

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2021

7:05 PM Meeting called to order by Select board Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry and minute taker, Joan Cleary. Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence.

Esposito reported on the MACC Base meeting. Nothing has been resolved with the MACC Base agreement; we are still at an impasse. We don't want to dissolve MACC Base; we want to stay with it as a partner in a long-term municipal agreement to spread the cost of equipment over a period of time.

Esposito spoke of an email from the Conservation Commission listing a new Chairperson, Adrienne Penkacik. The Commission wants to appoint a new member, Jim Chase. Roberge would like to reach out to the Conservation Commission and invite the Chairperson to one of the meetings and get some feedback as to how they choose new members. Berry motioned to appoint Jim Chase to the voting seat of the Conservation Commission formerly held by Shelly Brooks and move Shelly Brooks to an alternate position. Roberge seconded the motion, all in favor.

Esposito spoke of the traffic control review given by Chief Furlong. Roberge would like to further review the language. Furlong would like to come in with Sgt. Daigneault to discuss with the Board.

Roberge noted that Bill Johnson was on the Planning Board for a long period of time and had to step down. A letter of thanks will be sent. The ZBA denied the variance request on the Weston Hill Rd. property. They cannot sell as a 2 single-family residence property. The question remains what they can do with the property – the real estate agent involved has called the Town and the Building Inspector's office looking for guidance. The 2nd dwelling unit was approved for a barn; it does not have a Certificate of Occupancy for a residential structure. The topic is on the Planning Board agenda for tomorrow's meeting. Roberge noted that this is not the only property that our assessors have picked up and denoted on the tax card as having multiple dwellings/separate buildings on single lots. What is the Town's responsibility for enforcing our zoning; this is a grey area and one that Town Counsel may need to weigh in on. Berry agrees that Town Counsel needs to be brought in.

Esposito spoke of the letters that need to be sent out to properties with structures built with no permits pulled.

Chief Jay Wilson discussed the need for new fire extinguishers in the town buildings. All need to be replaced except for the ones in the Highway Garage. He gave an inventory of the location where they need to be placed in the buildings. He will get a cost for replacing all of them.

Wilson wants to remove the communications Warrant Article from the budget. He spoke with the vendor about repairing the tanker. Once they got the tank fully exposed it became apparent that the crack runs from the dump valve almost to the top of the tank. The vendor is not comfortable repairing; the repair might last a week, might last a year. The vendor is recommending replacing the tank with an estimate of \$30,000. Roberge is not comfortable removing the Warrant Article for communications with the MACC Base situation being so uncertain. Wilson will have more certain figures and time frame later this week; the Board will make a decision on Monday 5/3/21.

The Board went over the updated figures on the budget. They will finalize on Monday when Laurie is back.

The Board agreed to increase the pay for a DPW employee for cemetery/grounds maintenance. Repairs to the gazebo will be around \$100 for supplies plus labor.

Berry motioned to approve the Office Closing Policy as amended seconded by Roberge. 2 in favor; 1 against.

The Health Officer responded to the letter from a resident with a well water issue.

Esposito will call Town Counsel tomorrow regarding the junkyard issue in town. We've received more complaints from residents and need guidance on how to proceed. Roberge feels this should also be discussed with the Planning Board in order to come up with a Junkyard Ordinance. Berry feels we may want to hire out to craft an ordinance.

Esposito noted that the budget and warrant article hearings are two weeks from tonight.

Berry took the site walk with the Library Trustees. The roadway will need to be redesigned.

Roberge spoke of the Town Hall Building Renovation Plan Committee meeting. They are starting to get good feedback on the building plans. The deadline for all feedback is 5/20/21.

8:50 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Cleary