

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 16, 2020

TOWN HALL

6:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Leo Enos, Selectmen	Leon Rideout, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman
Edward Samson, Town Manager	Alan Savage	Donald Williams
Rob Christie	Charity Baker	Ben Gaetjens-Oleson
Randy Flynn	Ted Joubert	Michael Kopp

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Leo Enos.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the March 2, 2020 Selectmen's meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Leon Rideout and seconded by Leo Enos to approve the March 2, 2020 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Signing of various paperwork –
 - The board signed the MS232-Report of Voted on Appropriations

NEW BUSINESS:

- Appointments –
 - The Zoning Board submitted a request to reappoint Richard Bernier and Tricia Frenette as regular members.

Motion was made by Leon Rideout and seconded by Shane Beattie to reappoint Richard Bernier & Tricia Frenette to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The Planning Board submitted a request to reappoint Donald Doolan as an alternate member, Mark Frank, Mark St. Pierre and Andrew Nadeau as regular members.

Motion was made by Leon Rideout and seconded by Shane Beattie to reappoint Donald Doolan as an alternate member, Mark Frank, Mark St. Pierre and Andrew Nadeau as regular members. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Letter of Dismissal – The Planning Board submitted a letter requesting a letter of dismissal be issued to Garret Savard for lack of attendance at meetings. Leon mentioned that he has been traveling the last 6 to 7 months and Leon asked that the planning board be asked to reach out to Garret, who is probably willing to submit a letter of resignation if he feels he

can't give the appropriate time to the board. Leo mentioned he has spoken to him and he did express that he would like to be off the board. Ed said he will reach out to Garret to see what his intention is.

- Ed reviewed the quotes for the loader with the board and they each had a packet with all the quotes and packages being offered by each of the dealers. The quotes discussed were as follows:
 - Anderson (Komatsu) - \$136,000
 - Chadwick-BaRoss (Volvo) – L60 \$100,975 / L70 \$121,499
 - Nortrax (John Deere) - \$106,801

After reviewing all the packages and discussing all of the options the board felt the John Deere is the best option for the Town. Ed also expressed that Tim Brown, Highway Foreman, feels the John Deere is a much better machine.

Leo asked if John Deere was able to resubmit because their original quote had expired? Ed stated they can update their quotes at anytime and some dealers give a quote to a certain date as deals are changing all the time. He mentioned they all have given updated quotes.

Shane stated the board needs to straighten out the bidding process. All board members and Ed agreed a set process needs to take place. Shane is concerned how the process looks to the public. It needs to be a cleaner process. Ed definitely feels it was fair in this instance. Shane expressed he wants to keep the process transparent. All were in agreement going forward there needs to be a formal bidding process followed.

Motion was made by Leon Rideout and seconded by Shane to accept the John Deere bid for \$106,801. All in favor. Motion carried.

EMD Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson, Fire Chief Randy Flynn and Asst. Fire Chiefs Michael Kopp and Ted Joubert joined the meeting to give an update on COVID-19 situation.

Ben spoke regarding COVID-19 and mentioned they have established a regional response team to deal with the issues we are facing due to the virus. Lancaster and the surrounding towns, schools, hospitals, etc. are part of this regional team. They held a meeting last week and decided that Lancaster is most equipped to manage it.

Emergency Operations Center opened today to better equip ourselves concerning this. Ben stated the team met again to discuss all aspects of what is needed and it has been identified that child care is the biggest need/concern. They are hoping to reopen safe haven and get some of the teachers or substitute teachers to assist with child care at least for health care providers that have no other options.

Leon stated he is hearing the same thing, people are freaking out about child care. It seems like it's a catch 22, we just closed the schools and now we are opening locations and putting the kids all back in the same location. The biggest concern for the response team is finding child care

for the health care providers children so they can be available to care for those that need medical attention.

Don Williams wanted to know how are we going to handle people coming to the town if they need help with food. Leon mentioned the town welfare system can assist with those situations.

Ted mentioned that the hospitals at this time are planning for a surge of people that will need care and we will need all the medical professionals we can get. The committee is now trying to identify people of need like the elderly, those already with health concerns, etc. They are also in search of volunteers that will be able to assist if needed.

They have been working on ways to limit exposure of the town’s medical providers. If a provider is in the higher risk category (either age or health condition) they will not be responding to a hot zone.

The water department is another area where the team would like to be proactive in keeping their staff separate from each other where there is only 3 of them, we cannot have them all ill at the same time. They are planning to have one person do the rounds with that person checking in with an employee (Ben) when they arrive at each location and again when they leave each location, that way if a set amount of time passes and they have not checked in then someone will check on them. If they need to go out to a call out then Dean or another employee will be called to go with Tim or Justin.

Ed commended the committee for being proactive with this situation.

Leon asked that at least one of the team members come to the upcoming board meetings to keep the selectmen in the loop with the quickly progressing situation.

Leo asked Mike about the backpack program and if they are going to be able to assist with providing meals while school is shutdown. The committee is going to look to the churches to see if they can help with food, if needed and possibly with child care.

Leon mentioned the VFW Post is closed to the public but some of the members are going to look at ways they can assist.

The high school is identified as place when/if the hospitals receive a surge of patients. It was suggested at possibly using the armory.

Another concern is what do we do with our emergency personnel if they feel they are infected and whether they keep getting paid as they may not be willing to go without a paycheck. The board understands the concern and will work to figure out what to do if the situation arises.

It was mentioned the State may change ambulance staffing requirements by requiring only 1 EMT to transport with a driver (fireman or another employee).

The constant updates is making hard to know what it all means for the future. This is going to affect the community well into June and July and then will be into the next season of the virus in the fall.

Leon mentioned if there is an update that they feel the board needs to know before the next regular Selectmen’s meeting, they can call an emergency meeting.

Randy expressed concern about the transfer station and making sure they are taking precautions with handling people’s trash and recyclables.

There was discussion regarding upcoming boards and committee meetings and if they needed to take place. Ben mentioned the planning board does have a case to review at their next meeting which needs to be discussed. He is going to look into other methods to meet in order to limit the number of people gathering. The zoning board doesn’t have anything pressing that needs to be done so they can go without meeting. Leon mentioned if their boards don’t have cases they shouldn’t be meeting.

The board discussed who was going to be the representative of each of the Town’s committees for the upcoming year.

- Budget Committee Rep – Shane
 - Conservation Commission – Leo
 - Planning Board - Leon
- It was mentioned that My Humble Abode was out of business and if Ed had any idea what Jennifer Bean’s plan was to repay the loan. Ed is going to reach out to Jennifer to discuss.

Motion made by Leon Rideout and seconded by Shane Beattie to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie