

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Gil opened the meeting through videoconferencing at 7:00PM.

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE:

Gilbert S. Harris, Joanne L. Andrews, Dorothy M. Richard, Wendy M. Thorne, Heath D. Edgerly

ATTENDEES:

- Mike Ward, Michael McLean, Mike Gilpatrick, Colin Walsh, Larry Malone, Dominic Vermette

MINUTES:

- Dottie **motioned** to approve the minutes for April 27th. Heath **second**. Gil made the comment that the Selectmen in attendance needs to be changed from Sonny to Heath. **All** were in favor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Mike Ward, EMA Director, told the Board that there are more supplies coming in weekly from the County and it has slowed to only having two people per day for York County for Covid19. Gil brought up that Maine releases information by county and not municipality and he asked Mike if that would change and Mike told him that no it would not because it would cost more money to go town by town.
- Michael McLean, Fire Chief, Covid19 calls are in a downward spiral and dispatch is still screening the calls. He brought up talking about having a full time chief. Heath asked how much it would be to budget for a whole year for a full time chief. Michael told everyone that talking to Chief Bore he was told that the deputy Fire Chief gets \$65,000 per year plus benefits and the chief is \$75,000 per year plus benefits. Heath asked if he would be interested in it and he was told that he is just there to try and get the Fire Department where it needs to be then hand it off to a full time chief. Heath brought up having something to read about it and Dottie said that if they wanted to approve it for July then it needs to be done by next week. The Board went on to talk about putting it on the ballot for November because there would be no way to be able to have a workshop on it. It was brought up by Dottie that there are limited articles that they can put on the November warrant because of the Presidential election. Michael agreed that putting it on the November would be a good idea. Heath asked about the electrical problems at the Fire Department and Michael told him that the electrician was coming the next day and he believes it is just a dead breaker and if another one is put in they should be good to go.
- Mike Gilpatrick, Code Enforcement Officer, brought up that it is important that the Fire Chief and Code Officer work together because the Fire Chief handles the NFPA side of things and handle life and safety issues as well. He gave his reports for March and April. Mike talked about the water and sewer project and how the additional service had been added to the end of the system and now they are starting their work at the Washington Street intersection. He told the Board that himself and the CDAC have an admission of guilt and

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did not notify the citizen who owns cool stuff about the work because his sewage hooks in on Washington Street and he told the Board that it has been dealt with and now they have a notice they will put on people's doors 24-48 hours before the shut off of their service. Mike told the Board about some things that they had run in with this project like a 38inch drainage tile next to the manhole that they had worked around successfully and that there is a blank pipe from the original water main left from the Washington Street improvement. He told the Board that they will be working on the first manhole the next day and services will start to be affected on Wednesday and then they will work their way up Main Street on Thursday. Mike brought up that there is more responsibility for him on this project than originally planned because he has to get the elevation and document each pipe. He also said that he has to locate, document, and map out each service, he also has to inspect the backfill and compaction rates as the project goes along, so a four hour day has turned into an eight hour day. Mike also talked about the abundance of complaints in the last two weeks and how he is only liable for the complaints he has written documentation for. So people need to write the complaint out either on the iWorq link on the town website or an actual form that he will leave on the table at the town office where they can fill it out and leave it in the file folder outside of his office. Gil brought up receiving a letter asking if the Board would want services to be hooked up to the Moore Building at the expense of the town and Heath asked if there were bathroom facilities there and he was told that there are but it isn't used very much and he made the comment on if no one is really using why pay to have it done he also asked how much it would be and Gil said that he did not know. Heath also asked about the house at the top of the hill and about the leech field and who would pay for the sewage pipe being hooked up and Mike told him that there was a change order at the resident's request and that he did not know who would pay for it. Heath also asked about the pipes leading up to the businesses and who would be responsible for paying for the new services put in and Mike told him that the individual would. Heath also asked Mike if he had gotten an update on getting an iPad and the Board discussed Joanne going in and picking one up for him when she went to change the name of the administrator on the account from Joanne to Laura May.

SCHEDULED SPEAKERKS:

- Dominic Vermette, Larry Malone, and Colin Walsh from RSU57: Gil told the Board that they were there to talk about the school budget and about the letter that the Waterboro Selectmen had sent about the unexpended funds to go towards the current budget and how maybe Limerick would like to send a similar letter. Dominic Vermette talked told the Board that the committee meets every week he told the Board how there had been \$900,000 from the state for the school district that they had split over two years and that the fund balance is usually \$2,000,000. Colin Walsh took over telling the Board that that spreading the \$900,000 was voted on to be spread through the two years having a fund balance of 2,450,000. Colin went on to talk about how at the end of June there will be about 3.7 million which is roughly one month's worth of expenses because they have a lot of infrastructure that needs to be taken care of. He also talked about the pre-k programs and how the state only funds them in the fiscal year that they are started in and not past that and that the programs are coming to an end because they have met the need in the communities. Colin also talked about how the enrollment is not cushioned and that puts a strain on the education subsidy. He also told the Board that the two sources of revenue for the schools is local tax

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assessment and state subsidy. Gil asked if it was true that there will be an increase of 2.78% for Limerick and Colin told him that yes that is correct and that the valuation is divided between the six towns and Limerick is actually the lowest of them. Joanne asked if they are paying employees in the district during this pandemic and Colin told her that if the employee is working or is available to work then yes but if they are not they are having to use earned time, Joanne also asked if they will be getting anything from the state with the stimulus package that they are funding and Colin told her that it is an unknown. Larry Malone, Superintendent, told the Board about the declining enrollment and how every year they are losing 10% of their students because they have gone to a different school. Larry talked about how they have had to make reductions at the high school and pre-k is the only program that they have added. He also talked about the out of district students and how they are trying to house them themselves and how there is usually a balance with students coming in and going out and that there won't be as much balance next year, he also believes the tough year is ahead of us. Larry also talked about the insurance being brought in at a low rate. Larry also talked about the expenses that they did not budget for like connectivity and devices and how some parents have said that they are not sending their children back to school until there is a vaccine. He talks about how the budget is tight and how the teacher contracts have gone up to \$40,000 and how the insurance is in the 4,000,000 range. Everyone was told that the audit report for the school is online. Gil thanked them for coming to the meeting and speaking.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Board discussed the increase in pay for the Fire Department and Heath said that he does not see a problem in doing it. Wendy talked about not seeing the study from other towns and what their budget period is if it's January to December or June to July and how without numbers it is hard for her to make a decision. Joanne asked if it would be temporary for Covid or if it would be permanent and she was told that it would be permanent and Heath said that he believes it should be retroactive back to when this started and if it is the fulltime raise will have to be put in the next year's budget. Dottie told the Board that Newfield and Shapleigh voted on their budget in March and have gone up to \$16 an hour for basics and that she didn't have a number for the advanced. Heath brought up that Limerick is the lowest of the pay for Fire and EMS workers and if the workers start to leave and go to other towns because of the low pay then that will be another battle. Wendy brought up what people said in their exit interviews. Heath talked about how they are asking them to go into a home with sick people for \$13 an hour and he wouldn't do it for that amount. Wendy asked that if they put it on the ballot in July and with the townspeople hurting do they think it will pass and Heath said that it should be put out to the people. Heath brought up the pay increase for the Road Commissioner and Wendy brought up that the Firefighters and EMS could have gotten up and said something. Gil brought up having the Fire Chief look into it and figure out where the increase would come from or if they would have to go to the townspeople for it. Wendy told him that they would have to ask the townspeople and they would have to figure out the amount for the rest of the year. Dottie brought up that it would start the 1st week in August and we would only be short a few thousand dollars and Wendy said that she does not want to be short because then they would have to go to the townspeople and ask for the few thousand dollars and that it is the responsibility of the Board to look out for the wellbeing of the town. Heath brought up that there must be an account for unforeseen expenses for

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emergency workers and Wendy told him that there is \$15,000 for that but this is not an unforeseen emergency and that the money would not be able to handle it. A comment from a towns person was that Bob Richardson got a \$6 increase without approval and Wendy said that he goes by state wages and that the Road Commissioner and his deputy do not get any benefits. Wendy also said that the road budget is a lump sum that had passed at town meeting, she also brought up that Newfield's Road Commissioner is about the same amount as Limerick's Road Commissioner. Heath brought up that state wages for a chain saw is \$8.45 per hour and we are paying \$45 and that the budget has not gone up but there is \$80,000 more in his pocket and how much less is the town getting done. Heath **motioned** that all bills that are turned into the Selectmen are itemized. Wendy brought up not being able to compare Limerick to Lyman because they have a public works department. Dottie **second**. Heath read a letter from the Budget Committee about the Road Commissioners budget and said that the lawyer says that there is nothing in there that says he can do that. Heath went on to talk about the meeting between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen and that there is nothing in the video on January 30th about changing the pay rate. Joanne, Gil, and Wendy voted no, Heath voted yes, and Dottie abstained.

- The Board discussed employee pay and what they should do about it. Wendy **motioned** to pay the employees, if you're working and you continue to work, you'll get paid for the hours you work. Gil **second**. Gil brought up the hours having to be kept by the department head for people working at home. Three were in favor, Dottie and Joanne abstained due to them being employees.
- The Board discussed the Brick Town Hall ADA parking and Heath said that he had talked to DOT about it not being safe to shut down a road and that if one of the trucks at the Fire Station broke the parking lot of the post office due to it being privately owned the town would be liable for the property damage. He also talked about one of the CDAC committee members talking to Pete and him saying everything is good even though he is not the chief and Wendy said that Pete told the committee member that he would pass it on to the Fire Chief.
- Fire Protection System was brought up and how they had two bids in one of them not having the installation fee and that they would have to figure out which bid is the best one. Heath said that the company he had talked to gave him installation cost and equipment costs but the extra expenses the company didn't know about would be based on a few factors like the HVAC people needing to hook up a switch to the system so that if the Fire Protection system goes off the power will cutoff for the HVAC system, an electrician will have to put the whole set up into a panel, and access to the building for a conduit for the security system, he also said that before moving forward they should have an air test done. Mike Gilpatrick the Code Officer said that they could have an energy company come in and do a test and that he could contact the Code Officer in Durham about it.
- Mike Gilpatrick asked about his tablet and it was agreed upon that he could send the model he would like to Joanne and she can pick it up and he also asked about his overtime on the Main Street project and he was told that it was built into the bid and that Wendy would check on the logistics.

NEW BUSINESS:

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- Michael Carroll's resignation, Wendy **motioned** to accept his resignation but with sincere thanks for all of his service. Joanne said that it was just for the Appeals Board and Dottie told her it was for all Boards. Dottie **second. All** were in favor.
- Secret Ballot Articles, Joanne asked if they had been run by MMA or the attorney and Gil said that they had been run by the attorney and had approved of the wording and that the question of the March 1st start date for the citizen petition will not affect the Selectmen remaining until town meeting. The articles are York County Community Action charity, Selectmen:\$500, Budget Committee: \$1,000, or \$0, Life Flight charity, Selectmen: \$500, Budget Committee: \$723, or \$0, members of the Board not having any other positions that are paid (yes or no), and reducing the members of the Board from 5 to 3. Heath **motioned** to approve all four articles to be put on. Wendy **second. Four** were in favor, Joanne abstained.
- Gil announced that the Board will be having an Executive Session on March 5th and Wendy said that she is requesting to have the room cleaned, carpet, curtains, table curtain, chairs, and tables and Gil said that would be a lot to get done overnight so they agreed to have the Custodian disinfect everything for the meeting.
- Dock Repair Bids, Maine Made Custom Builders: \$900, Welch Services: \$950, and Ryan's Home Repair: \$832.57. Heath **motioned** to award it to Ryan Smith pending insurance. Dottie **second. All** were in favor. Wendy brought up having the secretary send a letter to the bidders.
- The Board discussed workshops and how they were going to conduct them and the Board decided to try to have one on zoom on May 12th at 7:00PM on the Brick Town Hall Usage Policy.
- The Board discussed the cleaning and Wendy was asked to send the list for the cleaning again and they discussed getting rid of the carpet. Also to have Rick clean the doors and the elevator as well.
- Wendy brought up having guests first during the meetings and everyone agreed.
- Joanne brought up keeping the meetings under two hours for the cameraperson and the secretary who has to do the minutes, Heath said the he does not believe there should be a limit to getting town business done.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- A townspeople asked about Mike going with Joanne to pick out the tablet and everyone said that he would not have time to do it.
- Townsperson asked about the start and completion dates for the project and Heath brought up that it could be done in a day and brought up being able to put ads in the paper and he was told that he could ask the secretary to do that.
- Dottie brought up Jason from the Massabesic Little League and when the ballfield will open back up and they said it is up to what the Governor decides.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Gil read the announcements.

ADJOURN MEETING:

- Wendy **motioned** to adjourn. Dottie **second. All** were in favor.

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- The Meeting was adjourned at 9:25PM.

These minutes were approved by the Limerick Board of Selectmen on:

End of Broadcast

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Davis

**FOR DETAILS OF MEETING
SEE RECORDING**
“Limerick Selectmen’s Videoconferencing Meeting”
May 4, 2020
By Stephanie Bishop