

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2020**

Select Board Present: Chris Hutchins & Michael Sununu

Absent: Jamie Thompson

Others Include: Win Fream, Health Officer Bobby Kelly & Steve Shope

Call to order at 7:00 pm.

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

School Tax Paid	04/10/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$348,232.00
Checks Dated	04/10/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 6,952.57
Checks Dated	04/17/20:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 20,251.36
		Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 23,074.24
		Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 1,900.00
Checks Dated	04/24/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 3,421.13

Steve Shope was present to discuss the conservation's effort to preserve the 27 acre, William Conner Parcel. Steve has been in contact with Mr. Conner (Bill) over the years. Bill's land has been appraised for \$400k. Steve spoke with Duane Hyde, the Land Conservation Director from SELT, who confirmed Bill's asking price of \$325k. The total cost for the land will be in the vicinity of \$350k with additional transaction costs such as the SELT application service fees & the addition of a small parking lot. Duane will be reviewing the Land & Water Conservation Foundation (LWCF) as a funding source. This is run through the State's Parks & Recreation. The initial application for funding is due on May 27th. Contingent on the Select Board agreeing, Duane would then draw up a contract between the SELT and the Town. A Purchase and Sale Agreement would also be drawn up between Mr. Conner and the Town. Steve would then apply for the grant. LWCF will be a grant for \$200k, with another grant sourcing an additional \$80k, leaving a need for \$70k in additional funding. Steve is intending to have the Conservation Commission reach out to private funding for the remaining balance.

Michael informed Steve that the Town would not be able to vote to raise/spend the funds until next year. Steve assured the Board that Bill is aware of this. Chris stated that he is in agreement the need for additional parking. The question is where to put it. According to Steve, Duane believes the best place to put the parking would be just after the hammerhead. Michael asked if SELT would manage this land. Steve informed him that SELT would not. They will just be helping with the purchase and sale of the property for an \$8k fee. According to Duane, it might not need anything more than an easement language that it cannot be developed. Steve will get clarification on this subject because he believes it will at least need trail markers, and therefore may need to be managed the same as the other trails. Michael said that he is inclined to support this purchase, dependent on the funding. Steve will complete the applications and forward to the Board for signatures.

Bobby Kelly came in to discuss streaming of Town meetings. He believes that most of the Town is unaware the Hall is open to the public for the Board meetings during this pandemic. He advised the Board that he is willing to donate his stipend to help offset any streaming costs. He also informed the Board of other towns who utilize streaming/remote options. He then asked the status of the Board's decision regarding streaming, what the next steps are and when a decision will be made. Michael responded that he is resistant to not having public meetings and going to streaming only due to the number of residents who do not have access to technology. Having only online or remote meetings is contradictory to "open meetings." Chris stated that he believes every communication which has gone out to residents, has been very transparent. He is skeptical of the nature of some of this as he knows there is a fraction of the community that do not favor decisions that this Board has made. The Board's correspondences have been open and encouraging to residents to call with any questions. The question if meetings are still occurring could be asked by any resident. As far as streaming, he stated that when the Board inquired with Comcast, the price was \$30-40k. The Board had previously discussed streaming via YouTube; recording and then posting the meetings. Chris continued, saying those were the two options – live stream, or recorded and posted the next day. The challenge with doing remote meetings is the Town's technology to stream anything right now. He would like to explore Web Ex as a viable option for people to at least have the audio set up so the residents can hear the meetings. The Board is waiting for a meeting with a full Board so there is consensus. Chris would like to go in this direction, but needs to be sure all are in agreement and that the Town has the technology to make it happen.

Bobby Kelly reiterated that as the Health Officer, he is adhering to the Governor's stay at home orders and is advising those in Town & Select Board to do so as well by utilizing streaming/remote options. He then asked the Board what they intend to do for the next meeting. Chris replied that he is not comfortable using his personal property for public meetings due to 91A so the Town would have to purchase a computer that has capabilities to broadcast. Michael added that from an audio standpoint, wherever they hold the meetings will require telecommunications allowing conferencing for those who do not have laptops and wish to attend via audio. This is not a simple issue. It's simple for an individual who is comfortable with their telecommunications, has a laptop & broadband doing their personal stuff on their personal computer, but with 91A, there is no way that he would use his computer for public meetings because it opens him up to liability. Bobby stated that he is not suggesting the Board use their personal computers. Michael responded that they had discussed the requirements for this and have looked at a variety of options. It is far easier for the general public to do this than a government body to do it, responsibly and correctly. Bobby asked what would stop a resident from live streaming on their cell phone. Michael replied that he'd have to look into it. Chris stated, that he is in law enforcement and Zoom is not a safe platform. Pre-Covid, the Board had looked into a conferencing option, as well. At this time, "Web Ex" and "Go To" are the two options the Board is looking into. Bobby informed the Board that he would research those options and forward resources to them.

Win attended to discuss the repairs to the Town Landing. Chris informed them that Jeff Buxton would have the state permit this week. Chris then asked if the Town Landing is, or ever intended to be, restricted to the Town residents. Win, nor Michael, ever remember seeing it posted as such. Chris questioned whether the boats moored there are resident owned. Win believes they are, but doesn't believe they have to be. Chris informed the Board that residents concerned with non-

resident/out of state usage have contacted him. Win believes the number of non-residents will decrease once the perch goes away.

Win informed the Board of his discussion with Carl Heidenblad, the Library Director, to stagger the return to work of Library personnel by May 4th.

Michael updated the Board regarding Jon Hazell. Now that the papers have been served, the resident has thirty days to comply. After such time, the Board can then motion to have Attorney Durbin initiate the court process to commute the property.

Michael confirmed that both the Mosquito and Stormwater Asset Management RFPs have been given to Sue and sent out. Responses should be received by the end of the month.

Chris informed the Board of a liquor license request by Fire and Spice Bistro, located at the previous Ship to Shore restaurant. Chris does not know when their anticipated opening date will be due to Covid-19. The Select Board received a letter by Liquor Licensing pertaining to their application for a liquor license. No action is required unless the Board has an objection to it. The Board did not.

Chris motioned, seconded by Michael to approve two Veteran's tax credit applications – Map 208 Lot 4.7 & 204 Lot 31. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Chris, to approve the 4/7 Select Board Meeting Minutes, as amended. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Select Board decided on the following dates for upcoming meetings:

May 12th & 26th

At 8:00 pm, Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien