

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

### January 25, 2021

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence.

The Board, Town Moderator, David Sturm and Deputy Moderator, Peter King discussed the moving of Town Meeting and Town Elections. Sturm said that the Governor's Emergency Order #83 allows school meetings, balloting and town meeting to be moved to April, May, June or July.

King said that the school deliberative session is being moved to May 5<sup>th</sup>, so June would be the first that we could have our elections and town meeting without causing us to host 2 or 3 different elections.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to reschedule the Town Elections to Tuesday, June 8, 2021 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to reschedule the Town Meeting to outside on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes. Location TBD.

Roberge said that the SAU is sending out a mailer to all Amherst and Mont Vernon residents announcing when the dates for School Deliberative session and such are. Maybe we can add our dates to it and share the cost of postage.

Sturm asked Brown to post the new dates on the website.

The Board met with the Library Trustees, Cemetery Trustees and DPW Director regarding the new road to be built to get to the new cemetery and proposed library.

Cindy Raspiller explained that they got 3 quotes to construct the road, the final plan should go before the Planning Board. It may not be necessary, but is certainly a good idea. We will bring it to the Planning Board with the architect, DSK. The division of the parcel was adjudicated a few years ago and was recorded with NH Deeds.

If there is time, she would like the Board to go forward with the warrant article for the road in 2021.

Esposito said that the cost of the road has increased exponentially with the library being moved back away from Grand Hill Road.

Berry said that a member of the Planning Board asked him for the road plan to confirm the road and library are in the right place.

Raspiller said that the road and library were designed from that plan, so they should align perfectly.

Roberge asked why the plan needs to go to the Planning Board.

John Quinlan said that Bill McKinney feels that it would be a good idea to apply the expertise of the PB to the project.

Crosby agreed and said that the PB will look at it as a new Town road.

Raspiller said that DSK called for a 20' wide road, and the Town requires 22'.

Esposito asked Lou Springer how soon the new cemetery will be needed.

Springer estimated 10 years since the back corner of the old cemetery is just being developed for burials.

Roberge asked if they had thought of setting up a capital reserve for the road financing.

Raspiller said that the road funding does not fall to the Library Trustees, we are just trying to find out how much the road will cost. There are a lot of competing projects in Town, we don't want to be ready to go with the library with no road.

Roberge suggested that the Cemetery Trustees may be able to use some of their Cy-Pres money to fund the conduit placement.

Alyson Miller said that she would have to check into that.

Raspiller said that there may be some things that are able to be funded before the actual construction of the building.

Berry said that it is a new road. If you were to come before the PB with a sub-division, you would have to have underground utilities. In my mind, the pads for transformers and conduit is part of the road construction project. The PB will say that the conduit has to be put in.

Jay Wilson asked if we had received estimates.

Crosby said, yes; the three ranged from just under \$300K to \$390K. None of them included a contingency for ledge.

Wilson suggested the DPW dig some test pits to look for ledge. He also suggested that funding a capital reserve would be a good idea, and asked if the Block Grant money could be used to fund the road.

Brown said that Block Grant money must be used on Town roads, and believes that it could be used to build a new road.

Roberge asked when the road would actually be needed; we don't want to go forward before it is needed, but we also don't want to be under pressure.

Springer said that the cemetery plans to use only the corn field; any logging would come in from a different direction. He asked if it was going to be a gravel road.

Crosby said no; it will be built to Town specifications right up through the 2 ½" of base pavement.

Wilson asked the Board if they were going to put together some kind of spending plan since the budget won't be approved until June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Brown explained that regular and customary spending can occur. There are to be no new initiatives.

Esposito wanted to talk about the candidate for hire for the open DPW spot.

Crosby explained that there was an issue with an employee that culminated in the employee quitting. He said that Brown contacted the NHMA and the issue was one that is grounds for termination. He said that he has an application of a candidate who does not have a CDL

but he is willing to get it. Crosby suggested having something in writing that an employee should sign saying that he is expected to get his CDL within 6 months or 1 year. It is perfect timing that a candidate with mechanical skills came forward.

Berry said to make that agreement no less than 6 months and that he has a good feeling about this as long as he passes all the background checks etc.

Esposito agreed and said that he believes this candidate is an excellent candidate.

Roberge asked how many trucks we have that require a CDL.

Crosby answered: 3.

Roberge asked how many guys on the DPW have a CDL.

Crosby answered: 3.

Esposito said that there will be a bump in pay when he gets the CDL.

Roberge stated that Bob Sawyer will be coming back next Monday. She asked if we could find someone that already has a CDL. She doesn't like that the application was dated the same day that the other employee quit. She agreed that having someone with mechanical abilities is always good. Roberge told Crosby to set up an interview with the candidate and the Board could have a special meeting to confirm hire.

Esposito asked how long it takes to get a CDL.

Crosby said that things are starting to loosen up a little; you can get an appointment in Milford finally.

Berry asked what the status for the Brook Rd. culvert is.

Crosby said that he has been calling Fieldstone and getting nothing back. He also got another invoice that puts them over their quote of \$7,500.

Berry asked him to try and get in touch with the State to see what the hold-up is.

Roberge said that the revision process should take no more than 45 days, and asked Brown to make a call to Fieldstone.

Esposito asked Roberge if she was given all the information regarding this issue would she take care of calling Fieldstone.

Roberge agreed.

Roberge asked how everything is going at the Transfer Station with the new signs requiring masks.

Crosby said that they have recorded two vehicles' plate numbers with a total of 3 persons that refused to mask up. One car does not even have a dump sticker.

Roberge asked Berry if the PB would be addressing the ADU/multifamily situation on Weston Hill Rd. at Tuesday night's meeting.

Brown answered, saying that it is on their agenda.

Roberge mentioned that the owner of 57 Weston Hill Rd. told her that he had removed 8 vehicles from his property already, and the rest will be gone by the end of month.

Board reviewed the minutes of January 11, 2021. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of January 11, 2021 as written. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Board decided that the public hearing on warrant articles and the proposed operating budget will be held via Zoom on Monday, February 8, 2021.

Berry added that the Budget Committee approved of the proposed budget as is.

Brown will post in the newspaper and on Town website. Zoom credentials will be included in the posting.

Roberge brought up the Comcast renewal contract and asked Brown if there were any significant differences from the last one.

Brown said that there were a few additions, but they don't affect the overall gist of the contract.

Esposito said that he does not like the 200' maximum distance before the homeowner has to pay, and also he feels that underground installs where the conduit is already provided should not be considered non-standard and should not be charged to the homeowner.

Berry asked if that really meant that they wouldn't run the cable through conduit already there for that purpose.

Roberge said that they would not, without an extra charge.

Berry said that he thought that the Board would have real numbers for the road to the proposed library. He also wants to ask the Town for \$80,000 to have design work done on the Town Hall including phasing over 2-3 years. Maybe we could get \$15,000 from the Heritage Commission to get the windows done. The town's people told us that they wanted a better plan and the \$80,000 would do that.

Esposito supports having the windows done, but he does not support another \$80,000 for another architect.

Berry said that, in DEW's plan there is \$78,000 listed for additional design work. CP Williams design work was going to be \$120,000. What we paid for last year was not planning – we do not have a plan. A plan costs money. Design work costs money. Some of the office staff weren't happy with the layout that we got for \$15,000.

Roberge said that she doesn't like deciding on things without thinking about it for a while. Putting forth a warrant article for the full amount with the vote being pushed out to June might not work with the Bond Bank. We all know that the office space and mechanical systems in the Town Hall need addressing. Part of those numbers include having mechanical engineers come in. We need to add enough to the building maintenance fund to cover the cost of the windows and enough to leave some money in there for emergencies. She thinks that the Town will support doing the windows.

**9:10 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Brown