

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes December 18, 2017

7:00 pm Meeting called to order by Board Chair, John Quinlan. Also in attendance were Selectmen John Esposito and Kim Roberge.

Roberge fears that the signboard that the Police Chief wants to purchase in 2018 will look tacky. She would hate to see anything advertised on it. She has seen one in Milford, and doesn't like the way it looks.

Esposito thinks we would use it less than has been suggested.

Quinlan feels that it would get used a great deal, especially by the PD and DPW.

Roberge said that the recurring expenses will get out of hand quickly; right now, it is \$2850 every two years.

Quinlan feels that, in the speed mode, it is like having another officer. It is a safety item for the DPW.

Esposito said that he likes the idea if we can get a matching grant; I don't like the \$15,495 price tag. If the Town votes in the warrant article, we have to buy it, whether we get a grant or not.

Quinlan stated that there are ways to word it so that we won't buy it if we don't get the grant.

Board reviewed minutes of 12/11. Esposito motioned, seconded by Quinlan to accept the minutes of December 11, 2017 as amended. 2 in favor, one abstention.

Esposito let the Board know that he called and had to leave a message for John Weaver, the attorney for Verizon Wireless, regarding the cell tower project. He did state that the office had repeatedly called and emailed to no avail.

Roberge related that the office had gotten a call from a woman concerned about a barn collapsing onto their residence. The Building Inspector met with the homeowner and suggested that a support wall be constructed to support the secondary means of egress.

Quinlan asked if any tenant was in danger.

Roberge explained that the secondary means of egress may put someone in danger if the barn has any further movement. The homeowner was given till year end to build the support wall.

7:15 PM Vanessa Chavez, Chairman of the Recreation Committee came to recap the Tree Lighting:

- It is very important to de-ice the parking lots and walkways.
- The MC was very hard to hear – the broken microphone and speaker need to be replaced.
- Kids playing under/near the tree unplugged the lights.
- The tree is really too big. It is too big to decorate; it needs replacing with a 20' tree.
- Beth Kershaw has suggested a co-chair for next year's tree lighting.

Quinlan said that he had spoken with the Trustees of Trust Funds last year and there is a State Tree Nursery where we may be able to get another tree large enough to replace the existing tree.

Esposito reminded everyone that there is ledge under most of the Town Hall yard.

Chavez said that next year they will put up a barrier around the tree – new or old tree, and that she has looked into a Mic and Speaker and it looks like \$300 would cover it. She asked if the Board would add \$300 to the Recreation budget in 2018 for this purchase. Board agreed.

Chavez thanked the Office, the PD, Hwy FD, all the volunteers, Beth Kershaw, Earl Rich, Rich Masters, and the Girl Scouts for making this year's Lighting a success.

Esposito asked why there wasn't a craft for the kids in the fire station.

Chavez said that she let the Chair take the reins and she did not want Santa or a craft. To that end, Chavez has put together a binder that specifies timelines, non-negotiables (like Santa) and variables. She wants to make the event easier to put on, but still leave room for the Chairman's ideas and creativity. The next event is Easter; Kristie Gray will chair, and maybe she will take on Tree Lighting 2018.

Chavez asked about another space for the Recreation Committee to keep their equipment as the closet in the Town Hall is too small. After some discussion, the Board agreed that one of the rooms upstairs in the McCollom Building would work well temporarily.

Roberge asked Chavez to make sure she turns in all of her receipts for reimbursement.

8:10 pm Discussion over the Ambulance Contract yielded the decision to pay the bill of \$17,000, and that Brown will call the Town Administrator in Lyndeborough to see how the Wilton Ambulance handles the billing to Lyndeborough residents.

8:15 pm

- Board reviewed all of the 2017 Non-Public minutes. Esposito motioned, seconded by Quinlan to keep the all of the 2017 Non-Public minutes sealed. Two in favor, one abstained.
- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.

Roberge reported on Wednesdays Budget Committee meeting. On 12/20/17 they will meet with Mike Ypya, DPW Director and Belinda Yeaton, Town Clerk. ON 1/3/18 they will meet with Police Chief Furlong and the Cemetery Trustees. On 01/10/18 they will see the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Joanne Draghetti and Fire Chief Wilson.

Roberge stated that she had told the Budget Committee that she addresses a budget on a zero-line item basis and that it is not a pass-through from last year, and that she will be asking Brown for everything that the Department Heads turned to explain their budget numbers.

Esposito mentioned that the total budget is only up 1.64% as it stands, but is wondering why the Town Clerk's pay increased so much. Brown offered that there are two additional elections in 2018.

Roberge said that they are also open one additional night, but the increase of more than \$8000 is too much and that they may want to close one of the days.

Esposito said that he doesn't like that 2 members of the PD are put in for significantly more than the 3% raise offered to all employees. Quinlan stated that he understood what Furlong was talking about when he came in here – we need to at least approach the pay of similar towns.

Roberge said that she agrees with Jack, but if our pay is that much behind, we could maybe look to do something between the 3% and what he was asking. She also said that we should be looking at all salaries and benefits for all of our employees.

Roberge asked about the increase in the line for the Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Brown explained that it is just a more accurate split of time between Planning and Zoning and the Selectmen's office. You will see that the hours have been reduced in the Selectmen's line.

Board discussed the continued increase in the Cemetery's line items, especially the "Special Projects" line.

The Board would like to have them come in to a meeting at some point soon.

Brown suggested waiting to hear from the Budget Committee representative as to how they explain it to them before asking them to address the Board. Board agreed.

Quinlan mentioned the fact that the Board would not meet for 2 weeks because of the way the Holidays fall. Board decided to meet on Wednesday, January 3 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

9:10pm Chief Wilson came before the Board to talk about the \$10,000 overage on the pond project. \$5,000 will come from the donation that Joseph Carleton Jr. made to the Conservation Commission fund for that purpose, and the other \$5,000 +/- will be split between the Highway and Fire Departments. You will get an email from Joanne Draghetti with minutes showing that the CC voted "No Skating" on the pond this year.

8:30 pm As there was no further business before the Board, Roberge motioned, seconded by Esposito to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie M. Brown