**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**November 15, 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, Eileen Naber, asked the Board to put off the meeting where we all get together and make a single policy regarding the use of Town Buildings. She would like to form a committee for this purpose. There should be 3 to 5 members who will go over each building’s use with its principals to find out why things are done the way they are. Then formulate an inclusive plan.

Board agreed.

Health Officer, Rich Masters, came before the Board to discuss the vaccine clinic to be held on November 27th.

Fire Chief Wilson said that the school was the best place to hold the clinic so that traffic flow would be; one entrance and one exit to keep people socially distanced.

Esposito asked if the vaccine will be available for ages 5 and up and was told it would. He asked if the Town Garage would be a good place to hold the clinic – you could have a “drive through” clinic.

Wilson thought that would work very well.

H. Brown agreed, and also agreed with Wilson that law enforcement should be present.

Wilson said that it isn’t for the people getting shots – it’s for the people angry over a vaccine mandate.

Berry thought the school would be better.

Masters added that he didn’t think they would be set up to give people their shots in their cars.

Berry said that the school still has a mask mandate, and there should be an officer there to enforce that.

Wilson said that the school could have a good “walk through” plan as well.

H. Brown thought that at the Town Garage people may not even have to get out of their cars.

Wilson said that he believes that we will get more people than you think to attend.

Masters said that he will look into having it at the school and let the Board know ASAP.

Masters let the Board know that he went out to 54/56 Weston Hill Rd regarding the neighbor’s complaint of a failed septic. He didn’t see any evidence of that, and when asked, the homeowner said that it had been serviced in December of last year. He said that he knows that they have a lot of automobiles on site, but they are all owned by the property owners and the property is a lot cleaner than the old owners kept it.

Masters said that the owners of the property on Mobil Coach Lane have done quite a bit of cleaning out. It seems that he has to go out there every few years.

Esposito asked Berry about the street light project.

Berry said that we should have the invoice this week.

L. Brown said that the office received the credit for the retroactive rate reduction today.

Esposito read a Commendation for Aaron Daigneault from the Chief, Mark Slavin. Good job Aaron!

Esposito commented on the increase in the tax rate. He said that the Town portion was up $1.53, and the School was up $.39, but the school is most of the total rate.

Naber said that it seems as if they ask for the moon, knowing that they will get ½ of the moon and are delighted with that.

The rate came in at $30.44 and we were able to buy back $2.00 of it. Remember, uncollected taxes are counted into our surplus.

H. Brown said that of the $28.44, over $20 is for education.

Naber asked when the new website will be active.

L. Brown said that it was scheduled for tomorrow, but they were asking for more information today so; soon.

Naber proposed that the office staff be given 2 more hours per week in order to keep the website up to date.

Berry said that maintaining the website would be up to the individual departments to keep up on their own, and that he would speak to the staff about that.

Selectmen go over the proposed budget for 2022.

Berry proposed increasing the Selectmen’s stipend by $1000 each.

Esposito said that the stipend has stayed the same for at least 20 years.

Board agreed to increase the 3 Selectmen’s stipend by $1000 each.

Berry looked at the proposed amount for assessing. He said that he would like to leave it at last year’s rate.

Esposito agreed since the State could require a revaluation any time the equalization ratio goes +/- 15%.

L. Brown to call the DRA and see what the possibility of that happening is.

Berry asked about the legal line. It seems as though the properties with junk yards have been trying to comply, or at least making some progress. He doesn’t want to leave us short, but it looks like we will not need $75K.

Board agrees to set the legal line at $20,000.

Esposito asked L. Brown to include the 6% increase in the Planning and Zoning line for the administrator.

Berry feels that the fuel line for the heat in the Town Hall should be increased by $700.00 to $5000.00.

Board agreed.

Berry asked what makes up the $10,000 in Repairs & Maint. Highway Garage.

L. Brown said that she wasn’t given a breakdown, and the Director will have to be asked.

L. Brown said that she has a call in to the NRPC for their 2022 dues, but hasn’t heard from them yet.

L. Brown commented that the PD only has 3% for the employees. She will ask the Chief to increase that to 6%.

Esposito said that the use of the State fuel shed should be reflected in the budget figure for 2022 cruiser fuel.

Berry said that the Building Inspector has put in for something we haven’t agreed to.

**8:20 PM Chief Jay Wilson, asked for a non-public session to discuss a personnel issue.**

H. Brown motioned, seconded by Berry to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue.

**8:40 PM H. Brown motioned, seconded by Berry to come out of non-public session. All in favor.**

Berry commented that Crosby had not put the loader into his budget.

Board agreed to reduce the Street Light line by $2000.00 because of the more favorable rate being received.

Board reviewed the Recreation Director’s request for doubling her stipend to $1000. They agreed to $750.

Board discussed the Heritage Commission’s request for $20,000 to go into their fund. Board agreed on $15,000.

Board reviewed the minutes of 11/8/21. Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of November 8, 2021 as amended. All in favor.

Board agreed with Town Counsel that a title search should be conducted before accepting the deed to Crosby and Riley Roads.

**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