**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**December 20, 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.

Board reviewed and signed an application for Tax Credit for Service-Related Disability.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to enact the Traffic Ordinance submitted previously by the Chief of Police. All in favor.

Berry brought up last week’s discussion regarding facilities usage. He said that Bonnie Angulas had mentioned that there is software available that could make it easier for people to reserve the spaces available.

Esposito said that he believes it works well with the department heads doing the scheduling for their respective buildings.

John Quinlan of the Library Building Committee was in attendance to hear what the Board has to say about building the road to the proposed library.

Berry said that he had spoken to Spencer Tate of Meridian Land Surveyors, but that they don’t have any more information than they had last week. He also said that the library will be coming forth with 3 warrant articles for the Town Meeting in March 2022: 1) To add to the Capital Reserve. 2) Money for the final design and construction documents, and 3) Cemetery access.

H. Brown said that he told the Library Trustees that they should be coming before the Board to discuss everything.

Berry stated that Cindy Raspiller, Library Trustee, said that they will not be asking the Town for the money for the new library until the Town Meeting in 2023. They will be asking the Town to use Block Grant money and American Recovery funds toward the cost of the road to the library.

Esposito said that he would not use Block Grant money for the new road, as it is our only cushion for roads in an emergency. We haven’t seen the Room & Meals check from the State yet, so we don’t know how much less it will be this year because of Covid.

Berry reminded everyone that we don’t know how much of the American Recovery funds we can use.

H. Brown recounted that, at last week’s budget meeting, they were discussing asking the Selectmen to fund the hiring of a grant writer. They would pay for themselves if they seek out and get grants for the Town. The return on investment could be great. There are untapped resources out there that we just don’t know about.

Berry stated his preference is to hire a Town Administrator who would fill that role. I don’t like the idea of hiring someone just for grants. We have already sent Becci Schwarz to grant writing school.

H. Brown asked if we should ask Schwarz if she would like to do it for the Town – not just the Heritage Commission.

Berry said that she is so involved in the Planning Board, Historic District and the Heritage Commission – I don’t want her to get burned out.

H. Brown said that we could put it out on the Website and Schwarz could guide them.

Esposito said that we should let Schwarz spearhead this.

Berry wants to send an email out to every department head that hasn’t got their new web page updated with minutes and contact information etc… Board agreed.

H. Brown suggested that the Budget Committee may want to speak to the Recreation Chairman regarding the budget increases.

Berry brought up the email from Ben Crosby, and said that he wants to purchase a hose crimping machine for the DPW out of his 2021 budget.

H. Brown asked if any of our neighboring towns have this machine? Would we want to be able to make hoses for them too? We could charge them.

Esposito said that we are in mutual aid agreements with the neighboring towns, and do that kind of thing for free in emergencies.

H. Brown asked what the saving is, in money and in equipment down time.

Esposito said he will speak with Crosby in the morning. The down time would be a couple of days vs. hours.

Berry asked L. Brown to add $67,000.00 to the Assessing line in the 2022 proposed budget for the 2nd half of the Fairpoint settlement.

Esposito asked L. Brown to send a letter to one of the junkyard owners to let them know that we will be setting up a meeting between the property owner, the Selectmen and Town Counsel.

H. Brown suggested that Town Counsel also be brought in for unpaid taxes in the trailer park.

L. Brown explained that some of those trailers have been re-sold, or rented, or even replaced.

Esposito feels that we should set the Legal budget line less than last year, but have enough to start these proceedings. Board agreed on $40,000.00.

Board reviewed the minutes of 12/13/21. Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of December 13, 2021 as written. All in favor.

L. Brown let the Board know that the Budget Committee believes that the AV equipment to broadcast meetings should be purchased this year, if there is any money available. If not, the budget should be adjusted so that the $2300 shows under the Selectmen instead of the Planning Board.

Board decided that the AV equipment will be purchased in 2022, but that the money can be taken out of the Planning Board line and added to the Selectmen’s budget.

**8:20 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