

Submitted by:

Approved by Selectmen:

12/2/20

Amk

Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

[Handwritten signatures]

**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2020**

The Selectmen convened at 5:04 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectman Young, Selectman House, and Selectman Mixon present. Administrator Jones attended via Zoom.

I. Adjustments

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to discuss under New Business, holiday closures for Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as well as motioned to remove the Salary Review Workshop scheduled for the end of the meeting. Motions were seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.

II. New Business

1. Discuss closing Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to close Town Hall on Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve at 1:00 p.m. which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

III. Unfinished Business

1. Reconsider strategies to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and public services in response to the pandemic Covid-19 in light of the newest mandate and the rising number of cases in Maine.

A new mandate was received from the Governor's Office last week concerning wearing of masks. The mandate that she had in place was you didn't have to wear masks if you could keep your social distancing. This has changed now. Face coverings are required in public settings regardless of the ability to maintain physical distance. There is a whole section that covers municipalities, which are the grounds, parking lots, walkways, lobbies, elevators, service desks and related hallways. This would apply to the Library, Town Hall and the Transfer Station. The Order is subject to all available methods of enforcement. This has been discussed before and Selectman Young's position hasn't changed. The Covid-19 issues are getting greater; local restaurants and BIW have been affected. There was a Selectman who passed away in Waldo County. This is getting more serious than it was before; hitting record levels. Selectman Young maintains that it's the Selectmen's responsibility to protect the employee's and staff to the best of their ability as well as the people coming onto Town properties, and feels that the Board does not have a choice but to follow the Governor's Order. Selectman House still stands on not requiring masks and since this new Order came out a couple weeks ago, the numbers are still getting worse since the mandating of masks. The exemptions are still there as they were before if someone medically cannot wear a mask. Selectman Mixon still maintains that it's a violation of civil liberties and cannot go along with the Order.

Submitted by:

Approved by Selectmen:

12/2/20
[Signature]
[Signature]

ame

Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to follow the Governor's Order in her last mandate on wearing a mask on municipal properties.

There was no second, therefore motion did not carry.

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Town Office closure Thanksgiving and the day after

Administrator Jones, via Zoom, announced the closure of Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. the day before Thanksgiving, as has been done in the past, and closed on Thursday and Friday.

Selectman Mixon announced, that since there will not be a Christmas Open House at Town Hall this year, that Santa has agreed to watch the Selectmen's meetings at 5 o'clock from the North Pole. The Board would like to have the children who would have otherwise come to see Santa, write letters to him which will be read under the Correspondence Section of the business meeting and Santa still will be able to get your lists. Letters can be sent or dropped off at Town Hall. There will be some additional information going out through the school and the Rec Department.

Selectman House stated that if anyone is in need of a turkey for Thanksgiving or knows of someone who is in need, contact her or leave your name and number at Town Hall. Please, please ask.

V. Review and/or Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign Payroll Warrants 47 and 50 as well as Accounts Payable Warrants 48 & 51, which were seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Selectman Mixon motioned to review and sign Accounts Payable Warrant 49 which was seconded by Selectman Young and passed by a vote of 2-0.

2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for October 21st, 28th and November 4th.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign the October 21st & November 4th Meeting Minutes which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign the October 28th Meeting Minutes which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 2-0.

VI. Public Forum

Gary Morong, via Zoom, stated that he and Chris Mixon have been working on FEMA reimbursements. In order to qualify for any reimbursement the Town has to reach a threshold of \$3,300. It was explained to Mr. Morong by FEMA that only police, fire, or rescue related expenses will be reimbursed if the threshold is reached. Any municipality incurred expenses including PPE, cleaning supplies, technology for virtual support, and general costs associated with implementing social distancing in public facilities will not be reimbursed. Mr. Morong stated that he feels we will not meet the \$3,300 minimum since we cannot include the plexiglass installed at Town Hall, laptops, and the equipment for Town Meeting which we originally thought we would get reimbursed for. Selectman Mixon added that December 31st is the deadline to meet the threshold in order to receive 100%; the Town is nowhere near that number. Once the \$3,300 is achieved the

Submitted by:

ama

Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

Approved by Selectmen:

12/2/20
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

claim can be submitted, however if it is after December 31st, it will only be at 90%. Additionally if the \$3,300 is met in February and we incur another \$2,000 of legitimate expenses, because we already filed, the \$3,300 threshold would need to be met once again; we cannot add on to what the Town has already done. Mr. Morong & Selectman Mixon argued the fact that expenses were incurred to be compliant with State mandates, but these costs are being exempt from FEMA. The Town will need to judge when they file so FEMA reimbursement monies won't be gone. Selectman Mixon asked if MEMA would cover a portion of these costs. Mr. Morong replied by saying the State could cover 15% if it was beyond the December deadline, but feels the State will not be doing that. Mr. Morong went onto further state that once the declaration ends there still will be a certain amount of time to file a claim. Selectman Mixon suggested starting a new tracking spreadsheet knowing what's reimbursable. Selectman Young asked why FEMA didn't tell us this in the beginning and Mr. Morong's response was that he wasn't sure when they came out with this information. Selectman Mixon said this is going to be important as part of the Board's decision-making was based on the fact that there was potential reimbursement and now going forward we know it won't be the case unless it specifically involves first responders. Mr. Morong will also ask FEMA about reimbursement for staff for extra hours worked related to Covid-19.

VII. Executive Session

1. Meet in Executive Session per Title 30 M.R.S.A. 405 6A to discuss staffing around an employee's medical leave.

Vote: At 5:40 p.m. Selectman House motioned to go into Executive Session which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

At 5:46 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session to discuss the staffing at the Transfer Station. There was a pool of attendants that would help staff the Transfer Station when they were short-handed. It looks like another pool needs to be established. The Board has an application from George Williams who is interested in becoming part of the part-time pool to be called upon if needed. Selectman Young feels that this attendant pool should also be advertised to see if we can get a couple more people interested in this pool, so we can get them trained and move forward.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to hire George Williams to be a Transfer Station Attendant which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to advertise for local people that would like to fill in as Transfer Station Attendants which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

The understanding is that if Mr. McKenney, Transfer Station Supervisor, is not present that Mr. Freeman would become the supervisor and if both Charlie and Steve are not there then Ken Kellogg would be the supervisor.

Adjournment

Vote: At 5:49 p.m. Selectman House motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.