

Approved 06/04/2020

I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Neal Janvrin and Roger Barham; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Tonight's meeting is live broadcast by Bill Millios from FCTV.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. All Town services are available virtually, and we are increasing the items done by appointment. Please review the most up to date information on the home page of the Town website. Please continue remember social distancing! Please call or email us to get the services you need.
2. The phase II work on Chester Road is complete through binder paving. Shoulder gravel is all that remains to do and will be done when it is a little cooler, sometime next week. All work areas are safe for travel. The final paving overlay on the whole road will be planned for the 2021 budget.
3. Supervisors of the Checklist will meet next Tuesday June 2 from 7:00 to 7:30 pm at the Fremont Town Hall in the parking lot at the rear of the building. The picnic table is available, and Supervisors can also meet you in your car. June 2 is the deadline to change your party affiliation prior to the September 8th NH Primary. Forms are available on the Supervisor of Checklist page of the website and can be completed and dropped off prior to 5:00 pm on June 2 or submitted to the Supervisors at their meeting.
4. Tax bills went out this week and are due July 1, 2020.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

Janvrin provided an update of the May 26, 2020 Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting. There were no new applications. They met remotely to fine tune the process which is working fine with only a few bugs to be worked out.

Library Trustees met last night and have asked for more guidance from the Town on the reopening process. They are considering the State resources available to Libraries. Trustee Cheryl Rowell, who has a degree in biology is assisting us with cleaning and cleaner research recommendations to be part of the Town's overall gradual reopening plan. It will probably be a slow opening at the library. Signage outside and inside needs to be considered.

The Town Clerk is revising the materials handout for people to have a checklist of all items needed for transfers and new vehicles. This will be added to the website shortly.

Carlson read the update just emailed from Mark DeVeber, Emergency Management Director. New Hampshire continues to see many downward trends that indicate the States controls and measures are having a positive effect. The State EOC is starting to relax (weekend operations are suspended, and situations are dealt by on call personnel).

NH Persons with COVID-19 – 4,286
Recovered – 2,691
Deaths Attributed - 223
Current COVID-19 Cases – 1,372

Locally there is nothing significant to report.

Carlson reviewed some information from NHMA Director Margaret Byrne shared at a Mayor's conference call this afternoon:

Below is summary of the conference call the Governor held with the mayors today.

- The Main Street Fund is accepting applications for businesses through Friday at midnight.
- They are hoping to make an announcement tomorrow about lodging and houses of worship. They are looking at steps to take to open lodging and tourism, but they are going slowly.
- The numbers of percent positives of cases is going down; they are pretty consistently under 5% positive.
- The Stay at Home Order will remain in place at least in the short term. For the next couple weeks, it will look the same as it does now. They are taking things each week at a time and learning from other states' mistakes. The 10 or more person gathering prohibition will remain in effect for the foreseeable future.
- A lot of states are "breaking up" the Stay at Home Order—e.g., more rural areas are more flexible than urban areas. Governor doesn't know if that's a path for NH, but they are looking at it. Also looking at different demographics and whether to be more flexible with those under 60, for example.
- There was discussion about automobile registrations and being flexible to allow registrations, including new registrations, to be done remotely for the long term, not just during the State of Emergency. The governor responded that we are likely to be under the SOE for quite some time, which means the orders will remain in effect. If the SOE ends, the emergency orders will, too. Long term, after the SOE expires, this would require legislative action. Governor's office will also talk to the DMV about this.
- There was a discussion about municipal budgets. Budget hearings are starting soon in many cities. There is no clear guidance yet for municipalities. The Governor did say that the State isn't actually making cuts yet because they don't know what may be coming from the federal government, but they feel confident something is coming and that there will be funds and flexibility for towns and cities to replace revenue. The Governor also said that March and April M&R revenues were not as low as they anticipated, but that they will have a better idea of revenue projections in June.
- Finally, there was a question and some discussion about whether the prohibition on gatherings of 10 or more applies to local government or whether they are exempt. I am sharing with you all the email that I just sent a short time ago to the attendees on the call today, clarifying that issue:

NHMA has consistently advised that EO #16, which prohibits planned gatherings of 10 or more, applies to local government, including to public meetings.

Today, during the governor's call with NH mayors, there was some discussion about whether that prohibition applies to city council meetings and other public body meetings, and whether local government is entirely exempt from EO #16. NHMA contacted the governor's office immediately after the call for further clarification. After discussion with the governor's office, that office and NHMA agreed that NHMA would provide the following guidance and clarification to all attendees on the call today:

It is true that local government is exempt from the Stay at Home Order. However, local government is not exempt from EO #16; we have consistently advised towns and cities of that, and we confirmed that with the governor's office again today. That being said, after discussion with their office, it appears there may be some flexibility, as applied to day to day operations of towns and cities that require "gatherings" of officials and/or employees. For example, it would be not violation of EO #16 if a public body wished to meet in person, and the public body, plus necessary municipal staff, consisted of a group of 10 or more in

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one room. This would constitute normal “day to day operations” of the municipality, and would not be considered a planned gathering in violation of EO #16.

However, if members of the public wished to attend that meeting in person, and their in person attendance created a group of 10 or more in the room, there would be a violation of EO #16. For that reason, NHMA continues to advise that public bodies avoid in person meetings where there is any risk of the gathering exceeding nine people. We encourage towns and cities to avail themselves of EO #12, allowing for virtual meetings, including allowing the public to attend virtually. Even aside from potentially creating a violation of EO #16, the risk of exposure and potential liability as a result of a larger gathering is generally not worth it. In addition, we recommend that any municipal meeting that exceeds nine people should be done only under circumstances where the public body members and staff are following [Universal Precautions](#).

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After review, Janvrin moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2020 meeting as written. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS - times scheduled to change based on the flow of the meeting

At 6:48 pm Jamie Thompson and Derek Leslie met with the Board to discuss FAA plans to begin a gradual return to some youth sporting activities. Last Friday Governor Sununu released the State’s next phase of updates included the newest guidance in allowances for small groups to begin meeting for athletics. Thompson said that ages were not indicated. For the FAA’s next step and looking at this they need to figure out where they fit into it and how the Selectmen and the Town want to proceed.

They have had discussions at the various league levels and local residents are asking questions on the status of Fremont activities. They want the Selectmen’s requirements in order to officially begin with field usage. Cordes reviewed the information from FAA, Babe Ruth Association and the Governor’s Orders. Thompson had a one-page summary document outlining responsibilities of players, parents, coaches and the community in terms of reopening and safety. He also mentioned private athletic organizations such as Seacoast United and their program resources. All the requirements were listed as a working document for all involved. Baseball and softball fall under Babe Ruth and their guidelines are included, with waivers to be signed.

When Cordes was aware they wanted to come down, but he is worried about the health and wellbeing of everybody, both parents, kids and any participants. For the Town, he is also worried about liability. Governor may make decisions which may be good for the State but doesn’t minimize the Town’s liability or risk. It needs to proceed with an understanding from parents with full knowledge and written consent. The reopening at this stage does not include any competition, just development and skill development only and under Stay at Home 2.0, social distancing and sanitation is required, and still groups must be under 10 people. Thompson realizes there is no competition and they have planned around the guidelines for only 10. The early goal is to limit things so there is not any greater sanitizing to do, and initially there is no plans for bathroom facilities for the short-duration activities. Cordes remarked that one of the practices looking for is basis screening on how they are feeling and who will do the interviews. Also, a log of all people present needs to be kept in case the need arises for future contacting. There will be a safety officer on site each time the field is used for practice.

Barham said there is a lot of information to digest. In general, in terms of training of adults, consents and expectations to meet the Governor’s guidelines and we will ask our insurance company if they meet the

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guidelines. Janvrin stated he has no objections on a trial basis with guidelines being followed to the letter or they will shut it down. Thompson knows they have a lot of soccer planning to do for the fall as well.

This led to discussion about the fields being ready. Thompson said Spring soccer was cancelled and the field is not being used due to the recent work and overseeding. Cordes asked what happens if the public wants to use the fields? Thompson stated Sanborn teams have previously used the Babe Ruth Field which is a combination of three communities. Janvrin feels the residents should be entitled to use the fields prior to accommodating outside groups. Thompson agreed we are not ready at this time. They will meet next week with their updates to make sure all the standards are set to cover the Town's liability and the Selectmen are doing what they can to assist in the process.

Insurance certificates will also need to be in place after all the guidelines are accepted. Thompson then asked about some additional loam on the soccer field. Leslie said that some areas on the field didn't come back after the initial reseeding and asked if some spots can be retreated to bring the level up. It was agreed based on Hillside Landscaping's recommendation that some additional loam and seed would could be done by the FAA at the far soccer goal mouth. They were cut today for the first time high, and will be done again next week. It was also noted that Lane Roofing redid the dug-out roofs this week. Carlson also noted that the lime application recommended by Hillside had been ordered but not yet completed.

Both were thanked and left the meeting at approximately 7:15 pm. Thompson was asked to call in if they felt the need to be scheduled next week, or he could send in an update of their progress.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Carlson printed the current budget report through the May 29, 2020 payroll and accounts payable checks done this week. Janvrin questioned that on page 18 the January figures and total figures didn't match. This was due to one expense in the month of January for non-budgeted items (transfers from Capital Reserves). This will be reviewed in detail next week.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda Items:

- a. Payroll Manifest \$33,095.24
- b. Accounts Payable Manifest \$597,488.59 (\$500,000.00 is payable to Fremont School District)
- c. Yield Tax Warrant \$746.15 for parcel 03-095 for Karen Mathews at 186 Sandown Road
- d. FCTV Cable Revolving Fund Manifest # 2020-10 in the amount of \$1,380.56 to reimburse the Town's General Fund for the May 2020 payroll expenses
- e. Abatement denial for parcel 02-018.002.001 located at 81 South Road. No data related to market value nor assessment was provided. Property is consistently assessed with others in the area.

A motion to approve the above Consent Agenda items as listed and read aloud was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin with unanimous approval 3-0.

2. Board members reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence including multiple emails from a Beede Hill Road resident on concerns on Seacoast Farms operations, Public Works week notation; Primex bulletin; Eagle Scout ramp project emails; Stantec invoices on Chester Road work and Shirkin Road evaluation; Hillside Landscape quote for liming at fields.

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3. As the Town considers looking at gradual reopening policies and making plans, the following items are up for discussion over the next few weeks: cleaning, PPE (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer), signage, and ways to demarcate six-foot distancing (cones, plastic chains and posts).

Carlson printed Stay at Home 2.0 Re-opening Guidance documents from the State, which was distributed for the Selectmen to review.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

The First Responder Stipend worksheet was submitted this week to NH GOFERR with minutes of the Board's meeting from last week authorizing Heidi Carlson to do all grant/reimbursement submissions. The payroll will be done later in June.

The GOFERR Grant Agreement documents were submitted and the first submission is nearing completion.

At 7:34 pm Janvrin moved to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (e) to discuss a legal matter. Cordes seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Cordes-yes; Janvrin-yes; Barham-yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Selectmen's Administrative Assistant

The Board's non-public session began at approximately 7:38 pm.

At 7:45 pm a motion was made by Janvrin to return to public session. Barham seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Cordes-yes; Janvrin-yes; Barham-yes.

Selectmen reviewed a legal matter related to reopening and safety/liability concerns.

Board members discussed a traffic flow pattern in the Town Hall or one-way traffic for such time as the Town Hall can safely reopen. Board members also mentioned that signage will be key.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday June 4, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

With no further business which may legally come before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn by Janvrin at 7:50 pm. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator