

SELECTMEN'S MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Present: Chairman Karl Ekstedt, Selectmen Kathy Chase and Tim Roche, Town Manager Jon Carter

Participating via teleconference/not voting: Selectmen Sean Roche and John MacLeod. The Maine Legislature has not approved voting by phone.

Wells Town Hall is closed to the public today.

4:30 PM – Executive Session

Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A), to confer with potential part-time Social Media appointee /consultant.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to go into Executive Session. Passed unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to come out of Executive Session. Passed unanimously.

POSTPONED Until Next Meeting – FY'21 Budget Reconciliation Workshop with Budget Committee and to issue recommendations onto the warrant articles for Town Meeting.

POSTPONED Until Next Meeting – Swamp John and Pine Ledge / Robinson Subdivision roads reconstruction projects.

5:00 PM – SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS BUSINESS / PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. POSTPONED Until Next Meeting - Public Hearing on a Consent Agreement to resolve a Town Beach Right of Way encroachment between the Town and David Giarusso, Jr. on ROW # 2 on Moody Beach.***
- 2. POSTPONED Until Next Meeting - Informational session on the 2020 Parking and Traffic Study Report.***
- 3. POSTPONED Until Next Meeting - Informational session on the 2020 Beach Parking Pass Policy.***
- 4. Joseph Ryan, dba: Feile Restaurant & Pub, 1619 Post Road, Wells, application for a full-time Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License. (R)***

AND

- 5. Joseph Ryan, dba: Feile Restaurant & Pub, 1619 Post Road, Wells, application for a Special Entertainment Permit. (R)***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the license and permit. Passed 3-0.

6. ***Las Olas Maine LLC, dba: Las Olas Taqueria, 1517 Post Road, Wells, application for a full-time Malt, Vinous and Spirituous Liquor License. (R)***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the license. Passed 3-0.

7. ***Ezzo Enterprises, Inc., dba: Haven By The Seas, 59 Church Street, Wells, application for a full-time Malt, Vinous & Spirituous Liquor License. (R)***

AND

8. ***Ezzo Enterprises, Inc., dba: Haven By The Seas, 59 Church Street, Wells, application for a Special Entertainment Permit. (R)***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the license and permit. Passed 3-0.

9. ***Amin Hotels Inc., dba: Ogunquit River Inn, Ascend Hotel Collection, 17 Post Road, Wells, application for a full-time Malt & Vinous Liquor License. (R)***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the license. Passed 3-0.

10. ***Pointer Hospitality, LLC, dba: Spinnakers, 139 Post Road, Wells, application for a full-time Malt and Vinous Liquor License. (R)***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the license. Passed 3-0.

11. ***Cork Distributors Inc., dba: For the Love of Food and Drink, 1677 Post Road, Wells, application for an On Premise Relocation Application.***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the license. Passed 3-0.

12. ***Good News***

~Cindy Adamsky and Tricia Hazlett are creating a pool of volunteers to help residents in need during the crisis. The number is 337-1786 if you need help with errands, picking up prescriptions, etc.

~The road postings are coming down tomorrow.

~There is a GoFundMe page for a local family who lost their home in a recent fire. The trailer was a total loss and they lost their pets.

13. ***Open to the Public***

~Chief Putnam and Mrs. Chase discussed help available from the Senior Center. The Center is closed to the public until March 27, then they will re-evaluate the situation. Staff is working daily from 9 AM to 3 PM and the number is 646-7775. Anyone who needs help or would like to volunteer can call the Center. The Center and Wells PD are doing wellness checks. People can also call Mrs. Chase at 468-9747.

~Selectman Tim Roche is organizing student volunteers while the schools are closed. Students who requested breakfast and lunch can pick up meals at the elementary school week days from 8:30 to 10:30. Any bag lunches that are left over are dropped off in the Police Station lobby for the public to take. Kudos to Superintendent Jim Daly and the school administration for their advance preparation and leadership in using remote learning to keep our students safe.

~Town buildings are closed to the public. At Town Hall we are serving the public at the air lock door at the center of the building. There are applications and envelopes that people can leave for staff to process. DMV offices are closed but car registration renewals can be done on line. The system can't handle new car registrations and commercial vehicles. The State is granting an extension for stickers that expire in March.

The Library and train station are closed. The Transfer Station is open. Public Safety is open 24/7. PWD is doing road maintenance work but the garage is closed to the public. People can call or e-mail the Town with any issues and someone will get back to you.

The State is working on emergency legislation LD 3296 that will allow municipalities and school districts to conduct remote meetings. Selectmen S. Roche and MacLeod can't vote tonight because it hasn't passed yet.

~Mr. Ekstedt thanked everyone for their hard work and all the thought and effort that went into planning for this situation. People need to take precautions and take this seriously in order to get the virus under control.

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. ***Review and action on Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants.***

There is a Warrant dated March 17, 2020 with expenses of \$418,461.43, school payment of \$1,683,284.00, net payroll for the week ending 3/5/2020 in the amount of \$80,771.02, net payroll for the week ending 3/12/2020 in the amount of \$79,145.70, and FICA, Medicare, state and federal withholding taxes filed electronically in the amount of \$66,958.81 for total expenses of \$2,328,620.96.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to approve and sign the Warrant dated March 17, 2020 in the amount of \$2,328,620.96. Passed 3-0.

There is a General Assistance Warrant dated March 17, 2020 in the amount of \$1,321.27 consisting of \$1,122.49 for General Assistance and \$198.78 from the Special Fuel Fund. The balance in the Fund is \$48,090.11.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to approve and sign the General Assistance Warrant dated March 17, 2020 in the amount of \$ 1,321.27. Passed 3-0.

2. *Update, discussion and action on Committees, Projects, Issues, Purchases and Personnel:*

a) ***POSTPONED Until Next Meeting*** - Discussion and action on requesting to the State of Maine for an additional Agency Liquor Store in Wells.

b) *Discussion and action on scheduling the Joint Public Hearing between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen on the FY'21 Budget and Warrant Articles including a possible Bond order and Question .*

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to schedule a Public Hearing for the Joint Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen Budget and Warrant Articles and possible Bond order and warrant for 6 PM on April 7, 2020 in the Littlefield Meeting Room, 208 Sanford Road. Passed 3-0.

c) *Discussion and action on Emergency COVID 19 Proclamation per Chapter 14 –Emergency Management and update on planning and suggested personnel sick policy relief and communications.*

The emergency proclamation grants special powers to the Town Manager and Selectmen as needed. We have used it several times for hurricanes and floods, never for a pandemic. The text will be posted on the Town web site, FaceBook and copies enclosed with the tax bills.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to approve the Emergency Proclamation regarding COVID 19. Passed 3-0.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to adopt the emergency personnel policy. Passed 3-0.

Mr. MacLeod and Mr. S. Roche indicated that they are in favor of both motions, although they can't vote tonight.

Banks are doing drive-through only. Restaurants are either closed or allow 10 people in at a time, with mainly take-out service or deliveries. Mr. MacLeod urged everyone to think of other people and not be selfish. Mr. S. Roche said he would rather have the economic hardship up front and not have this drag on for months. Mr. Lapolla said it is better to overreact in the early stages, and make sure our Town has a future. The virus spread is exponential. Chief Putnam said the schools and businesses are closing for a reason, not so people can gather in other places and have fun. We all need to be patient.

Mr. Ekstedt recommended closing all the restaurants except for take-out and deliveries. Chief Putnam said that should extend to hair salons and other service providers. Notices should be sent to all the businesses that hold licenses. The Public Works Department has switched to summer shifts with staggered hours and work schedules. One employee at Town Hall felt ill and went home but has not been tested yet. The consensus was that we want to be cautious without paralyzing the Town. If an employee tests positive we will reconsider what action to take.

Motion by Mr. Roche, seconded by Mrs. Chase, to grant the Town Manager the authority to act on items on behalf of the Board of Selectmen during this emergency. Passed 3-0. The list will be posted on the Town’s social media and includes renewals of licenses. Any financial items would also require the approval of the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

d) ***Discussion and action on contracting a part-time Social Media Consultant.***

The Selectmen met in Executive Session with a social media consultant to discuss a greater social presence for the Town. Mr. Carter introduced Brittany DiCapua of Eleven Seven Media LLC who is helping us develop a communications proposal.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to accept the proposal from Eleven Seven Media LLC for a cost of \$1750.00 per month to work as the Town’s Social Media/Communications Consultant with funds to come from the Cable TV Studio budget. Passed 3-0.

e) ***Discussion and action on the award of the Police Vehicle bid for 2 Ford Interceptor Police Packages with trade-in of a 2015 Ford Interceptor with 136,000 miles.***

The following 5 bids were received:

Vendor	2 Vehicle Price	Trade-In	Net Bid
Key Ford of York	\$69,112	\$3,999	\$65,113
Casco Bay	\$69,154	\$4,000	\$65,154
Arundel Ford	\$69,712	\$4,000	\$65,712
Yankee Ford	\$70,260	\$4,500	\$65,760
Stoneham Ford	\$70,162	\$4,300	\$65,862

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to award the vehicle bid with trade in to Key Ford of York for the net price of \$65,113.00. Passed 3-0.

f) ***POSTPONED - Discussion and action on the negotiated Police Labor Contract for the period July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023.***

g) ***Discussion and action on accepting the Beach Barrel Waste Collection Bid.***

The following bids were received:

Vendor	Year 1 cost	2 hour call-out price	Year 2 cost	2 hour call-out
Chris Farley	\$45,500	\$150.00	\$49,500	\$150.00
Alternate bid				
Letiroch Holdings	\$48,000	\$200.00	\$52,000	\$200.00
Casella	\$115,052	\$600	\$120,804.60	\$630.00
Alternate bid				
Casella	\$91,175	\$600.00	\$95,733.75	\$630.00
totes rental	\$2,500			
ARC	\$181,800	N/A	\$187,254	N/A

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to award the beach barrel collection bid to Chris Farley. Passed 3-0.

h) ***Discussion and action on Updates, Personnel and Committee Assignments, Resignations and Issues.***

1. ***Town Manager: None***

2. ***Selectmen***

- a. Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to reappoint Keith Fletcher as a regular member to the Conservation Commission with term to expire March 2023. Passed 3-0.
- b. Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to reappoint Michelle Stivaletta-Noble as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission with term to expire March 2023. Passed 3-0.

b. ***Discussion and action to accept donations and bequests.***

1. ***Receipt of \$100.00 from the Ladies Benevolent Society to the Town of Wells for the Fuel Assistance Program Fund.***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to accept the generous donation and write a letter of thanks to the donors. Passed 3-0.

c. ***Discussion and action on approving minutes of March 3, 2020 Selectmen's meeting.***

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to approve the March 3, 2020 Selectmen's minutes. Passed 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Open to the Public***

~Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

~Stay safe, stay healthy, and be kind to each other.

2. Town Manager’s Report

~The Town Clerk’s office received a thank you note for their good work at the polls on Super Tuesday.

~The Census Bureau is mailing “invites” to everyone to take the census. This is so important to the Town in terms of federal grants, funding for the schools, representation, etc. The more accurate our count is, the more it will help us. By doing it on-line, no census worker will come to your door.

3. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to adjourn. Passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by,

Cinndi Davidson,
Meeting Recorder