

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday June 1, 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, Christianne McAllister, Town Accountant, Ken McDonald, TAPC, Dave McGuckin, Tom Smith, Darcy Horgan, Anne Miller, Andy Schulte, Fire Chief Ted Hartnett, Police Chief Don White, Mike and Ann McAndrew, Carol White. Priscilla Hodgkins, Town Clerk, Jim Rini, Richard Perrins, US Census Bureau, Beth Barnhorst. According to Selectman Stewart there was a total of 35 participants via Zoom.

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. Selectman Stewart explained the criteria for Emergency Meetings, and stated that all votes by the Select Board would be roll call votes.

Chair Frampton opened the meeting at 7:15 PM, after difficulties with signing in were resolved.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of May 18, 2020

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of May 19, 2020 as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded. Selectman Maher voted yes; Selectman Stewart voted yes, and Chair Frampton voted yes. Motion carried.

2. Public Questions and Answers.

a. Trailers and boat storage issues:

Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board asked for some guidance from the Select Board regarding trailers which were left at the gate without any permissions or notice. She has tried to contact the owner without much success. Also 2 boat owners would like to keep their boats in the storage area for the summer. She expressed her concerns about liability. Selectman Stewart would like input from DPW (Steve Tabbutt and Ben Jankowski) The answers to her questions will depend on when the Common will open. She asked for further detail, and after further discussion a temporary resolution on giving notice to the trailer owner was agreed upon. The boat owners will be contacted and told they will be notified once a decision is reached on the opening of the Common.

b. Fire Department and Volunteers issue.

Andy Schulte referenced a recent interview with Selectman Maher in the local paper dealing with the reasons for the many resignations from the Fire Department. Mr. Schulte believes the answers given by Selectman Maher were incorrect. Selectman

Maher responded indicating he answered the questions asked in a truthful and forthright manner, but does not agree the article stated exactly what he said. He asked that Mr. Schulte not characterize the article as untruthful. Mr. Schulte will provide a copy of his email on this subject to the public.

c. US Census Bureau.

Richard Perrins from the Bureau spoke about the 2020 Census and ways for people to complete the form. The Town Clerk noted that the bureau cannot send forms to PO Boxes, and Mr. Perrins encouraged folks to complete the on line form. Ken McDonald also spoke about Mr. Schulte's Email list and indicated the form is available there as well.

3. New Business.

a. Opening of Town Hall:

Chair Frampton noted that the Town is still under the Governor's stay at home orders until June 15th, but a decision needs to be made about keeping the status quo of using mail, emails, phone calls, and appointments to transact Town business. Selectman Maher stated he is in favor of maintaining the status quo as long as the protocols are in place, with the front door remaining locked and people needing to make appointments with the Town Clerk.. He prefers to hold back on opening on the beaches until more information becomes available with surrounding Seacoast beach openings. Pam Cullen expressed the need to have a protocol in place for people coming into Town Hall such as how many can be in the building at the same time. Also there needs to be a decision on the use of the Conference Room, for people wishing to review files, and the need for cleaning of the room. Selectman Stewart identified the matter of reviewing public records as a touch point needing review. Chair Frampton stated the Select Board will work on this.

The Town Clerk asked what will happen if the Governor lifts the Stay at Home order on June 15th. Selectman Stewart stated that the Town may be obligated to do certain things as no Emergency Order would be in effect. He believes the Town can be more restrictive to meet Town needs. The Town Clerk stated that perhaps all public meetings should continue to be held at the Rec Building.

Chair Frampton asked the other Board members about the process for opening up the Common. Selectman Stewart stated he is still assessing the beaches situation, and is looking to July 1st as a possible opening date. He noted now is the time to consider upgrading systems at the Common for payments at the kiosk for parking. He suggested considering 50% parking capacity, and looking at what Hampton is doing. He noted it might be best to forego pavilion rentals for this season. All of these decisions must be based upon data. Selectman Maher concurred, and noted we could learn a lot about what Hampton does in the next 7-10 days. He noted there are a lot of logistics to be worked out. One issue is how to turn away the overflow of people. Ken McDonald, TAPC, reminded the Board would need a whole new machine and system in order to take credit cards.

Selectman Stewart stated that as of right now, there should be no sale of non-resident passes. Pam Cullen brought up the issue of current weddings reservations, noting there are already 2 or 3 June wedding reservations. Chair Frampton suggested cancelling all pavilion reservations prior to July 1. The Board considered opening the Common for paring for those with resident stickers. Selectman Stewart noted this should be considered but indicated the Police Chief was not in favor of this.

Beth Barnhorst suggested renting port o potties for the Common. Chair Frampton noted that DPW needed to be consulted. He stressed the need to finalize the opening process. Dave McGuckin stated the police need to be a part of this process if it were to open for residents only. Chief White thinks this would be a difficult enforcement issue. A detail would be needed from the Department. Selectman Stewart noted the need for a protocol.

b. Dogs Issue:

Chair Frampton proposed closing the beach as well as the Common to dogs from May 15 to September 15 except for the hours of 6AM to 9AM, citing the increased amount of excrement. Ms. Barnhorst expressed support for Chair Frampton's proposal. She also supports stricter enforcement citing the town of Rye practices as an example. She cited the need for better signage and gave examples. She also suggested a ban on out of town dogs. Selectman Stewart suggested going to the May 15th rules.

b. Voting and Town Meeting.

Chair Frampton noted that the Town Moderator was not present but communicated some of his information; namely, that the Town Meeting cannot go forward at the Rec Center as there is not enough space for social distancing. The Town Clerk said that voting can go forward on the 23rd of June, and stressed that the Meeting and the Election are two separate issues. Voting will be held from 9AM to 7PM. She encouraged residents to use absentee ballots. Selectman Maher acknowledged her ramping up preparations for these two matters. He asked if Town Meeting was required to be held within the boundaries of New Castle. He will check with the Secretary of State's Office.

c. Town Parking Issues.

Selectman Stewart reported that he and the Police Chief have been reviewing the situation at the Portsmouth Yacht Club. PYC members have asked to park by their facility. PYC stickers allow paring for Town residents and/or PYC stickers along Piscataqua Street. (Along the white fence up to the Driscoll residence.)

Fines: Chief White reported that his department is considering looking at raising fines for illegal parking to \$50 and \$100 to keep in line with neighboring towns. Chrstianne McAllister, Town Accountant stated she is working in a fine policy for the Town. She noted that NH RSA requires a Public Hearing for any changes and a

vote. Both toms Smith, Town Treasurer, and Selectman Maher stated that the current State Emergency Order allows for fine increases without the necessity of a Public Hearing. Chair Frampton will check with NHMA. (New Hampshire Municipal Association).

d. July 4th:

Chair Frampton stated he is not sure what the current plan for the holiday celebration consists of. Discussion ensued about the need to contact the State for various permissions, and that the contact person is Nancy Borden. Anne McAndrew stated there are church issue with July 4th that need to be clarified.

e. Green Waste.

The next date is June 13th. Nailing down the location needs to be finalized. The desire is to have the drop off at the school. The details and protocols need to be finalized. The gun range area is being considered. Jim Rini, who is leading this project, needs a decision from the Select Board. After discussion, the Select Board decided to keep the program at the Common, and additional dates will be booked.

f. Fort Stark Constitution.

Selectman Maher discussed nearby communities agreement on State Parks and enforcement issues.

g. Water Sewer Update.

Selectman Stewart reviewed the recent occurrences noting that the temporary water is in place for the Causeway. He cautioned people to utilize the Wentworth exit when exiting and entering Town. He acknowledged expressed concerns about water pressure, as well as concerns about Underwood engineering's web portal. He noted that generally, feedback from the public regarding the water project has been positive.

Selectman Stewart gave a brief update on the looping funding issue. He noted that that the costs coming in are significantly higher than originally planned for, so the Select Board is looking at the viability of doing loops given the current budget, concluding that a new plan is needed. Anne Miller asked about the incentive to do 3 loops. Selectman Stewart replied that maybe 1 loop, but there is a need to reassess and perhaps obtain new funding sources.

h. Sue Chase letter regarding beach access.

The Select Board is reviewing this matter.

4. Committee reports.

Fire Deptment:

Selectman Maher reported on the top line items: 8 calls for service, 2 alarms 1 assist, 1 Check. Full report is attached to these minutes.

Police Report: Attached..

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Jane Riordan
Secretary

Fire Department:

New Castle Fire Department Monthly Report May 4th to June 1st 2020

8

Medical aid (2), fire alarm activation (2), assist other agency (1), check hazardous condition (1), false alarm (0), service call (1), motor vehicle accident (1)

(Avg.) 2 No reported issues/ factors effecting operability 5/31
Greenland structure fire Portsmouth ambulance for medical per contract 2 Career, 12 part-time members (11 certified) 29% (approx.) 2 new per-diem FF/ EMTs hired mid-May

Both certified, licensed and working in nearby towns In shift rotation working 14-18 hrs/wk.

EMT candidate living in Portsmouth delayed orientation (CV-19)

Certified FF/EMT interviewing late this week for per-diem position. Living in Portsmouth, full-time experience.

On-shift, small group, training has resumed to keep members sharp and build core skills.

Boat training has begun and members are out on the water multiple times a week getting up to speed. Formal safety training and State required programs are running in parallel. Members are having fun learning the new resource.

Electronic/ Web-based training material being pushed out to supplement EMS continuing education hour requirements.

Police Department See below

Call Reason Breakdown

Call Reason	Self	Disp	Total	%	Avg. Arrive	Avg. Time @ Scene
911 ABANDONED/HANGUP Action: Alarm False/Operator Error = 2	0	2	2	< 1	0	0
ACCIDENT WITH INJURY Action: INFO TAKEN = 1	0	1	1	< 1	0	0
ANIMAL CONTROL COMPLAINT Action: INFO TAKEN = 2 SERVICES RENDERED = 3	5	0	5	< 1	0	0
ACCIDENT WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE Action: REPORT TAKEN = 1	1	0	1	< 1	0.50	15.00
ACCIDENT - HIT AND RUN Action: REPORT TAKEN = 1	0	1	1	< 1	0.50	10.00
ALARM - BURGLAR Action: SERVICES RENDERED = 2 ALARM - MECHANICAL ERROR = 1 ALARM - WEATHER RELATED = 1	3	1	4	< 1	0	0
ASSIST MV - OTHER Action: SERVICES RENDERED = 1	0	1	1	< 1	0	0
ASSIST NON-POLICE AGENCY Action: SERVICES RENDERED = 1 PAPERWORK SERVED = 1	1	1	2	< 1	0.50	10.00
ASSIST OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT Action: SERVICES RENDERED = 9	8	1	9	1.5	0.50	175.00
ASSIST CITIZEN Action: SERVICES RENDERED = 2 REPORT TAKEN = 2	3	1	4	< 1	0.50	28.67
ASSIST TOWN HALL Action: PAPERWORK SERVED = 1	1	0	1	< 1	0	0
BUILDING/PROPERTY CHECK Action: SERVICES RENDERED = 15 ALL APPEARED NORMAL = 277 ALL APPEARED SECURE = 25 MOVED ALONG = 5 No Action Taken = 1	323	0	323	52.3	0.50	3.86
BOLO - GENERAL BROADCAST Action: NEGATIVE CONTACT = 1	1	0	1	< 1	0	0
CIVIL STAND-BY Action: INFO TAKEN = 1 SERVICES RENDERED = 1	1	1	2	< 1	0	0
CRUISER MAINTENANCE Action: Unknown = 1 SERVICES RENDERED = 7 MAINTENANCE COMPLETED = 23	28	3	31	5.0	0.50	6.25
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF Action: PROTECTIVE CUSTODY = 1	0	1	1	< 1	0	0