

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes October 26, 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.

Esposito stated that the past couple of meetings were really hectic with Halloween issues. When I came on the Board it had a bully pulpit mentality. I feel that if a person takes the time to come out and join the meeting, they should have a chance to speak. The past 6 months it has been difficult. Joan has been in the office by herself; Laurie has come back in the office half time. All reports and projects have been done on time – everything has gotten done. We are waiting for the DRA to set the tax rate and budgets have been coming in.

Esposito referenced an email from the Wilton BOS who would like to meet with our Board. Would we like to put off the handbook review in order to meet with Wilton regarding MACC?

Berry said that we should meet with Wilton as soon as we can. The handbook is important, but we should meet with Wilton first.

Roberge said that she was ok to meet with Wilton this Monday night.

The Office will set it up.

Esposito referenced an email from the Friends of the Library asking if they, as a private entity, could hand out toys outside of the Library on Halloween night.

Berry said that he was ok with it as long as it was within the time the Town specified.

Roberge is concerned that David Brooks published that there was going to be nothing going on at any of the Town buildings.

Berry is ok with them doing it on Town property.

Roberge did agree.

Office will let the Friends of the Library know of the decision.

Esposito explained that he has spoken with the office staff and the Tax Collector, and they all agree that it would not be prudent to open the Town Hall offices until after taxes are due. The foot traffic will be too heavy.

Berry agreed that it would be the safest way to do it. We will continue to have the Tax Collector in the office accepting checks by appointment. So, we will maintain status quo till after taxes are due.

Eileen Naber came to the meeting a little late and asked if she could still pay her taxes in person.

Brown advised her to just call the Selectmen's Office or the Tax Collector and make an appointment.

Roberge asked if the telecommuters have all of the information in their computers available to them at home.

Brown said, well, it's only me, and yes, I can work on budgets from home.

Esposito referenced an email from a resident regarding junkyards and why we haven't done anything about them yet. Admittedly, we haven't done anything since Covid, but the last letter had all of the property owners promising to clean them up. I know some of them have done some cleaning up, but not enough, and some have ignored us completely. We should send another letter.

Berry asked if there is a junk yard on the property that we are trying to clear title on and was told; no, just an old trailer.

Roberge said that the first step is to send another registered letter reminding them that they promised to clean up their properties.

Berry said to add that we have gotten complaints from neighbors.

Brown asked if the Boards decision could be not to act at all since it will be so expensive to bring them to court.

Roberge thinks we may be liable for court fees if we don't take action.

Esposito told everyone that we have received \$58,000 in GOFERR funds.

Berry said that the State told the schools to get their PPE from the towns, now the schools can apply for their own reimbursements.

Berry said that the Heritage Commission worked hard for a grant for refurbishing the Town Hall's antique windows. LCHIP had 4 million dollars to distribute between 50 applicants and we did not get chosen. We had applied for \$38,000 – half the job cost. The Chairman, Secretary and myself from the Heritage Commission will be meeting with them. We got denied the same day as we were designated one of the Seven to Save which is a marketing tool to raise funds for the restoration of the Town Hall.

Board reviewed minutes of 10/19/20. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge, to accept the minutes of October 19, 2020 as amended.

Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Esposito asked about the Weston Hill property.

Brown said that Attorney Quinn wants copies of everything the Tax Collector and the Office have on the property. We don't have much; it was 20 years ago.

Berry asked for a status on the Purgatory Road property that hasn't paid taxes.

Brown told him that they got funding, and they are all paid up.

Roberge said that the only thing that she has to say about communication is that over communication is the best communication. Esposito said that we came out of it ok. There are flaws we can work out.

Esposito is wondering how to conduct Town Meeting over ZOOM.

Roberge said that lots of towns and schools have been talking about that. Cases of Covid are escalating in the State. I hope the Emergency Manager will be able to give an update.

Berry said that next week we will meet with Wilton, and our meeting will be budget only. Have a safe and sound Halloween.

Esposito said that the people in Town really rise to occasions – it will be good.

7:40 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie M. Brown