**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**January 24, 2022**

**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.

Cindy Raspiller came before the Board to explain the new wording for the final design for the proposed library. $123K is the worst-case scenario, and includes solar and geothermal systems. She asked if she should send the numbers to the Budget Committee.

Berry said; yes, they are waiting for it.

Esposito asked if there was an updated figure for the proposed access road to the proposed library and cemetery.

Berry explained that there is a problem with the new design: the sidewalk was moved to the west side of the road, but not the electric for the streetlights. This is ridiculous – it’s been going on since June.

Rebecca Schwarz came before the Board saying that the Town must provide a stewardship plan for the Town Hall in order to get the $25K L-Chip grant. An assessment must be done by an outside firm.

Berry explained that there are strings attached to these grants. We have to hire an outside firm to do this assessment annually.

Schwarz said that the assessment from CP Williams will not work. It has all 3 buildings in it, and it is too old. The Heritage Commission wants to get the Conditions Assessment done; the quote was for $9,000. A needs assessment is next.

Berry said that we have missed our window for this year – there is a big problem with the supply chain for the window components. He can’t start till 2023.

H. Brown asked what the expiration date of the L-Chip grant is, and was told 2024.

Schwarz asked if the money in the Repairs to Town Buildings fund could cover the match to these kinds of grants.

L. Brown will look into it.

Schwarz said that she would like the Selectmen to put the $5,000 back into the Heritage Fund line item.

L. Brown said that, if the Board agrees, it can be done at the public hearing.

Schwarz said that the Budget Committee wants to move the $1,000 in the Historical Survey line into the Heritage Fund line. If we need to spend it on the survey, it can be taken from the Fund.

L. Brown said that, as the Treasurer, she disagreed. She believes it needs to stay in its own line to keep the budget transparent as to what they are spending money on.

H. Brown said that, if it isn’t spent this year, it goes back to the General Fund. If it is in the Fund, they get to keep it.

Berry said that he agreed with leaving it on its own line, as there are plenty of people that don’t like the idea that the Heritage Commission has money that the Selectmen have no control over.

Esposito said that Chief Wilson, our Emergency Management Director, has suggested that the Mask Mandate be extended through the end of February. Board agreed.

L. Brown said that she will post it on Mont Vernon Chatter and the website.

Board reviewed minutes:

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of January 3, 2022 as written. All in favor.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2022 with Town Counsel as written. All in favor.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of January 10, 2022 as written. All in favor.

Esposito said that he spoke with the Chairman of the ZBA regarding the variance applied for on the property of 54/56 Weston Hill Road. All agreed that Town Counsel and the Chairman of the ZBA will draft a letter that explains that if they get all pertinent permits and fix all the violations enumerated in the structural analysis of the property, they can go back to the ZBA for their variance. Only one family can occupy the residences, all vehicles must be registered and there can be no home business. The attorney will draft the letter to be signed by the ZBA and Selectmen.

Berry let the Board know that he spoke to the person who sent in a complaint about a camper being stored on a property in the Historic District. He explained to them that the camper being stored there is not violating any regulations, and the Town cannot make them move it.

**8:50 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