

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 23, 2020

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Peter Corey, Shawn White, and Stanley Holz participated via conference call.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and Peter Corey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tina Wright, Town Clerk, swore in Shawn White as the new Selectman.

Pursuant to the Town of Whitefield Board of Selectmen Rules of Procedure, Section II General Provisions: Annually, at the first meeting of the Select Board after Town elections, the seated member serving the third (final) year of their term shall assume the duties of the Chair.

Stanley Holz will serve as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. He said if someone has to be physically present, he would appoint Peter Corey to be his acting Chairperson.

Current Committee Assignments:

Stanley: Economic Development

Peter: Planning Board

John: Airport Commission

Shawn said he has been helping at the Airport and would like to continue as the Selectmen's Representative to the Airport, Stanley said he is fine with EDC, and Peter will stay with the Planning Board.

Chief Edward Samson was present to discuss finalizing a contract for the department's prosecutor. Ed has a draft of a contract that the attorney from Primex assisted with developing, which the Selectmen have reviewed. The indemnification clause was an issue in the past. The other towns have incorporated the indemnification clause in their contracts. The prosecutor is not covered under the town's umbrella as an outside contractor. Ed will due a quarterly report on the statistics of arrests, warrants, hearings, etc. so the Board will have documentation of what has been done. Ed said it is difficult to track the hours. The prosecutor is available if the officers need assistance during arrests. Each case is different. The prosecutor has also conducted trainings for our officers in the past. Ed said it is basically a retainer. Shawn said he was the prosecutor for the department for five years, and town is not liable for anything the prosecutor does incorrectly. It is written in the RSA's that the prosecutor is responsible, and will not come back on the town's insurance. A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the Whitefield Police Department Prosecutor Position Agreement with addition of a paragraph that specifies the format and composition of a quarterly report for statistics. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. A voice vote was in favor of the motion: Holz: Yes; White: Yes; Corey: Yes. Motion passed.

Rob Larson, Public Works Director, left a couple of mowing proposals for the Board to approve. They are with BCM Lawntenders for the seasons of 2020 and 2021. A motion was made by Shawn White to approve and sign the BCM Lawntenders proposals for 2020 and 2021 for the water department and town facilities. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. A voice vote was in favor of the motion: Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes; White: Yes. Motion passed.

Police Chief Edward Samson had a Special Detail Rate Increase Request for the Board's review and approval. Chief Samson said we have not changed our rates since 2015, and we are lower than the other area towns. A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the Special Detail Rate Increase requested by Chief Samson. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. A voice vote was in favor of the motion: Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes; White: Yes. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the March 9, 2020 Selectmen Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. Shawn White abstained from the vote: A voice vote was in favor of the motion: Holz: Yes, Corey: Yes. Motion passed.

Scott Burns, representing the Whitefield Lion's Club wanted to make a presentation from the Whitefield Lion's Club to donate towards one of the trees on the common in the amount of \$450, and they will put a plaque up in Memory of John Severance. The Board thanked Scott Burns for the donation and we will send a thank you note.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter non-public session at 6:30 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II(a) the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting; and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. A voice vote was in favor of the motion: White: Yes; Corey: Yes; Holz: Yes.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 6:50 p.m.

Chief Samson said that he has been involved in the daily conference calls with the state. The library is closed. Rec operations have closed. The town office is closed to the public. The coalition that has been formed is very viable and sharing resources, and it involves the hospital, schools, and nursing homes. Ben Oleson and Ted Jobert are heading that up. John Ross, Jr. very involved. They have gathered tons of resources. They have been able to secure personal protective gear. The latest from the state and Governor's office is there is no plan to go into a lock down, which Massachusetts did today that was an advisory lock down. We haven't closed all non-essential businesses. The restaurants are trying to stay open. We have been on the latest information. The transfer station protocols were discussed. It was decided to have Peter Corey sit down with Robert Larson, Public Works Director, and Jim Gooden, who runs the Transfer Station to come up with a plan for protocols for transacting business at the transfer station.

The next Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2020. The Board discussed alternatives if we are not able to meet in person. Shawn White suggested video conferencing meetings like the SAU does. Chief Samson offered to speak with the IT person at the SAU to see if they have any equipment available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.