

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes March 2, 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.

Resident, Randy Herring, came before the Board to say that the speed limit sign on Beech Hill Rd. has been stolen. He has notified the Police Department already, but wanted the Board to know.

Mike and Zoe Fimbel came in to say that they very much like the plans for the renovation of Town Hall. Mike said that we need to repurpose these old buildings and this plan preserves the history of the building while updating its use. He is worried that if the warrant article does not pass there will only be \$50,000 to work with.

Berry agreed and explained that we need to spend \$20,000 on a new roof, and that he is pursuing an LCHIP grant for the refurbishing of the windows and the clock face. We have a good chance of getting it in the fall, and we will need \$25,000 in matching funds.

Roberge said that we hope people will come into Town Meeting openminded and willing to listen. We sent a letter with the drawings down to the Amherst Citizen that will come out this week. We will also have DEW and Mike Petrovick do a small presentation that will address some of the questions asked at the public input session; i.e. the foundation, cost cap etc. Review of the CPW report finds recommendations for similar treatment to that which our team has recommended, to provide as much allowable free space between the crawl space floor and the underside of the first-floor structural system. On page 15 of 55 the report discusses this method or creating a deeper basement as an option not as the sole solution. On pages 24 and 25 of 55 the report mentions the partial or full basement as the solution selected by the Committee. On pages 2 and 3 of the Structural Conditions prepared by Ben Brungraber, PhD, PE in Appendix II, Dr. Brungraber specifically states the "foundation seems entirely adequate" based on his experience and expertise, and goes on to say "I saw no particularly concerning movements among the stones, nor signs of differential settling". He does, however, recommend exploratory excavation to verify his findings. My professional experience of working on these buildings alongside equally qualified structural engineer professionals, is that the indications Dr. Brungraber refers to in the stones and building movement clearly indicate there is no structural need to be concerned about the foundation or building movement. I trust my professional opinion and the information in the CPW report will be sufficient to alleviate further concern.

Esposito said that the point is that the granite foundation will stay, everything else will be rebuilt.

Fimbel wants the Board to stress that not every historical building can be preserved in case anyone is holding off voting for it because of not leaving the upstairs as is.

Esposito pointed out that the CP Williams plan was \$4-\$5 million to do all 3 buildings at the same time.

Berry reminded the Board that the CP Williams plan did not include sprinkler systems.

Roberge asked Zoe how she feels about the glass walls on the second-floor plan for the Town Hall.

Zoe feels that the glass walls are a great way to show off the historical architecture of the building.

Roberge asked Zoe Fimbel how she felt about small displays to show off the museum collection.

Zoe Fimbel said that she feels that the museum cannot work like that; we don't have the resources or the personnel to be able to do that.

Esposito said that the upstairs of the McCollom building might be a possible landing space for the museum, and there is a thought to ADA equip the old Library Building.

Zoe said that the 2 person lift they have at the Old Meeting House in Francestown is exactly what we need.

Roberge added that no one here is looking to put you out with nowhere to go.

Zoe thinks that the recreation equipment stored on the top floor of the McCollom building should be kept in the new Library since the Library has so many recreation type activities. The Library people think it should go into the old Library building.

**7:20 PM** Town resident, Michael Mabee of the Secure the Grid Coalition, came before the Board to ask them to submit a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This letter will request the FERC to ensure that the current mandatory Physical Security Standard be effective in protecting towns like Mont Vernon from the loss of electricity due to a physical attack on the electric grid. The federal government has no authority to make the grid protect itself. If 9 of the key transformers were taken out, it would cause a national black out. There is a one-year lead time on these transformers and they are not protected. The entire electric utility is against this as they are self-regulated and the industry doesn't want anything to change. They don't want to be told that they have to spend money to fix it.

Roberge asked if he had approached other towns/cities.

Mabee said that he was starting with Mont Vernon because he lives here.

The Board said that they would consider his request and if they agree would get the letter in on time.

**7:40 PM** The Board:

- Reviewed and signed checks and manifest
- Reviewed and signed an Intent to Cut

- Reviewed and signed an application for Current Use Classification.
- Reviewed and signed an application for Veterans Credit
- Reviewed the minutes of 2/24/20. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of February 24, 2020 as written. All in favor.

**7:50 PM** Health Officer, Rich Masters came before the Board to update the Board on the water quality issue at the trailer park. The owner of the park got a large grant to remediate the high radon and arsenic levels and the project is almost complete.

Masters has set up a presentation by the State on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:00 pm to go over water quality issues in homes. For \$85 the state will run a full panel test on your water and for \$20 more they will run the radon test. The State will provide the containers, and Masters will see that the samples get to the State lab.

Esposito asked if there were any State programs to help people after they get their results.

Masters said that we are all private water and septic, so no – the mitigation would be private also.

Masters said that people can go to the Health Officers Facebook page to see some information on the corona virus.

Masters wanted to discuss the Fun Run on Spring Gala day. He is asking if the Police Department could forgo billing them for the extra manpower needed for the race, or if the run could fall under the recreation committee and not be billed for the police time. No decision was made.

Masters asked if there was anything new on the Kaminski property, a Brownfield site in Town.

Esposito said that there was nothing new.

Masters suggested legal action.

Board is open to more information on that suggestion.

**8:15 PM** Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to appoint Jason Johnson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term. All in favor.

Roberge stated that she is not ready to make a decision on the Electric Grid request. She will get back to us this week.

Esposito said that almost no one came in for “Meet the Candidate”. He and Berry were there along with Peter Ecklund and a few residents. The talk about Town Meetings was great.

**8:40 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Brown