

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**April 20, 2020
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Leo Enos, Selectman	Leon Rideout, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman
Edward Samson, Town Manager	Alan Savage	Michael Nadeau
Rob Christie	Lucy Wyman	Charity Baker
Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson		

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPOINTMENTS:

Ben stated, things are maintaining at this point. There are still only 2 confirmed cases in Coos. Statewide there have been 50+ new cases and 1 death being reported each day. He believes the Governor will probably address the State in the next few days as we are coming up on the deadline for the current State of Emergency Stay at Home Order.

There has been discussion regarding campgrounds not being included in the emergency order closing hotels. They have the same concerns with campgrounds as hotels in that people will come here from hot spots and not quarantine. The Governor has stated he is going to work with all parties to come up with reasonable guidelines if they are allowed to open. Ben did mention there is possibly a method the Town can use to close a campground if they feel necessary. He is looking into that.

Leo wanted to know if they still want to meet every day. Ben said, they will continue to meet Monday-Friday at 6 a.m. Leo asked the other board members to split who will be attending which days. Shane reported he has been meeting with the committee on Tuesdays and Thursdays and would like to keep those days as he has rearranged his daily work to fit that meeting in. Leon said he could meet on Wednesdays and Fridays and Leo will meet on Mondays.

Rob Christie asked if there is enough PPE for 1st responders. Ben replied, they have received supplies from the State and have purchased some from other places around the State as well and he thinks they are ok.

They did develop a response plan for calls that is a suspected COVID call/residence. They have trained the members of the department on this plan.

Leon mentioned that a hospital bed was returned to the VFW and is available if it is needed for the surge facility.

Leon asked about the signs that were put out for volunteers and if they have had a good response. Ben reported they have received a few dozen responses and have created a spread sheet which can be accessed when they are needed and who can provide what services at that time.

Leon mentioned that the VFW is providing services to veterans and elderly in the community like shopping and picking up prescriptions.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the April 6, 2020 Selectmen’s meeting minutes.

Motion as made by Leon Rideout and seconded by Shane Beattie to accept the April 6, 2020 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The board signed the water/sewer warrant. Bills will be mailed out by Wednesday with a due date of May 22nd.
- Leo asked Leon if he was able to get in touch with Garret Savard regarding his status on the Planning Board. Leon has not at this point. He will work on it.
- Leon asked about expenses regarding COVID-19. Ed said there have not been any major expenses and no new expenses since the last time they met. Leon also asked if the welfare expense line is ok and if there has been an increase in assistance requests due to COVID-19. Ed stated, requests have not been any different than previous years.
- Leo asked if Ed had talked any more with Tim Brown, the road agent about grinding the asphalt off and leaving it dirt on School Street. Ed mentioned that Tim has concerns about grinding the asphalt off because each spring it will make a greater issue with the mud. Leo asked if we should put that project on a warrant article to get that street and others taken care of (School Street, Depot Street, Railroad Street). The board agrees it is something that needs to be looked at. Leon feels the asphalt is not the only issue on School Street. He thinks infrastructure is starting to fail. Alan Savage mentioned the road bans used to include all compact streets in town. He mentioned the Monday after Town meeting he saw a crane down on Railroad Street to set a house. Ed stated permission was given by the Road agent because that road was frozen at that time.
- Rob Christie asked what is the alternative to putting the meeting notices in the paper, is it the Town Facebook page and website. Rob stated it is his understanding meeting notices need to be posted in 2 places and have to be available to be viewed 24-7. It was suggested putting a glass front enclosed bulletin board on the outside of the town hall and the library to post meeting notices. The board liked that idea.

Shane mentioned he has been approached by several people in the public as to what the bidding process is for town projects, like the town building work and construction projects. He asked if there is a written policy. Lucy asked when it is required for a project or item to go out for bid. The board could not recall the exact price threshold that warranted the project going out to bid. Leon believes there is a policy somewhere, whether it has been updated he is not sure. Usually it gets updated to increase the threshold of when to bid. The last couple office building projects have been done by Dennis Patnoe, the Transfer Station Supervisor as he had been in construction and is a licensed electrician and both Ed

and the board feel Dennis is a great resource and he should be utilized. Leon mentioned it is not easy to get contractors to bid on projects. The VFW solicited bids and they couldn’t get anyone to bid. Shane wants to get a copy of the policy so he can let the public know that we have a policy in place in order to keep up the transparency of the bidding process. It was asked about the vehicle bidding process. The board expressed they obtain bids from several dealers from Lancaster and the surrounding areas in the North Country. In the past they have chosen a close higher bid because of convenience of servicing the vehicle. It’s a balancing act. It was mentioned that the publication “Knowing the Territory” discusses the State’s recommendations for bidding projects.

INFORMATION:

- Building permit – Stephen Kirkpatrick & Diana Papademas, 74 Grange Road – Install a 7.8kW ground mount PV solar array for personal use.
- Building permit – Weeks Medical Center, 173 Middle Street – Renovate Room 208 to be used as an observation room for IEA patients.
- Building permit – Beverly Esson, 188 Portland Street – Erect 180’ telecommunications monopole within 70’X70’ fenced in utility area according to Town of Lancaster Planning Board approval, Case #787 dated 07/13/2016.
- Building permit – Cat Bow Farm, 130 Weeks Road – Install a roof-mounted, 24.84kW PV solar array on garage for personal use.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie