

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD**  
**Monday April 20, 2020, 7:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

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

**Also present:** Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board, Dave McGuckin, Dick and Emilie Spaulding, Mark Gardner, Tom Smith, Ann Miller, Wally Mallet, Andy Schulte.

Selectman 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.

Chair Frampton opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

- 1. Approve Select Board minutes of April 6, 2020. Tabled to next meeting.**
- 2. Public Questions and Answers. Selectman Stewart unmuted the participants.**

**a. Garbage Pick-up change.**

Wally Mallet asked the Select Board to address the issue of why the pick-up day was changed from Thursday to Mondays. Chair Frampton stated that Casella (Town contracted provider) proposed the day to make it easier for their company, but if it were a problem for the Town, they would keep it on Thursdays. The new pick-up date will begin Monday May 4, 2020. The main comment from residents was assurance that the same people would be doing the pick-up. There are only two Mondays where due to holidays they would pick up on Tuesdays. (Christmas and New Year's Day if they fall on a Monday.) Wally noted they are doing a good job. Selectman Maher noted that residents had no problem with change of day, only wanting assurance that the same crew would be picking up. This came mainly from dog owners.

**3. New Business.**

**a. Budget and Warrant articles.**

Selectman Stewart noted the budget committee floated the idea of a potential warrant article to increase wages for all elected officials. However, after discussion, decided to review the issue next year. The issue of Town clerk hours and compensation were also raised during the budget committee meeting. Tom Smith, Budget Chairman, stated next Tuesday's meeting will be wrapping up the budget, but if needed, the following Tuesday is available. Pam Cullen asked about the playground warrant article. Selectman Stewart stated that would be discussed at the Budget Committee Meeting. Mr. Smith did state that issue was covered.

**b. Town Calendar.**

Selectman Stewart asked Pam Cullen, Select Board Admin, to elaborate on this item. She stated that it had to do with the timing of publishing warrant articles and Town Report 15 days before Town Meeting, the final date not being certain. Selectman Stewart said that the

Town meeting date has been changed and is now set for June 23, 2020. He emphasized the need to hold a Public Hearing on the budget, but that as of this date the State has not provided clear guidance on the legality and the methods to hold a proper public hearing during the current State of Emergency. Pam asked about the voting and business sections of the upcoming Town Meeting in light of the information provided by Town Moderator John Poisson at the April 6<sup>th</sup> Select Board Meeting. While she understands the business section would be moved to June 23<sup>rd</sup>, she asked what would happen with the voting portion. Selectman Stewart noted the election can only be postponed the day before the scheduled Town Election for the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting is May 11. Postponements can happen only in two-week intervals. The expectation of the Board is that the meeting will be postpone three times (6 weeks) with the meeting being held on June 23, 2020 to coincide with the Town Meeting date. The ballots need to be printed and ready to go, as the time period was not extended for people to file for elective office. Pam thanked the Board for the clarification.

Dick Spaulding had a question about election by mail. He wondered if this were an option. Selectman Maher said an individual voter could request an absentee ballot, and be eligible due to vote absentee, without providing the usual reasons. BJ Riordan asked if the Secretary of State has issued any directives or if the Town Clerk has weighed in on this matter (Mailing and receipt of absentee ballots and deadlines). Selectman Maher stated the Town Moderator has been on top of the situation and has communicated with the Secretary of State and New Castle Town Clerk.

**c. Coronavirus Update.**

Selectman Maher updated the Select Board with reports from both the Fire and Police Departments. The Board is in constant communication with the various departments. He has daily contact with Fire Department on PPE and readiness issues. Every Friday the Fire Chief issues weekly updates, as does the Select Board. The Board continues to discuss the beach closure and parking restrictions. He noted the residents have been fantastic about maintaining social distance, but the Town must stay in concert with other coastal communities, lest New Castle become the sole beach open. Consequently, the Select Board closed the beaches and Common until May 4. The Select Board has a regular call every Thursday with our state representatives, state senator, and the chair of Rye Select Board to get an update from the State and local level.

Selectman Stewart stated that in terms of process, the Board continues to meet with key stakeholders. Right now, he feels it is in the Town's best interest to keep the beaches and Common closed.

Chair Frampton stated the Board is in constant communication with DPW, Police and Fire and taking care of what needs to be done, identifying problems as they come up and formulating solutions. Overall, he believes the Select Board has done a good job.

Dave McGuckin addressed the issue of virtual meetings. Selectman Stewart stated they would continue for the time being and could possibly continue should an extension occur. There is a Conservation Commission meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>, which will be via Zoom.

Selectman Maher said we would await further guidance from the Governor regarding his May 4<sup>th</sup> order. The Select Board will decide on continuation of virtual meetings into the month of May.

BJ Riordan asked about the Great Island Inn, the Wentworth, and how Henry's is doing. Selectman Stewart said Henry's is doing take out and meals to go and is doing pretty well. He referred to the Governor's directive as to operation of hotels, inns and Air B n B's. As per the Emergency Order, only essential people can reserve or stay in rooms. A joint letter was issued by the Select Board and the Police Department, highlighting the Emergency Order as well as the ramifications of non-compliance. He expressed the commitment of the Board to protect its citizens' health.

**d. Rec Building.**

Selectman Maher reported that a permit has been pulled for the fire panel and sensors. Two phones lines needed to be added, and gave thanks to Ben and Ken McDonald for their commitment to getting this taken care of.

**e. Water Sewer Update.**

Selectman Stewart reported on the progress of the last two weeks. There are two things happening at the same time. Evroks is still doing work for the DOT on the bridge at the same time New Castle is doing the water line. The valves have been installed so the temporary water line is working. He spoke about the change of traffic patterns, but he is overall pleased with the way the work is being done.

Ann Miller asked about the leak in the temporary water line and asked about how the billing may be affected. Mr. Stewart responded that billing is being done based on historical utilization plus a 15% lost water factor. Ms. Miller asked more questions about the loops. Selectman Stewart said he should have some more updates from Underwood as this part is just starting to ramp up. She asked about a proposed warrant article to authorize more money to cover all the looping. Given the current situation and the timing of the work, he stated this could be done at a later date (next year budget process) and funding options may be different.

Dave McGuckin asked about the encroachment by an abutting property owner on the right of way at Ritson and Davidson, and the fact that construction was to start in April and be completed in June. The State issued the defect letter and discussed with the owner the corrections for the violation. Selectman Stewart has no updated information at this point and has not heard from NH DES. Dave suggested that if there is no activity observed in the next few weeks DES should be contacted.

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 at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
BJ Riordan  
Recording Secretary