Town of Newry Selectmen Emergency Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2020 @ 3pm

Newry Town Office

**Selectmen Present:** Gary Wight, James Largess, Virgil Conkright,

**Others Present:** Amy Bernard (Town Administrator), Dave Bonney (CEO), Barb Rajaniemi, (Deputy Clerk) Laurie Walker (Deputy Clerk), Brooks Morton

**New Business:**

**~Consider and discuss the Town’s steps to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic, and give update from the CDC’s conference call~**

Call with the Maine CDC on March 16, 2020 highlights by: Dave Bonney

* + 17 cases in Maine
  + 2 hospitalized
  + 1 youth
  + Confirmed Community Transmission in Cumberland County
  + Maine is replicating the pattern of the North East
  + Novia Scotia and New Brunswick now have cases
  + CDC is working on a Community Transmission Plan
  + PPE (personal protective equipment)
  + Dental appointment being left up to the dentists
  + Clinical briefing Thursday (time undetermined)
  + Hospital briefing Tuesday & Friday
  + Primary Doctor does NOT need approval to send the testing forward
  + No recommendations for what the Town Offices should do
  + Governor mandates less than 50 people to a gathering and if over the age of 60 to limit the gathering to 10 people

From the list serve / MMA: Amy Bernard “The sooner you contain it, the more you will control it.”

Quote from the CDC per Amy Bernard **“Everything we do in advance is deemed to be an over reaction and Everything we do after the fact is deemed that we did it way to late.”**

Amy Bernard: The State Legislature is done tomorrow March 16, 2020

**TOWN OFFICE**

* There are pieces of legislation in the works to help with lost wages.
* Amy will talk to IT to see if the staff can work from home.
* Amy is comfortable with a drive thru office for right now.
* Note: This is a fluid situation and things can change very quickly.

Selectman Wight made a motion that the Town Office hours remain the same, we encourage people to use email and phone to reduce exposure. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion, all approved, so moved.

**MEETINGS (public)**

* Limiting the exposure in the office.
* As of today, it is not lawful to have a conference call public meetings.
* Hold off on postponing town meeting. Reevaluate this in a week to 10 days.

Selectman Wight made a motion to cancel all public meetings at the Town Office until further notice. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion, all approved, so moved.

Selectman Largess made a motion that if allowed to do phone conference meetings, we authorize Amy to make that happen. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion, all approved, so moved.

**TOWNS PEOPLE**

* Continue to encourage people to do payments and registrations online through our website. If someone comes to the door, help them as a drive through.

**TAX PAYMENTS**

* Tax Deadline extend for 1 month

Selectman Wight made a motion to extend the second tax deadline to April 30, 2020. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion, all approved, so moved.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

* PPE
* Business as usual

**Timeline:**

* Wednesday March 18, 2020, we should know if we can do meetings by conference call. If we get approval, we will have a conference call Meeting on Tuesday March 24th.
* If something arises, we will address it as needed.

Selectman Wight made a motion to adjourn the select board meeting. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion, all approved, so moved.

**Adjourn: 4:23 pm**

**Refer to audio recording for verbatim discussion of meeting**

Minutes Approve By***:***

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Gary Wight

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Virgil Conkright

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James Largess