



**Office of the Board of Selectmen**  
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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 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 and to address nonpublic issues. The public meeting was held via public conference call. On the phone was Chairman Matthew A. Burrill, Selectmen Lisa L. Gonyer, Kathryn Michaels, Lawrence B. Foote, Charles R. 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.

Other conference call attendees were Tina O'Rourke, Chief Alcaidinho, Trisha McCarthy, Terry Caswell, Pete Gagnon, Chief Jewett, Jack Kozec, 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 Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

The State reiterated that there is a lag time between the lists of positive COVID-19 cases and those reported to communities. There are errors in reporting the cases to the State such as wrong addresses. The State will have to stop providing the list if confidentiality is broken which has happened in some communities.

The State will get clarification on extending the rules for vehicle inspections.

DRA will send clarification to Tax Collectors concerning charging interest on unpaid property taxes.

Mrs. McCarthy briefed the Board with new updates from 2 State conference call held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

The Concord DMV was closed due to an employee contracting COVID-19. The employee did not have contact with the public.

The State is low on PPE's and looking to replenish. There is an urgent need for gowns.

She reviewed the latest statics for COVID-19 Statewide.

The State released guidelines of risk level for First Responders.

The State is still working on the disaster code and communities should use the old code.

Encourage residents to hike closer to home to avoid popular hiking trails.

The State is monitoring social media for misinformation.

The State reminded local authorities to inform them of any First Responders that are in quarantine.

Communities can call the State EOC for PPE's and they will do their best to fill the request.

Communities will be notified by the State if a temporary surge center will be setup in their community.

First Responders should not use cloth masks when responding to a call as they will not protect them. The best protection is a N95 masks.

Seasonal workers arriving in the State should self-quarantine for 14 days.

Communities looking for additional resources to help with rescue operations when people using their trails and parks are injured. They are seeing an increase in trails and parks use by out of state people. The State will get back to them after bringing this to the Governor's Office.

There has been no discussion at the State level to share information between States. If needed it will be done on a case by case basis.

Chief Alcaldinho asked if the campgrounds in Town are opened. Town Administrator Wrigley stated that they normally open around Memorial Day weekend. Mrs. McCarthy stated that staff begins to arrive around April 15 to get the campgrounds ready. EMD Foote will contact the campgrounds to find out what their plans are.

Chief Alcaldinho stated that the Fire Warden visits the campgrounds before they open to inspect and approve an open burn permit. EMD Foote will reach out to the Fire Warden to keep him informed.

Chairman Burrill stated that the numbers of COVID-19 are looking better than expected. The hope is the State has already peaked or may peak sooner than later. Everyone should continue to practice social distancing.

Chairman Burrill stated that the Board met in non-public on April 7, 2020 to discuss tax liens out of concern that names could be disclosed. There were no names mentioned in that session so the Board can speak about it in public. There are property owners that own taxes from 2019 who were notified by Tax Collector McCullough. At the April 7, 2020, the Board motioned to extend the time frame to pay the 2019 taxes to September 1, 2020 or until the pandemic ended. Chairman Burrill spoke with Tax Collector McCullough who informed him that the certified notices of delinquency have already been sent out and she recommends not extending the due date.

**Selectman Gonyer moved to rescind the motion to extend the tax lien process to September 1, 2020 or at the end of the pandemic. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye**

Selectman Michaels asked about the concern some Town employees had about the work needed in the Town Hall. Chairman Burrill spoke with Tax Collector/ Town Clerk McCullough and explained that the Board felt doing this work before re-opening would have the least amount of exposure. Tax Collector/ Town Clerk McCullough seemed to be fine with this explanation.

III. Adjourn

**Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 6:28pm. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous. Burrill – aye, Foote – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Melvin -- aye**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin  
Board of Selectmen Secretary