

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 16, 2019

**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 Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resident Randy Herring came before the Board with a complaint about speeding on Beech Hill Road. He said that there are some cars going 50 – 55 mph, creating a dangerous situation. Herring spoke with one of our Officers a month or so ago and offered his lower pasture for them to park in. He would like to see a speed limit sign, or two, put up on Beech Hill Rd as there isn't one there now. Esposito promised to take care of the missing sign(s) and see what the Chief can do about having more of a presence there. People are out there walking/running at dusk and dawn without any reflective clothing on; couple that with speed and you do have a dangerous situation.

Board thanked Herring for coming in.

Marie Grella, from Amherst, came to ask the Board to proclaim August 7<sup>th</sup> as Purple Heart Day in Mont Vernon. This will make Mont Vernon a Purple Heart Community. There is a Purple Heart package that she is hoping the Town will not have to pay for. She will ask the VFW if they will sponsor Mont Vernon. The package costs \$555 and comes with six signs recognizing the Town for being a Purple Heart Community.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to acknowledge August 7<sup>th</sup> as Purple Heart Day, and Mont Vernon to be a Purple Heart Community. All in favor.

Brown agreed to have the proclamation drawn up for the next Selectmen's meeting. Grella will attend and suggests having the Town Clerk, and the press in attendance also.

Tom Grella, also from Amherst, let the Board know that the State has passed a law that the State will waive the State and Town registration fee for one vehicle for veterans awarded the Purple Heart. It is up to the individual Towns to adopt same.

- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.
- Board reviewed the minutes of 9/9/19. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of September 9, 2019 as amended. All in favor.
- Board reviewed letter to all chairmen of Boards, Commissions and Committees asking them to post minutes and meetings on the web site. OK to send.
- Board reviewed a request from the Conservation Commission. Roberge moved, seconded by Berry to appoint Aneliya Cox as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. All in favor.

The Sustainability Group came before the Board. The group consists of David Brooks, Chris Kolb and Alyson Miller. The project that they are working on presently is replacing the existing streetlights with LED lights. The payback would normally be 2.5 to 3 years, but since the Trustees of Trust funds have pledged the \$6,280 estimated to complete the job, the Town will realize savings right away. The lights will be 3000 degree kelvin and are warmer looking than the mercury lights we have now. They will also shine down rather than the spread out pattern that we have now – better for the "Night Sky". Only the heads will be swapped out; the arms will be reused. The light sensor is in the light head.

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Brooks said that they would like to swivel around the light currently at Carleton Pond to shine on the parking lot instead of on Grand Hill Road. The Conservation Commission is going to add a light on a timer to shine on the pond itself for night time skating.

Berry asked if we need to have a public hearing.

Brown said that it may not be strictly necessary, but we should have one anyway.

Roberge volunteered to have the Selectmen hold the hearing.

It is decided to hold the hearing on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Brooks asked about the lights at the transfer station; too many and too bright.

Esposito let them know that the light in the back is scheduled to come down when they are hooking up the new plastic compactor.

Berry asked Brooks if he knew when Upper Wah-Lum will be mowed.

Brooks said that he would find out.

**7:55 pm** Esposito let the Board know that the '07 International Dump truck that is in the shop to have it's bed swapped has other problems. The valve bank is shot and the hoses and wiring need replacing. It would cost \$1400 to rebuild the valve bank (if there is no damage to the housing) and \$2330 for a new bank. The hoses and wiring will cost \$1900. Board ok'd up to \$4230 for the job as long as they try to rebuild the valve bank.

Esposito then let the Board know that DPW Director Crosby has found a pull behind road sweeper that Lyndeborough wants to sell for \$1400. Board will take that under advisement.

Board discussed the Junk Yard situation and decided to send one more Final Notice letter before turning the matter over to Town Counsel. Town Counsel will start the proceedings for an administrative search warrant so that the Code enforcer can get on the properties to take pictures in order to draw up a notice of violation. The Sherriff will serve the violation notices.

Board reviewed the YTD Budget.

Esposito brought up the PD's Special Duty lines. The Eversource details are going to put the Special Duty line over by quite a bit. He looked over the other PD lines to see where money could be saved. They then went over the Building Inspector's line which will also go over considerably this year. Even though those two lines are "self-funding" the budget cannot go over the bottom-line figure. Several of the Highway lines will be going over also, once winter sets in.

Roberge stated that she is very concerned about the Deputy Town Clerk's line as there is no offsetting income for that line.

Esposito asked Brown to add into the spent columns all of the expenses that we know will be used. For instance: Fica/Med, Health Insurance, Retirement and any contracts that we haven't paid yet. And, we won't spend any money we don't absolutely have to.

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**8:40 pm** Roberge asked if Esposito had spoken to the Chief regarding the shooting noise complaint.

Esposito said that he would talk to the Chief tomorrow.

Berry apprised the Board that the potential owner of the 271 acres on Beech Hill Rd has come forward with an open space sub-division of 92 homes. They thought they were in 2-acre zoning; they are actually in 5-acre zoning and would be able to have only approximately 39 homes.

Brown relayed the information that it would cost approximately \$1000 per year for the employees to have direct deposit of their paychecks, and it would cause double entry of payroll every week.

Roberge brought up the spot on Old Amherst with the ledge on the corner. She would like the Chief to have an Officer sit down there some.

Esposito asked why Berry feels we need a time clock.

Berry said that there is only one reason not to have a time clock: if Crosby needs to keep track of when certain jobs are being done. Brown explained that the Highway guys work on Highway, Cemetery, Grounds Maintenance and Transfer Station and have to designate that on their time cards.

Berry said that a time clock would not work in those situations.

Roberge said that the cards look like people fill them out on Monday for the whole week. A time clock would fix that.

Roberge asked Berry about the new Wetlands Ordinance the Planning Board is working on with the Conservation Commission will come to the Selectmen or the Town.

Berry said that the Planning Board held a public worksession on it to present it to the Town.

Discussion over the 3000' State guideline ensued and Roberge asked why Mont Vernon is trying to be more restrictive than the State.

Berry said that we aren't – we are just trying to be more restrictive than nothing.

Esposito apprized the Board that the Eversource work order for the pole at the pond will be activated now.

Esposito supposed that the culvert replacement on Brook Road could be paid for out of Block Grant money or Tarring and Sealing.

Brown to ask Crosby about excavating the top of the culvert and pouring concrete vs. plating.

**9:15 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Brown