

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes December 14, 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 minutes of 12/7/20. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of December 7, 2020 as written. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Esposito let the Board know that the Town Clerk will not be joining us tonight; she will be here next week.

Roberge said that Mike Cardoza volunteered for the budget committee and has heard nothing from the moderator. The committee has not met yet to choose a chairman, although John Arico has been doing it the last few years.

Berry said that they are already starting 5 weeks late.

Esposito asked if any of the money we will pay Attorney Tom Quinn for the research on selling the Weston Hill Rd property can be expended this year? Can we pay him a retainer out of the 2020 budget line?

Brown will find out.

Roberge said that she thought we were moving forward with that so that we could spread the cost over two years.

Berry agreed and asked Brown to confirm his estimate and see if we can give a retainer this year.

Roberge asked if we had updated the Assessors regarding changing the contract.

Brown said that she had a conversation and sent an email, but will have a letter written that the Board can sign.

Roberge asked if any of the Junk Yard properties had responded to our letter.

Brown said that only Brenda Bishop has responded. They took 4 loads of cars out of there already. The property is now in probate. They will be selling the property as soon as the probate process is finished to the tenant. The tenant knows that, when the weather allows, the rest of the automobiles need to be removed.

7:15 PM Department Head Meeting

Bonnie Angulas – Library Director

- The Library Trustees met and decided to roll back to phase 2 – Curbside Pick-Up only until 12/31/2020 when they will re-evaluate. The lobby is open but the main building is closed to the public. It is working this way and all virtual programs are still running.
- We are running a Winter Reading Marathon for adults and children from the 1st day of Winter to the 1st day of Spring. Prizes will come from the Friends of the Library and it is all virtual.

Emergency Management Director, Police Chief Kevin Furlong – Emergency Management

- Right now, we have 10 active Covid cases with new ones every day. It is staying stable because we have people coming off every day too.
- New PPE has been distributed to all buildings.
- Sent out an email regarding employer quarantine guidelines from the State of New Hampshire.
- The vaccine has arrived in the State. Our first responders are part of the first wave of vaccinations.
- The first meeting of the Hazzard Mitigation Committee will be Thursday at 7:00 pm with NRPC. We were awarded a \$10,000 grant to put a plan together.

Police Chief Kevin Furlong – Police Department

- During the first snow storm the PD responded to 41 calls to service. Extra officers were called in to help catch up.
- Officer Wolf has been reactivated to national guard service as of last Tuesday. We expect 2 – 3 weeks of him being gone.
- Following up on using our training budget to EMT train our officers. In the last 3 years we have responded to medical calls: 2017, 82 responses, 2018, 81 responses and in 2019 we responded to medical calls 97 times. This

year to date has been 85 calls. The money is already in the budget, and is definitely something I have been considering to better the department. We allocate a training line for the officers that is unused because of COVID.

Esposito said that there would be no problem with that.

Roberge said that her questions were: the number of calls, and are there any continuing costs.

Furlong explained that licensing is totally separate; this is more about training.

Roberge asked if they are going through training, don't they need to be licensed to use their training.

Furlong said no.

Fire Chief Jay Wilson – Fire Department

- Finished up our controlled burn training in the snow storm.
- Wants to sit down with the Board to discuss warrant articles

Esposito asked him if 12/28/20 would be ok.

Berry thinks this talk should be expedited.

Roberge asked what was on the agenda for next week, and asked if Wilson could send the information to the Board ASAP so that they could decide whether to put it on next week's agenda or wait till 12/28.

Wilson said that he would do that, and the articles would be regarding SCBA equipment and Capital Reserve.

- Has the estimate for the tree work for the antenna.

Ben Crosby – DPW Director

- Bob Sawyer's next doctor appointment is January 4th and it sounds like his leave may be extended.
- Have one employee out due to close contact with COVID waiting for test results.
- Have been looking for a temporary person to fill in during snow storms. I did find someone with experience using a wing. The paperwork is being processed now. Looking for Board approval.

Esposito asked if Crosby knows this person personally. Crosby said he does.

Roberge said that the application is really incomplete. I trust your decision, but I would like more information.

Esposito agreed and said that he needs a complete file like anyone else.

- Have received several questions about why we are not maintaining – plowing the sidewalks. I did get a quote from someone that has a sidewalk machine for \$50 - \$60/ hr. I am trying to find another town that hires out that work to see what they pay.

Esposito said that he always thought that the sidewalks should be plowed.

Crosby said that he came close to having a problem during this last storm. We could do it on an as needed basis. The guy offered to come up and do it so he could give us a better estimate. It is the guy I'm trying to hire.

Roberge asked what residents are responsible for; she believes that in most towns, the resident is responsible for the sidewalk in front of their property.

Crosby said that we are talking from 10 South Main to Blood Road, and Town Hall to Wilton Road.

Furlong interjected that snow and ice on sidewalks must be maintained by the town.

Crosby said that if we go with this guy, he will buy a drop spreader for sand/salt.

Berry asked what kind of machine he has.

Crosby said that it was just like Milford's.

Berry asked where he keeps it and what order would we fit into his route?

Crosby said that Mike Ypya had one demonstrated; it cost around \$185,000. This guy is looking to get a couple of towns to sign on.

Berry asked how many residents are asking about this.

Crosby said a couple of dozen.

Esposito said to let him give us a quote.

Berry said that he has mixed feelings about this – he knows how frugal this town is.

Roberge said that she is concerned that it is the Town's responsibility.

Crosby explained that the State does wing back where the curb touches the street.

Roberge said that if we are hiring him for a plow driver; that takes priority over the sidewalks. I got complaints over the dirt roads.

Crosby explained that you need to leave some snow on them for traction. This is done on purpose.

Heather Kennedy – Recreation Director

- Tree lighting worked ok and the ornaments will be available for pick up this week.

Roberge asked about the timer on the tree and said that it wasn't lit at 5:30 this morning.

Angulas said that Earl Rich put the timer on yesterday.

Kennedy said that it doesn't draw much – she would plug it right into the box. We will look at it. Also, the bush next to the plug is a pricker bush; could we get it pruned?

Crosby said he would take a look.

Roberge said that the Tree Lighting was done nicely.

Kennedy thought maybe we could live stream it from now on.

- The ski program deadline is tomorrow. It now has to be a recreation program since Crotched Mountain got purchased by Vail. The new owners will only take one check instead of all the participants checks. They have to make checks payable to the Town and we have to cut the one check.

8:05 End of Department Head Meeting

Crosby began by telling the Board that the stand by generator at the highway garage is at the end of its life. A quote from Powers Generator to replace it is \$25K - \$30K. He is looking for another quote from The Generator Connection.

Berry asked what brand we have now and was told "Generac". He asked Crosby to look into a diesel unit as 15 years is a horrible life expectancy.

Roberge said that she needs to see the departments short-term vs. long-term goals. She doesn't know what the priorities should be. It does surprise her that the life span is so short.

Crosby said that they are recommending a larger unit.

Crosby spoke about the DPW radios. To change over from low band to high band, the difference in quotes is \$1,500. Beltronics is less than Two-Way. The quote is \$6,723.90 for 9 radios installed in the trucks. Cost of a high band antenna on the Fire Station can maybe split with the 4 towns (\$8,142.15). Beltronics suggested not co-licensing with Lyndeborough – we should get our own license with repeater. He would like to be able to move some 2020 budget money around and buy the radios this year.

Berry asked if the \$10,500 in the budget was to buy radios, license, and share of antenna.

Crosby said yes, with \$700 left over. He talked to Milford, and their DPW Director was very receptive. We should be able to tell soon if there is enough money to buy the radios this year.

Esposito said that we should be able to cover the cost of the radios this year.

Roberge said that she prefers that it be done "within a function"; Public Works General.

Esposito said that Crosby will need something in writing on the license and the antenna.

Roberge doesn't like banking on the other towns contributing or owning part of our antenna. Berry said that infrastructure upgrades need to be made; Milford's DPW Director sounds like he figures they need new radios and is on board in helping us put a new antenna on the fire station. If the other towns don't want to contribute, we will have to pay for the whole thing.

Roberge said that we are moving in the right direction.

Esposito asked Crosby to contact Milford and Wilton tomorrow.

Crosby said that he added \$2,000 to the tree line as he has spent more than that lately.

Esposito reminded the Board that we have to add another \$2,000 for the trees the FD needs taken down.

Brown added that the spraying for the knotweed would come out of this line too (\$6,000).

Berry asked if the Diesel Fuel and Tank Repair line includes moving the tank and was told yes.

Esposito asked if we really have to do that.

Crosby said the cost for the electrician was \$4,000+ with us digging the ditch line to a subpanel.

Berry asked how much the containment tank would cost.

Crosby said it is just ½ a septic tank.

Berry believes it is a good idea.

Esposito said that he is having second thoughts, and asked if Brown could put the diesel tank on next week's agenda.

Berry said that we need to justify cost savings: moving the tank vs. driving down the hill.

Roberge feels that the generator may be a higher priority.

Berry said that if he had to choose, he would pick the generator. He asked Crosby to get an actual cost for a diesel generator.

Roberge stated that she is not sure a new propane generator would have only a 15-year life span.

Crosby said that he was told that if they go with the same manufacturer, we could reuse the transfer switch.

Esposito asked about sending a certified letter to Dennis Dwire regarding the safety violation inspection.

Brown asked Wilson what a good date and time would be.

Wilson decided December 23rd at 9:00 AM.

Brown will send the letter tomorrow.

Office received a phone call from the MVCC regarding their outdoor Christmas Eve mass. Roberge suggested asking Emergency Management Director, Chief Furlong what he thinks, and if there is anything to consider.

Esposito went over things for next week: FD Warrant Articles, Town Clerk, DPW items.

9:00 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn. Esposito; yes, Berry; yes, Roberge; yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown