

Town of Boscawen
Board of Selectmen
Final Minutes
Thursday April 2, 2020 at 6:00pm

In attendance: Ed Cherian, Lorrie Carey, Paul Dickey, Alan Hardy, Katie Phelps, Kellee Easler, Kevin Wyman, Mark Varney, Sarah Gerlack, Dean Hollins, Haley Dilts-Brown, Kiersten O'Brien, Barbara Randall.

Chairman Cherian mentioned due to the state of emergency and emergency order #12 from governor Sununu, conducting a formal meeting virtual is in accordance with RSA-A:2,III (b),

Selectwoman Carey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectman Dickey seconded. All in favor.

Selectwoman Carey made a motion to appoint Town Administrator Hardy to sign all documents for this week on behalf of the Board. Selectman Dickey seconded. All in favor.

Hardy open discussion on the Facilities Directors Position. The position was approved at town meeting. Discussion ensued, and the Board asked Human Resource Director Phelps to email the Board the job description and to hold off on posting the position due to the inability to hold interviews due to COVID-19. The position will be revisited at next week's Work Session.

Hardy mentioned that he spoke with Town Clerk/Tax Collector Hoyt pertaining to the Trustees of The Trusts Funds. The Trustees areas followed, Tama Tillman, Lyman Cousins and Polly Dawson. Hoyt is working on getting the members sworn in, and they may have to meet for a virtual meeting.

Emergency Management Director Varney updated the Board on new information concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Varney mentioned that the numbers in NH are rising and is projected to peak around April 24th. Emergency Management ordered Personal Protective Equipment for the first responders in Boscawen.

Chair of Agriculture Committee John Keegan was asked to come and speak to the Board regarding. The roundabout project with the Department of Transportation. Selectwoman Carey and Selectman Dickey had concerns about starting the project and expending money from the budget during the pandemic and the bridge construction that is planned to start. Keegan mentioned that the only funds that would have to be spent this year is \$200.00 to Thompson's landscaping. He is willing to wait for payment for the balance for a year. Keegan mentioned they had \$2,000.00 budgeted for the project, and they will be looking for local donors. The Board wants to make sure that donations made by local businesses will not affect the donations that are made to Old Home Day, Keegan will reach out to OHD. The Board had approached Keegan about taking on this project and Keegan, and the committee have come up with a plan that was shared at a Board meeting several weeks ago. Keegan has been working with GMI for cleanup and sand removal, it was suggested to check with the Police Department for the safety of the volunteers and Thompson Landscaping for supplies. The Board suggest to table finishing the project for one year. Continue with clean up and cut weeds back this year and start planting next year.

Varney received an update from the State with numbers of NH residents affected by COVID-19.

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The state has reported 64 new cases, four more in Merrimack County, 42 adult females and 22 adult males. To date, there have been 6575 negative test and 110 test pending. There have been 91 first responders in the state that are being monitored, Police officers have the highest numbers.

Planning and Community Development Director Easler mentioned that the Planning Board will hold a virtual meeting on April 7, 2020 at their normal time, Planning Board Chair Randal mentioned they have three applications for review. The Conservation Committee will meet on April 21st to go over the wetland permits. Easler mentioned that she has some concerns about emails between board members since meetings are delayed. Chairman Cherian mentioned that everyone needed to be careful of what details go into an email and to enforce the RSA 91: a rule.

Hardy continued the conversation concerning the Boscawen Congregational Church petition for \$3,000.00 for the Food Pantry. After much discussion and the worry that the COVID-19 pandemic is going to put on the Welfare budget at the time, the Board made a motion to take \$500.00 from the Boards donation line in the budget #4130150, this money was stated to be used to purchase food for the pantry that services residents of Boscawen.

Selectwoman Carey made a motion to make a \$500.00 donation to the Boscawen Congregational Church Food Pantry from budget the Select Boards Donation budget line #4130150. Selectman Dickey seconded. All in favor.

Cherian mentioned due to COVID-19 the Old Home Day Committee is unable to hold bingo. Bingo is not just a social event for many seniors but also a cheap hot meal. The concern for the seniors during this time is high and suggested that an "ad" be put in the Newsvine on who do you contact if you need during this difficult time. Carey mentioned for the Board and Welfare Administrator Gerlack work together to come up with it. Police Chief Wyman mentioned that the Police Department just posted a letter stating that they are available for anyone if they need services.

Police Chief Wyman mentioned that he needed to purchase the new cruiser. Cherian suggested to work with Finance Director Phelps to draft a transfer of funds for next week.

Public Works Director Hollins mentioned that the D&E landfill was inspected. Hollins has two employees that scheduled for a certification class to be weight masters. There is potential for the class to be canceled due to COVID-19.

Hollins mentioned that they will be potentially be paving in April on Corn Hill road. Hollins will need to do a transfer from Public Works Capital Reserve to replace one of the pick-up trucks that is also used as a plow truck.

Hollins stated that the employees are practicing social distancing and taking precautions while handling recycling. Other towns have stopped taking in anything other than house hold trash.

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Adam Egounis reported from the audience that the Fire Department and Penacook Rescue are seeing a lower than normal call volume due to one wanting to go to the hospital during this pandemic. When they are called out they are using the necessary precautions to keep themselves and the public safe.

Selectwoman Carey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Selectman Dickey seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Gerlack.