

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes June 8, 2020

7:15 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence for the victims of Covid-19 and for those on the front lines.

Board reviewed the minutes of June 1st. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of June 1, 2020 as amended. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Department Head meeting

Chief Furlong, Police Department

- The electronic speed signs have been installed on the Francestown Turnpike and Beech Hill Roads.
- Still monitoring the Trail Head parking areas. No issues or calls to service yet.
- We are waiting for the Conservation Commission to address OHRV complaints.
- In this time of Civil Unrest, calls to service have changed. For instance, we had a subject barricaded in a residence. They were afraid to exit the home.
- Attended a briefing in Milford regarding the protest. There were 300+ peaceful protesters.

Esposito thanked the Chief for his Department's professionalism in this unusual time.

Heather Kennedy, Recreation Director

- We did a modified version of Spring Gala. A good number of people participated. Thank you to all who put together floats for the "parade".

Roberge asked about the Summer Concert series being on hold.
Kennedy said that she wanted to talk about that tonight.

Ben Crosby, DPW Director

- Reclaiming a portion of Beech Hill Rd. tomorrow morning, then paving can be done on Beech Hill, Salisbury and Sean Drive.
- Beech Hill Road will be closed from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm tomorrow.
- Found issues with the hydraulics in the backhoe. The \$2895 repair put that budget line quite a bit over.
- Bob Sawyer's MRI is still scheduled for June 17.
- Need to discuss the next step for the transfer station.
- The calcium chloride tanks are all set up and we got the first delivery this morning.

Randy Wilson, Fire Ward

- Nothing new to report, call volume is normal and everything is in working order.

End of Department Head Meeting.

Furlong gave the latest Covid-19 report. 5079 people have tested positive, 1392 have recovered and there have been 286 deaths. Mont Vernon has had 7 diagnosed cases but the curve has flattened. Stay at home 2.0 is still in effect, but it is expected to expire June 15th.

Esposito wanted to discuss the re-opening plan for the Town Offices.

Furlong said that Bonnie Angulas, Rich Masters, and he worked on the document that was distributed today.

Masters said that this document was put together using Londonderry's reopening plan as a template. Of course, it boils down to the expected: Masks, Hand Sanitizer and Social Distancing. We need to control it so that the risk to our employees is minimized too. Putting a barrier up, asking visitors to wear a mask, and having hand sanitizer stations available. The expectations for our employees: don't come to work sick, monitor health daily. There are 6 questions that should be answered daily.

Angulas asked if it is a verbal check and was told yes, or that it could be a paper that needs a signature.

Berry said that he would like everyone to go over the document line by line, make changes and come up with something to put on the website.

Furlong asked if we could meet Wednesday night, listen to the Department Head's concerns as they will know how these procedures will work best in their departments. He also wanted to know about the provision for travel by public conveyance. The document requires quarantine for that.

Masters said that it was in the company he works for's plan, and may be useful for us also.

Amy Wyman asked if the ferry to Martha's Vineyard is considered a "Public Conveyance"?

Masters answered: yes, it would be, you would be expected to quarantine 14 days.

Furlong said that the NHMA did not have personal travel in their suggestions at all.

Roberge said that private businesses are doing things very differently; she would like to see what the NHMA suggests.

Masters said that all this should be in a document that can be posted on the website.

Kennedy asked if it is clear what will happen 6/15? Will the 10 people gathering be lifted?

Furlong said that 2.0 does not include verbiage on limiting gatherings.

Furlong asked Yeaton about the barriers that her husband had volunteered to build.

Yeaton said that the DPW could do the hanging barriers that were decided on.

Crosby asked if there was a plan as to where we will get the plexiglass and how thick it needs to be.

Eposito said that it could be thin, but it needs to go down the whole length of the Town Hall counter, maybe 2' high.

Roberge said that 2' isn't sufficient – we shouldn't skimp on the plexiglass.

Masters agreed that 2' would be too low. He also added that the offices should be cleaned at least once/day.

Furlong asked Angulas to share her reopening plan for the Library.

Angulas said that they have it broken down into 4 phases. Phase 1 and 2 have been approved by the trustees.

The entire foyer is empty now, and the DPW installed the original breezeway doors. We reopened the basement as a 72-hour quarantine space for materials that are returned. The Daland Trustees have purchased a hand sanitizer station for the entrance.

Furlong said that he has 8 gallons of hand sanitizer. Masks and sanitizer are available from the State. Anything else may be reimbursable through FEMA or GOFERR.

Crosby said that we could buy sanitizer through the uniform company.

Furlong suggested we all get the same equipment so that supplies are interchangeable. Also, nothing says we have to have the offices open on 6/15; we should only open when we are ready.

Angulas said that the children need the books for summer reading. The drop box is open, we have gotten over 200 materials back already.

Furlong asked if we should exclude the Library reopening since they already have their own phased plan.

Angulas said that Phase 2 is when we open with curbside service through the summer to stay single staffed. We will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 – 3. We want to be aligned with you for Phase 3 where we are limiting the numbers of people coming into the building. Phase 4 is fully open. She asked about children wearing masks.

Furlong said that children under 2 and people with disabilities are exempt from wearing masks. He also offered that the announcement for the changes for May 31st was made on May 30; we may not learn of the June 15th changes till the 14th. He will request 500 masks per building.

Angulas asked about signage and if she should come up with something herself.

Masters said that each building should have the same sign.

Angulas feels they should be laminated and put outside the buildings.

Berry said that the offices must be cleaned daily by staff, and that our weekly cleaner has left employment, but we will replace him as soon as we can.

Furlong said that we are operating 5 buildings now, we should look at hiring a contracted cleaning service. He then offered to check with Homeland Security to see if they are providing laminated signs.

Angulas asked if we have to have them approved by Town Counsel.

Eposito said that we will be using the CDC language, so it is not necessary to run it by Town Counsel.

Furlong agreed.

Eposito said that Hollis and Brookline are recycling everything now. We will be taking only newspaper in the newspaper bin. Magazines must go into mixed paper. Plastics: only #1 clear plastic can be recycled. All the rest goes into the trash compactor. Glass needs to be only glass; no pyrex or ceramics. The loads will be rejected and we will get fined. There is no market for plastic other than #1. We can start accepting more recycling, but need to maintain the social distancing recommended.

Crosby suggested making the shed in on one side – out the other. He could put up cones.

Roberge wants to open two more things to recycle: mixed paper and plastic.

Eposito said that the newspaper bin is already mixed paper, we could fill it up, and when it is emptied only accept the newspapers. Mixed paper would need to go in a different bin.

Berry said that some people have not gone by the rules and are sorting their cans and breaking down cardboard boxes at the transfer station causing a hold up for everyone else. This has caused the attendants to be verbally abused daily. The two attendants are completely occupied and cannot monitor the recycling. We need more manpower and to educate the public to do the correct things.

Angulas feels it is a lack of communication on our part; there should be more signs.

Eposito feels that we should open the paper and plastic.

Roberge said that we need to make it very clear that we are only recycling clear plastic; no colors or milk jugs.

Masters said that people want to recycle. That may cost some money, but we need to allow them to recycle as much as possible.

Roberge suggested letting people know that recycling your food cans in the metal container brings revenue back directly to the Town.

Esposito said that newspaper may not be worth it; it gets emptied once every 6 – 8 months. He then asked David Brooks to put out some more information about recycling in the flyer. David agreed.

Esposito asked when we should start the recycling of paper and clear plastic.

Crosby suggested Tuesday, June 16th. Board agreed. It is recommended that patrons and employees wear masks.

Roberge reminded everyone that masks are required in the buildings.

Yeaton said that she and the Town Moderator are concerned about the ballot counters at the upcoming elections. They are usually from the most susceptible sector of the population and won't want to be in a group of people counting ballots. She suggests that now is the time to buy/rent a vote counting machine for \$3500.

Berry said that David Sturm has agreed to write a letter to the Secretary of State as to why this should be a reimbursable expense. Board will make a decision this week.

9:15 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown