

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting July 14, 2020

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman and Brian Monahan

In attendance: Ron Lemieux, Scott Whitehouse, Ashley Rowe, Cecil Abels, Tim Reed, Town clerk
Terri Marsh, Tax Collector Judy Dupré

Appointments: 6:00 –Ron Lemieux
6:30 – Scott Whitehouse
6:45 – Timothy Reed

The business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

Payroll and bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Minutes from the June 30th Selectmen's Meeting were read, amended and approved as amended. A notice of pay rate was signed. An Intent to Cut Timber was reviewed and will require a bond to be posted. State form PA-28 was signed.

Appointments

6:00 – Town Moderator Ron Lemieux was in attendance to discuss the plans for the 2 upcoming elections. He has been communicating with Town Clerk about logistics and feels very confident about the Primary Election in September. Other sites where the election(s) might be held were discussed, but the Town Hall seems to remain the best site. Options for voting accommodations are being discussed and assessed. It is likely that there will be a greater number of absentee voting than usual. Mr. Lemieux has been attending Zoom meetings for moderators; the Town Clerk and supervisors of the Checklist have been attending their own Zoom meetings. The Secretary of State's Office has been helping Town's prepare and is in frequent communication with the clerks, moderators and supervisors; the State is providing protective equipment and supplies for the September and November elections. The Selectmen will invite the Town Clerk, the Police and Fire Chiefs, as well as Mr. Lemieux to future meetings to discuss ongoing election planning.

6:30 – Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse shared some details with the Selectmen about a news magazine that is planning to do a story involving one of his firefighters. Some filming will take place in Town, and the story is supposed to air on television in the future. Specific details are not yet available.

6:45 - Whig Hill resident, Tim Reed was in attendance to discuss with Board members his desire to serve the community by being an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Representing his firm as a civil engineer, he is familiar with the work of zoning boards. Board members shared thoughts about professional conduct of board members and welcomed Mr. Reed as an alternate member; Town Clerk Terri Marsh administered the Oath of Office. It was agreed that his expertise as a civil engineer would be an asset to the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board plans to meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month; a work session is scheduled for July 23rd.

New Business

Ashley Rowe was in attendance to discuss a proposed change in the Zoning Board application process. The Selectmen's Office will consult the Town attorney about the legality of the proposal and proper steps to adopt it. Mr. Rowe is the new chairman of the Zoning Board. He has been working on the applications to make them fillable PDFs and available on the Town website. Mr. Rowe and Mr. Reed were introduced. The Selectmen continue to search for additional alternate members to the ZBA.

Road Agent, Greg Messenger will investigate removing some bushes on the corner of Lakeview Drive and Water Street to allow for a better line of site along Water Street.

The Selectmen discussed several items pertaining to the Town Clerk's Office.

- The Selectmen granted Ms. Marsh's request for a 1 month extension on the deadline for dog licensing before the \$25 penalty is assessed. It was noted that with the Covid situation, rabies vaccinations have been delayed and 138 dog licenses have yet to be secured.
- The Selectmen approved Ms. Marsh's request to hire and train a Deputy Town Clerk, hopefully by the end of August. The position would assist the Town Clerk for two 7 hour days per week. The advertisement, which will be published locally, and process of interview were briefly discussed. In the meantime, the Selectmen approved some temporary assistance, 1 day a week, for help in preparing for elections until a Deputy is hired.

The Selectmen's Office will also advertise locally for a part time Land Use Secretary.

Tax Collector Judy Dupré noted that the Town Office was running smoothly under the current reopening plan. However, she requested that when the Selectmen "revisit" the plan at an upcoming meeting, she would like to have the lobby limit increased to 4 so that she would be able to operate from her lobby window rather than the outside window which she is currently using.

Cecil Abels attended the Selectmen's Meeting to express his feelings about the situation with his property on Second Crown Point Road. Chairman Young responded, and Mr. Abels was aware, that the Board was able to listen, but unable to discuss the matter or address his comments as this particular situation is being addressed by the Town attorney.

There being no further business to address, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13PM.