

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Howard Brown and Tim Berry and minute taker, Laurie Brown.

Esposito led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Esposito stated that he would like to continue on as Chairman of the Selectboard.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to nominate Jack Esposito as Board Chair. All in favor.

Esposito said that the Board would be moving to their summer schedule as of July 1<sup>st</sup>; meeting every other week until Labor Day. The meeting dates will be: July 12 and 26, August 9 and 23.

Board reviewed the minutes of 6/7/21. Berry motioned, seconded by Esposito to accept the minutes of June 7, 2021 as written. All in favor.

Board decided that the Town offices will be opening tomorrow with no mask requirement.

Mark Slavin said that hand sanitizing stations will be needed for each office.

### **7:06 PM Department Head Meeting**

#### **DPW – Ben Crosby**

- Mason and Taschereau are ready to reclaim and repave.
- Doing culvert inspections on Frankestown Turnpike.
- Belmore Catch Basin will be cleaning culverts this week.
- Transfer Station job opening has been posted, but every town around is looking for the same thing.

Esposito asked about roadside mowing.

Crosby said that will be done the first week in July.

#### **Fire Department – Chief Jay Wilson**

- New tank has been ordered. It will come in mid to late September and be installed and truck back in service in October.

#### **Library – Director, Bonnie Angulas**

We are getting a grant of \$1287 from the American Rescue Act that we will use to extend our Hoopla digital service. There is a second round of grants that is competitive.

The staff has collaborated with the Village School and created a required summer reading list. 174 kids signed up for the Summer Reading program on the first day.

The Library staff is hosting a picnic on June 28 under the tent. RSVP by next week.

The Library Trustees are looking for a Selectmen's representative. The next meeting is tomorrow at 6:30 PM. They meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.

#### **Police Department – Detective Sargent Mark Slavin**

- We are now trying out body cameras from Axon. We will eventually try out 3 different manufacturers.
- Officer Wolf was activated on Guard duty, but has come back early due to a death in the family.
- The Department planted geraniums at Veterans graves in the cemetery on June 26<sup>th</sup>, and also did a presentation to a group of homeschoolers.
- Coordinating speed enforcement with Lyndeborough, New Boston and Frankestown.
- Caught in the Act is coming back this year.
- We purchased lock-out tools for each cruiser.

Angulas asked how the body cameras work.

Slavin said you have to double tap to turn on. When you put them on their base to recharge, the data goes to the cloud and can be stored as long as we want. The storage fee from Axon is \$6,800/year.

H. Brown asked if there were any requirements on when they need to be turned on.

Slavin said that they have to announce that they are being recorded, and if they ask us to stop, we have to stop. Also, we cannot record in a home on a domestic violence call.

H. Brown asked if anyone is reviewing the footage now.

Slavin explained that only he and Chief Furlong have the rights to review all the film, and that they can review any film at any time. Each officer can review their own film.

Esposito said that domestic violence calls are the number one calls now, and you can't record.

Slavin said that they can record outside of the residence.

Esposito felt that Town Meeting went well, even though only 117 people were in attendance.

Berry said that Esposito doesn't like Capital Reserves because they aren't earning much interest, but they do even out the tax rate.

H. Brown asked if the generator being replaced is the one that was surplus.

Esposito said that the surplus generator was up at the school; this one is at the highway garage.

Crosby said that it was installed when the garage was built.

Lucien Soucy asked if we could trade it in and was told by Crosby that it couldn't.

H. Brown said that the problem that the Town has is that we have different factions in Town. We have the Library, the Fire Department, the Police Department etc. What has to happen is that the factions get together and support each other.

Wilson stated that he has been saying that for 3 years – you, the Selectmen have to do better. It is the Town that gets hurt when you don't vote for a firetruck.

Eileen Naber said that Canterbury got one large bond for their Fire/Rescue/Library to do everything at once.

Angulas said that the Library is applying for a \$500K grant, and if the Board does want to roll all the projects into one bond, they should wait until the Library gets that grant.

Berry explained that the Town is getting \$200K+ from the American Recovery Act. It is limited as to what we can spend it on.

Consolidated Communications wants to bring in Broadband to Mont Vernon and that is an allowable expense.

Wilson asked if it pertains to other infrastructure, like communication.

Angulas said that we should argue for the Website also.

Crosby said that the American Rescue plan has money available for Stormwater Mitigation and maybe Asset Management Software.

**7:45 PM End of Department Head Meeting.**

Esposito said that he is waiting for a call back from Town Counsel. He has asked Moustakis to attend the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss tax deeding, junk yards and non-permitted ADU's.

Berry explained that if you take a property by tax deed, the only money the Town gets is back taxes and legal fees.

Esposito said that we have to hire a different attorney to litigate the junkyards, and that it will cost us \$75,000 to \$100,000 each property to do so. Also, we have a property that recently sold that we have neighbors complaining that people are living in a non-permitted ADU. We need to find out what needs to be done to get the Code Enforcer to make a formal inspection of the property to see if that is the case.

Berry will get the list of the non-permitted ADUs.

Naber mentioned that the rental houses and trailers have been on the Porter property since the 60's.

Berry asked if we have heard back from the letter we sent to 54/56 Weston Hill Road, and was told No by L. Brown.

Esposito said that he has spoken directly to one of the complainants and explained that a property owner can have as many registered vehicles as they want – we have no jurisdiction over that. There doesn't seem to be any junk cars on the property.

L. Brown stated that the Board can try and resolve these issues with the help of Town Counsel, but if the Planning Board doesn't tighten up the Zoning Regulations, we will continue to have these issues.

Berry said that we should decide what we want the PB to be working on.

Esposito said that we have 9 months to revamp these things and get ready for 2022 Town Meeting.

Berry said that our ordinances were written by volunteers; they are ambiguous at best.

Berry stated that we have voted \$13,500 to make the road to the proposed library/cemetery more palliative to the Town's people. I will speak with Spencer Tate of Meridian Land Services, he will go before the Planning Board, and then we can meet with him as a Board. It is a responsibility of the Selectboard to build a road to the cemetery.

Esposito asked him if he was going to change just the sidewalk and streetlights.

Berry added that some of the drainage will change also.

Esposito worried that changing drainage will be a major change.

Berry said that it would still be considered a minor change. People have seen the plan and some have said it's a Cadillac road. It isn't.

People also say that the proposed library is bigger than it should be.

Esposito relayed that the office staff want to go to a summer schedule similar to the DPW.

Berry said that he doesn't mind, but it needs to be published ahead of time.

Board agreed to a 4 day week with Fridays off beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> and running through Labor Day.

Esposito asked Berry if we are waiting to see if we get the grant for the windows before we start the project.

Berry said yes. He explained that the windows will be measured this winter, and in the spring of 2022 the storms will be put on while the windows are removed for refurbishing.

H. Brown asked why the current windows haven't been fixed.

Esposito said that they have been fixed.

Berry said that the \$80K we didn't get ties the Heritage Commission's hands for applying for grants.

Esposito remarked that we spent a lot of money to get a concept. We need actual plans.

**8:30 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by H. Brown to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown