

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 14, 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.

The Board discussed hiring GFS Cleaning Services to clean the town buildings. They are tentatively scheduled to start on Tuesday, 9/22/20. The Board went over the timing and fee schedule. Roberge motioned to hire GFS Cleaning Services to clean the town buildings on a weekly basis seconded by Berry. All in favor.

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

- The Library reopened on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Limit of three patrons at a time with masks required for service. They are open regular hours five days a week. Curbside pickup will remain open during all open hours for patron convenience.
- They have started outdoor meetings and programs. Joann Kitchel has started two weeks of story & a stroll. 26 participants in first week; 23 in the second week. They sit in back yard reading on blankets and then stroll to a different destination in town. This is all weather dependent.
- Inter library loan reopened. It is a service from the NH State Library where we share materials between libraries all over the state. It is essential for a small library like ours. This is essential because they have 8 virtual book clubs right now; they borrow between 10-15 books for each book club. They have the same quarantine and cleaning guidelines as we do.
- 73 new library cards have been issued since April. Working with the Village School because their library is not open yet. They may not open until October.
- Trout Talk event is rescheduled to September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm.

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

- Questioned what the feel is at MVVS to base what events we can put forward. Chief Furlong is not prepared to discuss the school without inviting the Principal to speak on their own behalf. He did say that we do continue to get quarantine cases in the town of Mont Vernon.
- She discussed a virtual Halloween, possibly a trick-or-treat delivery to the kids. We don't need to collect candy from anyone in town. We could do a jack-o-lantern virtual contest as well. Trying to be as virtual as possible while still having events in town that will give the kids in the community something to do. We could also have families send in their photos if they are dressing up so we could showcase the kids in their costumes. She reached out to Amherst and Milford Rec departments to find out what their plans are. Amherst is leaning towards not doing a town wide trick-or-treating; however, they do believe that there are going to be households in neighborhoods that are going to have their own events taking place. Milford has not responded.
- Joann Kitchel presented a different plan for Halloween. It would not be a trick or treat event but a moonlight tour where registration is required and offered to Mont Vernon residents only. We would meet at the school parking lot and taken on a guided tour in groups of 10 people with a volunteer 'witch' guide. We would be masked and walk with paper lanterns from the school down Cemetery Rd. It would loop around Main Street and back. The houses would not be approached but every house that participates would have a lantern and participate in a scavenger hunt. Upon return to the school the children would be given a Halloween bucket with candy. She feels this would be a safer thing than to have families in town having their own events. She would be asking for up to \$1400.00. That would be the regular amount of \$400 for candy and up to \$1000 for supplies and decorations. Last year we had 500 people; grownups and children. She'd like to extend the time to 5pm-8pm so as to reserve times. Chief Furlong weighed in as Emergency Management Director. He appreciates the work going towards this, but still feels that we are not in the position to be hosting large scale town events yet. This is based on the CDC guidelines of not having gatherings over 100 people. He feels our focus should be on getting the kids back to school and stabilized. We would have to assume that we would be having 500 participants going through the town, regardless of how its

spread out. That crowd will warrant 4 police officers – he questions exposing 4 officers to a possible exposure to work a non-essential event like this. He thinks we are still too early in the plateau to hold this event. Esposito is concerned with how many people from out of town may converge on us. Chief Furlong will get together with Joann next week to further discuss. Esposito says we will have a decision by next Monday night.

- Heather is researching pricing for a projector screen and sound equipment to be better prepared for next year's summer concert series. Esposito suggested also purchasing 3-4 collapsible tents to have for future events.

#### **Ben Crosby – DPW Director**

- Update on Salisbury Road - They've put out 2000 yds of gravel since the start of the project last year. There a couple of culverts that have to be replaced before winter.
- He got the figure for paving the walkway at the McCollom Bldg. The new walkway from Town Clerk's office and two spots in the front parking lot total \$3,300.00. We could scale back to do just the walk way – he will have to get another price of cost per ton for that. Roberge suggests that if the Town Clerk is not going to open, perhaps we can wait until spring to do this along with the entire parking lot. Esposito agrees we should wait until spring. The price to fix the side door on the McCollom bldg. will cost approx. \$600. Ben will call Lucien Soucy to schedule if the Board approves.
- Crosby got two prices on winter sand. Leighton White has the best price delivered.
- Crosby will come into the next meeting to discuss the one ton.
- Berry was approached by a resident on Temple St. who wants to tie their basement drain into a catch basin. Crosby has no issue with that as long as it is done by a contractor and supervised by Crosby. Discussion will continue next week.

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

- Jason Wright has tendered his resignation after 13 years with the Department. We thank him for his service. His resignation, effective October 10, 2020 has no relation to the town; his decision is based solely on focusing on his primary job. He is exiting law enforcement all together in order to spend more time with his family.
- All the cruisers were inspected and passed after some minor work.
- New cruiser is in at Irwin Motors. Waiting on financing to be completed. We will then pick up and deliver to 2-Way Communications to be upfitted with or graphics and emergency equipment.
- September 15<sup>th</sup> Eversource will come in with over 30 trucks to be on Rte. 13. Posted on Facebook. Power will be out between 9-2pm and will affect over 160 customers in the town.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> Brook Rd. will be closed from Gavin Rd. to Old Mont Vernon Rd. for tree removal. This is due to a criminal mischief case where a tree was girdled and damaged.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Daigneault will be attending a one-day LEAD certification. Stands for Law Enforcement Against Drugs.

#### **8:20 PM Department Head meeting closed.**

Crosby spoke with Mel Conde who will be back to finish up in the bell tower possibly Friday.

Esposito said we received a request from the Conservation Commission to appoint an alternate member. The membership is all full at this point; we will keep the name on file for the future.

A town resident came in regarding his illegal rental property. He was told he has to have his illegal in-law apartment over the garage vacated by October 15<sup>th</sup>. He called back seeking an extension because he wants time to get on an agenda with the ZBA to seek a variance. Berry's opinion is that he stands little chance of being granted a variance. By November it is too late and cold to throw somebody out of an apartment, illegal or otherwise. He is not of the mind to extend beyond October 15<sup>th</sup>. Esposito is concerned that it is not even a safe building. There are no permits on file; it is not on the field card. Roberge agrees to the 10/15 end date. Berry motioned to deny the extension past October 15<sup>th</sup> for the occupancy of the apartment above his garage, seconded by Roberge. All in favor. Roberge brought up a complaint that came in regarding a camper possibly being possibly used as a homestead. It does appear to be the case and we need to formulate a letter to be sent out. If someone is in fact residing in it, they need to apply for a 6-month permit. Esposito commended Belinda for the excellent job done at the primary election. Berry motioned to hire Lucien Soucy to replace the side door on the Town Hall seconded by Roberge. All in favor.

**8:35 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Cleary