

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD

Wednesday, June 24, 2020,

6:00pm at the Recreation Room

Present: Damon Frampton, Chair, Tom Maher, Selectman, Bill Stewart, Selectman, Steve Tabbutt, DPW, Police Chief Don White, Fire Chief Ted Hartmann, Christiane McAllister, Town Accountant, Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board and Jennifer Smith, Recording Secretary.

Chair Frampton opened the Public Hearing to the public at 6:00 PM by reading into the record the public hearing notice for the proposed establishment of a fee schedule as provided by RSA 41:9-a.

Ms. Cullen inquired if the Town has continued to have issues with accidental/false alarms.

Chief White responded that they have not been as frequent and that he felt the proposed fine was fine.

Ms. McAllister stated that Fire Chief Hartmann had informed her that it is not a common occurrence to meet the threshold of 5 false alarms.

Selectman Stewart made a motion to close the public discussion portion of the hearing for this agenda item, which was seconded by Selectman Maher. Selectman Stewart voted yes, Selectman Maher voted yes, and Chair Frampton voted yes. The Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Maher stated that based on the recommendation of the Town Accountant, Christiane McAllister, he is in favor of ratifying the presented fee schedule.

Chairman Frampton expressed his concern with the increase in the Senior Citizen fee to \$5 to enter The Common and questioned whether the Board should consider allowing Seniors in for free. He further opined that due to Covid most elderly might prefer to simply drive through versus staying in the park.

Selectman Stewart stated that the rationale was that \$5 would be in line with the General Admission fee of \$10 and that residents would still be able to enter the Common for free.

Selectman Maher stated that he did not believe the fee to be punitive and that \$5 is fine.

Selectman Stewart recalled that the fee was also based on the knowledge that the driver would be charged the Senior rate but passengers could include others, such as grandchildren, who would not be charged additionally for entrance.

Chief White informed those present that normally the elderly are allowed to drive in free if they do not intend to stay.

Selectman Maher asked how much the fee is for a non-resident sticker.

Ms. Cullen responded that the fee is \$40 for a Senior Citizen.

Selectman Maher stated that a \$20 threshold would only make sense if there were 5 or more passengers in a vehicle and that the \$10 fee had been established for the simplicity of getting vehicles in and out with minimum face time with staff. He further stated that he was satisfied with the proposed rates of \$10/\$5.

Selectman Stewart stated that he was comfortable with the proposed rates and that if need be the Select Board has the flexibility due to Covid to modify the rates at any time prior to another public hearing.

Mr. McGuckin questioned whether the Select Board must normally have a public hearing anytime they would want to adjust fees.

Selectman Stewart responded "yes".

Chairman Frampton stated that he was satisfied with the proposed fees.

Ms. McAllister explained that the only fee that did not exist prior to this proposal was the returned check fee for insufficient funds.

Selectman Maher made a motion to accept the Town of New Castle Fee Schedule as presented. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion. Selectman Maher voted yes, Selectman Stewart voted yes, and Chair Frampton voted yes. The Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and duly seconded to close the public hearing for this matter. Said motion carried unanimously and the public hearing closed at 6:15pm.

Chair Frampton opened the Public Hearing at 6:17 PM by reading into the record the public hearing notice for the following proposed amendment to the Ordinances of the Town of New Castle by adding the following new paragraph to Section II, Streets and Roads.

1. Section II 13. Penalty. Any persons found in violation of Section II will be fined not more than \$100 for each offense. In addition, any vehicle or motor vehicles in violation of this section may be towed away at the expense of the owner.

With no public comment, Chairman Frampton closed the public participation portion of the meeting at 6:17pm.

Selectman Maher asked Chief White if he was amiable to raising the parking fines to \$100 and further stated that he felt the current fine of \$25 is more an inconvenience for people, more a paring fee than a deterrent.

Chief White expressed his support of the proposed increase stating that it would keep the Town consistent with the surrounding communities.

Chairman Frampton asked if this proposed fine would include fire hydrant violations.

Chief White responded "no".

Selectman Stewart made a Motion to approve the proposed ordinance amendment, which was seconded by Selectman Maher. Selectman Stewart voted yes, Selectman Maher voted yes, and Chair Frampton voted yes. The Motion carried unanimously.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Maher made a Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Selectman Maher voted yes, Selectman Stewart voted yes, and Chair Frampton voted yes. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting closed at 6:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Smith, Recording Secretary