

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes March 11, 2019

**7:00 pm** Meeting called to order by Board Chair, John Quinlan. Also in attendance were Selectmen Jack Esposito and Kim Roberge.

DPW Director, Ben Crosby brought new hire Robert Sawyer in to meet the Board.

- Board reviewed the minutes of the 2/25/19 Public Hearing. Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2019 Public Hearing as written. 2 in favor, Quinlan abstained.
- Board reviewed the minutes of 2/25/19. Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of February 25, 2019 as amended. 2 in favor, Quinlan abstained.

### **7:15 pm Department Head Meeting Bonnie Angulas – Library Director**

- The Library Trustees are anxiously awaiting the results of Town Meeting. They are preparing an RFP to hire a professional fundraiser.

### **Heather Kennedy – Recreation Chairman**

- The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Kennedy asked if all departments would do up an Easter Basket again this year. Everyone agreed. Angulas suggested a \$25.00 limit.
- Wes Sonner has volunteered to be parade coordinator for the Spring Gala Parade. The theme this year is "Picnic in the Park". Would like to get the department heads together this week or next week to touch base regarding Spring Gala.
- Kennedy asked if there is a waiver form that needs to be signed for participation in events and was told there should be.
- She asked the procedure for reserving space for activities at the McCollom Ball Field and the Fire Station meeting room. The Board explained that any new activity to be covered under the Recreation umbrella must go through the Board first, and the ball field must be scheduled through MVVS, while the Fire Station meeting room is scheduled through the Fire Chief.

### **Sgt. Aaron Daigneault – Police Department**

- The Department has transitioned completely to AT&T and are very happy with the better coverage.
- The School is all ready for voting tomorrow.
- Chief Furlong will be at the Town Meeting on Wednesday evening.
- DARE is 5 weeks in and doing well.
- The PD participated in Read Across America last Friday.

### **Chief Jay Wilson – Fire Department**

- Tanker #1's tank failed last week. To purchase a new tank would cost \$28,000 installed. To repair the existing tank would cost \$10,250. We recommend the repair. Will be asking for an additional \$5000 to be added to the operating budget to cover the cost of this repair.

Esposito asked if the repair would be warrantied and was told one year at the most.

Quinlan asked if the old tank had a warranty and was told 20 years to life, but that the company had basically gone out of business and would have to be sued to realize any money. Not many tanks have failed.

Roberge asked if a new tank would come with a warranty and was told yes.

Fire Ward, Lucien Soucy, explained that the poly tanks are welded just like a steel tank would be.

Quinlan asked if Wilson had been in touch with the manufacturer.

Wilson said that he had tried to no avail.

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Roberge asked, if only a few have failed, do we trust a repair?

Soucy said that these tanks have been reconfigured and repaired successfully.

- Had a house fire last week that was the result of the sun reflecting off a mirror onto a curtain.
- Also participated in Read Across America.
- The Waffle Breakfast was very well attended, and had a very high turnout of firefighters also.

#### **Ben Crosby – DPW Director**

- The department is finally fully staffed!
- This year's storms have been pretty harsh on us.
- A cable on the wing lift of the '07 broke and needed replacing.
- The 2014 went into "limp mode" again and was down for over an hour.

Esposito asked if anyone new had applied for the Transfer Station job and was told no.

Crosby asked if we should adopt a mailbox policy. For instance: if a box is placed correctly according to the Post Office rules and a plow hits it, should we replace it. What about boxes placed too low or too close to the road?

What about posts that are not just wooden. The Board did not make any decisions, but Crosby will get pamphlets from the PO to leave in boxes that are not placed properly.

#### **7:45 pm End of Department Head Meeting**

Angulas brought up the topic of Social Media. She said there is no Town or Department policy, and there is a lot of misinformation out there on MV Chatter. Last week the Library Trustees felt they needed to respond, and did try to put out some accurate information.

Misinformation can really affect you if it isn't countered. We want to be appropriate and want to use it to our advantage.

Roberge offered that if you are responding as a Town employee you should respond: Randy Wilson, Fire Ward. The Selectmen cannot respond as anything but an individual unless the issue has been discussed in a public meeting.

Angulas said that you want a person with authority to respond.

Wilson feels that the Town should have a Facebook page, and our website should be re-vamped. He believes that if there is blatantly wrong information on there, someone should be able to respond with a link to the correct information. People think that the stuff posted on Facebook is true.

Roberge said that there was a resident at the Town Budget Public Hearing talking about School Budgets and Tax Rates.

Esposito said that if a Department Head sees something that is wrong, they should get on there and say that it is wrong.

Roberge cautioned that if you do that, you have to keep up on it.

Quinlan feels that it is a slippery slope, but he understands where everyone is coming from.

Fire Ward, Randy Wilson explained that the Fire Department Facebook page does not usually allow comments, but that there are legit questions on Chatter that we have been responding to.

**8:05 pm** Chief Wilson let the Board know that they received 5 bids for the proposed new fire truck, and that they will be reducing the warrant article to \$565,000.

**8:10 pm** Town Clerk, Belinda Yeaton came before the Board to discuss the budget for her salary.

Roberge and Yeaton went back and forth discussing the increase in hours and therefore salary, what hours should be added back in, what work has increased etc. In the end, Roberge said that she would revisit her calculations and go back a few more years for her research.

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Brown did mention that the Deputy is not fully trained.

Esposito that is true, the RSA says that the Deputy must be able to do everything the Clerk can do.

Quinlan figures that would take work off Belinda and give it to Kristen.

Roberge said she would be fine increasing it \$486.18 which would give her 10 more hours for each election plus 8 hours for the regional conference. Other than that, I cannot stomach an increase from \$15,000 to \$25,000 in 3 years from 2016 to 2018. That is 4 hours every week that can't be accounted for. I can't get there. I feel bad that we are that far apart.

Quinlan said that we will consider it and touch base before the meeting on Wednesday night.

Roberge said that she is working up better numbers for the \$50,000 Repair and Maintenance to Town Buildings article that includes a new back door and updated window quote.

Roberge said that she hadn't heard anything about the Town Center district in reference to the Historic District Commission. When will it be coming to the HDC?

Quinlan reminded her that they have a whole year to get this done.

Roberge asked if the Board could get an update on the progress on the Master Plan.

Board reviewed a quote for painting the lobby of the McCollom Building and one for repairing the wall and painting in the Selectmen's meeting room. No decisions can be made until after Town Meeting.

**8:55 pm** As there was no further business before the Board, Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Brown