

Minutes of the Selectmen's Work Session March 31, 2020

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman, Bryant Scott, and Brian Monahan
In attendance: Road Agent Greg Messenger, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse

The Selectmen's work session was called to order at 5:25PM.

The Selectmen briefly discussed how various departments and boards were handling routine tasks and meetings in light of the Covid-19 situation.

Road Agent Greg Messenger was in attendance to discuss several matters with the Board.

- A building permit is being sought for a property on Pig Lane. With Pig Lane being a Class VI Road, the owner attended a Planning Board meeting and has completed the Class VI Road Release. Some on the Planning Board raised a concern about the steep slope of the road and possible wash-out impacting the nearby stream. Messenger, Inc. will be upgrading the road, and the Board members wanted to discuss the plans for addressing the slope and possible impact to the stream. At this point there are no plans to change the grade of the road; erosion stone will be placed along the side and an adequate turn around prepared for emergency equipment. The Selectmen agreed that they are fine to allow the property owner to move forward with the project.
- Greg has signed a contract with Pike to do the paving on Province Road to the end of French Meadow. Pike hopes to begin around the end of April.
- Signage in a couple locations was briefly discussed, with a decision not to move forward with signage at this time.

The Selectmen reviewed an update from the Town's attorney regarding several legal matters in process. The court system is essentially closed, so all legal matters will be rescheduled to a future date, and may be delayed beyond that due the backlog that arises. A party interested in the repurchase of a piece of land also requested a postponement until June.

Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse discussed with the Board several matters pertaining to the Covid-19 situation. He was happy to report that, to date, no one in Strafford has tested positive to the virus. Our local hospitals are not overwhelmed; Rockingham County is considered a "hot spot". They discussed the availability and accuracy of available testing. Reporting with regard to accuracy and in light of HIPAA regulations was briefly discussed.

Chief Whitehouse briefly discussed some of the protocols in place for him and his staff, including the use and maintenance of the ambulance in the transport of suspected Covid-19 cases, their wise use of somewhat limited supplies, and the security in place for protecting the identity of Covid-19 cases.

Burn permits are being issued on line by the State. Chief Whitehouse reported that people have been very patient with the process.

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence from a resident on Barn Door Gap Road. The service in that area is being overloaded with residents working from home and students doing schoolwork

online, resulting in poor and very slow connections due to old equipment. The Selectmen's Office will contact TDS by mail noting the needed improvements to service in that area.

At this time a motion was made by Scott Young and seconded by Brian Monahan to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Roll call was taken as follows:

Scott Young – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Brian Monahan – Aye

The Board entered non-public session at 6:23PM.

A motion was made by Scott Young to leave non-public session and return to public session. It was seconded by Bryant Scott. Roll call was taken as follows:

Scott Young – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Brian Monahan – Aye

Public session reconvened at 6:25PM.

In accordance with the Families First Act, a decision regarding payroll was made during the non-public session.

The Selectmen's Office will reach out to KRT, the Town's contract assessor, regarding spring inspections of open building permits. KRT is based out of Massachusetts and considered "non-essential" at this time.

At a future meeting The Selectmen will proceed with establishing fines for some of the ordinances recently passed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, it was moved, seconded, and voted in the affirmative to adjourn the work session. The meeting adjourned at 6:32PM.