

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting May 5, 2020

Members Present: Scott Young, Chairman, Bryant Scott, and Brian Monahan

In Attendance: Chris Bane, Judith Dupré, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse, Eric Rowe,

Appointments Scheduled: 5:35 - Tax Collector, Judy Dupré and Town Clerk, Chris Bane

5:45 – Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse (non-public session requested)

6:00 – Planning Board Chair Charlie Moreno(non-public session requested)

6:30 – Eric Rowe

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 5:31. Minutes of the April 14, 2020 Selectmen's Meeting were reviewed and approved. Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved for payment. An Intent to Cut Timber was reviewed and signed.

Tax Collector Judy Dupré and Town Clerk Chris Bane were in attendance to discuss several matters with regard to reopening the Town Hall. Both the Tax Collector and the Town Clerk, who have the most routine interaction with the public, expressed concerns about exposure to potential virus and violence in their jobs. This concern has been discussed briefly in the past, but now seems to be the proper time to pursue a solution that would address both situations. Ms. Dupré suggested a permanent plexiglass or lexan screen in her window opening with space at the bottom for transacting business and sufficient space above for air flow. Ms. Bane, in anticipation of the Town Hall opening, had ordered and put in place a stand-alone sneeze screen. The Selectmen stated that it would look more professional for both windows to look alike. They do prefer a more permanent solution, commenting that some informal ballistics tests have demonstrated good protection with the lexan screen. They would like the 2 offices to work together to make a design and asked Ms. Dupré to get some quotes for the work to be done as soon as possible. Ms. Bane's stand-alone screen can be used for elections when the more permanent solution for her window is put in place. The Selectmen responded to Ms. Bane's further concerns about being more informed about reopening plans.

At approximately 6:00PM the Selectmen entered into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c). The session ended at approximately 6:13PM.

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 (i)(e). Roll call was taken as follows:

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

The Board entered non-public session at 6:16PM.

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

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

Public session reconvened at 6:32PM.

No votes were taken or decisions were made during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Bryant Scott and seconded by Brian Monahan to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

6:30 Eric Rowe, Evans Mountain Road, asked to speak with the Board about some concerns he has for the use and maintenance of Evans Mountain Road. He presented a brief history of the land acquisition along the road by Blue Hills Foundation, BearPaw and Strafford's Conservation Commission. LCHIP assisted financially in the acquisition of the land. Mr. Rowe's understands that in accepting the LCHIP grant, certain tasks were to be completed, including a stewardship plan and adequate parking to make the property accessible to all. Mr. Rowe has met and discussed some of these concerns with the new director of BearPaw.

Mr. Rowe would like the Board to have the Town attorney review the documents the Town signed with LCHIP and obtain a legal opinion about the obligations of the Conservation Commission to fulfill the agreement. He would like to know the nature of the Town's authority and obligation in the matter. Mr. Rowe noted that during the recent Covid situation an increased interest in hiking in the area had arisen. In light of that and the general use of the Conservation Land, he does not feel he should be responsible for the entire maintenance of the road. He would like some formal maintenance agreement for the maintenance of Evans Mountain Road.

New Business

The Selectmen responded to inquiries about taking materials from the Transfer Station and a property with numerous vehicles parked in the yard. Both matters will be considered.

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 (e). Roll call was taken as follows:

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

The Board entered non-public session at 7:22PM.

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

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

Public session reconvened at 7:29PM.

No votes were taken, nor decisions made during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Bryant Scott and seconded by Scott Young to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

There was a brief discussion about the Zoning Board. Books for improved training have been obtained for all Zoning Board members and are available for pick-up at the Town Hall.

With no further business to discuss, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. With a vote in the affirmative, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51PM.