

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday August 3, 2020, 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

Present: William Stewart, Chair, Tom Maher, Selectman, Dave McGuckin, Selectman, and Jennifer Smith, Recording Secretary.

Also present: Zoom audience

Chairman Stewart explained the nature of the meeting, indicating it is considered an Emergency Meeting which meets all the State requirements of posting, and noted the availability of a phone number to call if a participant could not connect via Zoom.

Chairman Stewart opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of July 6, 2020 and July 20, 2020

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the Select Board Meetings of July 6, 2020 and July 20, 2020 as amended. Selectman McGuckin seconded said motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Questions and Answers.

Selectman McGuckin stated that he was asked by Laurie Clark, 50 Laurel Lane, to present to the Select Board a request from the Portsmouth Yacht Club to use the Rec Building for its annual meeting.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Select Board has not approved any similar requests thus far and that if the PYC could come back in the fall with their request, things may change by then.

Selectman Maher agreed with Chairman Stewart.

Selectman McGuckin stated that he had informed Ms. Clark as much, but wanted to confirm with the Board.

3. New Business.

a. Alternate date for 9/27/20 BOS meeting

Chairman Stewart stated that the Select Board's first meeting in September falls on the Labor Day holiday and that the following day is the State Primary.

Selectman Maher made a motion to change the date of the Select Board's first meeting in September from Monday, September 7th to Tuesday, September 1st. Selectman McGuckin seconded the motion. Said motion carried unanimously.

b. Emergency Management – Hazard Mitigation Grant acceptance

Ted Hartmann, Fire Chief, stated that essentially the Town had elected to not have the Rockingham Planning Commission complete the nuts and bolts of hazard mitigation and instead have chosen to use an existing consultant the Town is engaged with on another grant-based project update.

Chief Hartmann further stated that this vote of the Select Board would be to formally accept the terms of the Hazard Mitigation Grant, as well as authorize him to be the main signatory for the grant.

Selectman McGuckin asked if the Town was switching to private consultation because the Rockingham Planning Commission was no longer performing the role adequately.

Chief Hartmann responded that the Rockingham Planning Commission's burden is that they have a lot of communities to serve. This grant will allow the Town access to a consultant that will give the Town 100% of her attention.

Chairman Stewart stated that the cost will be no different no matter who the Town uses.

Chief Hartmann stated that the cost of the private consultant through the grant will actually be less expensive.

Chairman Stewart stated that the matching funds could be in kind.

Chief Hartmann confirmed, stating that there will be no out of pocket expenses for the Town involved with the grant.

Derrick Hill, 300 Wentworth Road, questioned why the Select Board would not use the free services of University of New Hampshire instead of a consultant.

Chairman Stewart explained that the plan the Town creates uses data from UNH modeling as well as from FEMA. The Department of Transportation looks for information that shows real need and is another tool for the Town. Each town has to draft their own hazardous mitigation plan.

Selectman Maher made a motion to accept the terms of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program as presented in the amount of \$6,999.75 and to update the Town of New Castle Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and to accept the total cost of this project being \$9,333.00, in which the Town will be responsible for 25% match equaling \$2,333.25, with Fire Chief Ted Hartmann being the main signatory for the grant.

Selectman McGuckin seconded said motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Covid Response

Selectman Maher stated that he and Selectman McGuckin have been participating in weekly discussions with the surrounding seacoast communities, as well as the Department of NH State Parks. These discussions have generally been about parking and the handling of crowds.

Selectman McGuckin stated, that with the exception of the Town of Rye because of its vast number of roadways to consider, the discussions have led him to believe that things are going relatively well along the seacoast.

Selectman Maher stated that the number of active cases for NH on July 6th was 838, two weeks later the number was 565 and today the number is 395 active cases. He further stated that the numbers are still more prevalent along the Route 93 corridor vs. the Route 95 corridor. Selectman Maher opined that what is being done is working and that we all should continue to vigilant.

Chief Hartmann stated that his office still continues to actively monitor what is going on with area towns.

Selectman Maher suggested that the Town streamline its procurement of PPE as the fall draws near.

Chief Hartmann stated that while there are different vendor options for the Fire Department due to more stringent requirements for their PPE, he would be willing to help find appropriate vendors for the Town's PPE needs as well.

4. Old Business.

a. Trash/Recycling – Contract

Chairman Stewart stated that he was hoping to have the proposed Casella contract available for review for this evening's meeting, but the contract is still with Casella's legal department. He further stated that it is his belief that the contract will mirror what was discussed in the Select Board's last meeting, namely a 4-year contract with a 5th year option. He informed the Board that this is competitive with other vendors.

Selectman Maher stated that in the Board's previous discussion every arrow pointed towards not recycling as being the most cost-effective course of action. Selectman Maher asked if the Chair had received any further guidance on recycling vs. trash collection.

Chairman Stewart responded that currently it is less expensive to landfill (\$85/ton) vs. recycling (\$100/ton). In the future, the market may get better and we will continually get

guidance from the contractor on that. He stated that the Town really needs to do some education with the residents because currently the Town is still being charged recycling fees but the items are being disposed of as trash because they are not being recycled properly. He further stated that the Town could also explore the option of composting in the future.

Selectman McGuckin asked if Casella would offer composting as an option.

Chairman Stewart responded that he did not believe so, that composting would have to be contracted with another vendor.

Selectman Maher questioned if Casella will provide the Town with periodic reports indicating any changes to the recycling market.

Selectman Stewart stated that the Town will receive updates on the ACR, Average Commodity Revenue. The ACR is basically what the market is paying for recycled products. Casella will give us what that blended standard rate is, allowing us to audit the situation.

Selectman McGuckin asked if the Select Board will get quarterly reports on how much trash the Town disposes of.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Town gets a detailed invoice every month.

5. Committee Reports

Selectman McGuckin read the Fire Department's month end report for the record.

Chairman Stewart read the Police Department's month end report for the record.

Chairman Stewart stated that the detour on Route 1B for the Water Project will begin shortly and last for approximately a week to a week and a half. He also stated that water will be temporarily shut off on Bos'n's Hill and a few other streets in that vicinity tomorrow due to tapping into the new main in those locations. Residents were informed by door knockers.

Selectman McGuckin requested that Chairman Stewart inform the contractor at his next meeting with them that there are a couple of sink holes on the causeway that need to be filled in.

Chairman Stewart responded that he would have the contractor take a look at them. He further stated that the contractor will be doing finished paving on the causeway this winter to ensure it is in good shape for plowing, but the entire project will not be done paving until next year.

Mr. Hill, stated that by 7am every morning his house is filled with dust. He stated that there has been zero mitigation for dust control or noise control during the project. He asked if the contractor could be a little more responsible with both issues and asked if the engineer could step up his quality control. As an engineer himself, he questioned the process of the backfilling of the trenches, saying he had not witnessed a water truck during the process and that without water you cannot get density in layers. It appeared everything had been done by "remove and replace" by bringing in dry product. He explained that if you have a sink hole after paving has been completed, that is a telltale sign that there has been a lack of compacted effort. Mr. Hill further opined that if this is not all settled out prior to the full paving being completed on the causeway the Town will end up with a really bad road.

Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Hill for the information and stated that he will discuss the matters with the contractor.

Selectman McGuckin stated that the Town has a Noise Ordinance and no construction should be starting before 7am.

Beth Barnhorst, 14 Pit Lane, expressed her support for Mr. Hill's comments.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Adjourn at 7:50 pm, which was seconded by Selectman Maher. Said motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Smith,
Recording Secretary