

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes August 19, 2019

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.
- Board reviewed minutes of 8/5/19. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of August 5, 2019 as amended. All in favor.
- Board reviewed and signed the Municipal Services form MS-535 Financial Report of Budget.
- Board reviewed and signed 2 Intent to Cut Timber forms.
- Board reviewed and signed a certification letter from Beltronics and The Town of Mont Vernon regarding the reimbursement of grant money spent in advance.

7:15 PM Department Head Meeting Bonnie Angulas – Library Director

- The Summer Reading Program had 203 children from 0 – 18 years old that read 1554 books.
- The Adult Reading Program continues through Labor Day.
- Starting in the fall: Story Time, Lap Sit and the After-School Book Club.
- Jeremy D'entremont, author of Cruising NH will give a talk on New England Lighthouses.
- Bonnie took a class on how to produce a pod-cast and will give it a try. Called "Tiny Town Library" it will consist of 10-minute segments including one about a recommended book and one interview with a Town resident. She will be trying for a 30-minute session.

Esposito asked about progress on the new library.

Angulas explained that the Charitable Foundation has hired a fundraiser who will be conducting a Feasibility Study to approximate how much money can be raised through donations, and how much will have to be raised through tax dollars.

Roberge asked if the Selectmen will get a report on the Meridian and the Architects reports and was told yes.

Jess Pomeroy – Garden and Beautification Chairman

- Had a meeting on August 13, that 7 members attended, 4 of which stepped forward as Board members: Jess Pomeroy, Penny Dixon, Anna Barrett, Sue Ries and Susan Ecklund. They will meet once per month to talk about garden needs and the budget.
- Roberge reminded her to stagger the terms of the members so that everyone doesn't lapse together.

Kevin Furlong – Police Chief

- The PD is testing all emergency activations at the school
- Corporal O'Keefe is organizing a greeting for the students on the 1st day of school.
- The new NO PARKING signs have been put up at MVVS. Principal Shuttinger will remind parents of the new ordinance.
- "Caught in the Act" continues until the first day of school.
- Purchased one new ballistic vest to try. It is a load bearing vest that transfers all of the weight from the items on their belt to the vest.
- All members of PD have completed pedestrian and bicycle training.
- Have charged and arrested 3 sexual predators for non-compliance.

- The Department has been very busy with Main Street Poles and Mason Road tree trimming details.
- Working on information of getting our own radio frequency has been held up because the licenses that we would be granted are reaching all the way down to southern Massachusetts because of how high we are.
- Beltronics is in communication with the owners of the cell tower on Cross Road about adding emergency services to the tower.

Esposito asked if there was any State law or ordinance regarding pedestrians, joggers or bicyclists wearing reflective clothing. Furlong said that there was none for pedestrians or joggers, but that there is one for bicyclists.

Berry relayed that he has seen two cars completely ignore the stop sign on Wilton Road at the intersection of Purgatory Road.

Ben Crosby, DPW Director said that we should consider installing a "Stop Ahead" sign on that side along with the new one going on Old Wilton and Purgatory.

Furlong stressed incorporating stop lines at the stop signs (all of them).

Heather Kennedy asked if the frequencies are going too far, is that the problem?

Furlong said yes, they reach into Massachusetts.

Heather Kennedy – Recreation Chairman

- The Summer Concert Series was a big success! She had invited 10 of the Town groups to participate, and 8 of them joined us on the green.
- Two of the five concerts ended up being held in the MPR at MVVS due to inclement weather.
- Lamson Farm Day is ramping up. We will do the Children's games, pony rides and the pocket lady.
- Halloween and Tree Lighting are next. The date for Tree Lighting is Friday, December 6th.
- Considered having a new activity: Farmers Market on the Green. It may be too late for this year though.

Ben Crosby – DPW Director

- Reclaiming and paving Levesque Lane next week, Monday through Wednesday. Thursday and Friday, they will overlay Wilton Road and patch Spring Hill.
- Had to repair the line painting machine; it had been sitting too long and hadn't been stored properly. The cost of the repair: \$946.00. Will now get the crosswalks done.

Berry asked if they will receive a refresher on line painting and was told yes, they would be.

Roberge asked Crosby if he has a method of keeping track of things so that he knows when to schedule items that don't get done every year.

Crosby said that he does have notes, but is looking for a program to use in the computer.

Berry asked if the roadside mowing was kept to the 80 hours allotted and was told yes.

Roberge said that our roads are narrow enough, and asked how much we can trim back and how often we have to do it.

Pomeroy said that it doesn't take more than one season for those things to grow back.

- The 2007 and 2014 are in the shop for the body swap.
- The 2020 came in red instead of orange. Liberty made a mistake on the color and is offering us a \$2000 credit to compensate. If we reorder the truck in orange it will take 7 months to come in. We need it for this winter.

Berry instructed Ben to tell Liberty that \$2000 is not enough; we want \$5000. This was their massive mess-up.

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Roberge said that she has a problem with that: The truck is a representative of the Town. I don't like having a non-uniform fleet. If we are accepting this red truck, are we going to commit to moving to having a red fleet?

Berry said that it is a moot point as we already have several different colors.

Furlong feels that we should insist on an orange truck and accept nothing less.

Esposito asked if the new synthetic oil goes into the recycling barrel at the transfer station and was told yes.

Berry asked where we are in hiring a new person at the transfer station and was told that it had already been done.

Furlong said that now we need a person to clean the offices.

Roberge feels that we should have posted the job instead of hiring from within.

Roberge stated that no brush-cutting has been done at the intersection of Smith and Boutwell Roads and that there are shrubs that stick way out at the intersection of Hillcrest and Rte 13.

Crosby will get those areas cleaned up.

Furlong added the intersection of Pinkham and Cemetery to the list.

Roberge asked about the resident of Rangeway that had dumped loam onto the roadway.

Crosby believes that the loam has been removed.

8:15 PM End of Department Head Meeting

Roberge gave an update on the Building Renovation Committee: at the 8/13/19 meeting the RFQ was approved and the office was asked to mail it out to 4 different construction companies.

Esposito asked if someone was taking notes at the BRC meetings and was told yes.

Berry asked when we will see the minutes. He went on to explain that the Selectmen deal with \$2M budget and we are super transparent. Your committee is deciding on over \$1M and we don't know what the committee is doing. He said that he is getting pushback from the community. He feels like we need to know more about what your committee is doing. The community wants to know what is going on. If not, they will come up with their own ideas; right or wrong.

Roberge contended that they are not a "Standing" Committee and minutes do not have to get posted, and that they are not deciding on any money.

Berry said that we can avoid a lot of confusion and speculation if you post your meetings and minutes.

Roberge said that if the Board wants all minutes and meetings posted, the Recreation Committee and Garden and Beautification Committees also need to post theirs – have they been informed of this? This Committee was tasked with putting together an RFQ, not deciding how any money is spent or with the details of the renovation.

Berry said that the Committee will be tasked with recommending to the Board certain things that do have money attached. The information needs to be readily available so that people don't feel that they know nothing of the project. They need to see that the process has been transparent, even if they don't come to the meetings, they could have read the minutes to keep informed.

Roberge said this committee hasn't made any decisions whatsoever.

Esposito said that you can see where and why Berry has a concern; you can get the minutes posted.

Roberge said that people can come up here and ask for them; this is not a standing committee; we don't have to post minutes.

Esposito said that he can see where Berry is coming from and we can prevent misinformation by posting minutes.

Roberge stated that we must then get the minutes from Recreation and Beautification.

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Berry wants the people to have a good understanding of what's going on.

Esposito asked if she could turn in the minutes.

Roberge said that she would have them into the office tomorrow, and asked where the Heritage Committee minutes were.

Berry said that he would also get the minutes into the office tomorrow also.

Roberge said that she is not ok with the Deputy Town Clerk's budget line going over. The Town Clerk should be working the Deputy's shift so as training a new Deputy does not put the budget line over. She wants to see every time card for the time period since the new Deputy was hired.

Esposito reminded her that there is only one more week that the old Deputy is working.

Berry said that she should take her issue up with the Town Clerk.

Esposito said that she is not wrong, but that all the line items had been whittled down to bare bones and there was now nothing in the budget to absorb training a new employee.

Berry asked if we had heard from the property owner that got the last junk yard letter.

Brown said that we had not heard from her.

Roberge asked that the Junk Yards be on the agenda for the next meeting so we don't lose our timeline.

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

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Brown