



**Office of the Board of Selectmen**  
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**NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 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 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. Selectman Lisa L. Gonyer was excused this evening.

Other conference call attendees were Tina O'Rourke, Chief Alcaldinho, 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 calls held on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

Attorney General's Office stated that new guidelines will be forth coming from the Governor's Office concerning campgrounds opening for the season.

The State clarified for long term guests at motel/Inns they cannot be evicted if they have lived there for 90 days or more for lack of rental payment.

Emergency Order 25 prohibits the Tax Collector from submitting a tax deed on any property. Interest on abatements will be clarified later. Local governing body has the final decision on abatements.

Mrs. McCarthy briefed the Board with new updates from the State conference calls held on Friday, April 10, 2020.

The State is providing additional support for child welfare.

Mrs. McCarthy reviewed the COVID-19 statistics. Three new Emergency Orders were issued by the Governor's Office.

PPE's are still critically low, and a new supply should arrive over the weekend. First Responders should use N95 masks and provide surgical masks to patients.

Chairman Burrill stated that the Bookkeeper needs the Board's decision on paying employees that are not able to work their normal hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He recommends keeping the current policy in place and re-evaluate before April 27, 2020.

**Chairman Burrill moved to instruct the Bookkeeper to process the payroll for the COVID-19 displaced employees as processed for the last payroll. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Melvin – aye, Foote – aye**

The Board would like to inform the Bookkeeper that they will have an answer before the next pay period ends on processing the payroll.

Secretary Morin stated that the life safety work needed at the Town Hall and Gale Library will be done on a Friday. The following Monday a cleaning crew will disinfect the buildings. She is still working on scheduling the work. Mrs. O'Rourke asked if she would be able to have access to the Food Pantry. Friday would be the only time access would not be available. Secretary Morin will notify her when the work is schedule. The Board agreed with the proposed plan. Mrs. McCarthy will provide the vendor who is cleaning the Police Station to Secretary Morin.

**Selectman Melvin moved to accept the public meeting minutes dated April 6, 2020 as written. Seconded by Selectman Michaels. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Melvin – aye, Foote – aye**

Mrs. Caswell asked if the Gale Library will be cleaned after the work has been completed. Secretary Morin stated that it would be cleaned at the same time.

Selectman Foote stated that a cleaning company will be at the Police Station on Monday to disinfect the station and cruisers.

Chairman Burrill asked the Board to meet for a nonpublic session on April 13, 2020 beginning at 5:30pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Reputation. The Board agreed to meet.

III. Adjourn

**Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 6:31pm. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous. Burrill – aye, Foote – aye, Michaels – aye, Melvin -- aye**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin  
Board of Selectmen Secretary