Virtual Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Virtual through Zoom at CMH

Chairman Ruth Mooney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present at the Corner Meeting House was Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Claude Patten, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Police Chief Lewandowski. Present virtually were Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Paquin, and Town Planner Dari Sassan.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Abatements, Manifests, Exemptions & Credits

The appropriate abatements, exemptions, credits, and manifests were signed by all attending Board members.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 4, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Coronavirus Relief Fund Reimbursement- TA Beaudin previously handed out the fund guidelines as well as the proposed Town by Town disbursement, TA Beaudin highlighted Belmont’s potential distribution based on expenses. To date for the first period March 1 – April 30, the Town is submitting approximately $8,000 in invoices for reimbursement, this includes legal expenses, care for the homeless, and computer and software needs to address remote meetings, etc. Something that we are talking about doing under this program is making special improvements to Town Hall so that it can be safe for the public to come in once we decide to re-open. We are looking at purchasing acrylic sneeze guards for when the public enters into each of the departments, and in the doorway into Cynthia’s office to use as an extra workspace to assist customers. We will also be assisting with the library for sneeze guards for their areas.
We will first need to expend the funds but will eventually get reimbursed through this funding that is available.

Acceptance of CARES Act Funds in accordance with RSA 21-P:43- TA Beaudin noted that as we all have heard the Governor has issued stipend pay for our First Responders. The amount to be reimbursed by the State of NH under the Stipend program is **$74,157.06**, we are proposing that they be paid weekly to the eligible staff so that there is not a drain on cash flow. It will be paid out over 8.28 weeks; Denise has created a separate payroll to draw this from. If an employee is out on vacation, they will be ineligible for the stipend. The worksheets have been prepared and submitted to the State of NH. The Town is responsible for the associated payroll taxes, which TA Beaudin will be submitting to the Relief Fund for reimbursement in our next request. Additionally, under the same RSA the Town needs to accept funds from the HHS Stimulus program in the amount of **$9,589.73** which will be used in accordance with the programs guidelines to offset uninsured and/or patients whose coverage did not pay in full for ambulance services related to a COVID-19 diagnosis. These funds do not require a public hearing, just acceptance from the Board.

Selectman Mooney voiced concern hoping that in the future we will not be getting a bill from the Governor for these funds. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the CARES Act Funds and the HHS Stimulus; seconded by Selectman Patten, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Other New Business**

Joey Rolfe will be placing posters along Mill Street today in honor of the 2020 Senior Class at Belmont High School. Mr. Rolfe and the volunteers will be responsible for picking them up in about 2 weeks.

**Old Business**

Town ongoing plans for reopening- TA Beaudin mentioned that she has placed an order through the State to pick up masks. She will pick up masks tomorrow in Concord at the DMV drive through location. They recommend that we apply weekly for more supplies. As previously discussed, the sneeze guards will go up soon.

Police Station RFQ- The Board and PD have received hard copies of all the RFQ’s submitted, in total we had 11 submittals. TA Beaudin is seeking direction from the Board as to whom they feel they would like to have come forward and have interviews with. The Board as a whole decided that Hutter Construction, North Branch Construction and Bonnette, Page & Stone, were companies they would like to come in for additional interviews for further discussion. Selectman Pike expressed concern with the architecture company. TA Beaudin replied that typically the Construction Management firms are the ones who will work closely with the architectural firm and all other contractors. TA Beaudin suggested that we not recreate and not look for a new firm and go with the Construction Management’s suggestions.
We have not finalized or firmed up the relationship, so it is still up for discussion. Our next step is that we need to get final plans to be able to give to the construction firm so that they can move forward with the project.

**Other Old Business**

Proposed list of questions for Superintendent Tursi- TA Beaudin reminded the Board to compile a list of questions for her to give to Superintendent Tursi before next week’s meeting.

Update- TA Beaudin reported that Tax bills went out last week and so far, payments have been coming in strong. To date we have received about $34,000 in tax payments. Selectman Mooney commented that she has seen positive comments on Facebook the majority understands the situation we are in and knows we cannot please everyone. She hopes that everyone understands that we are all working hard to protect everyone. Summer camp closure was not an easy decision for us, but it seems many other businesses are also making the same decision.

Selectman Pike asked if TA Beaudin will write a letter to the US Postal service in regard to their improperly handling of the mail on a constant basis.

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, May 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Carmen Lorentz, Lakes Region Community Developers will be present through Zoom at the meeting to discuss the future ownership of the Gale School property, prior to your holding a Public Hearing on a proposed CDBG grant application in the amount of $25,000 to be used as a planning grant for the Gale School project. TA Beaudin will reach out to the three CM firms and see if they are available to come in for interviews on that day as well.

Mill- Discussion was had on placement of offices and the original proposed plan by Steve. Safety is of a concern for all.

**Non-Public**

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91: A:3 II (b) at 11:07 a.m. Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Claude Patten and Jon Pike. Also present was TA Beaudin.

Following the non-public session, it was determined that the Board would invite Chief Newhall to its next meeting for his 6-month review, also they agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk could return to full time hours effective Monday, May 18th.

The non-public session concluded at 11:50 a.m.
Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman