

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2020 at Town Hall

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman Megan Kondrat, and Selectman Richard Johnson; T.A. Jill Collins and Kim Worden.

6:00 p.m. Chair Diorio called the meeting to order.

Selectman Diorio acknowledged and thanked Town Employees for their positive attitude and dedication, noting that they are willing to do their jobs during these uncertain times and providing good service to residents.

Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to approve the manifests of 3/23/20 and public and non-public minutes of 3/16/20, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Diorio brought up future meetings. T.A. Collins is looking into options. Discussion followed. It was agreed to have Selectmen meetings on the first and third Monday until further notice.

The new Police Chief, Charles Rataj was present with his wife and he was sworn in by Chair Diorio. Congratulations and welcomes were extended. Appointment papers and agreements were signed.

A voluntary merger was presented for Kenneth F. Howe III and Heather Howe. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** for the Chair to sign approved the Voluntary Merger, second by Carrier. It was clarified that this included property purchased through auction. Motion passes unanimously.

Veteran's Exemption #03232020A re: Map 9 Lot 6-1 was presented. Selectman Kondrat made a **motion** to approve the Veteran's Exemption, second by Carrier. No discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

A Permit Application for Recreational Campground/Camping Park Permit for Mountain Side Camping Stag Horn Trail LLC was presented. It was clarified that this is off Plain Road. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** for the Board to sign the Permit Application, second by Kondrat. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins informed the Board that she is looking into conference calls or virtual Go-To Meetings (accessed from homes). Someone would need to be present here at Town Hall for the public.

T.A. Collins suggested a "Consent Agenda", giving a sample to the Board, indicating that it could speed up meetings and backup could be sent prior to meetings for review. She suggested Board Members could stop by Town Hall to sign any necessary documents at their leisure.

Chair Diorio has heard that the school uses Zoom for virtual meetings and he has been told it is easier. He suggested that T.A. Collins check into that as a possible option.

Discussion followed on upcoming meetings. T.A. Collins noted there will be no Conservation Meeting in April. It was suggested that if there are any non-essential meetings, they be skipped over right now. Parks & Rec. will not meet until April.

T.A. Collins noted that as of today, Town Hall closed to the public at noon. She purchased a drop box today to be put near the old library slot so that payments can be dropped off. An employee will open it and distribute payments to appropriate departments. She also indicated that quite a few employees went remote so that they can work from home

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if the need arises. These include Community Development, Welfare, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector. She is trying to get information out and information on the website to keep Town Hall running.

T.A. Collins presented the Selectmen with a *Temporary Policy on Leave* due to COVID-19. She would like to have the Board adopt it so that she can get it out to employees. Discussion followed on employee pay if time is missed under various circumstances. Selectman Kondrat had concerns of when the decision came about to close Town Hall prior to meeting tonight and learning it from the Tax Collector's page (when others aren't supposed to use social media). T.A. Collins noted COVID-19 related postings on the Town website. Selectman Kondrat pointed out confusions. T.A. Collins will make corrections and put further instruction on the site. Selectman Carrier made a **motion** to approve the Temporary Policy, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Kondrat asked about hours held in the Welfare Office in the event people need assistance. T.A. Collins said they are working on the food pantry, and there are forms online. The Welfare Office can be reached by phone and information can be scanned, emailed, and/or faxed. Darlene will be available regular hours and will be putting bags together. If there is an emergency after hours, they can call the PD. Children are eligible for food pick-up by contacting the school.

Board Comments:

Selectman Johnson issued a posthumous thank you for service to his great grandfather, James Gardner Snow, who served on the Board of Selectmen from 1944-1947.

Selectman Rideout had a concern that with all laid off people and possibly businesses closing, there could be an issue with collection of property taxes. He wondered if there are any no-interest loans available from the government for municipalities. Selectman Rideout also noted that Sean Leary had a computer for Curtis Levasseur of Emergency Management to use. T.A. Collins indicated she will be getting a computer with Windows 10 and will be rotating other computers, since they are under a lease. After that, she will have an extra computer for Curtis to use and if there is a need, he can sign out a laptop.

6:41 p.m. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to adjourn, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary