

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes July 20, 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 a moment of silence for those affected by the COVID-19 virus and for Keith Pomeroy who passed away last week. He was the "Town Father" who was involved in most everything sometime in his life. He was the unofficial Town Historian, and would entertain many with stories of the past. He was a good friend of Esposito and of many of the long-time Town residents.

Board reviewed the minutes of July 6<sup>th</sup>. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of July 6, 2020 as written. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Resident Randy Herring asked the Board to clarify the glass recycling rules.

Esposito said that he will be going to a meeting Thursday night that will hopefully clarify the glass situation. Our glass goes to Keene and if the load is rejected, we get a hefty fine. Once we know exactly what they will accept we must address monitoring what goes into the container.

Roberge asked if we should discuss only taking beer and wine bottles.

Esposito will update the rest of the Board of the results from Thursday's meeting and we can go from there.

Herring asked if the Board has the data from the electronic speed sign when it was installed on Beech Hill Rd.

He feels that the cars have not slowed down any and says that there is a clear danger to the kids on bikes and people pushing baby carriages.

Chief Furlong responded that the data was forwarded to the Board, but that it shows that 93% of the traffic on Beech Hill is going 40 mph or less. Only 1% were going 46 – 50 mph and none over 60 mph.

Esposito asked Furlong to make the data public.

Herring said that it is the same people that race by his house all the time.

Furlong let Herring know that the PD would respond to an anonymous tip.

### **7:15 Department Head Meeting**

#### **Library – Bonnie Angulas, Director**

- We reopened Curbside on 6/15/20. That is working well
- Hoopla and Overdrive are also working well
- Summer Reading – JoAnn Kitchel is conducting virtually for 200 children.
- Along with curbside p/u, we are also doing outdoor puppet shows, other outdoor activities for the kids and Kitchel also did a Walk Around the Park story with the Conservation Commission.
- Trustees meet tomorrow night. We would like to start Phase 3 in September (adding in library visits and extending evening hours).
- Added an outside seating area with 6 chairs that were purchased with a donation.
- Donations include: Trustees \$1000, Beth Kershaw \$1000, and Roland LaPlante's obituary mentioned giving to the Daland Library in his memory.

#### **Police Department – Kevin Furlong, Chief**

- NH COVID Statistics. 6249 cases overall, 5286 recovered, 398 deaths, 565 cases being monitored. There were 2 more cases in Mont Vernon last week, and one more yesterday.
- Sent the speed data for Beech HILL to the Board last week and will send the data from Old Amherst and Wilton shortly.  
Esposito asked if the signs could record data going both ways, or if two signs would be needed.  
Furlong said that one sign can record two-way traffic.
- There has been a noticeable increase in traffic, and an increase in arrests.
- Will be meeting with the new MVVS Principal to establish a positive relationship like we had with the outgoing principal.
- It is unknown when the new cruiser will arrive.
- Received a letter of thanks last week thanking Corporal Slavin. Slavin was driving and observed a male standing on his porch. On his way back by, Slavin noticed he was on his knees. Slavin pulled in to investigate and found that the man had a significant head wound and could not communicate.

Berry asked Furlong if he had looked into the sight distance issue from the last meeting.

Furlong said that he had, and the Town is responsible for 500' in each direction of the intersection. I have asked Eversource to come out and remove the offending pole.

Ben Crosby, DPW Director, said that he left a note on the homeowner's door regarding trimming the bushes.

- COVID is settling down; our officers have gone back to 10 hour shifts as of July 1, 2020. We are still following all State and employee guidelines. The guys are transitioning well to the new schedule.

Roberge asked when officer Wolf will be starting full-time for us.

Furlong explained that he has been activated by the National Guard and will not be starting for us until 8/6/20.

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

- Resident, Bill Archibald, donated his mother's house for demolition in October.
- This summer will get the testing done on the pumps, ladders and hoses.

Roberge asked how social distancing was going and where all the PPE that they are buying is being used/stored.

Wilson said that the crews are broken down into two companies so that there are only 6 – 8 firefighters together at one time.

Esposito asked Wilson about a Conservation Commission item: the aerator for Carleton Pond.

Wilson said that the trench for the electricity needs to be dug, and he will have the DPW dig the holes for the fence posts at the same time. He said that Crosby guessed at Thursday.

Esposito asked if we already had the aerator delivered and was told that it is being stored at the highway garage. Esposito asked when the warrantee starts and was told; probably when we received it.

Wilson estimates that it will be installed in the next two weeks.

Berry asked if Wilson knew anything about the change over of the street lights and was told that David Brooks would be the one to ask about that.

Wilson did explain that Eversource has quite a few towns to get to and we are on the list.

Berry asked if we bought the lights yet and was told no. He said that he will follow up with David Brooks.

Esposito reminded everyone that the money to purchase the lights was coming from one of the Skenderian Trust Funds.

#### **Recreation – Heather Kennedy, Director**

Nothing to report.

#### **DPW – Ben Crosby, Director**

- Bob Sawyer will have his knee surgery tomorrow and will be out for 3 to 5 months.
- Have been repairing quite a few washouts: Old Milford, Secomb, Rangeway and Wilton at the corner of Purgatory.
- Roadside mowing will be happening for the next 2 weeks.
- Have reached out to the homeowner of 2 Purgatory regarding their bushes at the roadside. The Town is responsible for 500' either side of the intersection. The bushes have encroached into the right-of-way.
- Crosby asked if the Board had decided where they stand on repairing the 2005 F550. Repairs are estimated to be about \$4000. I also have someone interested in buying it for \$5000 with the plow and sander.

Esposito asked about the transmission and Crosby told him it was fine; just the injectors are bad and it needs body work. He asked Crosby what we use that particular truck for.

Crosby said that they use it for fall clean-up, in the cemetery, and for the riding mower.

Esposito asked if the plow or sander would fit in anything else we have and was told no.

Roberge asked Crosby what his recommendation would be, if he would be putting in for a replacement and if \$4000 in repairs would get us another 3 or 4 more years with that truck.

Esposito said that his biggest concern is the transmission.

Crosby said that he is up in the air on this. He will come up with something and get back to the Board with numbers for the next meeting.

Roberge asked him to get a replacement cost including the plow and sander.

Berry asked about the plexiglass for the Selectmen's office.

Crosby said that he is waiting to hear from Chip Day. He will do the cutting and the installation.

Esposito would like it done before next Monday.

- Crosby asked if he could get a quote from Day to replace the rotted side door to the Town Hall and was told that he could.

Berry asked Crosby to send him Day's phone number as he has some thoughts on the replacement door.

- Crosby asked if he could get the side steps on the McCollom Building from Lamarre Concrete Products. The cost should be between \$500 and \$1000 for a precast set of stairs.

Roberge feels that it would be covered by FEMA. This is a priority – an emergency exit.

Board agrees for Crosby to get a price on a set of precast stairs to allow exit from the side door of the McCollom Building.

#### **MACC – Jay Wilson, Board of Governors and Mont Vernon Representative.**

Roberge asked Wilson for his take on the letter received from a representative of the patrolman's union – Milford, NH. She said that there was lots of finger pointing at Mont Vernon's Board.

Furlong feels that no one with any rank would have seen this before it was sent.

Roberge said that she has said that if Milford was concerned with the safety of their Officers, they would have funded the upgrade to their radios. This should have gone to Milford Selectmen first for them to go over before it went to the other Towns.

Wilson hadn't seen the letter – Brown forwarded it to him immediately.

Roberge said that when we signed the latest IMA, we were putting forth that MACC could do upgrades; we have been doing our part to amicably allow borrowing.

Esposito stated that he does not want to meet with Milford anymore; we sit for 2 hours and get nothing done.

Berry said that he also has no interest in pursuing anything with Milford as the voting sits. Milford has two votes and never wants to go forward with any upgrades. It is always a tie vote; it's a recipe for gridlock.

Roberge said that it is not only a voting issue but a borrowing issue also.

Berry said that, once again, Milford obstructed that.

Esposito offered that MACC should not bear the cost of upgrading Milford's radios.

Berry feels we need to find another way to solve our problem.

Roberge said that she looked at other communication facilities, and out of 22 communities, they are all responsible for their own radios and repeaters.

Furlong said that you won't find another communication center set up like MACC. He also said that when we added the repeaters to our vehicles, we knew a larger fix was needed, but that it would be down the road.

#### **8:20 End of Department Head Meeting**

Roberge wanted to propose a change to the way the Selectmen's agenda is being kept. She wants everything to stay as old business on the agenda until it is completely done. This would include things like selling the Town Owned property on Weston Hill Road, pay increases suggested by Department Heads, people living in a trailer on Salisbury Road, and a cease and desist issued to a property on North Main Street.

She would like the office to follow up on a book ordered from the NHMA that we haven't received yet.

She would also like the Board to start thinking of a Cloud Based reporting or storing of files and what we can do moving forward.

Berry would like to discuss roof quotes next meeting. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quote is on its way. He would like the Board to think about the warrant articles that will be necessary in March of 2021. He would like to apply for another grant and cannot unless there is more money available for matching.

Roberge asked if there are quotes on the side door.

Berry said that he would like to research the quotes to see if he could get a more reasonable solution.

Roberge wants the Town remodel back on the agenda and asked the Board if she should contact DEW.

Berry is on board with Roberge contacting DEW to see where we will be (budget wise) in March.

Esposito said that we may have to do the outside and inside separately.

Esposito asked about the home on Old Milford Road that we received the complaint on.

Roberge said that the Board has not directed anything be done yet. It was decided to send the homeowner a letter explaining that it is against the Town regs to rent out your home to more than one entity.

Esposito said that most of the allegations in the complaint are civil matters and the Town will not get involved.

Roberge said that the Board will talk about a soft reopening of the office once the plexiglass barrier is installed.

Berry feels that there is no rush to open the Town Hall officially.

Roberge said that she doesn't mean going back to business as usual.

Brown brought up the request from the Wilton Board of Selectmen to have another joint meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July.

Roberge said that she is not interested in any IMA that doesn't have multi-year borrowing.

Wilson said that Both Boards signed the 2018 IMA agreement already; let Milford go from there. There is no sense in meeting with Wilton until we find out where Milford goes from the 2018 IMA.

Board agreed.

Roberge let the Board know that she and Peter King are on the Superintendents' task force for the reopening of schools. A plan will be presented by mid-August for an August 24, 2020 opening. Right now, if you elect to learn remotely, you cannot change your mind until Thanksgiving. 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be required to wear masks. There will have to be a special meeting to figure out funding for any plan decided on. They would like to be able to use the money returned to the Town from last fiscal year.

**9:00 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to adjourn.  
Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Brown