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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 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, Barbara White. 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 Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21 and 22, 2020.

The State EOC is still at full activation.

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

The State is working on a mapping project with 911 to track outbreaks at long-term care facilities. They are still working on contact tracing as well.

The State Health Department is still searching for gowns, gloves and other PPE's that are needed.

A question was asked about the possibilities of cross contamination between species and the State responded that they would ask the appropriate department for an answer.

The State is working on guidance for opening kids summer camps. Camp owners should contact the State Child Licensing Unit for further instructions.

Towns cannot order the public to wear masks when in their town. This would need to come from the Governor's Office.

There are still concerns that short rentals are still being rented. If there is a specific owner that is violating the order, contact the State Attorney General's Office for assistance.

The State is going to follow up on voter registration, but they do not think it is an issue currently.

PPE's have been distributed to sites in need of them. EMD Foote picked up supplies for the Town's First Responders. We are still in need of gowns and thermometers.

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

She updated the Board on the State's response on opening summer day camps and senior trips. Until the stay at home order is lifted, then camps should not open and trips should be canceled.

The State is looking into a source for thermometers.

EMD Foote and Mrs. McCarthy will be attending briefings on filling out applications for FEMA reimbursement.

The State requests that First Responders try to use Convenient MD for COVID-19 testing.

Chairman Burrill asked if there was an increase in positive test. Mrs. McCarthy stated there was an increase of 44 positive test results for COVID-19. Selectman Melvin stated that the increase may be due to the delay in test results.

The State will be holding a daily conference call to inform the public how the State will re-open.

Mr. Kozec asked if campgrounds will be allowed to open. Mrs. McCarthy stated that the Governor is working on a solution.

Mrs. White would like to thank all the First Responders, EOC, Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen, Transfer Station employees, and all those that are keeping the Town running.

Selectman Michaels asked if the cleaning crew will be cleaning up after the life safety work is completed at the Town Hall. Secretary Morin state it was not in their quote. Selectman Michaels asked if the Board would consider adding the cost of cleaning to

the quote. Selectman Michaels stated that some employees in the Town Hall were concerned about who was going to clean up after the work is completed. Chairman Burrill asked Selectman Michaels who was expressing concern. Selectman Michaels stated Town Clerk McCullough had spoken to her about this matter. Mrs. McCullough was asking who was going to clean and plug up the holes in the ceilings. Chief Alcadinho stated that in his experience, no fire sprinkler company has ever patched the holes created by removing the sprinkler heads. Chief Alcadinho stated that after the work is completed, the Fire Department will still need to do an inspection. He went on to say that once the building has been disinfected anyone entering the building could potentially be bringing the virus into the building. Chairman Burrill asked Secretary Moring to contact the custodian to see if he would be able to clean the building on Saturday or Sunday. If the custodian is willingly to clean, then the work can move forward. Mr. Kozec asked if the contractor would be tested before entering the building. Chairman Burrill stated that is not practical. The building will be disinfected on Monday before the employees return to work.

Mrs. White asked if the Board has decided if employees will be furloughed. Chairman Burrill stated there is no change in how payroll is being processed.

III. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary