

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 14, 2020

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. the Selectmen participated via Zoom:

Stanley Holz is at his home in South Carolina, maintaining social distancing.

Peter Corey is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.

Shawn White is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.

Chairman Holz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Airport Grants – Wendy Hersom

Wendy said they have two grants that are coming. Because of the CARES act they are 100% funded, and there will be no match requirement from the Airport or Town. One is for an airport pavement rehab grant to deal with cracks, all safety items. Both of these grants are in conjunction with the engineers and FAA and have been on capital improvement plan. The other grant is for Airport lighting. The lights that are considered obstructions need to be removed and relocated. The other obstructions were already removed. Both grants will be 100% funded with no matching funds required. These are things we have had to have done. The capital improvement plan is for safety projects based upon safety inspections by FAA. Those two are big projects to get into safety compliance, and they are also part of our grant assurances from years ago. The one that is looming is the extension of the runway from 2005 so the airport is doing more safety projects to stay in compliance. These both will be projects for next year. Things got delayed this year, and it is too late to do this type of work now. If we can get it signed now it won't change the cost of anything. We just need the Chairman's signature. If the Board can approve both these grants and authorize Stanley to sign, the airport can move forward on these. Wendy said that she will drop off the pavement maintenance one, and once she gets the other one she will bring it in. FAA was hoping to get it out this week. We can sign-off and get them back in. The Board said there no down-side moving forward with these, and it is all great news.

Peter Corey made a motion to approve both of the airport grants as presented, and authorize Stanley Holz, Chairman to sign. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. Roll call vote: White: Yes; Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes, all in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Airport Budget: Wendy said that she just sent the budget worksheet over a few minutes ago. Budget is actually down. We have been super creative to save money at the airport even though we lost Littleton. They have to leave the IMA because they haven't contributed the past two years. Picked up Twin Mountain last year as a member town. What is different about Whitefield is we ask for more because of the agreement member towns are responsible for the operating costs but not responsible for capital improvements but Whitefield is. We received

\$150,000 to do capital improvements like the pavement maintenance project. That \$150,000 is for things we can build up for over time or pay for things as they come up. Some are significantly more than that. We have been requesting that the town stays at the current \$9,000. Wendy said that the airport has saved a lot of money because we do a lot of stuff for free. Accounting fees are gone. Been able to save on the electricity bill, audited the lights. Jay Ennis turned the level of the lighting down so those are not triggered as often. Weather service is off our light bills. We also got rid of regular phone service. There is a number of places we have been able to save. We have done really well, and the operating budget is down to \$87,155

Peter Corey said he didn't follow the final number for Whitefield. Wendy said it is \$9,000.

The Board reviewed the general government budget, which is actually down \$55,000. There is no funding for building demolition in 2021 so that saves \$70,000. There is funding included in the budget for a part-time office person for 24 hours a week. This person would focus on planning and zoning duties and assist in the Selectmen's office. The board felt this is long overdue. Peter Corey had questions on the computer support contract. Judy will reach out to Certified Computer Solutions. The board felt converting the email to Office 365 was a good idea. Information booth funding has been deleted. New outside agency requests will be required to submit a warrant article with signatures of 25 registered Whitefield voters. NHMA has advised us that virtual signatures will be accepted. \$30,000 has been added to the Public Safety/Other Safety for Public Safety Communications. We will be changing our dispatching services to Grafton County. Health Officer salary increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 and a line item for health officer supplies has been added for \$1,000. Felt we could leave the welfare budget the same at \$21,000. Frank Lombardi requested to leave the Conservation Commission budget the same at \$2,500. The Board agreed. Debt service is down \$26,783. We have also put in an increase from \$8 an hour to \$10 an hour for the poll workers.

Sara Doucette sent a memo about amending the meeting minutes of November 30th. Peter said the purpose of the minutes is to capture generally what happened at the meeting. The board felt the minutes of the November 30th meeting minutes was an accurate synopsis of that meeting.

Peter Corey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 23rd and November 30th Selectmen's Meetings. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. Roll Call Vote: Holz: Yes; White: Yes; Corey: Yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

Stanley said that he and Shawn have been receiving complaints from the community about lack of masks at the transfer station and lack of masks on town crew outside. Ed had addressed

masks in the town office and there is a state policy from the Governor. Stanley said the complaints he has received are basically no one is wearing masks, town crew is not wearing masks, even when the town crew is out in the trucks. Shawn sent the policies of what the state goes by and something we could work off of. When they are in a vehicle together, they should be masked up. When they are away from each other within 6 feet of each they don't need to wear a mask. If we lose the highway department for a two-week period, we would have major problems. If one member tests positive, that mandates a quarantine. WES reported their first case. We are getting cases. 13 cases in Whitefield. Littleton is over 30, Lancaster has about 20 cases. It is around us and it is here and it is again an issue of public health and safety. Chief Samson was adamant about the mask policy. Fire-Rescue has adopted a policy. Rob has not done anything as far as a policy. He personally said he won't wear a mask, which causes a problem. The Town crew has to be wearing masks if they are close together or riding in a vehicle together. We have to mandate the state policy. Poor example when people who work for the town don't do it. The mandate says the town has the right to enact stricter guidelines than the state has. Peter said we have to ensure our employees are taking the proper precautions. When the public works crew in close proximity together or at the transfer station while the public is present and when they interact with the public they should be masked. If we can put together a policy we can adopt it next week at our meeting. Shawn said he can take those state policies and form them around a Whitefield one. Don't want to get into anything too elaborate, consider enforcement. Want employees to know what is expected of them. The Governor has put out a state-wide mandate and we should be following that. Shawn said he will have something that we can review at next week's meeting.

Peter Corey made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II (e) at 7:19 p.m. Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. Roll Call Vote: Holz Peter Corey made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II(e) at 7:15: Yes; Corey: Yes; White: Yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 7:21 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.