**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**April 04, 2022**

**7:00** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Quinlan. Also in attendance was Selectman John Esposito, and minute taker Laurie Brown. Selectman Howard Brown was not in attendance.

Quinlan led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Patricia Kelleher, resident and manager of Rolling Acres trailer park, along with Stephanie Reynolds, also a resident of the park came in to discuss 3 mobile homes on Third Street. The original owners have abandoned homes on 25, 28 and 40 Third Street. No taxes have been paid for many years on these homes. Five years ago, the then park owner, Kathy Rush, began renting out these homes. The tenants have fixed the homes up to be habitable, and have agreed to pay the back taxes on the homes as far back as when they moved in if the taxes in arrears can be abated and the homes be quit claimed into their names. Kelleher is working on the quit claim deeds and asked the Selectmen if the taxes can be abated. Since the accumulation of taxes are in excess of the value of the homes, and the rightful owners cannot be found (one of them has passed), the Selectmen have agreed to send the request to Town Counsel to see what can be done.

**7:15 PM** The Chairman of the Lamson Farm Commission, Zoe Fimbel, came before the Board to see if the Boards and Commissions appointments had been made for the new year. She would like to hold off on the LFC meeting until the Board has had a chance to do that. Also, the membership list in the Town Report isn’t correct. She gave L. Brown the changes, and Quinlan asked L. Brown to check on the appointments of all the members.

**7:20 PM** Becci Schwarz, Chairman of the Heritage Commission, came before the Board to explain that she is advocating for the Board to adopt a Tax Incentive Mechanism to Help Save Old New Hampshire Barns. A 2002 State law (RSA 79-D) creates a mechanism to encourage preservation of old New Hampshire barns and other historic agricultural buildings. It would reduce the assessment on the barn only by 25% - 75%.

Quinlan asked what the qualifications are for the barn to be considered.

Schwarz said that the barn must be at least 75 years old, it must have had an agricultural purpose, and the owner must use the reduction in taxes to preserve the structure for a minimum of 10 years. There is also a program that the owners can apply for to get money for a conditions assessment to find out hew you they would go about preservation.

Quinlan asked if there were periodic inspections to make sure the preservation measures were being done.

Schwarz said that the Town Assessors would know that they are part of the program.

Quinlan asked if it has to be adopted at Town Meeting.

Schwarz said that it only need be done at a Selectmen’s public hearing.

L. Brown stated that she believes that everything that effects everyone’s taxes must go before Town Meeting. She will consult with the NHMA.

Schwarz also let the Board know that she is working with DPW Director, Ben Crosby, on a grant for 2 electronic sign boards that all departments can use. They are programmable and can also record speed. The grant is through Governor Sununu’s office, and is for replacing equipment up to $50,000. She said that the quote Crosby got is for $39K – is there anything that the Board would like to include in the request. Maybe the AV equipment needed to broadcast meetings from the Selectmen’s meeting room, or reimbursement for the new website. We would need to come up with 10% matching funds. She said that she needs a letter from the Selectboard saying it is ok to apply for this grant, and the deadline is June 3rd, 2022.

Esposito said that he is in favor of including the AV equipment.

Quinlan said that H. Brown has been looking into the purchase and installation of the AV equipment; I would like to replicate what the SAU is using.

Resident, Eileen Nabor, said that the SAU has dedicated internet.

Quinlan asked about how much money of last year’s $13,500 warrant article has been spent on the access road to the proposed library.

L. Brown said that nothing has been turned into the office with the instructions to code it to that article.

Quinlan said that he would talk to Cindy Raspiller about that, and Brown suggested Tim Berry may know too.

Quinlan asked about the progress on getting more training on using the new website.

L. Brown explained that, while she was on vacation, H. Brown looked into this, and was told that we have 2 hours remaining in what we have already paid for. It must be done via ZOOM. I don’t know if he has set up a date and time yet, though.

Schwarz said that she could run the training if necessary.

Quinlan asked L. Brown to postpone the staff meeting set for next week until April 18, 2022. L. Brown will let the department heads know.

Approving the minutes of March 28, 2022 will be tabled until next week, when the Board is full.

The Board discussed the situation and new information regarding 54/56 Weston Hill Road.

L. Brown said that they did sign for the certified letter they were sent regarding the operation of a junk yard. They know of the fines that can be incurred.

Quinlan asked what progress has been made toward getting their certificate of occupancy of the back building.

L. Brown said that there have been no permits applied for.

Quinlan said that he will contact Town Counsel to move forward with the next step. He said that he wants to have a prosecutorial lawyer on this; we gave them a conditional way to occupy the space and they haven’t complied.

Quinlan asked about the property on Weston Hill that the Town took in tax deed many years ago.

L. Brown explained that we gave that case to Attorney Tom Quin to work on, and we have gotten a letter just yesterday saying that he is close to filing the petition to allow the Town to sell the property. We should know more by the end of the week.

L. Brown brought a request for an increase from an employee to the Board.

After extensive discussion, it is agreed to offer the same increase given to all employees in March: 6%.

L. Brown discussed her upcoming retirement, and wanted to pin down some particulars so that she can make her plans for getting health insurance coverage etc…

Quinlan said that the Board has not had a chance to discuss it together due to everyone’s vacations.

**8:20 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Brown motioned seconded by Esposito to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown