

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting August 11, 2020

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman and Bryant Scott
In attendance: Police Chief Mike Richard and Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse

Appointments: 6:00 – Mike Richard
6:15 – Scott Whitehouse

The business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:20PM.

Payroll and bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Minutes from the July 14th and July 28th Selectmen's Meeting were read and approved. Three Yield Tax Warrants were reviewed and signed.

A very nice job of weeding and mulching the front of the Town Hall was done by Jacob Marsh in fulfilling some of his Coe-Brown Community Service hours. The Board members expressed their gratitude.

Appointments

6:00 – Police Chief Michael Richard was in attendance to discuss with the Selectmen concerning his dissatisfaction with the work of the County prosecutor. He believes it would benefit both his officers and the Town to contract with a private prosecutor. He proposed contracting those services for the remainder of the year and working on a contract for 2021. The Selectmen, operating under the philosophy of allowing department heads to manage their own departments and budgets, supported his plan.

6:15 – Chief Scott Whitehouse talked briefly with the Selectmen about 2 matters. They encouraged him in his decision not to utilize the department's fire boat for a request of the Census bureau. The Board members were also in support of his idea to plan a small parade with a few Town vehicles to recognize the work on the part of JoAnn Brown and other Bicentennial Committee members. The Bicentennial celebration had been planned for August before the Covid-19 outbreak. He will coordinate with the Police Department and the Selectmen.

Old Business

Updates on a legal matter being handled by the Town attorney were briefly discussed.

New Business

Applications for the positions of Deputy Town Clerk and Land Use Secretary have been received and interviews will be held in the upcoming weeks. The Planning and Zoning Chairmen will be invited to attend the interviews for the position of Land Use Secretary.

Some election updates were provided by Town Clerk Terri Marsh.

- Absentee ballots are being processed and sent out quickly.

- The State is providing protective equipment for both upcoming elections. Chief Whitehouse will pick that up this week.
- There may be some funding available for processing ballots through the Care Act Grant. Terri is looking into that and will apply if we meet the qualifications.
- She has volunteers ready to serve in 3 hour shifts for various jobs on Election Day.
- She and moderator Ron Lemieux are working on an outdoor voting area for those who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask. All registered voters being able to exercise their voting privileges is being carefully considered and planned.

Moderator Ron Lemieux and Terri will attend the next Selectmen's Meeting on August 25th.

The current "reopening plan" is working well. Everyone has been respectful of social distancing and one another.

There being no further business to address, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36PM.