**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**December 27, 2021**

**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.

Esposito said that he would like to hold the public hearing on the budget and warrant articles on January 17th.

L. Brown explained that she cannot comply with the posting rules until she has the wording and the exact amounts of the warrant articles.

Berry thinks it should be put off as long as possible.

L. Brown said that the last day for petitioned warrant articles is February 1st.

Board decided on February 14th for the hearing, with a snow date of February 15th. The meeting will have to be published in a newspaper by February 7th.

Esposito said that he has spoken with the owner of the trailer park regarding residents that are not paying property taxes. Some of them are also not paying the park rent. The owner was very cooperative and wants to sit down with the Board and come to some resolution where we both benefit. He will not ever remove a trailer without contacting the Tax Collector to make sure that there is no lien on the trailer.

Esposito spoke with Town Counsel regarding the allegations being made by the neighbors of 54/56 Weston Hill Road. All of the allegations are hearsay and are not proven. All cars are registered and no camper is being lived in. They have been asked, in a Selectmen’s meeting, about a failed septic and about running a business from the home. They have denied both claims. The only gray area is whether they should be living in the 2nd residence or not while the structural issues are being dealt with. Esposito will call Town Counsel again tomorrow to see what else should be done, legally.

Esposito said that Consolidated Communication wants to make a road cut on Beech Hill Road. He told DPW Director, Ben Crosby, that the project must be bonded: the cut on Spring Hill has failed and needs to be replaced already. We held no bond for that project.

Esposito asked the Board if they had seen Crosby’s email about using up his left-over budget. He wants to buy sand and gravel to add to the stockpile, pay for a day and a half of tree work, and calcium chloride.

Berry said that he has several thousand dollars left in the gravel line, and he could spend that.

L. Brown explained that Crosby was talking about using all of the remaining money in all of his budget lines.

After some discussion, the Board was willing to let Crosby spend $7,500 on gravel and/or stone from the 2021 budget, and the rest would be returned to the general fund to reduce taxes.

L. Brown brought up a request from Chief Slavin to pay the part time officer that worked Christmas day at a time and a half rate for working on the holiday. Board agreed. She then pointed out that the employee handbook gives all full-time employees 10 holidays (eleven with the new Juneteenth). Since the office is closed on Fridays, the office staff would not get the Christmas and New Year holiday this year.

Esposito said that every full-time employee should get the stated number of holidays, and for the office staff to take a day off - of their choosing.

Esposito spoke with Rick Crocker (JLMC) regarding the fire alarm consoles. They are antiquated, along with being proprietary. Mango Systems is the only ones who can work on the panels. Crocker suggested replacing the old consoles with new, non-proprietary models so that we are not locked in to the exorbitant prices that Mango charges. It cost $550 to have 603 added to the dialer for the fire and panic alarm system in the Town Hall.

H. Brown asked if we would need to start paying a monthly fee.

Esposito will look into it further.

Berry asked if Chief Wilson would be putting forth a warrant article to purchase the new SCBA Equipment this year.

L. Brown explained that the warrant article will be the same as last year – the matching portion of a grant that they have applied for. If they do not get the grant in 2022, they will lease purchase the equipment in 2023 to spread out the cost.

Board reviewed the 2021 Non-Public minutes. Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to leave all of the 2021 sealed minutes sealed in perpetuity. All in favor.

Board reviewed the minutes of 12/20/21. Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of December 20, 2021 as written. All in favor.

**8:15 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