

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, September 3, 2019 – 7PM

Present: Damon Frampton, Chair, Tom Maher, Selectman, Bill Stewart, Selectman, and Pam Cullen, Secretary.

Also present: Fire Chief Ted Hartnett, Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to Select Board, Christiane McAllister, Accountant, Don White, Police Chief, Cody Lightfoot, Police Officer, John Ireland, Nancy and Alex Vailas, Darcy Horgan, Mark Lacasse, Laurie and Clark Chandler, Rep. Kate Murray, Nancy DeLeeuw, Dave McGuckin, Jim Burns, and Jenny Rosenson.

1. Approve Select Board Minutes of August 19, 2019: Table to Next Meeting.

2. Public Questions and Answers: None.

3. New Business.

a. Avitar software: Ken McDonald.

In Ken's absence, Pam Cullen reported on the status of the new software. Avitar representative installed the new software today, but there are still a lot of logistics to figure out before moving forward. Ken should have the answers for the net meeting. Selectman Stewart asked when the representative would be coming back in, as he wishes to speak with him. Tuesdays will be the designated days when the representative will be in to work on the software.

b. Deer Update.

Chair Frampton asked if any members of the public wished to speak on this issue. Jenny Rosenson, 32 Quarter Deck Lane, stated she had researched State RSA's in an effort to bring some clarity to the subject. She said that while it is unlawful to hunt on an island, ambiguity exists with respect to New Castle and the surrounding small islands, some of which are privately owned. She noted that the Director of Fish and Game could open and close a season at any time. She is looking for solutions, and asked if the Town had found out any more information on how this could be resolved. Chair Frampton stated that hunting is prohibited on the other islands that surround New Castle. Chair Frampton stated he conferred with Lt. Jeremy Hawk of Fish and Game and Chief White but stressed the whole issue is not clear. Jenny pointed out that with the privately owned islands, the owners can give permission to hunt, despite the fact that its unlawful to hunt on an island. Chair Frampton noted that in New Castle, if the homeowner does not have the requisite 300 feet from a dwelling for hunting deer with bow and arrow, he or she can't give permission to hunt. Otherwise if they do meet the 300 foot requirement they can give permission. The Select Board will post the Town owned property, and the Police Dept. has reached out to homeowners to inform them that if they don't want hunters on their property, to post accurate, legal signs. Chief White stated that postings had already started, and signs were available for owners outside of the Post Office.

Selectman Maher asked Chief White for some statistics on the deer population. There were approximately 18 killed, some of which were hit by vehicles. Some found had been shot,

some injured fawns, but primarily they were struck by motor vehicles. He noted that many people don't report deer strikes. Selectman Maher asked Re. Murray for her input. She indicated that things have settled somewhat from the hyperbole and exaggerations on both sides of the issue. She indicated that owners who do not want hunters on their property, to properly post signage. If a citizen has any questions, they can reach out to the Town for assistance.

One resident stated she believes the matter is best dealt with locally, and not involve the State at every turn.

Selectman Stewart stated that there had not been significant issues with hunting in the past. He explained how the State grants tags for a particular wildlife management area. New Castle is in the "M" section, which includes surrounding communities. The Town will continue to deal with the issues, and appreciates the concerns of both sides of the issue. He does view hunting on the island as a safety issue for residents. He also spoke about the deer population and it migrating back and forth between the surrounding areas. There isn't an accurate count at this point. The approximate number of 20-25 fluctuates as the deer migrate back and forth between island, mainland and New Castle. Chief White noted that the population this past year is down. There are three coyotes on the island, and Mother Nature is dealing with the process of culling the herd. Now the issue is the rabbit population due to the foxes being gone because of the coyotes. It's a delicate balance.

c. Fire Panel and Detection Equipment.

Selectman Maher and Fire Chief Ted Hartman reported on the status of replacing the aged detection equipment at the Rec Building. Chief Hartman reported that it needs to be replaced in kind. Selectman Maher had received quotes last August in the amount of \$17,000 last year to \$18,000 presently. This was from the company who replaced the equipment at Town Hall. (Tri State. now called Impact)). He suggested that the Board get a couple of more comprehensive, competitive quotes for the work. Chief Hartman said the current equipment has aged and repairs had not been kept up, so the need is there to replace with new equipment. Dave McGuckin suggested checking with the school to find out who they used in replacing the detection equipment at the school.

d. Cemetery Trustee.

Selectman Maher noted that long time trustee Jim Cerny has submitted his resignation and there is an immediate need for a replacement. Jim pointed out that under NH RSA's, the Select Board can take over this function. He also stated Holly Fraumeni is an alternate who, if asked, may be willing to take over. There can be up to two alternates. Pam Cullen noted Jim's length of service and the Board congratulated and thanked him for all of his work. The position will be up for election on the ballot at Town Meeting, and Jim noted it would make sense to find someone who would be willing to start right away, and then stand for election. Pam Cullen is actively seeking candidates, and has spoken with Ken McDonald, TAPC, to possibly assist as the remaining two trustees have a lot to do, and it is a significant position. Jim has also tried to find a replacement, to no avail. Mark Lacasse asked how much time is involved, and what some of the duties are. Laurie Chandler also asked for a list to be given to Pam so there is something concrete for people to review. Jim has made a

list and will share. He noted that each trustee has different responsibilities. After further discussion, the Board agreed to actively seek a suitable replacement.

e. Water Sewer Update.

Selectman Stewart stated there is a meeting tomorrow the low bid contractor and Underwood to go through the project, and identify any possible changes. The bid at this point does not include the loop connections. It basically covers the transmission main From Pierce Island to and through Town. He stated there have been letters sent out to the landowners in the private loops regarding the surveys and seeking permission from them for the contractor to access their properties. He hopes to reach out to the owners again in the next few months.

With respect to the meeting tomorrow, there will be discussions on opportunities to save money as some of the items were high, such as paving costs. Selectman Maher recalled that the temporary water issue should be discussed. Jim Cerny asked about the Shapleigh Island piece and the status with Portsmouth. Selectman Stewart stated there is nothing finalized, but there are some general understandings. It is not on Portsmouth's list to replace that line, so if New Castle goes forward percentages of who pays what amount still needs to be finalized. He hopes to get a better read after tomorrow's meeting.

John Ireland asked about the meter pits. Bill said the plan is to leave the large meters in case there is a break, but no flow meter will be used for readings. He said the agreement is open for review, but the red-line version with comments by Water Sewer Commission and legal counsel is ready to go to Portsmouth. John Ireland and Chair Frampton both indicated that the Commission was in favor of keeping the meters. Bill noted that it was the first time he heard that Commission's position, as they had reviewed, commented on all of the plans and the water agreement with Portsmouth previously.

Dave McGuckin asked about the start date. Bill said that part of the discussion tomorrow would be whether to start in the fall or early spring or perhaps do some other work in the fall, what is called "pre-work" such as the pits or Shapleigh or hangars. The bid heavy work would begin in the spring. He noted that the State DOT is complicating matters by starting work on the second bridge next spring which will be a factor to deal with. John Ireland said there needs to be a resolution of the meter issue if Shapleigh Island work starts. Bill stated he feels the issue is resolved but is amenable to having further discussions on the meter issue.

With respect to the Sewer Project SRF loan applications, Bill reported that New Castle was below the line for funding on the sewer loan, however other projects could drop off making New Castle Eligible. If so we would hear in December or January. Our application was to replace the sewer line across the bridge as well as additional force main analysis and review.

4. Committee Reports

a. Fire Department: Selectman Maher

(Full Report as Attachment A.)

Selectman Maher gave top line numbers excerpted from report for August 6- Sept 3rd:
There were 28 calls for service, 9 for medical aid, fire alarm activation 12,
Assist other agency 2, check hazardous condition- 5, average personnel per incident, 2.
The remainder is included in the full report.

b. Police Report: Selectman Stewart

(Full Report as Attachment B.)

Biggest: Building and property checks at 180, Fire and medical 17, school crossing at 24.
Single digits for other issues. Chief White reminded the Board and is excited about
Sunday's event and urged all to attend. The hours are 4-7.

Selectman Maher spoke about long time resident and meeting attendee, Andy Schulte's
recent health issue and wished him a speedy recovery.

Kevin McGee has been hired as a police officer and will begin the academy this January.

There being no further business to come before the Select Board, Selectman Maher made a
Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Jane Riordan
Recording Secretary

Attachments A&B. (Fire and Police Reports)