

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes March 16, 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.

Esposito remarked that the 2020 budget is \$190,000 higher than 2019 which is \$.62 on the tax rate and the school is up about \$2.00.

James Niemi of 92 Old Wilton Rd. came before the Board to ask that the speed limit be lowered at his barn.

He said that when he backs his trailer out of the barn, drivers are going so fast that they don't have time to slow down and that he feels that he won't be able to rent out the stalls in the barn due to the danger. He also wants to take down a tree along the road that is in the line of sight.

Esposito confirmed that Old Wilton Rd is designated a scenic road and that there would have to be a public hearing in order for him to remove the tree.

Chief Furlong said that he does not object to having that section of road marked at 25mph and said that it is similar to the upper part of Wilton Rd near Upton which is posted lower also. Furlong suggested checking with the Municipal Association regarding dropping the speed limit under 30 mph.

Roberge said that it is a straight shot from the stop sign at Hutchinson to the barn.

Furlong said he is more concerned with the south moving traffic.

Esposito said that the Board will look into it.

Roberge asked if the new speed signs will alleviate some of this and said that she would like more information before making the decision to reduce the speed limit.

Niemi said that he will be building a retaining wall, rebuilding the ramp and adding foundation wall. The left side of the underneath will be closed off and the only entrance to get under the barn will be on the right.

Roberge asked if he would be asking for a second curb cut and was told no.

Esposito said again that the Board would look into it.

7:10 PM Suzanne Fournier of Brox Environmental Citizens came before the Board to ask that they sign a petition to the Site Evaluation Committee according to RSA 162-H:2,XI,c regarding the Town of Milford's Proposed 16-Megawatt Milford Spartan Solar Project. This petition to the state's Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) requests consideration of the applicability of Chapter 162-H [Energy Facility Evaluation, Siting, Construction and Operation] to Milford Spartan Solar Project in the Town of Milford.

Berry said that he is not for it since the SEC evaluated the Northern Pass project and failed to recognize the importance of the positive impact of economic development.

Esposito said that the Board would take her request under consideration – they could not sign it tonight.

Roberge asked if Mont Vernon is the first town she has come to.

Fournier said that she has been to Wilton and Hollis and neither of them agreed to sign the petition. She said that the Milford Conservation Commission is against the project due to the sensitivity of the area wildlife etc...

The SEC will look at the environmental factors.

Esposito said that the Board will discuss it and get back to her.

Esposito welcomed Jamason Ferreira to the meeting. Ferreira purchased a lot created from a lot line adjustment of two existing lots. It is a 5.5-acre lot, but was found to be in the Purgatory Brook watershed. This means that, to be buildable it must have 5 acres exclusive of the wetlands. The Planning Board and Fieldstone Land Consultants inadvertently created a non-buildable lot. The only remedy to this is for Ferreira to go before the ZBA to request a variance. It was explained to him that, because of legal reasons, the soonest the ZBA could hear his case is Wednesday March 25 at 7:00 PM.

Steve Bennett of the Planning Board confirmed this.

Berry acknowledged that the Town had made a mistake and in order to remedy the situation we are asking Ferreira to apply to the ZBA for a hardship variance. There will be no cost to him for this.

Ferreira's partner asked if there is any possibility that the ZBA will say no? Obviously, everyone told us this was a buildable lot. We paid \$125,000 for this lot.

Esposito said that the Selectboard is not allowed to fix this on their own, that is why we have representatives from both the Planning Board and Zoning Board here with us tonight.

Bennett remarked that nothing is going to change the parameters of the lot and where you can build a house on it. You cannot get within a certain amount of feet from wetlands – it is for pollution concerns. Someone from the planning board will attend the ZBA meeting.

7:50 PM Chief Furlong let the Board know that the State has been doing a good job getting information out to the local authorities and the PD has made some adjustments to daily business. Today was a huge step in that, along with all public schools, restaurants and bars have also been closed to anything except take out business.

Rich Masters gave us some good guidelines for all of our Town offices. There are now 17 confirmed cases of Covid-19; one right in Nashua. Masters recommendations until further notice:

Selectmen – Cancel all meetings

Selectmen's Office – lock doors; business by phone, internet or appointment only

Town Clerk's Office - Same as above

Tax Collector – Same as above

Library – lock doors; curbside pickup available call the library

P.D. – Will respond to life threatening medical calls only

F.D. – Same as above. No permits issued nor inspections done. Pancake breakfast on Gala day is cancelled.

Transfer Station – Eliminate face to face contact. Accepting no recyclables for money, nothing to the "still good" shed and no stickers sold. All trash will go into the compactor.

Welfare – appointments by phone or email only

Recreation – Cancelled: Egg Hunt and Spring Gala (Gala could be rescheduled)

Highway Department – No Fishing Derby

Fire Chief Wilson said that notifications of quarantine should go through the PD.

Furlong said that he gets daily notifications of positive tests.

Esposito mentioned that the school will be bussing breakfast and lunch deliveries to those children that sign up.

8:40 PM Chief Furlong requested a non-public session to discuss an employee.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to go into non-public to discuss a personnel issue. Berry; Yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

8:47 PM Board came out of non-public session. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes and Esposito; yes.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the terms of Full-Time employment set forth by Chief Furlong for Kristopher Wolf. All in favor.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to appoint Zoe Fimbel to the Heritage Commission with a term of 3 years. All in favor.

Roberge stated that the Historic District Commission needs another member.

- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest
- Board reviewed minutes of 3/9. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of March 9, 2020 as written. All in favor.
Esposito said that it was time to choose a chairman for the ensuing year. He said that he would like to continue as chairman again this year.
Berry said that he knows it is traditional for the Selectman to be chair in their last year of their term, but he supports Jack to continue as chair because he is the only one who doesn't work and can be in the office whenever needed.
Roberge said that she was disappointed. She feels that this is her 4th year as Selectman and that she would do a good job running the meetings. She said that her work affords her time to stop in as needed.
Esposito said again that he would like the chairmanship for one more year.
Berry said that he doesn't want his turn next year, and if she gets re-elected, she could have his turn.
Esposito voted for himself, Berry voted for Esposito and Roberge abstained.
Board discussed Suzanne Fournier's petition and decided unanimously not to sign it.

9:20 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown