

**Board of Selectmen
April 8/15, 2020**

Present: Mark P. Duffy, Chair (via conf call); Richard C. Edwards (via conf call); Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Duffy called the posted meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:17 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase for Police Chief John Ventura to \$80,182.50/year, year 7 on the current wage chart. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:22 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board discussed the possibility of developing a policy for use of social media, within the limits of RSA 98-E. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (e). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:24 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, Mr. Scala updated the Board with respect to pending litigation. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:27 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase for Officer Brandon Jendrock to \$22.50/hour, year 4 on the current wage chart. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:29 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase for Officer Dave Landry to \$21.97/hour, year 3 on the current wage chart. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:31 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase for Officer Jacob Boucher to \$21.97/hour, year 3 on the current wage chart. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:36 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board reviewed with Chief John Ventura the evaluation prepared for him.

At this point Mr. Duffy called for a recess, with the understanding that he would not be participating in the public portion of the meeting scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the Opera House.

At 7 p.m., those now present included: Richard C. Edwards, Acting Chair (via conference call); Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary. A Clearview Community staff member was operating the video equipment. Mr. Scala displayed the phone number and access code required to participate in tonight's meeting. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It quickly became obvious that the technology to be used for public participation was not working as anticipated. **Mr. Fifield moved to recess this meeting, to be reconvened on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 6 p.m. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

Mr. Scala announced to the public that may be watching via Clearview, that given current conditions, State law requires the ability for the public to hear all Board members participating in the meeting. Therefore, the meeting will reconvene on April 15 @ 6 p.m.

On April 15, 2020, Mr. Duffy called the meeting back to order at 6:01 p.m. This portion of the meeting is being conducted through the use of Zoom, via which Mr. Duffy participated remotely. Those present physically were Richard C. Edwards; Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; Brock Mitchell, Director of Public Works; and Toni Bodah, Secretary. All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments – None scheduled.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1 – None forthcoming.

3. Unfinished Business – None scheduled.

4. New Business

a) Bid Solicitation for Scrap Material – One bid received, from John Blackwood in the amount of \$100. Mr. Mitchell is anxious to have the material removed from the site and recommends the Board accept the bid of \$100. **Mr. Edwards moved to accept John Blackwood's \$100 bid for miscellaneous scrap material at the Highway Garage, as recommended by Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) Heritage Commission CLG Grant – The Board previously supported the Commission's grant application, which has been awarded in the amount of \$4500. It is recommended that the Town Administrator be given authority to execute documents as necessary for processing this grant. **Mr. Duffy moved to authorize Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator, to execute documents as necessary relevant to the CLG Grant of \$4500 awarded to the Heritage Commission. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

c) Proposed Logging Operation, Map 200 Lot 6 – The owner of this property was given permission by the Board of Selectmen in September 2019 to access said property for a logging operation

via the Wakefield Transfer Station, with stipulations (read aloud by Mr. Scala). One stipulation was that the operation occur while the ground is frozen. Another required the posting of a bond. **Mr. Edwards moved to waive the requirement that the ground be frozen and to waive the requirement for posting of a bond, as the DPW Director does not see the need for either. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion.** Mr. Duffy noted that the Town will be repaving the Transfer Station area in the near future (after the logging operation). Written permission from Eversource for use of their right-of-way has been received. Mr. Mitchell added that some of the stipulations were in place when we were not sure the voters would approve the 2020 budget. **The motion then passed 3-0.**

5. Proposed Capital Reserve Expenditures

a) Landfill Closure \$1183.63 – This represents mandatory testing of several private wells located close to the closed landfill. **Mr. Duffy moved to approve this expenditure as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

6. Correspondence – None scheduled.

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2 – None forthcoming.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Town Administrator's Update

--Parks & Rec: The staff has found much work to accomplish during this pandemic, and they are currently picking up roadside trash on Town roads. Today is Garney Road. They are looking for volunteers! Also, thanks to Parks & Rec, the Easter Bunny spent quite a bit of time in the Wakefield villages last Friday.

--Landfill Closure: Mr. Scala spoke with engineer John Kubuczki of Hydrogeochemical, who advised we will likely be required to monitor the site for another 20 years.

--The Board should give some thought to Pride Day. The Chamber has decided it will not occur in May this year and they are seeking input from the Board as to when to plan for it to occur. Chief Ventura has suggested early August. Mr. Duffy stressed the need to follow CDC guidelines. Mr. Fifield added that the Chamber is considering combining the event with the Town's fireworks (July 2). The Chamber will need to discuss with Wayne Robinson.

--The Conservation Commission is seeking appointments to fill 3 vacancies. **Mr. Edwards moved to make the following member appointments to the Conservation Commission: Paul Johnson for a term through March 2023; Natalie Kelley for a term through March 2023; and Relf Fogg for a term through March 2021. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--Mr. Scala advised that we will conduct a public hearing on May 13 to consider expenditures from the Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund.

b) Tax Collector's Monthly Comparison – Provided for the Board's information.

c) Building Permit Releases – None received.

d) Payment Manifests – None scheduled.

e) Minutes – Mr. Edwards moved to approve all minutes of March 20, 25 & 27, 2020, public and non-public, as presented. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

f) Selectmen's Work Session

--Mr. Duffy advised that Pam Wiggin is seeking the status of the lease for Turntable Park, as well as a lease for use of the Spinney Meeting House. Mr. Scala will do some investigating.

--Mr. Scala noted that the next regular meeting is scheduled for April 22; however, at this point there is nothing to be addressed. The Board agreed there would be NO meeting on April 22, and that the next meeting of the Board would occur on May 13, 2020.

g) Non Public Sessions – Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session. [The Board then relocated to the Town Administrator's office.]

The Board returned to public session at 6:29 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase for Mike Laughy to \$21.07/hour, year 3 on the wage chart.

Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:25 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase for Lt. Chris Waldron to \$65,584.98/year, year 4 on the wage chart. **Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:50 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board discussed FEMA funding options during the pandemic, as well as pay policies being adopted in other NH towns. No decisions were made.


Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:



Mark P. Duffy, Chair



Richard C. Edwards



Kenneth G. Fifield