

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S EMERGENCY MEETING TOWN HALL

April 6, 2020
6:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Leo Enos, Selectmen	Leon Rideout, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman
Edward Samson, Town Manager	Charity Baker	Ben Gaetjens-Oleson
Michael Nadeau	Rob Christie	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COVID-19 UPDATE/DISCUSSION

Ben reported that the hospital has a surge plan in place. On Wednesday the National Guard was here to prepare a 70-bed facility with capacity for a few dozen more. They stopped at 70 because more than that will make staffing hard with the hospital's current resources. The 70 beds will serve 16 non-COVID patients and 54 potential COVID positive patients. Other locations have been explored for the surge plan incase expansion is needed. On Thursday some National guard members came back to prep some of the rooms.

The Regional Response Team made a couple trips to Concord to get resources like PPE and cots.

Protocols have been put in place for EMS personnel when responding to a suspected COVID patient's home. They will be holding training at their April 7, 2020 meeting. It will include all aspects of the call to keep the personnel protected including cleaning up after a call.

Ben also mentioned there may be an increase in some of the line items in payroll as they may need to double up on personnel responding to calls.

Saturday the number of new cases in New Hampshire was 81, yesterday was 48 and today 46.

He reported that Ruby Berryman has closed the Motor Inn and has offered it up to medical personnel that will be in the area to assist during the surge.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the March 16, 17 & 20, 2020 Selectmen's meeting minutes

Motion was made by Leon and seconded by Shane to approve the March 16, 17, and 20, 2020 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A Timber cut extension was received from Barbara Peaslee-Smith for her timber cut on Pleasant Valley Road, Tax Map R13, Lot 64. Operation #19-247-02.

Motion was made by Leon and seconded by Shane to approve the timber cut extension for Barbara Peaslee-Smith. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Appointment to the Cemetery Committee – Michael Nadeau, Cemetery trustee was in attendance to discuss appointing Doug Blanchette to the committee to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Leonell “Buddy” Riendeau. Buddy moved out of town.

Motion was made by Leon and seconded by Shane to appoint Douglas Blanchette as Cemetery trustee. All in favor. Motion carried.

INFORMATION:

- The Tax Collector submitted a copy of the notice to the Board of Tax & Land Appeal stating when the last bill for 2019 was sent as required by the BTLA.

Ed received an email from Julie Evans of Northern Forest Center stating members of her team have tried reaching out to each of the Selectmen to gather information for some marketing research for the town and has had no success. Ed asked the board, if they would take the time to answer some questions for them.

Northern Forest has funding available up to \$1,000,000. It won’t be offered or a decision made until at least July. The Parker J Noyes building project along with the water/sewer drainage project along Bunker Hill from Main to Summer Street including the municipal parking lot could fall under the funding being offered. Water/Sewer drainage on Bunker hill from Main to Summer. In the discussions Ed has had with Julie and her boss it seems what we are looking to do is in line with that funding. It will require a 20% match and in-kind services will count toward the 20%.

Ed has met with engineers and abutting property owners to see what they have for input on the project. He reviewed the details of the plan to redirect the drainage to the Israel River from the municipal parking lot behind the Parker J Noyes building.

Ed mentioned Mike Turner the salesman of the new loader contacted him to let him know that Norcross has the model that the Town is purchasing on their lot however it has 3 features that were not included or needed by the Town. The cost of the additional features is \$1,500-\$1,800. He will provide that model with the features to the Town at the additional amount if they would like to take delivery soon. It is unsure when delivery will be if a new loader is ordered due to the COVID-19 situation. He is not sure it would be received by June.

It was mentioned that even with the additional features and costs, the total cost of the loader is less than all the other quotes.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the model that is on the sales lot with the additional features and for the additional \$1,500-\$1,800. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leo asked if Ed has contacted Jen Bean from Your Humble Abode to discuss repayment of their business loan now that they are no longer in business. Ed mentioned he has not spoken with Jen however he did talk with the landlord. He will reach out to Jen.

Leo asked if Garret Savard was contacted about his status on the planning board. Leon mentioned he has been in touch with Garret on a VFW Post issue and forgot to ask him about the planning board. He will contact him.

Leo asked what the Highway & Water/Sewer departments have planned for projects this summer. Ed mentioned the D box at the lagoons was going to be done in house. Leo asked about road reconstruction because Depot and Railroad Streets are in really bad shape. Ed also mentioned a section of School Street needs to be done as well. He mentioned it is an expensive project. Leon mentioned it doesn’t make sense to completely redo the roadway without replacing the water/sewer service below as well. Leo mentioned it should start being discussed with Tim Brown, Highway Foreman to work up what it will cost to add those projects to future warrants.

Leon asked where we were at with expenditures knowing we have additional costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Ed said lines have been created to keep track of the expenses and as of right now things are fine.

Leo wanted to know the thoughts of the board and Ed regarding Governor’s Emergency Order #25 regarding waiving of the interest on tax bills. Shane is concerned with the recent events going on for a long length of time we will see more and more not paying their taxes. Charity mentioned the Board has the ability to waive or abate interest or taxes under the law. Before any decisions are made there are several things that need to be looked at. If the due date was set out for 90 days then money received from escrow companies will not come in until close to the due date so the town will not be receiving at least 50% of its tax revenue for another 90 days and bills will still need to be paid. The school and the county will still need to be paid and without that revenue that will put an additional burden on the town. The board decided they will look at situations on a case by case basis at this time.

Leo feels the Police department has outgrown their facility and feels they need to look into getting them into a bigger space. Leon mentioned back when the ambulance building was being built it was felt the Emergency Services (Police, Fire, EMS) should be housed in the same facility however that is a very large and costly project. It was mentioned they need to keep an eye out for grant funding for such a project.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leo Enos

Charity M. Baker

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie