

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes December 30, 2019

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge (by phone) and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board reviewed the minutes of 12/16/19. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes as amended. All in favor. Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest. Board reviewed and signed 2 Veterans credit forms and a Solar exemption application.

DPW Director, Ben Crosby, came before the Board to ask if he could use some of the unused money in his bottom-line budget to purchase a new bucket for the loader; the current bucket is cracked and in serious disrepair.

Esposito asked if the new bucket would fit on a new loader if necessary and was told yes.

Roberge said that she is not comfortable allowing the use of unused payroll, but if there is enough extra in other maintenance lines it would be ok. She also asked how long the crack has been there.

Crosby said that they were doing some routine maintenance and found the fatigue. Materials for repairing it would cost between \$1800 and \$2000. The new bucket is \$2500 from Chappell Tractor.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to allow Crosby to purchase a new bucket for the loader. All in favor.

Crosby then mentioned the flood light at the Still Good Shed being out. He got a quote to replace it with a 400-watt LED fixture for \$1298 (including the lift).

Esposito asked him to wait until next year.

Crosby said that he was able to use the Radio Maint. line to install the radio on the new truck, and that he has ordered one door for the highway garage and will buy the 2nd one next year.

7:15 PM Jay Wilson, representing the Conservation Commission came before the Board to explain that they hired Steve Trombley to finish up digging the overflow at Carleton Pond.

Esposito said that he has seen people skating on it and hopes the ice is safe.

Berry offered that we have had several really cold days recently; it should be safe.

Fire Ward, Randy Wilson handed in the Fire Department's last payroll and apologized that it was not in on time this morning. Office will run it in the morning and the Board will have to come in to sign the checks.

Chief Wilson let the Board know that the tanker is out for repair. Some of it is under warranty, and what isn't should be covered in our bottom-line budget. It is ready for pickup but we will get it on Thursday.

Berry asked if the tanks are plastic to save on weight?

Randy Wilson explained that it is easier to configure plastic rather than steel.

Chief Wilson said there is a bill coming in for \$200 for shelves in the Station; it should be put to Station Maintenance.

Esposito asked him to hold it for next year.

Wilson said that the Repair and Maintenance to the Station looks like it has gone over, but it is because of the insurance claim for the water damage.

Esposito said for the minutes, that he had met with Gary Daniels regarding the MACC report. Both I and the Wilton representative said that we don't know what to think since Milford hasn't made up their mind yet.

A week ago, a warrant article for \$2.4 million was put forth by the Milford Selectmen to purchase radio equipment for their communication center. We need to get an extension to the contract.

Roberge offered that she is fine with a 2-year extension. Milford did not opt out this year, which means it locks them into a 2-year contract, in effect.

Esposito said that we are moving forward with getting an antenna on the Lamson Farm tower, and with what we have now, we will be fully covered.

Roberge said that AT&T will be upgrading their equipment on that tower in 2020.

Esposito said that if Milford pulls out, there is no ownership of property: all the spots are leased, there may be \$200,000 in assets total.

Roberge wondered how valuable the licenses are. As for meeting with Wilton, I don't see the urgency.

Esposito said that we have to wait to see what the Milford voters do in March.

Esposito stated that when Chief Furlong came in and made his case for the 4th full-time officer he changed his mind when he heard that they are not always in Town when school is in session.

Roberge said that she thinks his presentation hit all of the Board's concerns. Are you thinking about going back on the purchase of a new cruiser or going ahead with both?

Esposito said that he talked to Chief Furlong who said that he is fine with putting the cruiser off until next year.

Roberge asked if the Board could have him re-look at his budget numbers with the reduction of part-time hours and taking out the cruiser.

Esposito remembered that the reduction in part-time hours were 6 hours/week.

Roberge said that he might not be comfortable with the full reduction.

Esposito did say that Furlong is supportive of the Town Hall remodel.

Esposito remarked that at the meeting at the library where they announced the \$1 million donation the Library people made it clear that they feel that we are in competition with them.

They have already raised \$2.2 million and have more grants in the works.

Roberge commented that the roads were not addressed soon enough on Friday.

8:55 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown