**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**May 23, 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.

Resident of 95 Old Wilton Road, Kathy Marchocki, came before the Board to ask if they could intervene in an issue with Comcast. There has been a downed wire between 93 and 95 Old Wilton Road for at least two weeks. She has contacted Comcast on more than one occasion and they haven’t come to fix it yet.

Quinlan said that the office can make a phone call on her behalf.

Marchocki explained that she can’t even mow her lawn.

Jessica Pomeroy, Chair of the Garden and Beautification Committee, said that she has had an inquiry from a resident who wants to plant a tree or shrub somewhere in the center of Town in memorial of Sandy Springer who passed away recently. Pomeroy asked if the Board knew of any group in Town that would like to do that, or if they had a place for things like that to go.

Fire Chief, Jay Wilson, suggested Lamson Farm.

Pomeroy said that the Town should have a policy for things like this, and maybe a memorial plot.

Quinlan suggested asking Lou Springer what his thoughts are.

H. Brown said that Lou has suggested donations go to the Library Charitable Foundation.

Pomeroy asked if the training for using the Town website has been set up yet.

Quinlan asked H. Brown if that had been set up yet.

H. Brown said that he would get on that as soon as he has finished up the plan for broadcasting the public meetings.

Pomeroy said that, while she appreciates Bonnie and Becci volunteering to teach people, she wants to attend an official training session.

Fire Chief Wilson said that the MACC meeting is tomorrow. They had asked Katherine Kokko to research the option of having a Mutual Aid Compact or Association. According to Kokko, the costs would be relatively the same, but they would be able to get grant monies easier.

H. Brown asked if the costs would still be apportioned to which services each member uses and was told; Yes.

Wilson would like to see a group formed from Town along with Kokko, to see if we can make something work instead of having the Board of Governors do it.

Esposito asked if there would still be a BOG>

Wison said that it would probably morph into a Board of Directors.

Quinlan asked what the advantages would be.

Wilson said that it would be much easier to Grant Fund and to add communities.

Quinlan asked if they would avoid all the political problems that we have had for the last 10 years.

Wilson said that he hopes so. He stated that Kokko has already done all the leg-work, and Milford pushed her aside; he thinks it is worth listening to what she has to say.

Esposito asked about the new 5-year IMA; does it extend the period for borrowing.

Wilson said that they could not agree on that, so it remains one year.

Esposito is adamant that we should not get involved with a 5-year agreement that does not extend the borrowing period. The Town could get stuck with a very large bill for upgrades that we won’t be able to pay back in one year.

Wilson feels that Milford is about to realize that they are losing support very quickly.

Quinlan asked; if Milford goes along, is there a possibility of bringing other towns in.

Wilson said yes.

Quinlan asked H. Brown where the project for streaming meetings stood.

H. Brown said that he met with Pedro Resendes regarding this project, and I thought what we needed is what the school uses. It is more complicated than that. We need a hybrid of both, and the Owl system.

Resendes explained that the Town Hall has posts in the middle of the rooms, and the walls are horsehair plaster. The Wi-Fi bases would be: one on this side, and one in the office. I also heard that you may want to set the room up differently. The Fisheye camera will oversee the whole room. We may need to work another option. The host computer will detect the camera.

H. Brown said that if we use Zoom, we can use that camera – what about microphones.

Resendes said that we can use the one on the camera or the computer, but external microphones are better.

H. Brown said that Resendes has said that our router will not work for this application.

Resendes confirmed that the router will have to be swapped out for the higher speed internet. He also said that the portable “Owl” system is top-of-the-line and he has found something that will work that is less expensive.

H. Brown said that he thought that having the system portable would be good because we could take it with us if we had to move a meeting to the fire station, and it has the microphone built in.

Rebecca Schwarz said that her concern with the “Owl” system is that it is portable – fixed is safer. Also, the reviews on the “Owl” say that the camera has a hard time finding quieter talking people.

H. Brown said that we need a screen, a computer, a camera and microphones, and increased internet speed. He asked if the Board was in agreement with this plan and got an “All in favor”.

Schwarz reminded the Board that the grant does not cover software or installation – just the hardware. We will be paying $560 out of pocket, not including the TV.

H. Brown found a 55” LG TV for $450. The MacBook Air will be $900, microphone around $150, adapters about $160, plus a mounting bracket and Resendes’ quote of $3800. He asked Resendes to optimize the placement of everything in the room.

Schwarz asked if people are required to come up to a microphone in order to speak, and was told “Yes”.

L. Brown to call Comcast right away to increase speed to at least 400 mbps.

Esposito asked when we find out if we are getting the grant.

Schwarz said that she did not know, but that we have until the end of the year to purchase the equipment.

Pomeroy asked how the meetings would be broadcast, and was told “Zoom”.

H. Brown explained that people who want to join the meeting will have to register – for safety’s sake.

Quinlan said that we want to be able to go back and watch archived meetings also.

Esposito motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept Pedro Resendes’ quote of $3,800 and to purchase the equipment spoken of today. All in favor.

Esposito motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of May 16, 2022 as amended. All in favor.

Esposito brought up last week’s discussion regarding managing the development of the land behind the Post Office, saying that the Selectmen do not have control over that land.

Quinlan acknowledged that, and said that he would like to bring back the quarterly meetings with all of the factions that have an interest in this property so that they are not developing ideas that clash. The property should flow naturally from one point to the other.

H. Brown said that there are an awful lot of fallen/downed branches on the ground. We should offer them to anyone who wants firwood.

Quinlan said that we should coordinate with Lou Springer of the Cemetery Trustees.

Pomeroy said that loggers suggest not walking through a new cut for a year because of the branches and “hangers” that are left behind. They leave a lot of the debris in place for the wildlife.

Quinlan asked if the DPW Director, Ben Crosby, had turned any new estimates for road repairs, and was told “No”.

Regarding the posting for Town Administrator, Quinlan asked L. Brown to put it on a sign board out front of the Town Hall, and see if it can go on LinkedIn. He will check with NHMA for any guidance they can give.

Regarding the property at 54/56 Weston Hill Road, Quinlan said that the Building Inspector’s report shows that the code violations are more serious that originally thought. He will speak with Town Counsel after L. Brown sends him the email from Steve Roberge to let him know that we are going to have to address both the C/O and the junk yard issues.

H. Brown motioned, seconded by Esposito to have the Board set up a Strategic Planning Committee to update the Master Plan and create a Capital Improvements Plan. All in favor.

Quinlan will send L. Brown a blurb for the website/social media on the Selectmen setting up the committee. We should try for a 7-member committee.

L. Brown advised the Board that the owner of the trailer park is asking what it would take to be able to add units to the park. She has sent this request to the Planning Board to answer.

L. Brown let the Board know that the Office has received a resignation letter from Chuck Anderson stepping down from the Planning Board. He was a full member with a term ending 2024.

L. Brown brought up an email from Eversource requesting permission to remove a tree 146 Brook Rd. Crosby said that the tree is a safety hazard and should have been removed before. The homeowner agrees.

H. Brown motioned, seconded by Esposito to allow Eversource to remove a hazardous tree located at 146 Brook Road without having a public hearing. All in favor.

Esposito stated that, when we asked Rebecca Schwarz to be the Town Grant Writer, we mentioned compensation. We should make that happen.

Quinlan agreed, and said that the Board will have to discuss it.

Esposito asked about the farm dump on the property that San-Ken wants to subdivide.

Quinlan said that the DES is involved, so the Planning Board is out. They gave him conditional approval with the condition being that he follow the DES’s instructions. The area has to be marked permanently, and shown on the deed for that lot.

Pomeroy said that water testing has been done, but I don’t know where the testing was done.

Quinlan said that the only thing they found in the water was naturally occurring arsenic.

Esposito asked if the Town could be liable for any of this and was told “no”.

**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