

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2020

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

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ATTENDEES:

- Mike Ward, Mike McLean, Cindy Smith, Aaron Carroll, Mike Mellen

MINUTES:

- Wendy **motioned** to approve the minutes for April 13. Dottie **second**. Dottie made the comment to change teleconferencing to videoconferencing. **All** were in favor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Mike Ward, EMA Director, told everyone that the State has asked FEMA to pay 100% instead of 75%, more masks will be distributed to Fire Departments and he told everyone that if you are behind on rent you can get a 1 time payment of \$500 to the landlord at www.mainehousing.org. Also, that Fire and EMS of the county are still doing fit testing.
- Mike McLean, Fire Chief, told everyone that it is going as well as it could be and when you call if you are Covid + to answer all the questions that they are asked.
- Aaron Carroll, Tree Warden, gave everyone a back story on how he started in 2002 and what he does as Tree Warden is take care of hazardous trees that are in the town and in the spring he gets a list of trees and puts them out to bid and brings it to the Board to have them vote on it. He usually looks at trees that townspeople, the Selectmen, or he has noticed around town and he also told everyone there are two funds that the hazardous trees are usually taken out of, the hazardous tree account or the highway account. Gil asked if Aaron takes trees down on public or private land and Aaron told him that he focuses on the trees on public property. Heath **motioned** that the Board has authority over making decisions. Gil said that unless it is a dyer emergency, he will bring it to the rest of the Board. There was a question from a townsperson asking that if there was a tree on private property and Aaron told Sonny would Sonny tell the rest of the Board about it and in answer to the question Aaron said that he what he needed to do. Another question was about the Selectmen coming up with guidelines and Wendy told the townsperson to review the Maine State Statute.
- Cindy Smith, Library Director, told everyone that the library has been keeping up with their Facebook page and have been going to Zoom meetings that are hosted by the Maine State Library and how there will be a Library Trustee Meeting the second Thursday in May.
- Joanne Andrews, Transfer Station Manager, she brought up that things had been written on Facebook about the Transfer Station and how she was limiting the amount of bags that could be brought in and that Gil asked about the authority she has to do that. Joanne told the Board that in June 2009 the Board had signed a policy giving her the authority to determine what exceeds the ordinary amount of household waste. She also told the Board that on November 27th, 2000 the DEP had approved the license and operating manual for the Transfer Station

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and that the fee schedule and rules/regulations are posted at the Transfer Station. Joanne also told the Board that the Transfer Station is there for anyone who is residential, seasonal, and year-round and are not part of the door-to-door pick up and that they are charging for permits for the Transfer Station. The trash for the last month has exceeded the expectations and on Saturday it was the most she had seen in a long time because people are staying home and cleaning out their houses and that she had called Mr. Mellen to have them pick up one of the containers on Saturday at 4:00PM and by 11:30 Sunday morning the container was completely full. She told everyone that Mr. Mellen will not haul any containers away that are over the top and that he had dropped off 18-25 bags and if they do not have the containers hauled away then they would have to shut down prematurely but if the Selectmen want to change the operations manual then they can because they control it. She also made the statement that she does not appreciate her or the two men she works with being called names and that the two men work for a little over \$12 an hour and give up their weekends and that if anybody has a problem they should see her. Gil asked if they uniformly stick to the three-bag rule and Joanne answered with absolutely. Heath asked even if someone does not get curbside it is only the three-bag limit and Joanne told him that yes, she established the three bag rule and that she apologized to anyone who had been inconvenienced because of said rule. Heath also asked if there is a set price for the loads that people bring in for demolition and Joanne said absolutely and Heath said that he was told that there were three of the same load that had three different prices by three different employees. Joanne replied to that with saying that it is \$20 at least for loads that are even with the sides of the truck and if it is over that then it can vary and looking at the load determines how much it will be. Heath said that this is not a first time problem and that they are looking into other avenues like another dumpster or having Mellen pick up another load, Joanne replied that they had asked for another dumpster for July 4th a couple years ago and when they saw that it was \$1000 Joanne told Mr. Mellen that the town would not pay that. Heath said that it seems there needs to be more conversation between all parties and Joanne said that if people utilized the door-to-door pickup there would be no problem. Heath brought up that his cousin had been accosted by one of Joanne's employees and told him that he could only leave three bags and Joanne told Heath that his cousin had told Wade that he had apologized for it and that he did not think it was unreasonable and that she let him leave the four bags he had. Heath brought up that Dottie had been accosted by one of Joanne's employees and that people are burning garbage because they do not want to deal with the employees at the Transfer Station. Gil ended the conversation there asking to move on.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Waste Hauling Agreement, Gil asked Mike Mellen if the residential and commercial trash was being mixed in and if the town was paying for the commercial trash tipping fees and Mr. Mellen told him that yes and that the Board said there would be no changes to the contract. He said at the end of the meeting he had talked to the Board and they agreed to change a few things, one 5 million to 2 million for the insurance and that the town would pay for the commercial tipping fees and the Board agreed with that. Mr. Mellen told everyone that Dottie typed up the new contract and they all agreed with it and for the tipping fees on one of the sentences not was scratched out and be was put in to show that the town was supposed to pay for the tipping fees and it had been initialed by Mr. Mellen himself. Dottie told him that nothing on the copy she has is initialed and it says that the town is not

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responsible for commercial tipping fees. Mr. Mellen asked if the Board had a meeting to let businesses know that they were responsible for the fees and that the town wasn't paying for it anymore and why they waited till the middle of the contract to bring this up and he also said that they have been mixing it since they got the contract a little over four years ago. Gil told Mr. Mellen that they had tried to send a registered letter to them middle of last year and Mr. Mellen told everyone that the secretary at the town hall had given it to him and it had not been mailed to him. Gil said that he would like to look at the previous contract and see what changes were made. Heath said that he thought that the tipping fees rolled into the dumpster fee and the town paid for the tonnage and Mr. Mellen told him that is exactly how it works and if someone puts out curbside and it is considered commercial waste then are they not supposed to pick it up. Heath brought up maybe needing to relook at this and rewrite it. Mr. Mellen brought up that it can't be changed halfway through the contract but if they want to change it for the upcoming bid then they can. Heath brought up that there was a woman who had told them that her trash hadn't been picked up and Mellen and Son went back and picked up her trash. Mr. Mellen said that 90% of the calls they get about them not picking up are lies and people are either putting out late or not putting out at all and he said that yes they do miss people sometimes but they go out and take care of it. Heath brought up that he sees anyone contracted with the town are business partners and the Selectmen should be sticking up for them. Wendy asked for a copy of the contract and that she would need to look at it because hers does not have a date on it and he said that he would get her a copy and that the date on his was wrong because it had been written up a month before they had signed it. Mr. Mellen said that people think they are not picking stuff up when they do not pick anything up that is not household trash. Also with the Transfer Station they should be able to fit another ton in their containers and that usually they have Mr. Richardson push the trash down with his excavator and there is more room in the containers that can be used and why people are being turned away when the containers are not even full. Heath said that he was told that Mellen and Son would charge more if the container was over the top. Mr. Mellen said no and about 18 months ago it was a problem that the containers were overfull, but the problem was corrected and maybe corrected a little too much and that the containers are usually 80-85% full. Heath brought up that everyone is now staying home and maybe have Mr. Mellen give an estimate for another dumpster. Mr. Mellen said that he could get an estimate for an extra dumpster to the Board or even do another dump. Heath brought up that those were options to look into and that he had heard that Joanne would not pay for extra containers and that the extra container would be a one-time charge of \$1000 and Mr. Mellen said that Joanne told him that the town would not pay for that and if she had treated him better he would not have charged for it.

- Gil brought up the employee pay and how he believes that employees should be paid for the time they work and try to figure out a way to keep track of the time for people working from home. Wendy said that people should be paid the hours they work and that there is a possibility that FEMA or another program could reimburse the town and that because townspeople are working very little or not at all and that if employees are not working it is not fair to them if employees get paid. Heath said that they should talk to employees. Cindy Smith talked about how there are two of them that work more hours then the others and that they are working from home and the library but not at the same time. Stephanie Bishop, videographer, brought up that she has lost time because of other Board's not meeting and it is not her primary income but there has been an increase in groceries and other essentials. Heath **motioned** to keep things the same as they have been, and we revisit this in two weeks

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till we get an update on this corona. When asked he said that it would be the hours that the employees expect to be paid for. Gil **second**. Wendy brought up that she would investigate the reimbursement aspect for it. Dottie brought up that it would go back to a normal work schedule after May 15th and they would have one more week after to discuss it. Three were in favor, Dottie and Joanne abstained due to them being employees themselves.

- The Board discussed the dock and Dottie told the Board that the town owns it, Heath let them know that Bob Harrisburg would be willing to donate the materials and he said that it looks like it would be about 360 for the decking. Wendy said that it would be taken out of the public places account and Dottie brought up running it by Natalie, the lawyer, and Joanne brought up bringing it to Mike Gilpatrick the Code Enforcement Officer. Heath brought up the iPad for the Mike and Joanne said that she is sending over the information to Laura to have her become the administrator of the Verizon account.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Board discussed the agenda and Wendy brought up how it should fall under the guise of the Chairman of the Board to put it together and that it should be allowed for the Selectmen to submit information to Gil to be put on and that noon on Friday is for any other people in the town and that the agenda is subject to change. Joanne brought up that the Selectmen should be able to put things on after noon on Friday and Gil said that he would like to start being responsible for the agenda. Joanne also brought up that any information the Board needs to see before the meeting should be submitted to them.
- Peppermill Liquor License, the Board discussed that the license is up May 15th, Judy LePage sent a comment to the secretary and she told the Board that all permits have been extended due to the coronavirus.
- Joanne brought up meeting at the Municipal Building again and it was brought up that unless they have a charter, they must allow the public in so they cannot do that.
- Dottie **motioned** to appoint Mike Gilpatrick as the Code Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector, Aaron Carroll as the Tree Warden, Antonio Nappi as the Constable and Robert Brawn as the Deputy Constable. Joanne **second**. It was brought up to see if the Deputy Constable could do background checks just to have a backup. **All** were in favor.
- Heath brought up that he would like to look into getting a new grant writer, engineer, and lawyer because he wants fresh eyes and also the grant writer will not give a straight answer and dropped the ball on getting an open road permit and the lawyer gives two or three different answers for the same question. Wendy retorted with it depends on how you ask the question for the lawyer and she believes that the grant writer is doing a good job and, in the future, if the Board wants to change then they can. Heath brought up that with the fee for the permit it was waived which is great but when did the Board discuss writing a check for a permit they were already supposed to have? Joanne brought up that the contracts that were signed last week had to be signed before they could send in for the permit.
- Dottie told the Board that they had found a file cabinet for the Fire Department personnel records, but the lock doesn't work. Wendy **motioned** to have Dupuis come in and get the lock fixed. Joanne **second**. **All** were in favor.
- Gil read a letter from Peter Proctor who is the Rescue chief about reinstating Brian Saulnier as a per diem and that he had talked to the Chief and he is into having another person on the Fire Department. Wendy **motioned** to reinstate Brian on the Fire/EMS department. Gil

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second. Joanne brought up that she would like to look at the original resignation letter that the Board had received. Four were not in favor, Dottie abstained.

- The Board discussed having a feasibility committee for a Community Garden and Heath said that he would like to be on the committee. The Board discussed looking into it further and seeing what they can do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Gil read the announcements.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- A townspeople asked if someone is living in the house across from the Town Hall and Gil said that yes, but it happened before the Board knew about it and they are looking into their options at this point.
- Someone had made a comment about the Board looking over the Mellen and Son contract and Gil said that they had covered that.
- Townspeople asked if salaried employees were still getting paid and that Rescue workers should be paid more. Gil brought up having the Fire Department investigate it and one of the Board members said that other Fire Departments are paying their employees \$2 or \$3 more an hour.
- There was a comment about what the Library could do, and the Board decided to pass it along to the Library employees.
- There was a question as to why there was a discrepancy in what Mr. Mellen said about not taking the dumpster if it is overfull and Gil said that had been covered.
- There was a comment/question about looking into getting a second grant writer. Heath said that the contract up to 6 grants and it is something to investigate.
- Mike Ward asked about the lock on the EMA building and Gil said that they would work on getting him a key.
- The secretary read a comment about the trash bags and how other towns are limiting bags as well.
- Heath read an email from Michael Welsh about how TV's should be turned off because of the background noise, he does not consider part time personnel essential, such as videographer, and should not be paid and Heath and Wendy agreed that she is an essential worker because the meetings need to be videoed for the public. He also says that elected positions should be paid.

ADJOURN MEETING:

- Dottie **motioned** to adjourn. Joanne **second**. **All** were in favor
- The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

These minutes were approved by the Limerick Board of Selectmen on: April 27, 2020

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End of Broadcast

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Davis

**FOR DETAILS OF MEETING
SEE RECORDING**
“Limerick Selectmen’s Videoconferencing Meeting”
April 21, 2020
By Stephanie Bishop