



**Office of the Board of Selectmen
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**NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
TIME: 6:00PM
CONFERENCE CALL**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairman Burrill called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Utilizing Zoom Video Conferencing was Chairman Matthew A. Burrill, Selectmen Lisa L. Gonyer, Kathryn Michaels, Town Administrator Nancy Wrigley, and Secretary Diane Morin. Utilizing Zoom Audio Conferencing was Selectmen Lawrence B. Foote, Charles R. Melvin Sr. The public session was videotaped and the non-public was audio taped. The public and non-public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin.

Other conference call attendees were Chief Alcadinho and Road Agent Mike Pivero. No members of the public joined the call.

II. Scheduled Business

A. 2020 Tax rate

Town Administrator Wrigley stated that the preliminary tax rate for tax year 2020 has been set by DRA is \$20.90 per \$1000.00. The 2019 tax rate was \$26.38 per \$1000.00. The overlay amount was increased from \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 due to projected abatements and to cover the rounding of the tax bill to remove any change.

Selectman Foote asked if the school portion of the tax bill included \$1,000,000.00 that the school would be returning to the taxpayers. Selectman Melvin stated that the school is returning \$2,200,000.00 to the taxpayers. He believes the return is reflected in the 2020 school rate.

After the statistical update was done, some taxpayers saw a decrease while others had an increase on their tax bill.

The Board discussed taking money from the General Fund to offset the tax bill. Town Administrator Wrigley stated that there is a balance of \$2,000,000.00 in the General Fund. Selectman Melvin asked if the \$2,000,000.00 is what is left over from the 2020 Town budget. Selectman Gonyer stated that it is not and has accumulated over years. Because the rate is lower than last year the Board decided to not use any funds to offset the taxes.

Selectman Gonyer moved to set the 2020 tax rate at \$20.90. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Chairman Burrill read the following:

As Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Newton NH, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe or listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Utilizing Zoom Conference Call for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #929-205-6099. Meeting ID number is 86907536632. Or using the link provided here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86907536632>

We previously gave the notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the conference call via phone.

If anyone has a problem, please email BOSSecretary@newtonnh.net. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Reputation

Selectman Gonyer moved to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Reputation at 6:15pm. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Selectman Gonyer moved to close the non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Reputation at 6:34pm. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Selectman Gonyer moved that the Board just came out of a non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) and that they keep all matters discussed confidential until in the opinion of the majority of the Board the circumstances no longer apply. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

B. Governor's Executive Order

Chairman Burrill stated that Governor Sununu has made it mandatory to wear a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained both inside and out. A notice will be posted at the Transfer Station informing users of the mask mandate.

III. Adjourn

Selectman Gonyer moved to adjourn at 6:39pm. Seconded by Selectman Michaels.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary