**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**May 16, 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.

Eileen Naber asked about the progress on getting the meetings broadcast.

H. Brown said that he believes it will cost under $3000, and that he will give the actual figures to Becci Schwarz tomorrow. He feels that the $199.00 package from Zoom will work for us. He is looking into getting an actual quote for the MacBook, the Monitor and the White Board. A 60” TV will cost under $500.00.

Quinlan said that we would need at least a 50” screen/TV.

Esposito said that the mount will cost as much as the TV.

Naber asked if the Board thought it was smart to purchase a MacBook – since all the other Town devices are PC.

H. Brown said that this laptop would be dedicated to this application, and we wouldn’t be trying to integrate it with other devices. It will cost approximately $900.

Quinlan asked H. Brown to please get the quote to Becci Schwarz tomorrow morning.

Jessica Pomeroy asked if the $3000 also included the TV.

H. Brown said “no”.

Quinlan said that the Board would take the final vote on this project next week.

Pomeroy gave a rundown of the Garden and Beautification Committee’s projects. She is looking to get more people involved. She wants to break up the jobs to be more manageable. An additional 3 or 4 people would be great.

H. Brown asked if she had contacted the PTA, or the High School since the graduates need volunteer hours to graduate.

Pomeroy said that the PTA is already booked, and there are no students interested. She would be happy to dedicate a specific time and day to make it easier to schedule – she is willing to try anything.

Quinlan asked her if she had posted anything on the Town website.

Pomeroy admitted that managing the website is not her forte.

Quinlan told her to get a paragraph or two together and get it to the office, who would make sure it got posted.

Naber said that there is another website out there for the Mont Vernon Garden Committee.

Pomeroy said that she has been trying to get that removed – to no avail.

Quinlan asked DPW Director, Ben Crosby, about the repair of the backhoe.

Crosby said that the part that was ordered was “no where to be found”. They have ordered it a second time, but there is no indication that there is one anywhere. He has no idea when it will come in. Crosby stated that he needed to rent a temporary replacement.

Esposito asked how long Crosby would need it for.

Crosby said that he thought 2 weeks to 1 month. It would cost $1400/week, or $3900 for the month.

Esposito asked what needs to be done in Town that can’t wait until ours is repaired.

Crosby said that last weekend’s rain storm has washed out numerous spots.

Quinlan asked where Crosby would get the money from.

Crosby asked if he could use Block Grant money, and suggested adding a “Rental Equipment” line into next year’s budget.

Quinlan said that he rode the Town’s streets with Crosby last week, and we may have to rethink the Brook Road Culvert for this year, because of the intersection of Old Wilton and Hutchinson Roads. It will not be a simple thing to solve. Drainage is a problem, and it is a challenge because the road is sitting below the surrounding ground and stone walls. We can probably live with the Brook Road culvert as is for another year.

Esposito asked if the Turnpike repairs could be put off for another year.

Quinlan said “no”, that needs to be done ASAP.

Crosby said that the Turnpike has drainage issues also, some of it stems from the Dutton Circle runoff. There is ledge under there.

Pomeroy thought that the State maintained Francestown Turnpike.

Esposito explained that they only maintain up to #82.

Quinlan told Crosby to get an estimate for re-doing the Hutchinson/Old Wilton intersection, and says that it will be a Civil Engineering nightmare.

Esposito asked Crosby what the estimate for the Turnpike was, and was told: $84K - $85K. He said that it might be a good idea to borrow some money to get the worst roads done.

Crosby agreed, saying that we need to get away from road reconstruction and get to road maintenance and preservation.

Esposito agreed to have Crosby take the money out of Block Grant to rent the backhoe. Board also agreed.

Quinlan stated that Town Counsel was in earlier today to discuss the ongoing issues at 54/56 Weston Hill Rd. as there has been no attempt to acquire a certificate of occupancy for the second dwelling, nor has there been an application for a home business or junk yard filed.

Quinlan asked if there was anything in the Structural Engineers report that would be sufficient to condemn the building. No one knew. He asked the office to forward the report to the Board again. He also reported that Town Counsel suggested sending one more demand letter with clear-cut “perform by” dates (usually 30 – 120 days). The letter needs to include the fact that, if they do not respond, it will be considered a denial. If there is non-compliance, they should receive a “Notice to Vacate”, the building should be red tagged and locked down until they are in compliance.

The home business/junkyard issue was last addressed in a certified letter to the owners on March 10, 2022, giving the owners 30 days to respond, in writing whether they would be removing the debris/junk from their property or applying for a permit. I don’t believe they responded.

L. Brown said that they did not respond in writing, but that they had left a message on the office answering machine that said that they are removing all the junk automobiles on the property that they were getting parts from. The neighbor said that they did remove some vehicles, but that some had just been moved to the back of the property.

L. Brown said that she doesn’t feel qualified to compose a legal letter with everything needed. Board agreed to have Town Counsel compose a letter outlining the road to compliance for the junkyard, and the consequences of non-compliance.

Quinlan said that he would speak with Counsel Brian Young tomorrow to make sure he knows that he is to compose the letter.

Quinlan spoke of updating the Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. The Planning Board would like the Selectmen to create a committee to work on these two documents. The Board should put together a committee of 5 to 7 members. They would figure out what needs to be updated in the Master Plan. After that, they can use it to create the CIP. They would then report their findings to the Select Board and Planning Board. We should publish that we are looking for volunteers.

Naber said that she might be interested, depending on meeting dates and times.

H. Brown said that the meetings could be conducted over Zoom.

Quinlan said that he would draw up something to be published on the website.

Naber suggested putting the information in the Town Flyer.

Board reviewed the minutes of 5/9/22. H. Brown motioned, seconded by Esposito, to accept the minutes of May 9, 2022 as written. All in favor.

H. Brown asked what “The development of the Grand Hill Parcel” meant on the agenda.

Quinlan said that the parcel behind the Post Office is a key piece of terrain right in the center of Town. The Selectmen should be involved in how the parcel will be developed. We have affected it, now that we have allowed the logging to take place. I think we should have a park back there. I think we should take ownership of the development of it.

Pomeroy said that the outfit that logged the piece laid down a very substantial road bed for their landing.

Esposito said that Lou Springer feels that the grade of that logging access is less steep than originally thought.

Naber said that we could do what Amherst did when they allowed the playground access for 15 years.

Pomeroy feels that, since the cutting was done last fall, we have to jump on this before the undergrowth comes back in.

Quinlan agreed, and said that the Cemetery and Library Trustees should be coming in with drawings now. This could be a real gem for the Town.

Esposito said that there has been a complaint that people visiting the transfer station are not shutting off their vehicle. There used to be a sign there saying to shut off your vehicle while parked.

Quinlan will tell Crosby to replace the sign.

**8:10 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, H, Brown motioned, seconded by Esposito to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown