

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes February 24, 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 two Veterans Credit Applications.
- Board reviewed the 2/10/20 minutes. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge, to accept the minutes of February 10, 2020 as written. All in favor.

Esposito said that he noticed that the Board has a tendency to speak over each other, and that we should pay more attention to that in the future.

Berry agreed, and added that at the Public Hearing, we did not make sure people identified themselves before speaking.

Roberge brought up the plowing and maintenance of the dirt roads and said that during the last storm there was 4" of snow and the dirt roads weren't touched.

Esposito explained that it was like that on purpose – there is better traction if you don't plow right away.

Roberge said that she got stuck twice on Mason Road and couldn't make it up that hill.

Esposito said that the major contention was that she spoke with Martin rather than DPW Director Crosby.

Berry added that freezing rain is worse if you plow it.

Roberge said that she is not looking to second guess anyone, but she has been driving a mail truck for 10 of the last 13 years and never had that problem before. I got complaints because of the Town plowing after their driveways were plowed. There was deep ice packed down. The paved roads were beautiful, but leaving 4" on the dirt roads was too much.

Esposito asked if DEW was planning a presentation for Town Meeting.

Roberge said that she has sent them an email asking them to. Also, that they should cover the questions asked at their presentation and at the public hearing: coming in on budget, the foundation of the Town Hall, and any information they could give us on grants to apply for. I also asked for a poster board for voting day.

Roberge wanted to recognize that from the 3rd meeting of the FUTB it was noted that the Selectmen would take their findings into account, but make their own decision regarding prioritizing the work needed on the buildings.

The Board talked about getting some information ready to send in for the Mont Vernon section of the Amherst Citizen. Tomorrow is the deadline, and Berry will get his letter to the office asap.

Esposito discussed their presentation at Town Meeting and said that he would be making the introduction of the warrant article for the Town Hall renovation to the public.

Brown apprised the Board about the ZBA's desperate need for members. There is a meeting scheduled for March 17th, and there are not enough members to form a quorum. The Board is looking to appoint two new members before the end of the month so that the hearing on March 17th won't need to be postponed.

**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020
Page 2**

Roberge told the Board that she has received the Heritage Commission's minutes of 1/8/20, and they are written as opinion – minutes have to be written as to what was actually said, and by whom. Also, the Selectmen's minutes were quoted inaccurately.

Brown let the Board know about a claim for damage resulting from a clogged filter in the septic system and a faulty toilet in the men's room of the Fire Station. The toilet kept running and backed up to the septic filter, ran over the toilet and drenched everything in water. All baseboards had to be removed along with the sheetrock behind them and even the kick plates on the cabinets in the kitchen. The firefighters took care of all of this, and set up heaters and fans to dry out the building. Servepro was called in, and they said that everything was handled exactly like they would have done and there was nothing for them to do. The insurance company sent out an adjuster and will come up with an estimate to compare with the one the FD is getting to put everything back together.

Brown asked the Board to vote to accept a \$4000 grant from 3M that the Police Department has received for the DARE program. It will be deposited into the Town account and a check for \$4000 will be made out to the Trustees of Trust Funds so that the PD can use it as required.

Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept a grant of \$4000 from 3M for the Police Department's DARE program. All in favor.

Roberge made mention of the resignation of Carol Keeney from the Historic District Commission.

Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the resignation of Carol Keeney from the HDC. All in favor.

8:10 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.
All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown