, we may be able to use the ball field; it is impossible to plan this far in advance. This will be a last-minute decision depending on the weather. The town employees/officials can all park in the back of the school. The Board discussed setting up satellite parking if necessary. **Brown** suggested posting on the website to have people carpool as much as possible. Sturm noted that last time when the bond votes were being counted it wasn’t clear that it has to be done at a distance; people congested around the table where the counting was done. The statute says it has to be behind a guardrail of sorts; we will need to put some chairs out to create a wall of separation. Town Clerk Belinda Yeaton notified the Board of two petition warrant articles that were submitted but both failed. One was for SB2 and the other was for getting rid of the vote counting machines. There were not enough verifiable signatures for either one.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 2/5/24. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 2/5/24 as amended seconded by **Brown.** All if favor. **Esposito** motioned to accept the first set of minutes of 2/12/24 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor. **Esposito** motioned to accept the second set of minutes from 2/12/24 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

**Esposito** asked for an update on the Weston Hill Road situation. **Quinlan** has a call in to Town Counsel; waiting on a response.

**3:10 PM** As there was nothing further before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary