Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020 @ 5pm

Conference Call

(425) 436-6372 Access Code: 531106

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

**Others present** Amy Bernard (Town Administrator), Dave Bonney (CEO), Laurie Walker (Deputy Clerk), Alan Fleet (Fire Chief), Brooks Morton

**Selectman Conkright made a motion that this meeting is being held electronically, Selectman Largess 2nd the motion, roll call vote all approved, so moved.**

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes**:

Selectman Largess made a motion to approve the May 12th, Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion, roll call vote all approved, so moved.

**Announcements:** None

**Public Comment**: None

**New Business:**

**~Discuss and Consider updates on COVID-10 Pandemic. ~**

Dave Bonney, CEO

* No change to how the town should be proceeding.
* Mr. Bonney is keeping up with the CDC as well as the Oxford County Emergency Management team.

Amy Bernard, Administrative Assistant.

* No new updates from MMA or the Governor. MMA is hoping to hear back from the Governor office soon.

**~Discuss and Consider Town Office Staffing Hours. ~**

* Amy Bernard, Administrative Assistant, will be removing this from the agenda going forward.

**~Discuss and Consider Newry Fire Chief’s Recommendations for Recruitment. ~**

Fire Chief Fleet updated the selectmen on efforts for recruiting new members, it has not been easy especially during the pandemic. Selectmen Largess requested to table this until they can meet in person to discuss options.

**~Discuss and Consider Annual Town Meetings Warrant and FY 20-21 Budget~**

Selectmen Wight made a motion to approve the FY-20-21 budget as presented by Amy Bernard Selectmen Conkright 2nd the motion, roll call vote all approved, so moved.

**~Consider and discuss options for Annual Town Meeting~**

Amy Bernard gave three options that were approved by the state

1. Hold an Open Town Meeting (requires a 7 days’ notice)
2. Have a ballot referendum (requires 60 days’ notice)
3. Commit Taxes based on Last year Municipal Budget.

The Selectman are not Considering a Ballot Referendum and is looking to hold Open Town Meeting in September.

Selectmen Conkright made a motion for a September 1st, 2020 date for open Town Meeting Selectmen Wight 2nd the motion, roll call vote all approved, so moved.

**~Consider and discuss a Moratorium on Lien Notices during the Pandemic~**

Governor Mill via Executive Order gave permission to tax collectors to issue a moratorium on Lien Notices until as late as 60 days after civil emergency is over.

Selectmen Wight made a motion to wait until 30 days after the civil emergency is lifted to send out the Moratorium of Lien Notices.

Selectmen Conkright 2nd the motion, roll call vote all approved, so moved.

**~Consider and discuss signing off on the Bank Reconciliation for July-September~**

* Table until next meeting

**~Consider and discuss options for out upcoming Select Board Meetings~**

* June 2nd in person possibly at the Grange (larger space)

**Reports:**

**Administrator Report:** see attached

**CEO Report**: see attached

**Committees Report:** None

**Selectmen’s Report:** Valley Services will donate mowing services again this year

**Other Business:** None

**Next Meeting**:

June 2, 2020 @ 5:00 pm at the town office and by Tele-Conference

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

**Adjourn*: 5:55* pm**

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

Minutes Approve By***:***

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Gary Wight

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Virgil Conkright

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James Largess

**Town Administrator’s Reports 5.19.2020**

* Sheriff Wainwright has signed off on the Adult Use Marijuana store security plan, we are waiting on hearing from OMP.
* Barbara Rajaniemi has resigned a copy of the resignation is attached.
* Dave Bonney has started training to do vehicle registrations to help fill in when needed.
* The 2018-19 Audit is complete. I have received our finalized schedules on last week.
* Town office is closed May 25 for Memorial Day.
* Bonney Poole from Mahoosuc Land Trust contacted us today to let us know what their plan is to monitor Step Falls. They are putting a port-a-potty up but they are not monitoring the parking lot. They will be placing signage up to inform hikers that over crowding will cause a shutdown of the site.
* All our regular ballot clerks have agreed to serve on July 14th Primary Election.

**Code Officer Report Select Board Meeting May 19, 2020**

**Building Permits Issued**

Four permits have been issued in the last week. Two for re-roofing Locke Mountain Condo structures. One for renovation of a Locke Mountain Condo unit. One for a deck expansion at a single family residence off Sunday River Road.

**Plumbing Permits Issued**

None Issued

**Road Items**

None

**Emergency Management**

I have been keeping abreast with Oxford County Emergency Management to stay up to date on this pandemic situation and protocols for assistance submittals to FEMA.

The Fire Department should procure any needed PPE’s from any legit source. State and Federal help in providing PPE’s may be minimal at best.