

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, March 2, 2020 – 7PM

Present: Damon Frampton, Chair, Tom Maher, Selectman, Bill Stewart, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Chief Ted Hartmann, Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board, Christiane McAllister, Accountant, Ken McDonald TAPC, Dr. Jim Zuckerman, Health Officer, Dick White, Bill Cronin, Marcia Cronin, Peter Rice, Dave McGuckin, Tom Smith, Jim Cerny, John Ireland, Ann Miller, Ann and Mike McAndrew, Marcia Cronin, Andy Schulte, Jim Rini, Astrid Weider, Carl Roediger, Terry and Teddy Golter.

Chair Frampton opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of February 3, 2020.

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting of February 3, 2020. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Questions and Answers.

Pam Cullen spoke about the following items:

a. Official Resident Stickers:

Pam stated that the new resident stickers are in and available at Town Hall. Paul Hamblett had suggested changing the logo and once more Jenny Rosenson created a wonderful design.

b. Private vs. public roads:

Pam stated that she received a telephone call from Attorney Steven Hyde representing a buyer on Spring Hill Road, and his question was whether it was a private or public road. When she replied it was a private road, he informed her of a statute passed in 2019, NH RSA 231:81-a, "Repair of Roads Not Maintained by a Municipality". (Attachment to these minutes).

3. New Business.

a. Casella-Richard Moriarty: Change of date for rubbish pick up and Green Waste options.

Casella would like to change the day from Thursday to Monday for garbage pick up. His reason is they have fewer pick-ups on Monday. He understands if no one wants it there is no problem. There are only 2 Monday holidays, so that would not be a problem. They will do a publication and perhaps a direct mail notice to residents of the change, should the Select Board agree. After discussion, the Select Board will take this change under advisement and will make a decision by the next meeting. Pam Cullen also said the website would be updated as well. She has polled some people who did not have any objection. Mr. Moriarty and another Casella representative discussed the Green Waste situation. They can't pick up grass clippings and tree limbs under the current contract but could come up with a quote for a separate pick which could be curbside, or bring in trucks to haul away

the material. Currently New Castle does its own Green Waste Days approximately 7 times per year, where they rent a dumpster and residents deposit their green waste. Selectman Stewart would like a quote to compare what the Town presently does with whatever Casella could provide. Jim Cerny questioned the recycling program, and was referred to Casella's website. Which has informative links.

b. Coronavirus. Dr. Zuckerman and Chief Hartmann

Selectman Maher met with both Dr. Zuckerman and Fire Chief Hartmann earlier today to discuss preparations for dealing with the virus given the rapid escalation of the past few days, and to speak to the public about precautionary and preparatory plans. Dr. Zuckerman began the presentation talking about prior viruses and how the coronavirus Covid -19 may be very different in two respects: It has a high fatality rate and is 20 times as lethal. It is also infectious even without symptoms for 3-14 days. He explained the importance of social distancing in dealing with community spread. He handed out an informative sheet and commended Chief Hartmann for his excellent 2-page handout. Selectman Maher asked Chief Hartmann to present his information, as a first responder.

Chief Hartmann began his presentation by referring to his document which contains an overview as well as resources. Close attention is being paid and coordination is taking place with State and Federal officials. Protective equipment has been loaded onto the trucks, and infectious disease protocols have been communicated and posted. He encouraged the public to review the document. Selectman Maher stated that the concern is if someone is symptomatic what is the best way for them to approach the health care system. Dr. Zuckerman said that officials are telling people not to approach the ER's or commercial entities like Urgent Care. They could easily be overwhelmed. But obviously ER's are still an option in an emergency. He stated this is the time to make sure you are connected to your health care system, such as your primary care physician or health care provider. Selectman Maher stated the Town will be posting information on the website and stressed that the Town is fully involved in emergency preparedness.

c. Library lighting.

Ann McAndrew submitted a statement regarding the need for improved lighting at the Library. Selectman Maher stated he is already working with Ken McDonald, TAPC, on rectifying the problems.

d. Public Safety.

Chair Frampton recognized Peter Rice to speak on public safety. Mr. Rice read his statement into the record, and presented a document of No Confidence in Chief Hartmann to the Select Board.

Speaking as a 20 year volunteer member of the Fire Department, he noted that he and other members of the department have previously appeared before the Select Board to make them aware of what he termed serious issues within the department which he and others attribute to the actions of Chief Hartmann's questionable management practices and a lack of leadership. He noted that volunteers suffer from low morale and disillusionment and currently there is a lack of needed training. As no change has been forthcoming, he and

those whom he represents believe there are no other options available other than to submit the No Confidence document to the Select Board.

At the conclusion of Mr. Rice's remarks, Chair Frampton stated he strongly disagrees and stated the Select Board has complete faith in Chief Hartmann, and suggested that Mr. Rice work with the Chief. Selectman Maher agreed, and wondered if the expressed anger is really directed at the Select Board, and if so, then he doubted it would make any difference no matter who was in the position. Selectman Stewart also expressed his confidence in the Chief, and noted that the Town is going through a process of moving forward and trying to do the best they can.

e. Town Mileage Policy.

Chair Frampton stated that this policy has been finalized, noting that Volunteers will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Selectman Stewart read the policy into the record:

If an employee uses their personal vehicle in the course of conducting Town business, the expense shall be reimbursed according to the following:

- a. Whenever possible, employees will use Town vehicles for job related travel. No expense may be charged for travel when a Town owned vehicle is used with the exception of parking fees and tolls when applicable.*
- b. With prior approval by the Department Head and/or Select Board, necessary travel in the employee's vehicle shall be reimbursed at the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate plus charges for tolls and/or parking. No travel expense shall be allowed between the employee's residence and their department office or post of duty. Evidence of vehicle insurance to include liability and property damage must be on file with the Selectmen for any personal vehicle used for town business. On-going incidental mileage should be tracked monthly and submitted on the Incidental Mileage Reimbursement Form at month end.*

Employees using a personal vehicle for Town business are expected to follow Town policies for seat belt use and reporting of accidents as addressed in this manual. (Elected or appointed officials are not covered by employee policies, but may on a case by case basis request from the Select Board to have mileage expenses charged to the Town in the form of reimbursement or other agreed upon format.

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Adopt the Town Mileage Policy as presented and read. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried.

f. Town Report.

Pam Cullen recommended that this year the Town Report not be hand delivered, but in the alternative, be made available at Town Hall, the Library and other public locations for people to come pick up. She noted it is prohibitively expensive to mail them, and there is no one who was willing to deliver them this year.

g. Census Request.

Pam Cullen reported that she has been contacted by the person from the US Census Bureau who wished to hold a job fair to recruit census takers for New Castle, and would like to use

a room in Town Hall for this purpose. After discussion, the Select Board agreed to the request. Dave McGuckin suggested advertising this on the website.

h. Water Sewer Update.

Selectman Stewart stated the 50-50 cost sharing with Portsmouth for the work to be done between Shapleigh and Pierce Island has been finalized. Alternative One will commence in April or early May. Granese was awarded this contract which is separate from the main contract. A preconstruction meeting has been held. Paul Hamblett questioned the status of the budget and costs for the project. Selectman Stewart replied that the main project is approximately \$250,000 short. This includes the main line and the looping. The other source of funds is for private roads. He noted the Town could go for an additional warrant article next year, without disrupting the process. He stated that were we to borrow additional funds the interest rate would remain the same. He also stated the contractor will hold his price. He reported there no price yet on the loops.

i. Town Accountant Report.

Christiane reported on two months of her office activities for January and February 2020. The complete report is attached to the minutes and contains examples of the quantity of work done in the Accounting Office.

4. Committee Reports.

a. Fire Department:

Selectman Maher gave the highlights of the report:

Calls for Service: 12

Medical 4, Fire alarm activation 5, assist other agency 2, check hazardous condition 1.

Budget remaining 55%.

b. Police Department

Selectman Stewart gave the highlights of the report:

Building and Property checks: 143

Traffic Stops 41

Traffic enforcement 37

Total Calls: 272

Full Fire and Police Reports are attachments.

5. Old Business: None

6. Adjourn

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.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 PM

Attachments:

Fire Dept. Report
Police Dept. Report
Accountant's Report
RSA 231:81-a.