Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

 Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2020

Via Zoom – Selectman Moore, Selectman Moritz, Selectman Jensen.

Meeting opened at 6:00. Selectman Moore opened the meeting.

**Murals** – liability concerns. Jessica does not have insurance coverage on them. They would be covered under the town’s coverage with the possibility of raising the premium if there was a significant claim. Selectman Moritz said they are in Littleton and at the farmers market but feels if there is a disclosure that the town is not responsible if it is stolen or damaged, she is fine. April explained Primex will say having insurance is suggested but it will be covered no matter what. Selectman Jensen said he feels it is a small likelihood it wood cause injury to someone. Selectman Moritz moved to go ahead with murals previously approved. Selectman Jensen seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.

**Business Grants** – Selectman Moore said it is $20,000 from the Cares Act to give money to small businesses. Selectman Moritz said this money was surplus and would not have been utilized if they didn’t do these grants. Selectman Moore read the list of grants with the amounts. Barry Zitser asked if leftover money could be given to the school system and was told they have their own grants available. Selectman Jensen moved to approve the grants to the businesses form the funds that we would otherwise lose. **Selectman Moore seconded. Roll call – 2-0 – motion carried (Selectman Moritz recused).**

**Spectrum Contract** – Selectman Jensen said we have a 15-year contract and within that contract explains the criteria for getting their services if you are currently out of their covered area. The contract only covers cable tv but was bundled with internet at some point. The contract says spectrum will provide a written estimate to people if a house nearby has services. He was contacted by someone that does live nearby to someone who has Spectrum and Spectrum told them they would not provide an estimate. Selectman Jensen would like to write a letter to Spectrum. He said the attorney representing 13 towns up here has been trying for over a year to negotiate with Spectrum with no luck.

**Abatement/refund** – Taxes were paid twice. The map and lot number is 206/68 and the refund amount is $5949.95**. Selectman Moore moved to refund $5949.95. Selectman Moritz seconded. Roll call – all – Motion carried.**

Selectman Jensen said people have not submitted interest in being on the **grant committee** so would like to extend the due date to submit to the 10th. Selectman Moore does know of someone. The Board all agree to move it to the 10th.

**Public Input** – Allegra Wright discussed **littering.** She said with the marketing plan to bring people here it doesn’t help that it looks like crap. Selectman Moore explained the Conservation Commission does a roadside cleanup day every year but due to the pandemic it wasn’t as effective this year. Ms. Wright said the problem is more than visitors coming and littering on a regular basis. Selectman Jensen said police can’t do anything unless it was witnessed. Someone suggested placing video cameras up to try to see who is doing it. Debbie Bayley suggested putting signs up. Peter Roy said he has worked at the courts for 10 years now and has only seen maybe a handful of littering cases. He said it is a minor issue for police to deal with and have more important things to do but if they did fine one person maybe word would get out and it would be a deterrent. Selectman Moritz suggested putting up signs and post what the fine amount is which she thinks is $250.00. Harry Newell looked it up and the fine is up to $1000.00. Selectman Moore will talk with Police Chief Demo. Mr. Roy said a bear destroyed his game camera. Selectman Jensen will talk with Brett Jackson about putting up signs in problem areas. Selectman Moritz said we dump a lot on the highway dept., and they are understaffed. She suggested asking Tim from the Rec Dept. She said Tim has done other signs for the town. Lorraine Phillips said she is the one who contacted Spectrum about extending from the house next door and said they wouldn’t even consider it. She said these companies need to be made more accountable. Need to put pressure on the state about it. Debbie – something being done about Spectrum? Is someone going forward with it? Selectman Jensen said people in a neighborhood need to get people together and contact Spectrum.

Barry Zitser – can the **surplus cares act money be used for the food bank or for masks**. Selectman Moritz said money was used to purchase PPE. Selectman Jensen asked if the food pantry is well funded and was told it is with food and money.

**Selectman Moritz moved to approve the minutes from 07/23/20. Selectman Jensen seconded. Roll Call – all – motion carried.**

**At 6:46 Selectman Moore moved to go into non-public per RSA 91A:3 II (a) for personnel. Selectman Moritz seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

The Board discussed personnel.

**At 7:02 Selectman Moore moved to adjourn. Selectman Moritz seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant