

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes January 6, 2020

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.
- Board reviewed and signed an application for Solar Exemption.
- Board reviewed minutes of 12/30/19. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of December 30, 2019 as written. All in favor.
- Public Hearing on Budget and Warrant Articles set for February 10, 2020. Snow date February 11, 2020. At the Town Hall, time TBD.
- Public Bond Hearing: tentatively same as above
- Public Session on Renovation of Town Hall set for February 6<sup>th</sup> with a snow date of February 7, 2020, contingent on approval of final design, being held at the Mont Vernon Village School at 7:00 PM.
- Primary Voting held at the Village School on February 11, 2020 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- Town Voting to be held at the Village School on March 10, 2020 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- Town Meeting to be held at the Village School on March 11, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

**7:30 PM** Esposito relayed what happened at the SLRD meeting last week. There was nothing but compliments for our Transfer Station Crew. Recycling revenue is coming back a little bit.

Berry said that he was down there this week and Mike was running the backhoe and doing a good job.

Berry let the Board know what happened at last week's NRPC meeting. There were 4 towns in our region that have hired the NRPC to do their master plan, do you think it's a good idea for us? Their plans are driven by population.

Esposito suggested he get an estimate ASAP.

Roberge said that she would also like to see an estimate.

Board discussed the budget. As of right now, the budget is as the department heads turned in.

Roberge believes that the Town Clerk's salary should be the same as last year.

Esposito confirmed that number to be \$26,117.

Berry agreed.

Roberge asked about Direct Deposit and was reminded that the Board had voted no on that.

Brown told the Board that the Tax Collector wanted to add \$100 to her Deputy line. Board agreed to change it now.

Brown to get a good number for assessing.

Roberge wants to put it out to bid seeing as there have been problems for the last two years.

Roberge wants the breakdown of the R&M Transfer Station line before town meeting.

Brown to speak with Lou Springer regarding the \$14,000 they agreed to paying toward the site work at the new Library/Cemetery site.

This money will be reimbursed by Cy Pres money whether it comes out of 2019 or 2020.

Roberge asked if the budget has the 4<sup>th</sup> full-time officer in it and was told, yes 6 months' worth.

Esposito said that he had spoken with the Chief, and he would be comfortable with putting off the purchase of the new cruiser.

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Roberge said that he was supposed to submit new numbers with the cruiser, cruiser upfitting and R&M lines removed along with a reduction in part time salaries and insurance. We may see an increase in cruiser fuel due to the extra officer.

Esposito stated that the Board is in favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> officer.

Brown wants to increase the Transfer Station Labor line to cover any sick/vacation time taken by the attendants because those shifts will be covered by a full-time DPW employee at a higher rate of pay. It is decided to increase the Labor line to \$34,000.

Berry stated that he does not support the \$2500 budgeted by the Heritage Commission for the Historical Survey because the Commission should be focusing on fundraising in the near term.

Roberge is not in favor of the \$10,000 in a line item; she would like to see it as a warrant article.

Berry feels the \$10,000 should go forward, but that the \$2500 should come out for the Historical Survey and the other line items should be cut in half.

Brown spoke with counsel regarding the \$10,000 as a line item or warrant article and will call to reconfirm.

Roberge does not agree with putting \$10,000 into a fund with no project earmarked.

Esposito reminded everyone that he has been against the fund from the beginning as there is no Selectmen oversight over that money.

Berry said that the only thing in the works is that he has been looking for the price for the windows and clock-face with the intention of applying for an LCHIP grant for that work. I want them to be able to go forward; I want them to succeed.

Esposito said that he could be in favor of the \$10,000 this year to help with matching fund grants for the windows and clock-face.

Roberge went on to the Library Budget. She reminded the Board that they had agreed to meet them approximately half-way with their request for more hours and increase in hourly wage.

**8:20 PM** Because of continued complaints by a builder regarding response time, Esposito brought up communication issues relevant to the building inspector. There have been several complaints brought by the same builder, although he isn't the only one to verbally complain, he is the only one to put complaints in writing to the Selectmen's Office. Roberge feels that the response time is much shorter than other towns, and that this builder's expectations are unrealistic. Roberge feels that if the Board has more questions that they should speak with the Building Inspector directly.

**9:05 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Brown