

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes November 2, 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.

Board reviewed the minutes of 10/26. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of October 26, 2020 as amended. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Board next went over the proposed 2021 budgets from Department Heads and Chairmen of Committees, Boards and Commissions. Esposito stated that the Board asked everyone to include a 2% increase for employees.

Roberge asked why so many more hours asked for under Deputy Town Clerk when there are no elections except Town Meeting. Board also discussed that the Town Clerk has included a 10% raise for herself.

Board asked why the payroll lines were not filled in for the Selectmen's budget.

Brown said she was unclear as to how many hours to budget for the two positions in the office since Cleary is doing work for the Planning Board and for the Zoning Board also.

Roberge asked if we could stop breaking it down, and just record it all under office expense.

Berry said that he liked that idea.

Esposito said that he could go along with that.

Roberge said that she would still like to see the time tracking, but it could be done on her time card. Both hours have increased to 35 per week because of the requirements of the NH Retirement system.

Roberge also asked when we will have the insurance numbers and was told that we should have them by week end.

Roberge asked if our Assessing contract goes from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, and was told that it is a calendar year. She said that the company that we use is very small – do we want to look into an Avitar or Vision? We had a couple years with things wrong and things late. We had a house disappear off the assessing roles altogether.

Brown said that she did look into Avitar, and we would have to first buy their software at a price well over \$10,000. For that reason alone, it will be much less expensive to stay where we are.

Roberge asked if Brown had looked at Vision and was told no.

Esposito said that John Hatfield knows our Town better than anyone; they have been with us a long time. Let's stay with them for now – if things don't improve, we can pursue something else.

Roberge asked why, under Planning and Zoning, the Master Plan number has almost doubled and there was nothing spent this year.

Berry explained that this money is to have the NRPC help with the next chapter or two in our Master Plan. It took 2 years for the last chapter to get updated. We want to get this project done.

Roberge asked Berry to see if Bill McKinney has gotten a quote, and for how many chapters.

Brown let the Board know that the R & M Fire Station line has since been reduced from \$16,200 to \$10,400 because they have decided not to seal the floor this year.

Berry asked why there is \$9,000 again in heat when we use much less every year.

Brown explained that the Fire Station is our Emergency Shelter; we have to be able to heat it in an emergency.

Looking at the Transfer Station lines, Berry remarked that we might as well not recycle plastic at all. Every load has been contaminated with colored plastic and has to be dumped in with the regular trash.

Roberge said that she doesn't like to see zero's in the YTD Cemetery lines.

Berry said we have to hear from Lou Springer.

Roberge reminded everyone that most of that money spent is paid back by Cy Pres money or trust fund.

Brown explained that we still have to raise all the money.

Berry said that he would like them to do the projects that they say they are going to do.

Roberge looked at the Police Department budget and said that she understands why the Full-Time line is up; because of the new hire, but shouldn't the part time line be down? What about the Special Duty line being double? Also, there is money in the equipment line for a new radio – why?

Regarding the Fire Department budget, Roberge said that she doesn't like the \$8,800 in salary spent. Why the increase in Truck Equipment and Radio?

Esposito explained that Chief Wilson waits until year end to spend much of his money in case an emergency comes up during the year.

Roberge asked about the Building Inspector's Budget being empty.

Brown said she thought the Board was going to talk about that with the Building Inspector, but will get it entered if that is what they wish.

Roberge said that a budget was submitted that includes bringing the Building Inspector into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to transition the office from using personal equipment.

Esposito said that we don't have a final number for MACC yet. He also wondered what ulterior motive there was for Gary Daniels asking how many people work for MACC at their last meeting.

Roberge asked about the Highway line for Gravel. What is the increase for – what is the gravel earmarked for? She also wanted to know if the Board has ever discussed paving the last half of Mason Rd. or Gregory St. Why wouldn't we pave the connecting roads to the transfer station?

Esposito said that we can address that.

Roberge said that those are the roads used by everyone travels on to get to the transfer station.

Esposito said that the condition of these roads over the last 10 years has improved greatly, but we should look at them again. It is just a question of finances.

Roberge asked if Crosby had turned in a breakdown of what makes up his numbers and was told "no".

Berry asked if the \$5,000 to move the diesel tank is in his budget.

Brown didn't know but said he would like to do it this year out of the left-over money in the diesel tank repair line.

Roberge said that there is \$14,000 left in that line; how much of that can be used for this project and still leave enough for fuel for the rest of the year.

Esposito said that moving the tank is not necessary and can be put in the 2021 budget.

Roberge asked Brown to tell Crosby that she needs a breakdown for his numbers like the other department heads do.

Roberge asked if we are waiting to see how much we can save in 2021 before we reduce the Eversource line?

Esposito said that the SRLD should come in approx. \$150,000 this year.

Berry asked about the library lines health and retirement.

Brown reminded him that the Library Director works 30 hours per week and the Retirement system requires 35 hours per week.

Esposito asked about the \$20,000 in the Heritage Commission Fund line, as it is \$10,000 more than last year.

Berry said that, if they had gotten the grant, their money would have been depleted. This was to build it back up. We can speak with Charlie Baker, but I believe that right now the Heritage Commission is committed to refurbishing the Town Hall, I think this is something we should do.

Esposito asked, since you didn't get the grant, do you want to make it \$10,000 or \$20,000?

Berry said that we should talk to Baker.

Roberge said that she would need to see what it is earmarked for, and \$15,000 would bring their fund to \$50,000.

Berry explained the payoff to grant seeking is that you get more grant money if you have more money. You need to show a commitment to the project. If the Heritage Commission doesn't have any money, there is no reason for it to exist.

Roberge asked how much land the Town holds in conservation land, and does that include any open space land deeded to the Conservation Commission from open space sub-divisions. She said that there is restrictive stuff going on and we own a lot of land. She also would like to see why there is an increase in tree maintenance.

Office will contact the Conservation Commission Chair to ask.

Discussion ensued about how to go over the budgets with the department heads next Monday.

It was decided that they do not need to see the Tax Collector, Trustees of Trust Funds, Building Inspector, Health Inspector, Welfare Officer, Recreation Director, Library Trustees/Director, Heritage Commission Chairman, Patriotic Purposes Chairman, or the Garden and Beautification Chairman.

**8:45 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown