



Town Of Milton
Remote Board of Selectman Meeting
April 20, 2020
Milton Town Hall

Board of Selectmen in Attendance: Chairman, Erin Hutchings, Andrew Rawson, Matt Morrill.

Other Attendees: Town Administrator, Ernie Creveling, and Public Works Director, Pat Smith.

Meeting Called to Order : Selectmen Hutchings welcomed all who joined the remote selectman's meeting, under emergency order #12, & Executive 2020-04 giving the board permission to meet electronically, as long as they are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, conference call, or other means of access. Selectman Hutchings read off all the ways in which to access the meeting. She then called for a roll call of the selectmen.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of Allegiance was recited at 5:03

Public Comment: Please note that because this is a business meeting, and given the limitations of remote access, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Orders regarding public meetings and the Stay-At-Home Order, the Board will not be opening up public comments or discussion for this business meeting.

New Business: Discussion and/or Possible Actions

1.) Update Regarding Covid-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Activities: TA, E. Creveling stated that the town was still operating under the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order. Public buildings remain closed, and that the town is continuing to do as much as they possibly can by mail. The Town Clerk/ Tax Collector's Office has been extremely busy. They have handled over 100 on-line transactions, along with a large number of mail-in transactions. They are working hard to keep up with the work-load. He also received an update from Fire Chief Marique on his department, stating that because of the updated EMS protocols the state has issued, it was necessary to order additional PPE for the station. He also advised that he had received a stimulus check from Medicare that was deposited into the ambulance account in the amount of \$4,000. Police Chief, Krauss stated that in his department, calls have been increasing as they normally do this time of year. His officers will continue to try to keep the social distancing up when dealing with calls the best that they can.

2.) Department of Public Works

a.) Public Works Director, Pat Smith approached the board in regards to returning to normal operations of the transfer station, noting that it will take additional personal for traffic control. He has received requests from townspeople for bulky and construction debris, because they have no place to store it. P. Smith for it, but wanted the permission of the board to return to normal operations. There would be signage put up for residents to follow the distancing protocols, and there may be additional wait times, but he felt that they could safely return to normal operations by 4/24/2020. The selectman were in favor of returning to normal operations. P. Smith will notify the residents on their website, and the Facebook pages. He also gave the select board some literature on the fee schedules and the increased cost of some of the commodities that the transfer station takes in. He suggested that they might have a workshop and have a public hearing on the increase cost of tipping fees. E. Hutchings thought that the board might be able to address it sometime in May. M. Morrill would like to address it as soon as possible. The selectman will review the literature and get back to P. Smith on a date to set up a workshop.

b.) **School House on Plummer's Ridge:** P. Smith informed the board that he received a check for \$3,200 after the \$1,000 deductible based on what the insurance company had given for their assessment of \$4,200 worth of damage. There are currently two tarps placed on the roof to protect it from further damage. He received three quotes on repairing the entire roof. New England Roofing (\$9,000); Branch River Custom Builders (\$8,400) and B&M Roofer (\$8,500). Pat shared that he did not have the money in his budget at this time to even cover cost of the \$1,000 deductible for the repair because of the default budget. He proposed that the tarps be left on until the end of summer, and then revisit the repair then.



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P. Smith felt that If there isn't enough money to do the entire roof, then the town would have to at least repair the damaged part that was covered by the insurance company. A. Rawson questioned why monies could not be taken out of the Government Buildings Line. P. Smith cautioned that he would not advise money being spent out of the Government Building Line at this time, because they do not know what issues might come up over the next few months, and money is going to be tight. P. Smith asked if they wanted to take money out of the Capital Reserve Funds, but A. Rawson did not think that spending that money was a good idea. P. Smith recommended that the tarps be left in place and revisit the funding in the fall. He estimated that the additional cost would be around \$4,200. E. Hutchings agreed that waiting until the fall would be the best idea. A. Rawson was worried that there could be additional damage. M. Morrill agreed that waiting until fall would be the best solution. The consensus of the board was to postpone any repairs until the fall because of the limited funds available that they have to work with for this year. P. Smith stated that he will keep checking on the roof to make sure that the tarps are working so no additional damage can be done.

3.) Qualifications for the Local Government Efficiency Task Force : E. Creveling went over the framework of how the task force would be created, who should serve on the board and what the purpose of the task force would be. He would like the board to take a look at what he put together and give him some feedback on what they would like to see. E. Creveling suggested that there should be a finite timeline of maybe 12 to 18 month projects, and efficiencies that are identified thoroughly. The findings then could be presented to the Board of Selectmen for the 2021 budget cycle. M. Morrill suggested that they move forward with letting people know that the town is looking for volunteers. E. Creveling would like to narrow down who the board would like to have sit on this task force. The board continued to discuss who some of the tentative members might be. E. Hutchings suggested that E. Creveling puts out a notification to see what the interest level would be from the community and from the suggested boards that were discussed.

Old Business: Discussion and/or Possible Actions

1.) Consideration of Selectmen By-laws: A. Rawson requested that employee birthdays and notification of deaths be brought back as part of the selectman's meetings. M. Morrill was fine with them as they written. E. Hutchings reviewed the requested changes that she would like to see implemented. E. Creveling will update the by-laws as requested and have them ready for the board to adopt at the next meeting.

Other Business That May Come Before the Board

A. Rawson wanted to bring up the re-hiring of two positions in the DPW department. He questioned why the town would need a full-time cleaner at this time, and why the town would be re-hiring another DPW Worker position at all. E. Creveling stated that DPW is currently down 4 employees. M. Morrill wanted to table the discussion until P. Smith was present. A. Rawson stated that he is against hiring anyone else, after they had just laid off a part-time worker in another department. A. Rawson suggested they re-hire a part-time cleaner and save the town the cost of benefits. E. Creveling added that they should wait until P. Smith can be present to have this discussion. A. Rawson stated that until a couple of years ago the town did not have a government buildings cleaner. E. Hutchings stated that that was incorrect and that there had been a cleaner prior to the cleaner that had just left. She also stated that at a prior meeting they had given P. Smith permission to move forward with advertising and re-hiring for these two positions. A. Rawson felt that this needed to be discussed further, because the town had a layoff in another department. E. Hutchings suggested that they revisit the issue at

Approval of Minutes: The following minutes were approved as written,

April 6, 2020 (Public Minutes): A. Rawson motion, M. Morrill seconded.

E. Hutchings called for a vote: Rawson (yes); Morrill (yes); Hutchings (yes).



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Expenditure Report: A. Rawson is questioning the following lines. Town Administration Printing Line (50% expended); Professional Services, under the Tax Collector line (50% expended) ; Fire Department Part-time Salary Line (82% expended), Fire Department Vehicle Line (almost 100% expended) and the Fire Department Equipment Purchase Line (91% expended). Highway Part-time Salary Line (160% expended); Welfare Line (71% expended) & why the mileage Line in welfare has been absorbed. The Recreation Part-time Line is almost (100% expended). E. Creveling will review the lines with the Finance

Administrator Comments :

E. Creveling received a request to consider the posting of Jug Hill Road in Milton Mills. He discussed the issue with Chief Krauss. The Chief will do a little research with the neighbors to see what the issues are. The Chief will post an officer there to collect the data he would need in order to recommend whether the road gets posted or not. E. Creveling will report the findings back to the board at the next meeting.

E. Creveling also gave an update to his work on the town owned tax deeded properties. He has discovered an additional issues with 565 White Mountain Highway. It appears that there may be one more notice that would need to go out just to cover all the bases with that property. He is checking with previous legal council on the issue. He is still putting together all the documents that were requested, so that the board can move forward with the sale of these properties. He shared that the Solar Garden Agreement is still being worked on, and there should be a \$20,000 payment coming to the town. A. Rawson mentioned the property on Charles street, the potential of an interested party in the purchase of that lot. E. Creveling stated that he had not reached out to the owner of the adjacent property yet.

Selectmen Comments:

A. Rawson: Selectman Rawson wanted to reach out to the residents and hoped that everyone was holding up well during the Covid-19 Crisis. He wanted to let residents know that they can reach out to any of the selectmen or to the town administrator if they need anything. He also wanted to let the residents know that the Public Works Department is still holding their clean-up day this coming Saturday. Information is out online on the Public Works Facebook Page and on the town website.

M. Morrill: No Comment at this time.

E. Hutchings: Selectmen Hutchings stated that because of the social distancing that the bar-b-que has been cancelled. Residents should call and set up a time to pick up their bags to put the waste you pick up in, then leave the filled bags on the side of the road for public works to pick up. She stated that all the information should be out on the website and she

Next Meeting : May 4, 2020

Meeting Adjourned: A. Rawson motioned to adjourn at 6:12 pm, seconded by M. Morrill.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen J. Brown
Recording Secretary



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Chairman, Erin Hutchings

Vice Chair, Andrew Rawson

Selectman, Matt Morrill

Date Signed: _____