

Submitted by:

Approved by Selectmen:

Adele M Suggs

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Admin Asst

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2020

John 4/22/20

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The Selectmen's meeting convened at 5:02 p.m. with Selectman Mixon, Selectman Young, Selectman House and Administrator Jones present.

I. New Business

1. Consider strategies to provide a safe and healthy work environment and public services in light of the pandemic Covid-19.

The Selectmen met on Monday night and put a plan in place, effective this morning. Selectman Mixon would like to see this on the agenda's going forward to read "reconsider strategies..." to discuss any alterations to the plan. Selectman Young wanted to go over some of the Governor's highlights that were signed into legislation today which will be in effect until we are no longer in a state of emergency.

- If we have to go into another year without a Town Meeting, we can use the same budget we had this year to accommodate.*
- Postponement of secret ballot elections, as long as there is a two day notice. The Elections Office is working on this and something should be released tomorrow.*
- Registrations: A vehicle whose registration expires during the emergency period, that registration is automatically extended for 30 days after the termination of the emergency. You can re-register a vehicle on-line during this time; however, there will be a wait for stickers as the towns or the state is not issuing them. It is recommended to take a picture of what's on the screen and print it off as you won't have anything else to show that the vehicle is registered. State and local law enforcement will not stop vehicles for having expired registrations at this time, but not sure what the situation is if you cross the state line.*

There are a lot more proceedings which are quite complicated, but Selectman Young summed it up by stating that in order to have a quorum of the Board physically present, it will be conducted by electronic video or telephone meetings. When the notice is done for a public proceeding, it will state exactly how the meeting is going to be held and by what method the public may attend. If the public does want to participate we would have to keep a second phone line open for calls. Votes must be by roll call. Once the Board has a plan in place, they will need to forward that to all the department heads and committee chairs; again not to meet unless it's an emergency situation. Selectman House stated that she does not want the Board to meet remotely and would like to keep it the way they have been doing it. Selectman Mixon commented that if any meetings are not held in the conference room for some reason there would be no ability to broadcast it live. Combined meetings would have to be capped at 10 people. For now the Board will continue to meet on a weekly basis to reassess the C-19 situation. There will be no public forum. If there is an agenda item that someone wants to have input on they can call or email. The agendas are going to be at a minimum.

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Jr 4/22/20

All new vehicle registrations are being handled through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Augusta. They are closed to the public but issuing stickers. Recommendation is if you can wait, do so. Paper plates may be extended for 60 days. Administrator Jones will get the last email from the BVM and post it so everyone will know what is happening.

Selectman Mixon reported the Transfer Station hours have not changed. The Transfer Station attendants will not be handling anything brought in, so patrons will have to load/unload themselves. The Swap Trailer has closed – please wait until after it reopens if you have items for the Swap Trailer. The public does not have access to the office.

Selectman Young stated that as of 6:00 p.m. this evening, all dining-in/bar type operations are closed throughout the entire state until further notice.

Selectman House will be getting some emergency food bags from the Food Bank tomorrow and she will have them, please call the Town Hall and ask. She will deliver them, if anyone hears of someone in need let her know. There are a lot of resources available out there for food. RSU 1 is still providing meals and if they can't pick up, call the school and Anna has a few people that will deliver.

Further guidance will be kept up to date on the website and managed as best as we can as things are changing very quickly.

2. Consider what project or new equipment to put forward as the potential recipient of the Rotary's Golf event proceeds before the application deadline of March 20th2020.

An email was put out to committee heads and there were a few responses. One was a recommendation to purchase a weed whacker for private cemetery work, request for a shellfish project/restoration as an educational resource, a recommendation to consider the community garden expenses, and a walking path the Recreation Committee has been working on for the past few years. Administrator Jones received an email from the Rotary and the amount could be \$2,500 up to \$5,000. The Rotary is looking for something tangible but also an opportunity for their involvement in the project. Selectman House recommends up to \$1,500 to the Garden Club with the remainder going to the Walking Path.

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to submit two grant applications to the Rotary Club of Bath. One for the Community Garden for up to \$1,500 and the remaining authorized amount to the Walking Path which was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.

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Am 4/22/20*

Administrator Jones will check with Michelle Sloan to see what amount they might need for the Walking Path.

Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Administrator Jones announced to keep an eye on the web page as guidance is changing daily for COVID 19.

Municipal Nomination Papers Available - Due back Friday, March 27th at 5:00 p.m.

Nomination Papers are still available. If you are interested in running for Selectman or Budget Committee contact the Town Office.

Selectman Mixon reminded to pay attention to your neighbors during this time and reach out if you need anything.

II. Review and/or Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to sign Payroll Warrant 94 and Accounts Payable Warrant 95 with a couple noted changes, which was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Adjournment

Vote: At 5:30 p.m. Selectman Young motioned to which was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.