**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**April 25, 2022**

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Quinlan, Jr. Also in attendance were Selectmen Howard Brown and John Esposito and minute taker, Laurie Brown.

Quinlan led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Quinlan asked if L. Brown had gotten an updated quote for the Brook Road Culvert and was told “not yet”.

Esposito said that he had watched the YouTube webinar on reporting for the SLFRP funds from GOFERR.

Quinlan said that there is a bridge closer to the Amherst Town Line that has been red listed by the State. He feels that there will be money available through the Federal Infrastructure Bill.

Quinlan asked H. Brown about his progress on getting the equipment costs for streaming the meetings.

H. Brown said that he is meeting with Brian Miller (the SAU IT person) tomorrow, and will have more information then.

Quinlan said that he is interested in broadcasting the meetings only; not having any audience interaction.

H. Brown said that he wants people to be able to pull up a previous meeting and view it.

Quinlan talked about Chief Slavin’s suggestion that the Town switch email platforms to fix our problems. The cost will be approximately $3500 to migrate to a Microsoft platform, and then there will be up to $3,800 in annual user fees to access the email accounts and have Microsoft Office 360.

H. Brown asked if the user fees would be lower if there were users that didn’t need Office 360.

Esposito asked what was included in Office 360.

Quinlan explained that Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc. is included in Office 360, and that we should all be on the same version. Some of the .us email extensions are “Black Listed” and go into recipient’s spam folders.

H. Brown said that each user having their own account conforms to the Right-to-Know laws, and the number of email accounts we can have is unlimited.

Quinlan asked L. Brown to look in the 2022 budget for $8,000 to accomplish this transition.

Quinlan, talking about the job opening in the Selectmen’s Office, said that hiring a Town Administrator is the way we want to go.

H. Brown agreed, and said that he doesn’t believe we should be looking for a Town Manager; we can create the job of Town Administrator and make it what we want it to be.

Quinlan said that the Department Heads need to know that when the TA askes for something, they need to do it within the time restraints given them.

H. Brown feels that we should post the job opening for all to apply.

L. Brown reminded the Board that they had intimated to one of our employees that they could be promoted from within, and that the Board would hire for that new opening.

H. Brown feels that doing it that way circumvents transparency; she should have to apply with everyone else.

Esposito said that he fully believes we should be promoting from within, and that person is very capable.

H. Brown asked if the Town has a system in place to promote from within without posting. I don’t want people complaining that it wasn’t posted. We should find out if it is legal not to post it.

Quinlan stated that he doesn’t think that person wants the job.

H. Brown said that he doesn’t want to set that person up to fail.

Quinlan suggested that classes could be taken at NCC in Accounting, and anything else needed. He volunteered to come in to the office tomorrow and have a conversation regarding this issue.

Eileen Naber asked if someone will be supervising the website.

H. Brown said that the website maintenance should be added to the new job description.

H. Brown said that he was told that the owners of 54/56 Weston Hill Rd. were kicked out of Wilton for the same kind of Zoning violations as we are seeing here in Mont Vernon. I will have Chief Slavin speak with the Wilton PD to see what went on there.

Esposito said that he asked the owners, point blank, if they were running a business out of their home. They flatly denied it.

Quinlan said that the Planning Board continues to struggle with gathering a quorum to hold meetings. He will speak with Jim Bird, the Chairman of the PB to discuss forming subcommittees to update the Master Plan and Capital Improvements Plan.

Quinlan spoke of the balance in the 2021 Warrant Article for the access road. He has Ken Clinton of Meridian looking into getting us an invoice for the work performed and not billed.

Board reviewed the minutes of 4/18/22. Esposito motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of April 18, 2022 as written. All in favor.

Esposito asked the Board if they knew if the $655,000 grant that the library got would be honored if the building size was reduced. Neither Quinlan nor H. Brown knew the answer to that.

Quinlan said that when the State Librarian and A. Kuster came to Town, they felt that we might get $500K for the access road from the infrastructure bill.

H. Brown also said that they are checking into if the contribution from the Daland Trust can be counted toward that matching grant.

L. Brown said that the New Boston Farmers Market is again asking if they can put up a sign in the triangle of Francestown Turnpike and Route 13. Board agreed, and H. Brown said that they could also post a sign on his property across from the intersection of Wilton Road and Route 13.

Esposito let the Board know that Ben Crosby, DPW Director, would like to start doing 10-hour days – 4 days per week beginning the first week of June. Board agreed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown