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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 20, 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 public meeting was held via 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 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 Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, April 18, 19, and 20, 2020.

A shipment of PPE's arrived on scheduled, Saturday, without any incidents. There is still a critical shortage of gowns and gloves.

Mrs. McCarthy reviewed the State statistics for COVID-19 patients including First Responders.

The State continues to support local vendors and encourages others to do the same.

Mrs. McCarthy reviewed what different State departments are doing to help fight the pandemic.

Civil Air Patrol will be adding parks and beaches to their flight patrols. The State reminded everyone that beaches are still closed.

The State is working on a new State EOC website.

The Boston-Manchester Regional Airport has opened for limited flights.

The State is recommending using the N95 masks. The KN95 masks are not OSHA certify. Expired N95 masks should be used before using any other masks.

In order to receive reimbursement from FEMA for staff that is working overtime or on standby, Towns/Cities will need to provide data on how the staff was used as related to COVID-19.

The State will research if it is safe to open lakes and ATV trails.

The State will reach out to the Employment Security to provide the number of applications by Town/Cities. This will help Food Banks with planning.

The State provided documentation for chain of custody for bodies, personal affects, and a list of funeral homes.

Farmer's Markets can open to sell food, beverages, and plants. They must limit the number of customers to 10 at any stall and practice social distancing. Non-food items are not allowed at this time.

Chairman Burrill addressed the Board. The State is looking for drops in the numbers before re-opening the State.

Secretary Morin reviewed the scheduled to have the life safety issues at the Town Hall and Gale Library resolved. The Town Hall needs to have the sprinkler heads removed and some heat detectors replaced with smoke detectors. The Library needs to have heat detectors replaced with smoke detectors. This work will take place on Friday, April 24, 2020. Once the work is done a cleaning crew will disinfect both buildings on Monday, April 27, 2020.

The Board discussed cleaning the buildings and whether the cost could be recouped under COVID-19. The Board agreed to clean both buildings.

Selectman Melvin moved to authorize Insurcomm Construction Inc. to clean the Town Hall and Gale Library in the amount not to exceed \$1,088.50. Seconded by Selectman Foote. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye

Chief Jewett addressed the Board. He would like to have the Town's IT provider, RMON, install the new PC's that were received in March. The installation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are officers sharing PC's due to broken hardware. There will be 1-2 technicians on site for about 2 days. The Board agreed to moving forward with the installations of the new PC's.

Town Administrator Wrigley asked if it was ok for her to enter the Town Hall this weekend after the life safety work is finished so that she can complete some paperwork.

Chairman Burrill recommends not entering the Town Hall until after the building has been disinfected.

Selectman Michaels moved to accept the public meeting minutes dated April 15, 2020 as written. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye

Secretary Morin stated that she will not be working Thursday, April 23 but will be working Friday, April 24 at the Town Hall while the life safety work is being done.

Mrs. McCarthy recommends no longer having the Friday conference calls.

Mrs. Caswell asked if she could enter the Gale Library on Thursday, April 23, 2020 to collect mail and process payroll. The Board agreed to allow her access to the Library.

III. Adjourn

Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 6:36pm. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary