

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICE
NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

Thursday, August 27, 2020

MEMBERS

Mr. Mertz, Mr. Drake, and Mr. Shaw were present.

PRESENT:

OTHERS

Town Administrator Mr. Irvine

PRESENT:

CALL TO

Mr. Mertz called the meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORDER:

WORK SESSION

Manifests, bills, requisitions, purchase orders and leave request forms.

Board signed the following purchase order(s) Town Clerk (ballots), Hwy Dept (winter tires for dump truck; follow-up on this purchase needed).

The board approved the following Occupancy Permit(s):

1. Christine & Todd Pica, Map R2, Lot 5

The board approved the following septic design:

1. Van & Cathy Barlow, Map U17, Lot 34

MINUTES

Minutes of 8/20 were tabled.

APPOINTMENTS

6:45 pm

Senator Bob Guida

Senator Guida was present, said he was running for office again and reviewed the status of COVID-19 in the state which has not shown an increase in cases and expressed support for relaxing restrictions to help businesses. Senator Guida reviewed affects to the state due to the virus, which could impact towns, and which is forcing financial review of departments. He asked for input from the board. Mr. Mertz asked about getting instant test result kits and Senator Guida said there are shortages across the country. He expressed concern with school reopening for in-person attendance and the possible affects to communities. Mr. Mertz asked his opinion of online learning and its affect on education vs. in-person attendance and Senator Guida said the teachers have worked very hard to offer the same material to students while keeping the community safe. Mr. Irvine said NH positivity rates have remained low due to its resident's practices, but expressed concern with people coming in from other areas where the positivity rates are much higher, the risk of community spread, and the Governor's desire to open up more. There was discussion on monies saved by the schools as a result of COVID-19 vs. the cost to provide remote learning and using state and federal monies to improve internet access for residents.

DISCUSSION

- Email from town counsel relative to Eversource's request to add a 2019 appeal to their 2018 appeal to save costs for them. The board agreed that Eversource should file a separate 2019 appeal as it wouldn't negatively affect the town.
- Chief Drake said that as the Highway Dept need radio for the new truck there is concern with purchase of a non-compliant radio which would negatively affect grant qualifications. He offered some that are compliant that the Fire Dept has which Mr. Mertz and Mr. Shaw agreed to accept.

- Discussion on a workplace policy that bans pets in the office to determine if this could be modified in some cases, such as an employee that must care for a pet due to a medical reason while allowing that employee to continue working. The board agreed to grant waivers on a case by case basis. Mr. Irvine to draft amendment to policy.
- Letter from HealthTrust advising town of return of unanticipated revenues.
- Letter from NH DES, re: logging on town property approved.
- Email from Twin Tamarack owner John Osuchowski requesting a delay of the same logging operation and its negative effect on the campers. Mr. Irvine said the loggers have been requested to begin no earlier than 7:00 am.
- Tax Collector's lien redemptions.
- Notification of property being auctioned at 104 Shingle Camp Hill Road.
- Letter of appreciation from Belknap CAP for their 2020 appropriations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Irvine advised the board of a taxpayer who did not receive their 1st issue bill in the mail, with interest and penalties at \$2.80. The board agreed this should be waived by the Tax Collector as it was under \$5.00.
- Discussion on Executive Order relative to payroll taxes that provided no guidance. Mr. Irvine said Finance Officer Ms. Duggan got advice from NH Government Finance Officers Assn Administration (NHGFOA) who said to collect the taxes, hold the funds, and await outcome of decision on whether this is a deferral or a waiver of taxes. The board agreed to advise the employees of this decision.
- Mr. Drake suggested an AED installation at the Highway Dept. garage. The board agreed to investigate further.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:31 pm Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to go into Non-Public Session, according to RSA 91A:3 II (b) Hiring. Roll call was taken, Mr. Mertz –Y, Mr. Drake – Y, Mr. Shaw – Y. Vote was unanimous.

PRESENT

Mr. Mertz, Mr. Drake, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Irvine

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:48 pm, Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake, to come out of Non-Public Session and seal the minutes for 5 years. Vote was unanimous.

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PRESENT

Mr. Mertz, Mr. Drake, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Irvine

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:57 pm, Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake, to come out of Non-Public Session and seal the minutes for 5 years. Vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to adjourn at 7:58 pm. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Vose