

**Officially Approved by the Board**  
**Town of New Castle Board of Selectmen Meeting**  
**Public Session: 7:00 p.m.**  
**August 17, 2020**

**Board Members:**

Mr. William Stewart, Chair - absent  
Mr. Thomas Maher  
Mr. Dave McGuckin

**Others:**

Ms. Jennifer Smith, Administrative Assistant, Select Board  
Ms. Amelia Trapp, Board Secretary, Town of New Castle Select Board

Selectman Maher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 2 members were present, and a quorum was established. They are holding the meetings under remote per the Governor's emergency order of the amount of people able to meet.

**Approval of Select Board Minutes:**

August 3, 2020 – They chose to table the minutes until the next meeting as the chairman is not able to attend this evening.

**Public Comments:**

**Damon Frampton** – He asked where the town stood on Consolidated Communications proposal for new phones and the cable going to the gatehouse. Selectman Maher said it was almost an agenda item this evening. Mr. Ken McDonald gave an update this evening. He said they had been delayed due to Covid. Consolidated Communications could not do an on-site assessment due to social distancing. They conducted pre-work and are now starting on-site visits.

They will review the logistics to move ahead with the installation of the service as well as updated internet service. They are aiming to have an update by tomorrow. Selectman Maher said he hopes to have an update at the next meeting (September 1). Mr. McDonald said they are putting a CAT 5 cable in the gatehouse to help with POS system to accept credit cards as well as expand the internet broadband in the Recreation center that would benefit the public as well as any voting event that would occur there.

Mr. Frampton thanked him for the update. He hoped they would open the common soon and whatever is decided to get everything running, he supported individuals still being allowed to work at the gatehouse. Selectman McGuckin said they had stopped charging at the end of the month nearing the end of summer. Selectman Maher was concerned with not having enough staff to cover the gatehouse.

**Terri Golter** – She asked how much the new firetruck was for the town. Selectman McGuckin said it was about \$26,000. He did not know why it was purchased but the cost of the truck had been retrieved from the town accountant. Selectman Maher said it was a request made

by the fire chief about 10 months ago. There was a concern with needing a truck to move gear post fire-call.

Mr. Smith said there had been a rescue vehicle that was no longer used, and it was in the CIP to be able to purchase. The second truck was a crew cab with the intention to hold more firemen than the other vehicle to assist in a fire. Former Select Board Member Damon Frampton also confirmed the truck went through both the CIP and Budget Committee approval process.

**Pam Cullen** – She had submitted a building permit before Covid and now is concerned with the new building inspector. Selectman McGuckin said the town had hired a part-time building inspector and will start August 3. He is undergoing a criminal background check. He also has extensive experience in town inspections. Ms. Cullen is concerned with having a new person on her property that she does not know. Selectman Maher credited Selectman McGuckin for expediting the effort to screen the candidates and interview individuals for the job. Selectman Maher added the reason we have someone coming on board so quickly is due to Selectman McGuckin's focus and hard work. He thanked him for making it happen so quickly and smoothly.

**Beth Barnhorst** – She is concerned with the public community not adhering to the governor's emergency order about wearing masks during events. She feels they are not taking the Covid situation seriously. She felt they can do more in keeping people informed. Selectman McGuckin appreciated her comments and said they are all concerned.

However, they have little if any say at all with what people do on their own property. The governor can issue a mandate, but it was not the town's responsibility to enforce it. Ms. Barnhorst said they could mandate it by fining townspeople for not following the governor's mandate. Selectman McGuckin said they could investigate it.

**Curt Springer** – He said he was happy to hear that they were following RSA 91-A when they interviewed people. He asked about Portsmouth taking over New Castle's water main and the requisitions about it. Selectman Maher said that Portsmouth had no real benefit to do this other than take over New Castle's responsibility.

Discussions have been open with Portsmouth about this for the past several years. It is an ongoing process that continues to occur. Selectman McGuckin said many of the discussions centered around Portsmouth improving New Castle's water line. It needed to go through several levels of approval in the town of Portsmouth. Their expectation is that in 2022, they would have a specific time frame for the project to occur.

### **New Business:**

- ≠ **Covid Update** – There are zero cases in the town of New Castle. There were 800 cases in the State of New Hampshire and two weeks later, there were 500 cases; the number of active cases continues to decrease and currently, there are 279 cases total in the State of New Hampshire. The efforts of the people of NH are showing in the reduction of cases. Neither of the Chiefs were able to attend the meeting to give any additional update.

- ≠ **Department of Public Works (DPW) Update/Town Hall Work** – DPW is working on the Town Hall by painting three sides of the town hall. A contract has been signed with a painting company to paint in late September. DPW has also engaged a contractor to work on the chimney removal as well as fixing the south facing side of Town Hall. They will be looking for any other signs of disrepair to ensure the building is properly repaired.
- ≠ **TAP Grant** – Ken McDonald and Ben Jankowski have met their qualifications for certification to work with the Grant Manager on this project. They will be working with any land abutters who are going to be impacted by the project. The Qualified Base Selection is a part of the process of the TAP Grant. Mr. McDonald said they needed three qualified consultants but have only received two. They have permission from the TAP Grant Manager to proceed with the two bidding firms. They are on to the scoring piece and have forwarded the questions they want to use for the scores and selection process. They are working as quickly as they can regardless of Covid restrictions.

### **No Old Business**

### **No Committee Reports**

### **Future Meeting Dates: Remote Platform @ 7:00 p.m.**

September 1, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
September 21, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
October 5, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
October 19, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

**Selectman Maher made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Selectman McGuckin. A roll call vote was taken, and both members were in favor. The Selectmen Board Meeting on August 17, 2020 was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**