

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes October 7, 2019

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

There were several residents in the audience that came in as a result of receiving the "Final Notice" junkyard letter. After some heated discussion, the Board made sure the residents knew that they are serious about yard clean-up, and will follow up with legal action if necessary. Previous correspondence refers to the State RSA's. One resident will apply for a junk yard permit.

7:15 PM DPW Director, Ben Crosby came before the Board to let them know that the turbo and the electronics to it need replacing on the '07 dump truck. Repair will be \$2020, and the repair line has already gone over budget. Board agreed that the repair has to be done to have a full complement of trucks for the upcoming winter season.

7:20 PM Library Trustee, Cindy Raspiller came before the Board to say that they had received a final wetlands map and will move forward with the wetlands application to get it submitted before the December deadline. They are still looking to see if they can include the upper lobe in the project and still come in under the 10,000 square feet limit. They are also looking for the Cemetery Trustees to chip in to fund the cost of the work that relates to cemetery land; somewhere around \$12,000. We probably have to move the septic over to where the Post Office septic is.

Berry asked if the Library Trustees were short \$12,000 and was told yes.

Roberge stated that the Conservation Commission has decided that the meeting Wednesday with all the Trustees is premature, and that they could get together at a later date.

Raspiller asked how wide a standard road is and was told: 2 rods or around 32 feet with 4 – 5 foot shoulders.

Esposito asked if the septic could be tied into the post office septic.

Raspiller said they could maybe work out some agreement with the owner of that property and design a joint system. They have had problems with their septic anyway.

7:30 PM Esposito opened the Public Hearing on Replacing our Streetlights with LED bulbs.

7:50 PM End of public hearing.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to replace 33 streetlights with LED models. All in favor.

Shelley Brooks of the Conservation Commission came before the Board to discuss the eradication of Japanese Knotweed (an invasive species) along the Town streets.

S. Brooks had compiled a list of 24 sites in Town that have been infested with the invasive species. The worst of which are the Transfer Station lot, and the road leading down to the Highway Garage.

Esposito asked when the best time is to treat it.

S. Brooks said that fall is the best time as the plants will move the chemicals from the leaves to the roots.

Berry asked if it has seeds.

S. Brooks said that it does, but they aren't particularly viable. Mowing it is the way it is spread the fastest: ¼" of the plant will regenerate a new plant. Treating it one year won't do it, some sites will have to be treated once a year for a few years.

Esposito asked how much it will cost.

S. Brooks does not know yet.

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Berry asked how many years will it take?

S. Brooks said that 75% may be taken care of in one year.

Berry asked if there is an issue with Roundup in the soil. Does it breakdown?

S. Brooks said that the Roundup does not last in the soil – it does break down.

Esposito said that the Board would take a look at it and see how much it will cost.

Roberge reminded everyone about how tight the budget is this year and asked how much it will spread between this year and next.

S. Brooks said that it will not increase that much over one year.

Esposito feels that it would be best to add a line item in the 2020 budget. Board agreed.

Spencer Lovette said that, as a bee keeper, he knows what an excellent source of pollen and nectar it is for the bees, and he is still in favor of removing it. In the UK you cannot get a mortgage for a property with Japanese Knotweed on it. It can become a crisis situation.

David Brooks said it is important to keep the DPW from mowing it.

Lovette added that in the UK they inject the chemicals right into each individual stalk.

Berry asked if we could get volunteers to uproot it.

S. Brooks said that one root can be 60ft. long, and it is illegal to move it. You cannot uproot it and bring it to the Transfer station to burn it.

Allyson Miller offered that it is also all along Harwood Rd. on private property.

Esposito asked S. Brooks to get quotes on doing the 24 sites listed. She agreed

8:10 PM David Cruden asked the Board for help from the PD to direct traffic when he is loading up the vehicles he needs to remove from his property. He says that his access road comes onto Wilton Road at the bad corner and there are cars speeding down and around the corner making it dangerous for him to haul those vehicles out.

Esposito told him to give the PD a call when he was ready; that Esposito would let the PD know to be expecting Cruden's call.

Cruden also asked to be heard on October 21st regarding the Town encroaching onto his property at the Wilton Road curve. He asked that the DPW Director be present.

Esposito told him to come in right at 7:00 as there is a Department Head meeting that night.

8:15 PM Board reviewed minutes of 9/23/19. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of September 23, 2019 as written. Two in favor. Roberge abstained.

Esposito let the Board know that he attended the MACC meeting this morning.

Berry said Gary Daniels wanted us to deal with a few items, the length of term and one of the Board members thinks that since Milford pays 71% of the bills, they should have 71% of the vote.

Esposito said that he could support raising money for operating MACC, but would not support buying anything radio related for Milford. The communication specialists that Milford hired really know what they are doing – they are not just a company that sells radios telling them what they need. They are professionals that understand all of the aspects of a communications center.

Roberge asked if Esposito feels that their directive is for Milford go out on its own, or the whole system?

Esposito feels that they will evaluate all the equipment to see what is needed to make it work. He also told them that they are putting us against a wall giving us 2 weeks to make a decision as their report will be in mid-December.

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Berry went to the transportation meeting and had nothing to report that involves Mont Vernon.

Esposito related what happened at the SRLD meeting; Mont Vernon's share will increase approximately 13%.

Income from recycling has basically gone away. We had 3 loads of the open top container for metal. We took 15 tons of metal for recycling and made \$260. It is costing us \$100/ton plus \$250/load to get rid of the plastics. Again, we won't change anything now.

Berry reminded the Board that they had to appoint a Selectmen's rep to the School Budget Committee.

Roberge said that she will sit on the School Budget Committee.

Esposito said that he thought Laurie Brown should be the Selectmen's Representative to the Town Budget Committee.

Berry agreed and said that Brown was good at it.

Roberge feels that Berry should be the rep.

Brown stated that we need a rep for the MACC budget committee too.

Roberge said that she would do it depending on meeting dates and not at 8:30 AM.

Berry relayed that the State will be giving us approximately \$17,000 in extra aide in 2020 and 2021 to be used as we wish.

Board reviewed and signed pole petitions for Eversource, thank you notes for Marie Grella and the Milford VFW who has agreed to purchase 4 purple heart community signs for Mont Vernon.

Brown brought up the request for the Town to cover a volleyball pick-up league.

Board wants Heather Kennedy to put out a blurb on Facebook to see if there is enough interest from Mont Vernon residents. They are concerned that it will be hard to get at least 50% of the players from Town.

9:05 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown