**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**March 4, 2024**

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

Town Moderator David Sturm came before the Board along with Town Clerk Belinda Yeaton. Sturm followed up on the rejected petition Warrant Article regarding eliminating our voting machine which was rejected because of non-registered voter’s signatures or a voter who signed using a name that was not on the voter roll list. Yeaton did not accept the petition as it was turned in after close of business at Town Hall. **Brown** added that we didn’t have a policy that stated what time it had to be turned in by; the gentleman ended up turning it in personally to **Brown** at 5:33pm. Most policies around this area all state that they have to be turned in by 5:00pm on that day. Sturm noted that what’s done is done; in the future we will have a set policy in place. **Esposito** stated for clarification that the petition was in after 5pm and was the same petition with a signature rejected because there was a nickname on it instead of the official name on the voter list. Yeaton stated that she could only verify 24 signatures out of the 25 needed. Sturm next discussed the issue of space. **Brown** met with the audio people from the SAU. They decided to try to set up the kindergarten room first for overflow; if we need more space then to the library. They will broadcast to the other two rooms with cameras; they will do a test run on Tuesday when the school is closed for voting. Sturm noted that somebody needs to police the number of people in the room; **Brown** feels it should be the responsibility of the Fire Chief. **Quinlan** noted that we will have the entire police force on duty to help with the parking, etc. All people connected with running Town Meeting will be required to park out in back of the school. Parking will be allowed on one side of Kittredge Road and one side of Harwood. Chief Slavin will be getting in touch with the school bus company to see about setting up a shuttle so people can park at the Town Hall, McCollom Building or Post Office and get shuttled to the school. Slavin will be posting on the website. We will also post to the website that we encourage people to carpool. **Esposito** reiterated the need for an established time limit of three minutes for people speaking at Town Meeting. **Brown** questioned what happens if we go over capacity of the MPR and the two other rooms? Sturm said they have to be allowed in. We will have to have an active fire watch; people have to be allowed to vote.

**7:25 PM** The Board reviewed the minutes of 2/26/24. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 2/26/24 as written seconded by **Brown.** Two in favor; one abstention.

Jay Goodell had a question about a mailer he received with regards to Easter services as well as a new church started up using the Village School as a venue. He is curious what the arrangement was there. **Quinlan** responded that he has no idea; the school does all of its own arrangements as to who uses the MPR. Town government is separate from the school government. The Selectboard is not aware of any agreement.

**Brown** motioned to post the job for the Recreation Director sometime this coming week. **Esposito** questioned why just the Rec Director position. **Brown** said because that is the only one that is a stipend position; we appoint all the other ones. **Esposito** said we appoint the Rec Director as well. **Brown** noted that we can’t appoint if we don’t have people that put their name in for it. **Quinlan** seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Esposito** went on record stating that he has been approached by a few people saying that he should get on board and agree with the new proposed library. His position has never changed; he is not against a new building for the library. He is against the size of this building that will be the size of the Fire Station and cost 6 million dollars. He feels the building should be reduced in size and come within the budget that we have. We are looking at a possible $3 increase in the tax rate on things we can’t even control; how are people going to afford this town after we get finished in two weeks?

**Esposito** asked for an update on Weston Hill Road. **Quinlan** stated that he did speak with Town Counsel. As we don’t have a specific ordinance in Mont Vernon, we rely on state law which is not particularly strong. Town Counsel wanted to make sure that the approach we are using on this, how exactly they are going to file and the wording is perfect. They should be filing with the court this week or next week and we’ll see what the Court does with it from there. The Board discussed the legal line in the budget and determined that the amount should be sufficient.

**Quinlan** discussed an email he received from the range officer at the Purgatory Falls Fish & Game Club. There is a small house to the left of it. There were a bunch of people at the back of that house firing into the woods next to the range. **Quinlan** sent the Chief out there to take a look; there was no one home but Slavin will send out Sgt. Daigneault later to try to reach these people to discuss the safety issue.

**7:45 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Esposito** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Brown.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary