

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes October 4, 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.

Jim Bird, Chairman of the Planning Board, came before the Selectmen to discuss broadcasting the Planning Board meetings. The first stage would be just a broadcast – no one remote would be able to participate.

Esposito agreed that it would be great for all the Boards, Commissions and Committees in Town. Asked Bird to get some numbers together and put it in his budget for 2022.

Berry reminded Bird that there is no laptop or monitor to use – he will have to include that cost in his budget.

Also, he said that the camera in Nashua automatically focusses on the speaker.

Cindy Raspiller, Library Trustee, said that a lot of schools and libraries have gotten this technology.

Bird did say that the Board involved has to have a physical quorum on site.

Esposito said that he thought Bird should go ahead with it.

Berry agreed.

Chip Spalding, of the Planning Board, asked about the Town's new IT company.

L. Brown said that she is against Bird getting anyone involved in any IT project without including our IT company. She will get Bird the contact information for Twin Bridges.

Town resident, JoAnn Kitchel, came before the Board to discuss the preparations for Halloween. She said that Halloween has become a hot bed of confusion about who is hosting. I propose that it is the Village. The Girl scouts originally very haphazardly collected candy. It cost each home hundreds of dollars. When we (the Library Ladies) took it over we raised the Town's contribution to \$400.00. This is a drop in the bucket of what it costs in candy to hand out. There are 43 households that participate. I have been in charge of candy collection for 6 years and I created the Witch Walk. I let the Rec. Director know that the Halloween Committee is strong and that she could count on us. I got no response. Updated her in July – got no response. I ran across her later in July and she concurred on everything I had done and was going to do. I was flummoxed at the response elicited by posting the advertisement for Trick-or-Treat. I do not understand the animosity.

Esposito said that the Board voted to have the traditional Trick-or-Treat. The Library has always done the Witches Walk – and have done it well.

Kitchel said that the bags of candy that were \$14 last year are now \$37.

Esposito said that the Rec Director thought she should be the one to announce it, and was very upset.

Kitchel said that she thinks it is disingenuous to call it a Town event. The Town contributes minimally and the Rec. Director – not at all.

Esposito said that it is still a Town sanctioned event and we need to mend fences and all get along.

Berry said that since she was ok with what you were doing at one point, maybe someone acted irrationally – let's move on.

Raspiller asked if the Rec Director know she is the one who is acting irrationally? It isn't our 30 volunteers. I think JoAnn wants you to tell the Rec Director to back off, but she won't say it.

Berry said that the Board would like you to talk to the Rec Director and straighten this out.

H. Brown said that they have reached out and have gotten no response.

Kitchel said that she tries very hard to be supportive of the Director's events. It is my job to collect the candy for this event. Kennedy doesn't do anything for Halloween.

Esposito told them not to change anything they are doing because it works.

7:30 PM David Brooks came before the Board to discuss the Sustainability group's efforts. He asked how the street light project was coming along.

Berry said that he had contacted Eversource and they haven't responded yet.

Brooks remarked that we have already paid them.

Berry said that we have already paid Affinity. Affinity was replacing the lights and came across faulty wiring on the oldest 7 lights in Town. They have asked Eversource to upgrade the wiring to make it safe before they resume the replacement of the old lights with new, energy efficient LED's. He added that he would follow up.

Brooks said that the 7 new lights are down at the DPW waiting to be installed. He also said that Affinity has started looking at all of the Town buildings to convert them to LED lights. They want to continue their inspections; who should they contact.

Esposito said to have them contact the office to schedule a time to get into each building.

Brooks said that the flagpole at the monument lot does not have a up facing light anymore; it has a solar light pointing down. He said that he may be able to get funding for a better light if the Board was interested.

Board agreed.

Brooks then spoke about the lights at the transfer station being too bright and being on all night.

Esposito said that they had just had a lot of electrical work done there to add lighting. The trailer has been broken into, and we want people to be able to see while using the transfer station after dark. He suggested contacting Mont Vernon Electric to see what was

already done.

Esposito said that last week Lee Gillman sprayed for invasive plant species around the town garage and the transfer station.

Raspiller told the Board that Jill Weber resigned from the Library Trustees. The trustees had a special meeting this afternoon and would like you to appoint Amy White as interim trustee. In March she will have to run for the rest of Jill's term.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown, to appoint Amy White as an Interim Library Trustee until the March 2022 Town Meeting. All in favor.

Raspiller announced that they are actively looking for more grant money for the library project. They have applied for: \$50K from the Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation, \$50K from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation and \$250K from the Von Webber.

Jane King added that they applied for \$500K grant last week.

Berry asked if they had gotten a time frame from the Fundraiser.

Raspiller said that there is a medical issue, and we will get back to you on that.

7:55 PM L. Brown asked the Board about renting the roller for the dirt roads on the Highway Director's behalf, and explained that he would like the charge to come out of Block Grant money.

Berry said that the roller compacts the dirt roads before they freeze up so we don't plow up the gravel. It goes hand-in-hand with the calcium chloride.

Esposito thought he should be able to do all the roads in 2 weeks. He is trying to keep the Block Grant money for the Brook Road culvert replacement project.

H. Brown said that you have to: grade the road, crown it, spray it and pack it down right away.

L. Brown reminded the Board that the Hwy Department is down one man temporarily and one for 6 months.

Esposito said that he will discuss with Crosby tomorrow and get back to the Selectmen as soon as possible.

Board discussed the Guidelines they want to use for Halloween and came up with: They suggest everyone be wearing a mask, and keep the 6-foot social distancing. If Kennedy wants to say it is for MV residents only, that is ok.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown, to appoint our Fire Chief, Jay Wilson, as the Town of Mont Vernon's Emergency Management Director. All in Favor.

Board reviewed the minutes of 9/20/21 and 9/27/21.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of September 20, 2021 as amended. All in favor.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of September 27, 2021 as written. All in favor.

8:20 PM H. Brown motioned to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Berry seconded; all in favor.

8:30 PM Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to come out of non-public session.

Esposito asked L. Brown to check with Attny Tom Quinn to see where he is on the Ober property.

Esposito asked L. Brown to check with Attny Peter Moustakis to see where we go next on the 54/56 Weston Hill property since they have not responded to our latest letter.

There is no meeting next week due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

8:55 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by H. Brown to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown