



Office of the Board of Selectmen
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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DATE: MONDAY, MAY 11, 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 that she attended from May 7 -11, 2020. She provided the latest statistics from the State on cases of COVID-19 which included First Responders.

The State is now offering an online portal for testing to anyone who would like to be tested. A Doctor's referral is no longer required. Testing at long term care facilities will be increased due to the number of reported deaths from COVID-19.

The State is working on getting PPE's to businesses but there is still a shortage on surgical masks. There is a website where businesses can go to order PPE's.

The emergency hotline is seeing more questions concerning re-opening the State. Nationwide, there has been discourse amongst the population against mandating having to wear a mask when in public.

The State DMV will be expanding the number of appointments. They also reported that the number of traffic accidents has increased because more people are out and about.

The number of search and rescues has increased because more hikers are on the trails and getting lost. The recommendation from the State to Towns and Cities that have parks and beaches is they should limit the number of people to the amount the area can handle.

The State reiterated that people should get their information about COVID-19 from a trusted source such as the CDC, FEMA or other trusted website.

The Town's EOC provided the State with information for the stipend that is to go to First Responders. The Town's portion of the stipend is recoverable under the CARES Act. The Board will need to accept the funds at a future meeting.

Chairman Burrill stated that the Town is following the State's lead on re-opening Town buildings.

Secretary Morin reminded the Board that the life safety work at the Library will be done Wednesday, May 13, 2020.

Selectman Gonyer moved to accept the public minutes dated May 4, 2020 as written. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Mr. Jack Kozec informed the Board that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a public meeting tonight via a conference call.

Chairman Burrill informed the Board that the Planning Board will be holding a public meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Selectman Gonyer asked if a plan is ready to accept bulk items at the Transfer Station. Transfer Station Manager (TSM) Gagnon stated that only checks will be accepted. He is still working out how to take cash if the resident does not have a checking account.

Chairman Burrill asked about accepting credit cards as a form of payment. Town Administrator Wrigley stated that she spoke with TSM Gagnon and Bookkeeper Hughes and the process to setup an account is not worth the amount of credit card transactions the Station would see.

Chairman Burrill asked how much the Station takes in on an average weekly basis. TSM Gagnon stated some weeks it's about \$700-\$1000. The Board discussed different methods to use to accept credit cards.

III. Adjourn

Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 6:23pm. Seconded by Selectman Michaels. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary