

## HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the June 2, 2020 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin for the meeting of June 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led Chairman Morin
3. ATTENDANCE  
Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Marilyn McGrath, Normand Martin, Roger Coutu  
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton, Fire Chief; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant
4. NEW BUSINESS

#### Covid-19 Update

Chief Buxton thanked the Board for having him here for the weekly covid-19 update. He then went on to say we've provide you with three pieces of documentation this evening. One is a brief. One is a financial snapshot and the third is the Incident Action Plan for the week. Just to start us off this evening. We're about 1.8 million cases in the US. In New Hampshire we've crested 4,685 cases total with 245 deaths. Hillsboro County had 2,486 with 87 estimated in Hudson. This past week the Governor extended Stay at Home 2.0 until June 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally they have offered up some reopening of lodging, driving schools and day camps.

We have started meeting as a group for reopening working group here in Town Hall. That is made up of the Administrator, myself, the Police Chief, Finance Director, IT Director, Recreation Director, Public Works Director, HCTV and Linda Pilla from the Library. We all sit on the group. We've been on that for approximately a week and a half now. We look forward to having a full report for your June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A couple points of interest after last week's meeting. We put together the guidance for the recreation and committee chairs that was requested by this Board. Dealing with Hudson Youth Baseball, Girls Softball, and pickle ball activities along with working towards the opening of Benson Park for June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Public Works Department has completed the fencing around the play station in the park and we continue to prepare for that opportunity. The last piece I think we're waiting on is some signage. That is expected any day now so we should hit that target.

We also continue to serve with the Hudson School District on their reopening group. This week we have started a small working group with the principal from Alvrine High School, the Police Chief and myself regarding what graduation will potentially look like for the Class of 2020. As you'd expect that is a big piece in a person's life. They're trying to figure out how to deliver that because they've been told that the SNHU Arena will not afford them the opportunity for social distancing to be in that facility because of the number of chairs you can fit on the floor. So they're trying to figure out how they'll do that back here locally. Right now potentially the idea is to have an outdoor graduation up in the field behind Alvrine High School, which is where the graduation used to be prior to the SNHU Arena being around.

Concerns, we continue to monitor the 2.0 pieces as they continue to reopen. Obviously there's been some uptick in concern regarding some of the public activities in regards to the protests and stuff. I know Chief Avery is certainly monitoring that from that avenue. We're trying to monitor what the impact will be on this event as we see now the State managing two major events moving forward.

Additionally we are still working with protective clothing manufacturers to try and secure as much as we can because now we also are working to help the School secure their supply as they head into what is considered to be their extended school year period and prepare for the fall.

Weekly Goals: the reopening group continues to work. Finalize the Benson opening procedures. Create a long-term vision for best industry standards for EMS type events. How are we going to move the paramedics and the firefighters out of the area of the nasal passage when they're doing airway maneuvers and stuff like that. So we're looking at a few ideas there and identify long-term facility updates. We had talked about phase two of the hardening. Basically hand sanitation stations and some additional things that will come forward to the Board after the plan has been put together for the reopening group.

Certainly open to any questions you might have. Mr. Chairman this evening, but that is pretty much where we're at for the week.

Selectman Martin asked, on the opening of Benson's we're doing the fencing of the playground and signage. We're not providing hand sanitizer? Chief Buxton responded, no we opened that up as a walking trail setup. No different than we did any of the other conservation areas. We are not currently supplying that. There will be a sign there encouraging hand sanitation and stuff but we are not supplying that at the gate. Selectman Martin then said, I just want to make sure. Thank you.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions. Seeing none. The Board thanked the Chief for his update.

#### Property Tax Abatement and Tax Credit

Chairman Morin said, item B that we have tonight is a tax abatement. The Town Administrator said, it's actually an exemption and credit deadline. If the Board is inclined to you could extend the deadline for folks to apply for elderly, disabled, veteran's tax credits until July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you read the memo I believe we already extended it once but given that we still are under the stay at home order this would be beneficial for residents who might need a little more time during this pandemic to apply for these credits, which they would qualify for. So quite simply put it would be extending the deadline to July 1<sup>st</sup> which the Board has the ability to do.

Selectman Martin asked, I wish he was here, he could answer it probably better than Steve. How many applications does he get after the deadline? You know what I'm saying? So the deadline is usually April 15<sup>th</sup>? To that affect? The Town Administrator said, yes, I believe that is correct. We don't know until we get them, frankly. I'm not sure I could put a definitive number on it because somebody may suddenly qualify and now they have the ability to come in. I'm not aware that there's a number of people who haven't done it. Selectman Martin then said, this affects if we were to extended it, it gives them a shorter timeline to get the information ready for setting the tax rate, is it not? To which the Town Administrator responded, so typically what we have is a September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to submit what they call the MS-1, which is a State form which has all of this information on it. But more than likely and typically, we always ask for an extension until October 1<sup>st</sup> which is legally our right. That would more than likely be the case this year. Which would still give us the ability to set a tax rate or get an appointment by late October. You're probably talking, I don't know how many of these you're going to get, it's not going to be a huge number, and it's just giving people the ability. So if you got a dozen of them I don't think it's that difficult to complete the MS-1 with an extra dozen.

Seeing no further questions Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to approve an extension of the filing deadline for property tax exemption and tax credit until July 1, 2020 in accordance with RSA 72:33 I-a. Carried 5-0.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REMARKS

I don't have anything other than the Town Clerk was in today, it was the second day of the no appointment. In other words you would show up if you had a business transaction such as auto registration. The runner, we've had some other Town employees volunteer to perform that service. I didn't get a count today. Yesterday I think they processed 211 people. It seemed to go pretty smoothly. I didn't hear too many complaints. Obviously there's a few people that maybe don't have the right paperwork. Patti has been working trying to go out to the line to say, what are you here for? Make sure you have this, have that, have the other thing. There's a crowd when we get here in the morning but it's managed during the day. It seems to go pretty well because the clerks are able to do the job and not have to get up and go back and forth. So I think that's been working pretty well. I would just like to thank everybody who's participated. From the Fire Department who set it up, to the other volunteer employees who are learning a lot about registrations. We even have a police officer come over at a certain point to say, it's 4:00, we're cutting off the line. Because at some point you have to end the line and it's probably better to have a uniformed officer than try to put one of the gals out there. They consented to do it. It seems to be working well.

6. SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Selectman Martin - We have a budget committee meeting tomorrow night. It's at the Community Center so if you care to watch. That's all I have.

Selectman McGrath - I don't have anything other than, I thought that we were going to have on the agenda the ZBA appointment. I had mentioned that to you last week Chairman Morin responded, yes, you did. Selectman McGrath went on to say, it doesn't matter but I'd like it to be on the agenda for the next time around because we have a couple of members on the Zoning Board and if they get ill, then we're out of luck. Mr. Fauvel served on the Zoning Board for a long period of time. He'd like to come back as an alternate member so I'd like to take care of that next week. Chairman Morin said, I apologize for that, I missed that. The Administrator asked, do you wish to have him come in or do you want to do it by acclamation? I'm just asking the Board's pleasure. Selectman Coutu said, I know Leo. I've known him since I was a little kid. And you've known him for years. Selectman McGrath replied, I worked with him on the Zoning Board, so I certainly would endorse him. Does that mean that I always agree with Mr. Fauvel? It doesn't mean that but he was a good member. He showed up to each and every meeting and he participated and he has the experience so I don't need to interview him. I don't know. Kara probably doesn't know him. I don't know if Norm knows him. Selectman Martin responded, I'm not familiar with him. He had just left when I got on the Zoning Board, but I'm not averse to appointing him next week. Selectman Roy responded, nor am I so don't think there's a need to. The Town Administrator confirmed, so no need him to come? To which the Chairman replied, no.

Selectman Coutu - Other than to say I'm happy to be here. Dealing with a lot of issues but we're getting there. I thank you for the updates on a daily basis, Mr. Chairman. They've been quite informative. I know that all of the employees for the most part, people with authority, have all made themselves available to Doris and I if we needed them and we appreciate that. That's it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Selectman Roy - I have nothing tonight.

Chairman Morin - I have nothing either. Fifteen minutes. Nicely done.

7. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Martin seconded by Selectman Coutu, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 7:13 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Morin entered open session at 9:19 p.m.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Coutu to seal the non-public minutes of this evenings meeting, 6/2/20. Carried 5-0.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Roy. A roll call vote was taken, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

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David S. Morin, Chairman

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Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

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Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

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Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

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Norman G. Martin, Selectman