**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**November 8, 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.

Resident, Kathi Marchocki came before the Board to let them know that there are deep gullies on the side of Old Wilton Road between her house and the stop sign. Heavy rains have cut them into the west side of the road 20’ beyond her southern driveway to the stop sign.

Highway Director, Crosby said that he would take a look at it.

Esposito said that the SLRD budget meeting last Thursday showed that the budget will be up approximately $8500. We will get the final numbers next month.

**7:15 PM Department Head Meeting**

**Police Chief, Mark Slavin**

* One of his main goals is to learn how to deal with mental illness and de-escalating these situations. He looked into a crisis intervention team. Four of the officers are enrolled in the training. By next year we should all be certified. It is a 40-hour training.

H. Brown asked if this training would cover something like what happened in Goffstown where a lady was found walking down the middle of the street with a long line of cars behind her.

Slavin said that is indeed something the training should cover.

* The PD switched back to using the State pumps for buying gas. The price is $1.95/gallon.
* We are going through all of our operating procedures and guidelines to make sure they are up to date.

Esposito asked about the video camera trials.

Slavin said that he was still firming up the second vendor, and that there may be some grant money available. They are not looking into cruiser cams – just body cams.

Fire Ward, Lucien Soucy said that he saw Slavin handing out lunches at MVVS.

**Library Director, Bonnie Angulas**

* Thanked the Board for the website training.
* Halloween was a success; the library had 559 visitors.

Fire Ward, Randy Wilson asked if the candy collection was a little less than usual. The answer was yes, a little.

H. Brown said that he had many favorable comments regarding Officer Steve O’Keefe handing out candy from the cruiser at the beginning of Blood Road.

Soucy mentioned that one home on Blood Road was less than gracious to our older children: refusing to give them candy and telling 12-year-olds to “get a job”.

The Board wants kids and adults of all ages to feel comfortable trick-or-treating. Mont Vernon wants to be an inclusive town that welcomes everyone to participate. Discussion over whether or not to give that home donated candy ensued.

* November 4 through December 6 they are collecting new underwear and socks for Seats and Feets.
* There is a new story walk around Carleton Pond centered around animals.
* The library trustees met with DSK to discuss the landscape and interiors of the proposed new library. The theme is: Bring the outdoors in. No choices were made.
* They are collaborating with the PTA for the Avenue of Lights on December 4th.
* Joining with the Heritage Commission for the Village Holiday Walk on December 11th.

**Fire Chief, Jay Wilson**

* Preparing our end of year budget purchases.
* Small water issue: the valve went on the hot water heater. We will replace the tank.

Berry asked if it was a stone lined tank.

Soucy said that he didn’t think so.

Berry asked about the water tank on the tanker.

J. Wilson said that it is looking like January.

* New truck increases will be 2.5% - 5% again this year.
* No NH towns, except Manchester, got any SCBA grant money. No volunteer departments. New round of grants starts this month, but we won’t hear back until April 2022.

Berry asked what the plan is if they don’t get a grant this time around.

J. Wilson said that they will begin a lease/purchase in 2023.

* Asked if there would be more sessions of training for the new website; L. Brown will ask.

**Recreation Director, Heather Kennedy**

* Halloween; the weather was beautiful, and candy collection was fair.
* Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, December 11 at 5:30. The Heritage Commission’s Village Holiday Wald will overlap a little. The FDE and By Scouts will participate. We need an honorary tree lighter. Everyone suggested the new Police Chief. Mark Slavin will light the tree.
* Morning exercise class is ongoing.
* The Ski Program will be at Crotched Mountain at 4:00. Probably on Fridays. This year, people should pay Crotched directly.
* The donated soccer net will be moved into place next week.

**DPW Director, Ben Crosby**

* The F550 is back from Grappone. The amount not under warrantee is $2300.00.
* The department is down one employee.
* Looking into AED for the Transfer Station
* Was ordering the 15MPH speed limit sign for Blood Road Extension, found an RSA that states that no road can have a posted speed limit of less than 25mph.

Esposito said that, in that case, the Board could make it one way.

Resident, Eileen Naber said to be careful about doing that because cars lining up on the turnpike could block driveways.

* Put the Brook Road culvert project out to bid and only received one bid. Will let them know that they have won the bid, and that we will be ready to start as soon as we get the money.

Esposito thought that we might be able to get some money from the new infrastructure bill.

* We are loaning Amherst our grader for a week, and when it comes back, we will do some needed maintenance to it.

Berry asked how old it is and how many hours it has on it.

Crosby said it is a 2003, and it has approximately 3500 hours on it.

* Mike Buskey will be re-starting at the transfer station next Tuesday.

Esposito announced that we got the new tax rate from the State today: $28.44. Up $1.87 from last year. Preliminary rate was $30.44 and we were able to buy back $2.00. It is too risky to buy back any more than that because we run the risk of having to take out a tax anticipation note. We have not had to do that in at least 20 years.

Berry let people know that the State considers uncollected taxes as surplus. Uncollected taxes as of 11/1/21 are $578,774 with penalties and interest up to $524,640.

Esposito thanked Lucien Soucy for the work he is doing to the upstairs of the Town Hall making it safe for the guys to wind the clock.

Soucy said that he should finish next week.

Marchocki asked if the new construction in Town wasn’t enough to cover the increase in taxes.

Esposito said: no, not at all.

J. Wilson asked that the Board not talk about things happening in a particular department without having the department head there to explain. I know you must address complaints directly, but things may get misconstrued if there is no department representative there. For instance: I took offense to your disparaging remarks about the condition of the fire station and the use of the Fire Station room.

Angulas said that there was definitely a foundation for the remarks about the use of the Community Room.

J. Wilson said that he doesn’t care who uses the room, but that there has to be a process. I need to know that it is going to be done right. Who is responsible for the use, who will clean up etc.

Angulas said that there was a problem; we thought we had the ok from you, then Randy said we didn’t.

J. Wilson said that there was uncertainty on the process; we didn’t know what was planned.

Angulas said that they wanted to reschedule the vaccination clinic. I sent the email to J. Wilson and Rich Masters. She also said that she didn’t think we were talking behind your back.

J. Wilson said to entertain the complaint, but withhold judgement until you talk to us.

H. Brown said that he was going to take all the forms and combine into one form for the use of any of our facilities. I helped do this at the school. I hoped that it would get rid of all the bickering.

Naber suggested that the principals from each building get together and formulate a way to reserve any of the Town facilities. We need a single plan. Usage should be on the Town Calander for anyone to see what the buildings are being used for and when.

Board agreed to address it at the next department head meeting.

Board discussed the placement of an electrical meter on a new home on Trow Road. Board will meet on location to discuss it, and talk to the builder next Monday night.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of 11/01/21 as written.

H. Brown said that after reading Zoe Fimbel’s comments regarding Halloween, he believes we can’t allow it.

Esposito said that Fimbel said she was reading from the 10/4/21 Selectmen’s minutes.

Berry said that this is Fimbel’s take on what JoAnn Kitchel said that night. There was some sniping on Kitchel’s part.

H. Brown thinks that if we let her come into this meeting and pick apart our minutes, we are no better than they. If I’m having a conversation with you and everything wasn’t chosen to be in the minutes, you aren’t getting the whole picture.

Berry said that nothing was taken out of context: Laurie put down exactly what Fimbel said. We approved the minutes of 10/04/21.

Esposito said that Berry was right; none of it was out opinion.

H. Brown said that we should pull out the minutes being spoken about.

Berry said that, for example, the FD’s exchange with Angulas tonight. When that happened, the FD wasn’t even in the room. Another audience member brought it to them.

Esposito remarked that the minutes need to represent what was said, not what we think was meant.

All in favor of the minutes of the 11/01/21 minutes as is.

Esposito added that the Recreation Committee and the Library ladies have to learn to get along and put Halloween on together.

H. Brown asked how the library ladies completely disregarded the Selectmen’s wishes last Halloween.

Berry said that the Selectmen, in conjunction with the Recreation Director, Health Officer and Emergency Management Director had voted not to have Halloween at all because of Covid-19. The library ladies encouraged residents to give out candy anyway. The Selectmen said that there would have to be guidelines and those were ignored.

H. Brown asked how that could happen.

Berry said that it just did.

H. Brown asked how roads get named in Mont Vernon. He says that DSK is asking what the road name will be for the road to the proposed new library and cemetery.

Esposito said that we have a list.

L. Brown explained that it is a list of old family names of important people in the history of Mont Vernon.

**9:00 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