



Office of the Board of Selectmen
2 Town Hall Road, Newton, NH 03858
Tel: 382-4405 Option 5 Fax 382-9140
www.newton-nh.gov

NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020
TIME: 6:00PM
CONFERENCE CALL

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

This meeting was held to bring the Selectmen and public up to date on the COVID-19 virus. The meeting was held via conference call. On the phone was Chairman Matthew Burrill, Selectmen Kathryn Michaels, Lawrence Foote, Charles Melvin Sr., Town Administrator Nancy Wrigley and Secretary Diane Morin. The public session was audio taped. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin. Selectman Lisa L. Gonyer was excused this evening.

Other conference call attendees were Tina O'Rourke, Chief Alcaldinho, Trisha McCarthy, Terry Caswell, Pete Gagnon, Roger Hamel and Chief Jewett and members of the public.

Chairman Burrill called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. Scheduled Business

A. Update – COVID-19 virus

Chairman Burrill explained the reason for the meeting was to bring the Board and public up to date on guidelines to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Mrs. McCarthy briefed the Board with new updates from the State conference call held on Thursday, March 26, 2020.

There are concerns about campgrounds opening and what should be done. The State will work on guidelines.

Tax Collectors should continue to process tax liens at this time. A letter went out to all Tax Collectors from the NH Tax Collectors Association stating that in their opinion Tax Collectors should go about their duties unless otherwise instructed by their Board of Selectmen.

The Police have been given guidelines on how to handle organizations that are not complying with the limitation of the number of people that can gather.

If a patient wants to be transported to the hospital but First Responders deem it not necessary, the First Responders can deny transporting the patient. The patient may use their own vehicle to go to the hospital.

If a Town holds a meeting using electronic means and there are more participants than the software can handle, can the meeting be continued until the Town's participants number can be increased. The answer from the State was yes.

Town's cannot hold Town Meetings in a parking lot.

The State is researching how Towns should handle requests for required inspections.

Mrs. McCarthy briefed the Board with new updates from the State conference call held earlier today, March 27, 2020.

The State is looking into funding Surge Hospitals and obtaining more PPE's. The use of homemade face masks should be a last resort.

The State is still working with 911 to inform First Responders of possible infected patients before responding to the emergency call.

It is OK to walk in your Town and State parks provided you practice "social distancing".

The State will investigate publishing a guideline for the public on "destination determination".

There will be another State call to discuss legal matters on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Mrs. McCarthy will forward the call information to the appropriate people.

Chairman Burrill asked Chief Jewett how the Police were handling the "stay at home" order. Chief Jewett stated that they have been given guidelines by the State to follow.

Chairman Burrill spoke with Chief Alcadinho who wants to establish a protocol for duty officers coming on shift who have an above normal temperature. Would they still be paid? The Board discussed and stated that the same procedure that is in place would be followed. They would need to put COVID-19 in the comment field.

Town Administrator Wrigley asked if they were told to go home, would they need to file a Worker's Compensation claim? Chairman Burrill stated that because they do not work for the Town fulltime, they would need to file the claim with their fulltime employer.

Chairman Burrill asked the Board to consider doing random acts of kindness. As a first act, he proposed providing lunch to the Transfer Station employees on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Town Administrator Wrigley and Transfer Station Manager will work together on this.

Transfer Station Manager Gagnon stated they have all the equipment needed. Only a few snags and irritated people.

Selectman Michaels moved to authorize the purchase of lunch, not to exceed \$40.00, for the Transfer Station employees for March 28, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Foote – aye, Michaels – aye, Melvin -- aye

III. Adjourn

Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 6:32pm. Seconded by Selectman Michaels. Burrill – aye, Foote – aye, Michaels – aye, Melvin -- aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary