

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes February 20, 2019

7:34 pm Meeting called to order by Board Chair, John Quinlan. Also in attendance were Selectmen Jack Esposito and Kim Roberge.

- Checks and Manifest were reviewed and signed yesterday by the Board.
- Board reviewed the Minutes of 2/8. Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of February 8, 2019 as amended. All in favor.

Roberge stated her deep concern regarding the content of the aforementioned minutes. They are public minutes from a public meeting. There is stuff in there that is accusatory, that could be taken as a possible defamation of character, that don't follow the State RSA's on the Right-to-Know. I called the Municipal Association who told her that time cards are public record. He asked if the Selectmen had policies or procedures in place on questioning or budgetary procedures. I don't know what caused/promoted a special meeting, we didn't set any new policies or procedures, there was nothing voted on in any manner. Time card questions and budget questions are basic rights in the Right-to-Know in the Selectmen's duties. My requests were taken in good faith and I take full responsibility for the 3 emails that I sent over 3 weeks. To me it's not "who's in charge or who is right" to me it's my duty to the community to ask the questions on the budget and to get clarification before Town Meeting. There were comments on what is legal and indictable. I don't know what prompted the meeting being called; what consequences would occur from asking questions about the budget. We can certainly not be on the same page, but calling a special meeting, making statements that there were calls or emails daily is inaccurate. There were only 3 emails with actual questions, did you view them? The rest were responses. I don't think any of those emails were not in the purview of the Selectboard, a registered voter in the Town or public information.

Quinlan said that the meeting was called because I was seeing emails, talking to people in the office, that there was suddenly this big investigation going on as to what the two people in this office do on a daily basis. Now, I can understand you concentrating on emails, and I know you are dogged about pursuing facts and figures, but this had taken on something more than just looking for facts and figures. Particularly seeing that it started the day after a decision was made that you did not like. That's the reason the meeting happened; it had gotten out of hand. This was not behavior going on, not just emails, but on the phone and in person. The atmosphere in the office had been affected by this and I thought it needed to be addressed. That is why the meeting was called.

Roberge asked how many emails he had seen.

Quinlan said that that was irrelevant.

Roberge said that he said daily.

Quinlan said that he said almost daily and that includes in person, on the phone and emails for the 2-week period after January 21st when the decision was made to bring Joan from part time to full time.

Roberge said that we can disagree on that.

Quinlan answered; that is why the meeting on February 8th was called.

Roberge said she appreciated that, but I just want to make sure we know that multiple statements in the minutes are in violation of RSA 91-A.

Quinlan said that is one opinion you got from one person at the Municipal Association, and I got the exact opposite opinion from a different person.

Roberge said she hoped that 3 emails asking questions about the budget, in no manner seems to be an investigation into the office.

Quinlan said that keeping a daily log of absolutely everything you do in this office.

Roberge said she did not ask for that.

Quinlan responded; that's what you say, but people say it was requested over the phone and it was done and handed in to you.

Quinlan said that if we disagree on simple facts, there is no point in discussing it any further. Let's move on.

Roberge agreed to move on.

7:50 PM The Board began the review of the minutes of 2/11/19.

Roberge asked to have the minutes divided into one set for the public hearing, and one set for the Selectmen's minutes. Board agreed.

- Board reviewed minutes of the 2/11/19 public hearing. Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of the 2/11/19 public hearing as written. All in favor.

Esposito asked if the Fire Truck Warrant Article had to be a 2/3 majority, and it has to be by ballot.

Brown said, yes, 2/3.

Quinlan explained it is because it is over \$100,000

- Board reviewed minutes of the 2/11/19 Selectmen's meeting. Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of the 2/11/19 Selectmen's meeting as amended. All in favor.
- Board signed 2 pole petitions for Eversource.

Esposito let the Board know that he has spoken to Joanne Draghetti, Chair of the Conservation Commission last week. She confirmed that Bill Davidson was integral on the engineering of the pond.

Esposito also spoke with the Town Clerk about the lock for the closet in the old kitchen. She chose an impenetrable dead bolt. Roberge asked if the installation of the lock has ended her problem with the Supervisors of the Checklist being in her office when she isn't.

Esposito said no; she isn't going to do it that way. We had that conversation and she has several books that she would have to put away and she feels that the Supervisors can be there only when she is there. There are several books, and not knowing when they might come in... I agree with her, it is an excessive amount of work for her just in case they come in. She has no problem being there when they come in.

Roberge said she wasn't sure that the Supervisors felt that what they are discussing should be done open to the public.

Quinlan asked if both the Town Clerk and the Supervisors use the same records?

Brown said I used to think so, but I don't anymore.

Quinlan thought we could segregate them and move them someplace else, like the Town Hall.

Roberge asked if Brown had had a conversation with her over the time log she wants the Supervisors to keep.

Brown said no, but that she understands her issue with the hours worked. She is in charge of their budget and needs to know how much time they are using to make sure they don't go over budget and also so that she can develop the next year's budget.

Roberge will find out what is proper to ask them to do regarding time keeping.

8:07 PM Roberge said she was hesitant last week to vote to support the budget without clarification of what we were doing for hours for Joan.

The Board had a lengthy discussion over having the office open to the public on Fridays. It was decided to open the office on Friday from 9am to noon. This, along with her regularly scheduled 25 hours Monday through Thursday would give Joan 30 hours on the weeks that the Planning Board meets. On the off weeks, she would have to put in two more hours while the office is closed.

Roberge said she had 3 more points to discuss:

1. If you work a 6-hr. day, and you have a holiday, is it a 6-hr. holiday?

Board decided yes, her regular holiday, vacation and sick days would be 6.25 hours, as that is what she is scheduled for on most days.

2. Part of this was a promotion for her, and part was her need for benefits. I believe that the Town should only be responsible for 75% of her health insurance and she should pay the remaining 25%. Since she is only working 75% of a 40-hour week, it would be unfair to those employees working 40 hours.

Quinlan said that it is a change in status from part-time to full-time. She gets the benefits.

Esposito feels the same; that she will be a full-time employee.

Roberge feels that the other employees work 40 hours to get their benefits.

Quinlan feels that they work 30 hours for their benefits, but they do work 40. That is just the way it is.

Roberge then asked if they could just offer the single plan to those working under 40 hours.

Esposito said the whole thing is not based on hours; it is based on part-time or full-time.

Roberge wants the Board to know that it is something she will be discussing at Town Meeting.

Esposito said she can do it as a Town resident.

Quinlan reminded her she cannot do it from up front.

Esposito asked about 3 items that need a public hearing and can we do them all the same night.

Quinlan said that there was the "No Parking" issue on Harwood Rd., the 4 way Stop sign at the intersection of Purgatory Rd and Wilton Rds.

Brown stated that Eversource had just requested a public hearing so that they can manage vegetation all over Town on scenic roads.

Board decided to do all three on March 25, 2019.

Board reviewed an email from a 7th grader from Amherst looking to find out how to change two State laws that he considers outdated. The office will explain to the student how to get in touch with his State Representative and explain how a town ordinance is enacted or amended.

Esposito asked about the painting of the lobby in the McCollom Building, and said he would let Chief Furlong know that he will be getting a quote from another painter shortly.

Brown let the Board know that, since it was voted on to do this job in 2018, they can use 2018 money to do it.

Roberge said that Beech Hill Road has so many cracks and there are so many heaves I think we might need to do something before we lose it.

Esposito apprised the Board about the SRLD meeting he attended last week. The recycling of plastics, glass and mixed paper are costing us a small fortune, but nothing is changing yet. They are trying to get a bin for white paper only installed, but haven't yet.

Quinlan we still have to talk about getting the Heritage Commission going.

Roberge reminded the Board that she had said in a previous meeting that she may not be the right Selectman for that commission. I thought it was going to be more like the building renovation committee.

Quinlan said that he looks to stand them up at the end of March. I have been talking with Bill McKinney and by then we should have a mission statement and tasking for the building renovation committee.

Roberge said that she would be happy to sit on the building renovation committee.

8:50 pm As there was no further business before the Board, Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown