

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15, 2020

Present: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Joel Cope, and Teresa DeBonville.

Chairperson, Michael Strait called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Update Agenda: The agenda was updated to include the authorization of Joel to sign the annual financial plan for the vtrans municipal highway grant application. Heather McElroy motions to authorize Joel to sign the application. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Public comment: None.

Road department: The board noted that the hiring of the third road crew worker is on hold at this time. The board also noted that unless there is a deep discount offer on the purchasing of the new dump truck, this is also on hold until the pandemic is cleared.

Building and maintenance: Ray has a lift rented at this time to put the new lights up in the town garage and while he has the lift rented he will be putting up the banners.

Recreation department: Phil White has requested to hold the annual swim with use of the public dock area on August 9, 2020. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to allow Phil White to hold the annual swim provided we are out of quarantine from the covid-19 pandemic. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Set rates for town equipment: Tabled.

Pay orders: The board reviewed and signed the pay orders for the general account and the road account.

Approve previous minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the March 6th and April 1st, 2020 meetings. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to approve the minutes as printed. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: Lisa Moore asked the board about putting the property transfers into the computer system instead of having James from NEMRC travel up here to do this task. The board took no action on this.

Mark broke his cell phone at work and has asked the town to pay to replace it. The board took no action on this.

At 6:25 a motion was made by Heather McElroy to go into executive session because we need to address a probable short fall of tax revenue pursuant to 1 vsa 313 (3)(a)(3) to consider layoffs. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Upon coming out of executive session at 7:05 PM, it was decided that due to the possible negative impact to tax revenues because of the pandemic, and due to Governor Scott's Executive Order, the board approved changes to the hours worked by specified town staff, until further notice. The board noted that the changes will mean the employees most affected will be eligible for unemployment benefits as well as the additional \$600 from the stimulus package.

In accordance with the directive from the state, and until this crisis is over, the road crew will work only when absolutely necessary such as if there is a danger to the traveling public, like a road washout or bad pothole. If they do have to work, social distancing and other measures need be taken to lessen the risk on infecting others. Road crew members will not be paid unless called to work. Health insurance and other benefits will continue to be paid by the town.

Ray's hours will be reduced to 10 hours a week, during which he is to clean the town hall and train depot common areas. Benefits will continue to be paid by the town.

Michelle and Gloria are laid off. Michelle's benefits will continue to be paid by the town. John is able to do his job from home.

Michelle's part-time zoning work is suspended until further notice.

Town recycling will continue, but Bulky Days are suspended until further notice.

Mike will talk to Teresa about staffing needs in the town hall.

Joel will inquire about the greeter program to see if they have guidelines for boat inspections during the pandemic.

{Note that this was the select board's direction as of the meeting. Further information may result in changes to the directives listed above}

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.