

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes December 7, 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.

Bonnie Angulas let the Board know that, as of probably Wednesday, the library will be rolling back to curb-side pick up only. All virtual programming will continue.

Esposito told the Board that he met with Cindy Raspiller and John Quinlan regarding the building of the new road to the library and new cemetery.

Raspiller said that Quinlan has agreed to chair the library building committee, and they have enlisted Bill McKinney as well. They are trying to get DSK to segregate the cost of the road to the library, and have had site walks with DPW Director, Ben Crosby. The Library Trustees have funds available for the engineering work. DSK has been asked to come up with an RFP to go out to bid for the road. Initially, it will be the road bed and some paving to spread the cost over several years and so that we won't have heavy equipment ruining the new road when construction begins. They will be releasing the RFP in the next couple of weeks.

Quinlan said that the estimates should be back mid-January. It will be a 3 phased plan – we will get a price for each phase.

Roberge asked if the Selectmen would be reviewing the RFP before it goes out; either the Selectmen or Crosby.

Raspiller said that the Trustees would like to have the RFP come from both the Library Trustees and the

Selectmen. Crosby will be working on it with Quinlan, so yes, it will come to the Selectmen before it goes out.

Berry asked when they will have the numbers in hand? Will you be asking the Town to fund the first phase in March?

Raspiller said that they will have to talk about that. DSK says we will have something the first week of January.

Esposito said that he is interested in knowing how much it is going to cost, he is naïve about the process, the slopes, soils and the wetlands, etc.

7:10 PM Budget

Esposito said that nothing has changed in the current budget except 3 of the cemetery lines.

Berry asked if there was a budget committee.

Brown said that there are enough people that volunteered. John Arico always gets the first meeting going where they pick a chairman, secretary and which night they will meet. She hasn't heard from Arico as of yet.

Roberge said that she doesn't understand the Town Clerk's stipend number. The increase she has included is 10%. She told us it was 2% from last year and 2% for this year. The numbers don't add up.

Berry guessed that she might be starting from a different number than we are. We owe it to her to be able to explain.

Esposito said that he is in favor of a 2% increase – like everyone else.

Roberge would like to know how she came up with 10%.

Brown will ask her to attend next week's meeting.

Roberge remarked that she didn't see any changes to Crosby's numbers.

Esposito said that he had asked Crosby to come in next week with ALL his numbers and we would discuss them.

Roberge said that his year-to-date figures are under the total budget – maybe we could fund the FD trees or the DPW radios out of this year.

Roberge asked if the Heritage Commission had had their discussion about reducing the \$20,000 ask for the fund.

Berry said that they were willing to drop it to \$15,000. He then asked where the \$2000 was in the budget to pay for installing the light at the pond.

Roberge said that the Board talked about this in October. The Conservation Commission said they would welcome direction and input from the Selectmen.

Esposito said that we gave them direction: Light up the pond.

Berry said that they wanted to speak with Bill McKinney about the master plan and getting quotes from NRPC.

Roberge said that there isn't even anything in the Planning Board notes about the master plan.

Brown said that Shelley Brooks had emailed asking if Lee Gillman could get the application going for spraying for knotweed now and doing the work next year. It is \$200 for the application and \$6000 for the spraying. We will have to add the \$6000 to the Grounds Maint. Budget for 2021. Board agreed.

Berry asked if we had gotten the estimate or homeowner's permission for the tree removal on Harwood Rd.

Brown said no to both.

Berry said that the Grounds Maint. Budget line has now gone from \$10,000 to \$18,000.

7:45 PM Esposito said that he had attended the SRLD meeting on Thursday evening. The final budget is: \$122,941.16.

Berry asked Esposito to clarify: We can only recycle plastic if it is opaque milk bottles?

Esposito said: yes, that is correct.

Roberge said that that is not what it says at the transfer station; it still says clear plastic.

Berry said that it doesn't really matter; every load is contaminated and must go to the incinerator anyway.

Esposito said that the milk bottles net us \$0.50 per pound. Things will change again sometime in December.

Newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and aluminum cans are our only other markets.

Berry said that we need to put a milk jug over the plastic container so people know what goes in there and see what happens.

Roberge said that she looked into the plastic container when she went to the transfer station and there were 99% clear plastic in there.

Esposito wants to make it clear that we, the Selectmen, do not control what will be accepted in recycling. 99% of people will comply if they know what is expected – 1% just don't care.

7:50 PM Esposito wanted to talk about the contract for the Town revaluation. He said that Doug Irvine made a good point when he said that what ever you will miss by not doing a full measure and list will not offset the cost of the revaluation in tax revenue. The assessing company gave us numbers that show \$38,000 for doing a statistical revaluation, while doing the cyclical will cost \$72,500 over 5 years. There is a \$6,000 cost for pick-ups no matter what we choose for a revaluation method.

Roberge likes the idea of alternating between the two methods every 5 years. We will miss some things done without building permits, but it isn't worth it.

Esposito agreed.

Berry also agreed, but reminded that this year must be paid for – that \$12,650 comes off the savings.

Esposito said that we need to change the contract.

Roberge asked: we just signed that contract – did they do \$12,650 worth of work already?

Berry said that they will bill us, rightly so, for the work they have done so far.

Roberge said that in 2024 we can do another statistical revaluation or do a cyclical. There are towns that always do a statistical.

Esposito said that we don't have any commercial properties.

Berry said that the budget line for Assessing can be reduced to \$6,000 for 2021.

Esposito said that the Junkyard letters went out last week, and we can't cut the trees on Harwood until we get the quote and the homeowner's permission.

Berry asked if Mr. Dwire had responded to the letter regarding Code Enforcer going out to his home.

Brown said that he called and spoke with her. She explained to him that the Town must respond to a letter of complaint in writing. The code enforcer must be called in to look for safety violations – especially in a home that is being used as a rental. Mr. Dwire said that he is also waiting for a permit to install a ventless heater in the home. Brown offered to speak with the Fire Chief to see if he had gotten in touch with the State Fire Marshall in regards to installation codes. She said that she has been trying to get back in touch with him since then and his phone goes directly to a funny busy signal, and her emails have been unanswered.

Berry said that we have to send him a certified letter.

Roberge agreed and said that there must be a firm date and time selected by the Selectmen and Building Inspector. She also thinks Irving is looking for someone in the town to sign off on it. They can pull a permit for the piping. There are a lot of stipulations. We don't have anything more restrictive than the State.

Esposito spoke with Fire Chief Wilson who said that as long as there is a qualified installer – it's ok. We have done our due diligence.

Roberge said we are having the Code Enforcer and the Fire Chief go in there – what are we doing regarding the ZBA denial of his variance?

Esposito said that if there are safety violations the eviction should be immediate. If it is strictly a zoning violation, we can be more lenient. He told Brown that he has already asked his tenant to vacate.

Roberge asked if we think that 30 days after the denial is enough. He is not getting back to us.

Berry said that the heater has nothing to do with the illegal apartment over the garage. We need to determine if there is a safety issue.

Can we call the fact that it wasn't permitted a safety violation?

Roberge said that she believes that there is not a second means of egress – that is a safety issue right there.

Berry said that, if it is unsafe, the woman needs to vacate. Is the fact that it is unpermitted a safety violation?

Esposito said that it makes it a Zoning violation.

Berry said that it is worth perusing; we need to find out what is going on.

Roberge said that we should send a date and time that the Code Enforcer and Fire Chief agree on in a certified letter.

Esposito asked when they would both be available.

Roberge said that she would be in touch with the Fire Chief and get back to the office.

Roberge said that the Board needs to discuss that the Town Attorney is retiring at the end of this year.

Esposito said that Sowerby recommended going back to Drescher and Dokmo, but using another associate. Roberge said that she would like to see who else is out there – we didn't get the responses needed in a timely manner; that is why we switched in the first place.

Esposito said that he got overloaded.

Roberge said that she always got the feeling that he considered us third best.

Board reviewed the minutes of November 23rd. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of November 23, 2020 as amended. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Esposito stated that the annual Tree Lighting is this Saturday.

Esposito let the Board know that Joan has asked if we could install security cameras at the Town Hall like they have at the McCollom Building and the DPW to cover the parking lot, front entrance and the lobby.

Berry said that we will ask Chief Furlong where he suggests putting them next week.

Esposito asked about the taxes being collected.

Tax Collector, Sue Leger said that they are coming in – especially now that the Tax Kiosk has been fixed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown