

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes March 8, 2021

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

Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence.

Esposito let the Board know that he attended the SRLD meeting last week. Our 2nd compactor is coming in the spring. They are concerned about all the food waste that is going into the trash and want to promote composting. Information on composting and purchasing the bins will follow. They estimate that 24% of the total waste is food. They are also waiting for the State to approve crushing the glass and using it in DPW programs.

Crosby said that the crushed glass will have to meet certain criteria to be used in drainage or underlayment. In Europe they blend it into their hot top mix. We are years behind them.

Esposito said that we have a glut of glass, if it can be used, it will save a lot of money.

Crosby said that we need a place to stockpile it.

Esposito said some of the recycling prices are coming back a little.

Berry talked about not all compost being equal. Food waste with meat in it goes to a different place than that without meat.

Esposito said that Hollis has a very energetic composting plan.

Bonnie Angulas asked if a composting plan is necessary – they do it in their back yard.

Esposito explained that we aren't encouraging bringing it to the transfer station.

Crosby asked if the Town would buy and resell the bins.

Esposito said he isn't sure; the bins are \$50 - \$60 each and you have to buy a whole pallet.

Heather Kennedy asked if it would make sense for people to crush their aluminum cans. Harbor freight sells a crushing tool that people could use at home, or we could put one or two at the transfer station.

Crosby explained that we have always asked for the cans to be crushed. I don't know if it would be cost-effective to add another compactor.

Berry asked what we will be crushing with our 2nd compactor and was told cardboard.

Esposito said that the market for colored plastic is coming back.

Berry said that the plastic issue is too complicated – I say, just throw it all into the waste bin and incinerate it.

7:15 PM Department Head Meeting

Ben Crosby – DPW Director

- Roads have been posted with a 6-ton limit with an end date TBD depending on the weather.

Roberge asked if this happened earlier than usual and was told, yes, one week. She said that every single morning has been below freezing.

Crosby explained that, people could apply for a waiver verbally and he will convey that to the PD with a timeframe. All the towns in the vicinity are on the same schedule.

Roberge asked if we reach out to other towns when a road causes you to travel into another town.

Crosby said that he does, and that he has a good relationship with the other DPW Directors.

Bonnie Angulas – Library Director

- The safety audit was very short and sweet. He wrote us up for signage and fire extinguishers, but said that they were not my responsibility – it was the responsibility of the Fire Department. Also found that the duct work in the basement should be marked.

Brown told her that the inspector will make his report, and come back to make sure we fixed everything he found deficient.

Jay Wilson feels that the fire extinguishers should be the responsibility of the building owner – not the FD. You must replace them when they are out of date. You can give the old ones to the FD to practice with.

Crosby offered that they are supposed to be inspected annually.

Wilson said that most places have a private company inspect them annually.

Angulas said that hers were inspected last in 2010 and that she would like Wilson's guidance.

Wilson said that she should purchase 5-pound ABC dry chemical extinguishers.

Roberge asked if Wilson could do the annual inspections.

Wilson asked if the department heads could replace the extinguishers and give him a list of what they have and where they are. He will maintain the database and get them inspected.

Roberge said that the firefighter that conducts the inspections will be paid to do so, and it should come out of the particular building maintenance line.

Esposito relayed that the inspector was adamant that anyone who even gets a paper cut must report it to their supervisor, who in turn, will get a first report of injury filed.

- The \$500 grant she received required a community survey to pinpoint a project that was needed. She got 142 responses. We are having a problem with getting information out and volunteers in. People new to Town will get a packet with information about the community and what boards, commissions and committees there are to get involved in. Most people jump onto MV Chatter, but if you are new, how would you even know about it. We can make \$500 go a long way.
- Submitting for a second grant from the American Library Association for \$3000. She wants to develop a virtual Historic Tour of Mont Vernon. The money would come in at the end of March and the project will require a huge amount of collaboration.
- The library is collaborating with the Recreation committee to hold a scavenger hunt and a peep diorama contest for Easter.

Kevin Furlong – Chief of Police

- There are currently 2891 active cases of Covid-19 in NH; 3 households quarantining in Mont Vernon. Phase 1B is winding down and 2A will start on March 12th.
- They vaccinated over 10,000 people at the speedway last weekend with the Johnson & Johnson shot.
- Held the 3rd Hazzard Mitigation Plan meeting, and will hold the last meeting on April 1st. The plan will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and then to the State for approval.
- He and Corporal Slavin attended a two-day Alice Training. Alice training is preparedness for active shooter incidents. Also, practiced lock down at the School today.
- Have 600 items to stuff 200 Easter goody bags to hand over to the recreation committee.
- Furlong asked how the raises will work this year with the Town Meeting being held in June.

Brown advised that she had spoken with the NHMA who told her they could take effect in March as usual, because it was reasonable and customary for the Town; we always do them in March.

Heather Kennedy – Recreation Director

Roberge asked for Furlong's thoughts on not having a Gala and moving any celebration later in the summer.

Furlong said that everything is moving now that vaccines are getting out to people. He said that he cannot answer those types of questions at this time. The further we can push it out, the better. It all depends on how many vaccines we can get. Hopefully by Wednesday we will know if the paid staff and library employees can be vaccinated.

Esposito said that having anything in May doesn't seem practical, and it is a big job; you can't just plan it overnight.

Berry said he speaks for the Board in saying that they feel better about putting it off till later in the summer. Any half-way measure won't work with Spring Gala.

Heather Kennedy said that she spoke with the Lamson Farm Commission and they are not crazy about combining forces on Lamson Farm Day, but they said that having Spring Gala in August would be ok.

Roberge said that, Spring Gala is only 9 weeks from now, and the Board is taking it off her hands. She asked if Kennedy would reach out to all participants to see what date will work in August.

Board concurred.

Furlong mentioned that the Fun Run will not be able to take place in May either. There will be no permit to close Rte 13, and no police officers on duty for the event.

- Cards for Kindness was a success – she got 3 – 4 dozen cards to send to senior living facilities.
- The Recreation committee brainstormed new ideas.
- The committee talked about going back to a committee approach. This will give members the ability to cross over on events.
- Have 26 families (54 kids) signed up for the Easter drive through event. I had asked for donations from each department. In order to have more golden eggs in the bags, if you want to donate 3 – 5 items for a medium sized basket, or a full basket, that would be good too. I need the donations by 3/26/21. Everyone must wear a mask and stay in their vehicles. Volunteers that have already been vaccinated can volunteer for the whole time, or just a 15-minute time slot. Can we get a hand sanitizer station and masks at the site?

Furlong said that he had sanitizer and PPE that he would donate.

- She asked to have a key made to the front door of the McCollom Building.

Brown has keys in the office that Kennedy just needs to try and see which one works.

Furlong said that she just needs to push the button and an officer would be glad to let her in.

Belinda Yeaton – Town Clerk

Berry asked Yeaton to tell him who gets sworn in, and who still needs to be sworn in.

- Yeaton said that all elected and appointed officials must be sworn in. There are many people on boards, commissions and committees that haven't been sworn in. Only the Heritage Commission has been.

Berry asked her for a list of who needs to be sworn in.

Yeaton said that she wouldn't know, except for the Elected Officials.

Esposito said that next week they will be going over the whole list and will make a list at that point.

Yeaton said it can be done over Zoom.

Jay Wilson – Fire Chief

- Everything is going fine. Preventative maintenance will be done in May.

Berry asked if the FD would be amenable to having the pancake breakfast later in the year.

Wilson said that the Fire Wards have been discussing that, and they can use the whole apparatus bay and even outside if social distancing is still a thing.

8:00 PM End of Department Head meeting

Esposito asked Brown for any update on the IT Service and the website upgrade.

Roberge listed many towns and said what company they use for their websites. She offered to send the information to Brown.

Brown said that she has two quotes and two on the way.

Roberge explained that she will have to get Selectmen and Town "buy in" on this.

Berry asked when the current website will no longer be supported.

Brown will find out for next week.

Esposito said to make sure we are starting from scratch for the new site.

Esposito reviewed the suggested policy for appointing members to Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Roberge reminded everyone that the appointees need to be sworn in.

Berry said that the Planning Board wants to move forward on 3/23 to choose a new chairman, vice chair and secretary. We will have to appoint members next week.

Esposito said that that is the plan for next week.

Roberge asked if letters were going out to see who wanted to be reappointed.

Esposito said yes, this year we will do it like we always have.

Brown said that she could get the letters out this week.

Roberge said that the new policy will go out to all boards, commissions and committees and we will start the new policy next year.

Howard Brown asked if we could ask the chairmen to compile a list of their members.

Angulas asked, if someone has not been sworn in – do their votes count?

Yeaton said, yes, it is a "defacto" vote if the person has been acting as a member, and was appointed as a member, the votes count. Not being sworn in is not invalidating.

Esposito reviewed the policy for hiring DPW employees.

Roberge suggested tabling this because Crosby submitted changes today and we haven't had a chance to think about them.

Esposito feels that no DWI in 10 years can be too long, in some cases, but 5 is too short.

Roberge suggested a compromise of 7 years.

Howard Brown says you only need 7 years for a security clearance.

Berry feels that the restriction of having no failed drug tests should also have a time limit.

Roberge said that requiring a DOT physical might be a good idea. Some departments have things in place like having to be able to pick up a certain amount of weight etc.

Howard Brown said that, if they hold a CDL-B they have to have a med. card which means they have to undergo a physical every 2 years.

They also should be willing to submit to a drug test and an annual license review.

Brown said that the DPW do not have to hold a med. card and she is sure no one has one.

Esposito agreed to table this until next week and he will talk to Crosby.

Roberge asked if she should reach out to the people who, on MV Chatter, volunteered to sit on the Town Hall Renovation Plan Committee even though it says to contact the office. She wants them to be seated next week.

It is decided that she will contact the volunteers through Facebook.

Board reviewed the minutes of 3/1/21. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of March 1, 2021 as amended.

Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Roberge said that she will have the draft of the policy for closing Town buildings ready in a day or two.

Roberge said that she has gotten no response from Chris at Fieldstone, and the State still does not have a completed application. She believes we should send Fieldstone a letter from the Town attorney. She also said that we are not to pay them any more money. Esposito said that this has been going on for over a year – that is unacceptable!

8:55 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Respectfully submitted;
Laurie Brown