

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 15, 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, Joan Cleary.

Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence.

Howard Brown brought up discussion on needing medical card for CDL. There is a clause in the handbook that states that fire fighters and DPW drivers do not have to have a medical card. He doesn't understand why; should someone driving a truck have a heart attack and hit/kill somebody, were they physically fit to drive that apparatus? He understands there is a cost involved but feels it's a lawsuit waiting to happen. Roberge said that is being discussed as part of our procedure for hiring for the DPW. Ben Crosby is looking at what the cost of a DOT physical would be.

Esposito has not heard anything back from Milford's Select board or from Wilton regarding MACC Base. The Milford voters turned down the expansion of the communications center. Roberge said we need to speak with Wilton to start negotiations on the new IMA as soon as possible. Our point to the Milford BOG representative was if it didn't pass, one way or another we need upgrades to MACC Base. Jay Wilson had no update; has a work session next week to discuss the structure of the organization, etc. He feels this would all be fixed today if Milford had just supported all the proposals and project costs discussed. It's unfortunate they haven't; they're putting lives at risk. If they wanted their own communication center, they should have been honest and come to the towns. They are the most unethical group of people he has ever met. Berry noted his disappointment on how quick Milford was to blame Wilton and Mont Vernon for problems they created for themselves.

Ben Crosby recommends extending the offer of employment to Travis Hobbs with the Board's blessing. Roberge said that based on the background check, conversation with our insurance company and town counsel, she has no problem supporting Crosby's recommendation. Esposito feels the same; he feels Travis will be an asset to the town. He noted that there will be a 90-day probationary period and we want Travis to get his CDL within 9 months if at all possible. Berry made a motion to accept the recommendation of the DPW Director and hire Travis Hobbs seconded by Roberge. All in favor.

Roberge asked Crosby if he agrees with 7 years driving/criminal history for hiring procedure background check. She asked him to find out the cost of a DOT physical as we may want to make this part of our hiring procedure. Also, is it done once or maybe every five years?

Esposito agrees and recommends a physical be necessary for hiring.

Crosby said they are getting close to finalizing the installation of their new radios and equipment; waiting on last piece of equipment to come in. Roberge asked status of two trucks they had issues with and also the camera installation at Town Hall. Crosby said they had the springs replaced on the 2012. Truck came back on Tuesday and springs failed on Friday; axle shifted 10" out of whack. Truck got towed back and repaired at their expense. Crosby will pick truck up tomorrow. The alternator on the 2007 was repaired today.

Esposito received an email from Bill McKinney regarding his resignation from the Planning Board. Berry said that Jim Bird would like to be appointed as a full voting member of the Planning Board. There is another position to be filled due to Bill Johnson also resigning. Berry motioned to appoint Jim Bird as a full voting member of the Planning Board seconded by Esposito. Roberge doesn't understand why we are doing this now. Last week we had discussed that we were sending out to all board members, with terms expiring, a letter stating if they did not want to renew their term, they needed to contact the town office. If they were leaving as is, they did not have to do anything. Those letters did not go out as we stated so why won't we send those letters out and appoint all of the committees next week and do them all in one fell swoop as opposed to somebody having to search through our minutes in the month of March to see when we did single appointees. If we do it next Monday night, we are still meeting the goals for the Planning Board and maybe between now and next Monday Berry may have reached out to the alternates and see if one of them wants to become a voting member or see if there is someone else interested. Berry said that the only people up for reappointment on the Planning Board are Bill McKinney and Bill Johnson; both are stepping down. Esposito feels Bird should be voted on tonight and the rest can be tabled until next week. All in favor.

Joan will reach out to the elected officials who need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Esposito brought up the need for the fire extinguishers in all town buildings to be tested/replaced. Jay Wilson asked for a list of all extinguishers; type, size and quantity. He will aim to have this done by mid-April.

Roberge said that for Town Hall Renovation Plan Committee, there has been positive responses from Annette Immorlica, Lee Moss, Charlie Schuessler, Mike Cardoza and Kim Roberge. She would like to seat all five this evening so they can start working. There is a member of the Heritage who may be interested in sitting on the committee as well. The first task would be to reach out to DEW/Mike Petrovick to come up with a possible cost to be able to implement that into the warrant article if need be as soon as possible. Berry motioned to appoint Annette Immorlica, Lee Moss, Charlie Schuessler, Mike Cardoza and Kim Roberge to the Town Hall Renovation Plan Committee seconded by Roberge. All in favor. Jay Wilson said that Lucien Soucy had signed up for the Committee. Roberge said she had spoken with Lucien directly, sent him an email in regards to the scope of work involved and had not heard back from him. She asked Jay to please have Lucien get back to her.

Roberge went over her first draft run at an Emergency Closing Procedure/Policy. Esposito is opposed to full time employees having to use sick/vacation time if town buildings are closed due to weather/emergency. If the town building is closed because it is determined it is unsafe to be there, the employee should be paid; it has always been this way. He also feels that if the Transfer Station has to be shut down due to weather/emergency, the part time employees should be paid. Roberge said the Highway Dept. and the Police Dept. don't get that benefit because they have to come in. She wants to make a policy across the board for all of the departments to make sure that there is a fair assessment. Berry wants to review the draft before giving any input. He feels we do need policies where they currently don't exist. He agrees that the Transfer Station employees should be paid in the event that the station is shut down due to weather/emergency. He also feels that the attendants at the Transfer Station should receive the Covid vaccine same as the police and fire departments have; they have more exposure and contact with the public than anyone.

The Board reviewed the minutes of 3/8/21. Berry motioned to accept the minutes as written seconded by Roberge. Roberge has not read thoroughly; if at a later date she wishes to amend, they will reopen. All in favor.

Roberge said that Fieldstone resubmitted their wetlands plan for the Brook Rd. project on 2/26/21. They have not heard anything back from the state saying they had any more questions; hoping to hear something this week. Esposito discussed the letter received regarding the Dept. of Labor Safety audit. The Joint Loss Management Committee will meet Wednesday. The Library Trustees meet tomorrow. Berry wants to know if they have formal roadway plans to present to the Planning Board with a subdivision application. He also wants to know if the plans have been revised to include electrical service to the cemetery boundary line. The Board discussed a letter received regarding solar farms and the possibility of doing something on the Kaminski property. Berry received information from the NHMA regarding the American Recovery Act. NHMA put out a list of allotments for every town in the state of NH. Mont Vernon's allotment is 226K. There was talk on the news last week that our Governor was not going to accept this money. Berry feels that our taxpayers should reach out to their state legislators and tell them how we feel about a possible windfall of 226K and whether or not we think it would be wise to let the federal government keep that money.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary