

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the June 30, 2020 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin for the meeting of June 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Morin
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Marilyn McGrath, Roger Coutu

Selectman Martin participated remotely from his residence

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton, Fire Chief; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant
4. PUBLIC INPUT - None this evening
5. OLD BUSINESS
A. the Town Administrator read motions made after the non-public session of the 6/23/20 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to deny the Step 2 Grievance filed by the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 for the Article XII Discipline and Termination for Cause: Grievant Matt Costa. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Martin made a motion to adjourn at 10:47p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

B. Hudson Speedway

The Town Administrator explained to the Board, when the owner/operator Mr. Bosowski sent his original license request in, which the Board approved on April 14th, he omitted to put a July 19th date on. That is a Sunday. If you look, there's an amended schedule attached to this. Quite simply put we need a motion to amend the approved 2020 Hudson Speedway License previously approved on April 14, 2020 by adding July 19, 2020, 4:00-10:00 p.m. to the license. Selectman Roy said, I'll make that motion. This was seconded by Selectman McGrath. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Covid-19 Update

Chief Buxton thanked the Board for having him here for the 16th weekly covid-19 update. He went on to say, this will be our final weekly update as we move the EOC back to the monitoring level. And we prepare for what goes on in the future here. The incident itself continues to remain very fluid as we're watching across the country and what's happening with the numbers and we'll get into those in a couple

of minutes. We've had besides issuing 16 different reports to the Board, we've managed 56 separate emergency orders. This past week the Governor extended the State of Emergency for an additional 21 days, so that will go on into next month. We don't actually anticipate that going away anytime in the near future. It is my understanding that because of the way the funding and the grants have been attached to the State of Emergency that that will continue on for quite some time until they can legislate a different path.

Implementation for the week; we continue with the reopening efforts. Inspectional Services and Community Development are starting to see folks by appointment. We continue to monitor our case numbers here in Hudson and watch those. To date we've had 5,760 cases of covid-19 in Hudson itself. We have 34 current hospitalizations. One of the things that's been positive the last couple of days has been hospitalization numbers and I got really excited the 29th because we had new cases of covid in the State. And actually no new hospitalizations. I guess I jinxed us because we had 22 new cases today. No new hospitalizations but we did have four additional deaths. Unfortunately. One of the things that we continue to track are the long-term care facilities. The Governor at his press conference today at 3:00 p.m. talked about a monitoring program that they have established for the long-term care facilities. They're basically testing every two weeks. Staff and patients throughout all of the long-term care facilities in New Hampshire. They have a contractor going through and doing that. Over the last two weeks they've only identified an additional 15 cases. We do have one outbreak at a long-term care facility in Nashua that currently has 150 cases in their one facility. The long-term care facility in Hudson still has no cases of covid-19 either with staff or patients. So we applaud them for their efforts.

One of the things that I think we need to have a conversation on is what's going on nationally. Several states have started to pause or roll back their reopening plans. We actually saw several states with big increases regarding covid-19 cases. Last Friday we had the largest single day update to 39,000 cases in one single day. Today, the United States was announced to be on the no admittance list for European travel because of the covid-19 cases in this country. So we continue to monitor that. Globally we've now had over 500,000 deaths. One quarter of the cases in the world are actually within the United States now. So that's no necessarily a position we want to hold on to. But we want to finish up strong and get this pushed back. So we need to, community transmission is still alive in the State of New Hampshire. It's still an issue. The Stay at Home guidance in regards to travel, a couple of pieces on that. The Governor on more than one occasion has said, the Stay at Home Order has been deleted. But they're encouraging folks to stay at home to the best of their ability. That's something we're encouraging. We want to see more staycations. We want to see you traveling within your community itself. Mask usage, hand washing, those types of things.

State EOC this week has moved to one weekly EMD call. That will take place on Wednesdays. They transitioned their hours from Monday-Friday 0800-1600 in the afternoon. After the 4th of July holiday when we come back all of the departments will be open by appointment and the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office will be open to the public on a first come, first served basis. So we continue to move our reopening plan forward. The 14th we'll revisit basketball courts, the dog park and playgrounds. Additionally continue to support the School District and their reopening plan. That is certainly several items over there to watch.

Forward viewing for covid-19, this is truly an unknown. One of the pieces that will drive the covid-19 response as we move forward in the year, will be the compliance with mask usage within the community and the State and the country, hand washing and social distancing. Those are three pieces that we really need to start watching. One of the largest concerns that were highlighted in the Governors press conference today was regarding what's going to happen in September-October when we start reloading the State with the students that will travel to New Hampshire for secondary education as they start reloading the college campuses. I know there are several plans. My daughter goes to Keen State, I know Steve's son goes to UNH, they're starting to figure out how they're going to do isolation up front and what their semester is going to look like to try to minimize those things. As with any event, as we move forward into our monitoring stage, we'll certainly be looking for ways to continuously improve our process. Those will surround continuous training, mitigation and response training. One of the things that came out during

the event was there was no plan, right? You go to the Emergency Operation Plan and there's no section in there that says pandemic. Really staff in Town needed to rely on theory and training that we'd received in the past. On more than one occasion we talked about flying a plane and building it at the same time. That's exactly what happened. But we're very thankful for the support from this Board to the Department Heads and your trust as we move forward with learning how to address things here. Move together as a team. We built bridges with the Library and the School District. To really bring to close a response here locally that I think we can be proud of. I know not all of you were on the conference calls every day. Selectman Morin and Roy certainly know that I would throw up a quote every now and then. One of my favorites that I continually throw up every few days was from Abraham Lincoln and I think this really sums up what we've done as a group. It says "the best way to predict the future is to create it" and I think we created a good future here in Hudson for what we've done for response and mitigating those things. We just need to now close it and continue to monitor it. It will be a process that goes on for quite some time. Just because we're moving the EOC to a monitoring level doesn't mean our work is done. We have several grants to monitor and finish those projects out. Construction projects that will take place in this building. And really looking at preventative mitigation type projects that will help us as a community really address this long-term.

A couple of things that I picked up that I think are important for the public tonight on the Governor's press conference. He made an announcement today. They're putting \$35 million dollars into an account to assist with house and utility assistance. As you're aware they had whether it was utility shutoffs or it was rent relief that was provided through the State of Emergency that goes away, sunsets actually today. So they needed to come up with a bridge to get folks back that may still be having financial issues. So they've created a \$35 million dollar account. Folks can access that one of two ways. Either through 211 or capnewhampshire.org they'll put them through the guidance and push them out in regards if they need rent or utility relief or any of those types of things will be there. Then they gave a picture as to what the State revenues look like as they close out their fiscal year. They're in a biennium so tomorrow starts the second piece of their biennium. Their projected revenues for FY20 were down \$182 million dollars and they're forecasting at this point that they'll be down approximately \$350 million next year, which starts tomorrow. So they're dealing with that. They're expecting a stimulus package. Senate comes back the end of July, beginning of August and they're expecting a stimulus package this time that will address revenue replacement and loses that states and municipalities had. So we continue to hold on there. The Governor was very upbeat as to how they address that but he talked about transparency today and he talked about making sure everybody knew where the State was at. That's why I'm reporting it out tonight. I think it's very important that everybody have that clarity. I'm certainly willing to entertain any questions.

Selectman McGrath was recognized by the Chairman and she said, so the two programs that you mentioned, the 211 and the other, is that something we can put on our Town page? Chief Buxton replied, we will get it on the page tomorrow underneath our business section and make sure it's on the front page so folks know where to get it. Selectman McGrath responded, okay, thank you. That's all I have.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and he said, Chief, if I might. Initially when you began speaking I don't want people to panic. You gave the State number as the number of cases we had in Hudson. I don't want people to panic that we have that many cases. Chief Buxton replied saying, oh, no, we have 109 total in the community with 17 currently active. Selectman Coutu went on to say, in terms of the grants, where are we with the grants? Chief Buxton responded, so last week you authorized us to move forward with some additional CARES projects. So I know the Finance Director gave us a snapshot here this evening. Total expenditures. So as we wind down the EOC everything goes into recovery mode and we start managing those. So the GOFERR money we'll start looking at. The first responder stipend actually ends this pay period. So that number will be totally recovered. And then the Fire, Public Works and Police any of the payroll numbers that you're seeing will drop substantially because we closed the EOC, anyone working in those logistical areas and stuff get reassigned back out to their original duties. So we move down that path. So those numbers will start coming down. We received the first payment from GOFERR. You'll see that as the \$8,100. We put in for our first installment of the DOJ grant which was \$19,000. We're

expecting that payment out here within the next few days. So the project regarding AFG-S which is a Fire Fighters Grant Supplemental. That is a project that is sitting in the que but has not been spent yet. We're waiting to hear on whether we're going to get those monies or not. If not, can we find another avenue to fund those projects. All the money that we're spending are pots of money that are 100% reimbursable. So the public assistance process is only 75% basically utilizing as we have expenses we're trying to put them in buckets that will allow us 100% reimbursement back. So we basically try to come out to zero at the end of the day. It changes week to week unfortunately. As they decide that say GOFERR says hey the draw down on the account has been this percentage point to this point it might open up other opportunities. Because they know the municipalities want to recover as much as they can. They don't want see them out the 25%. Selectman Coutu the said, so the cost recovery the \$169,000 that's all in the making. Last question I have is relative actually, she's here the Town Clerk's office. Are still using a runner for her department? Chief Buxton responded saying no, they're fully opened. So they come up the handicapped ramp, come into the building, across the hallway, down into the, Selectman Coutu interjected asking so we are doing the stationing all the way around where it's designed. Chief Buxton replied, yes. Selectman Coutu said thank you sir. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Morin said thank you Chief. And before you leave again, we appreciate everything you've done. You got the Town through it with your leadership and we appreciate that very much. Thank you.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REMARKS

The Town Administrator started off saying, the Chairman had received some correspondence from the Chair of the Ethics Committee. The Board had sent a letter to a couple of members of the Conservation Commission about a year ago. There's been an ethics complaint filed. There was a meeting and the Ethics Committee asked for some information which I'm able to provide, I'm just going to give you a quick, just information we wanted to share. Quite simply put during one of the non-public sessions this Board had a conversation and directed that the letters be drafted by our attorney which I have evidence of. We're going to respond to this request for information by the Code of Ethics Committee. Just making you aware that the Chairman had received correspondence. We're responding. I have back and forth legal information from our attorney but is attorney-client confidential so I'm not sharing it with. Chairman Morin told Selectman Martin we'd get him the paperwork.

The Town Administrator went on to say, I wish everyone a happy and healthy 4th of July. It's this Saturday. As a reminder fireworks are not permitted in the Town of Hudson. So just putting that word out there. I believe our Police Department will be on alert that evening so just be aware. Fireworks are not permitted in the Town.

6. SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Selectman Martin - I have no comments thank you.

Selectman Coutu - I just want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a best a 4th of July weekend as you possibly can considering the mess that we're in as a country. But it's here, we have to deal with it on a daily basis. Please drink responsibly and please don't drink and drive. Thank you.

Selectman McGrath - I just want to echo the comments for everyone to have a safe and happy 4th of July. Our country is something to celebrate this year in particular. We've faced a lot of illness, a lot of death and a lot of destruction and I think it's a shame. Thank you.

Selectman Roy - Just what everyone else said. I wish everyone a healthy and happy 4th of July. Echo what the Town Manager said, lighting off fireworks in the Town of Hudson is not legal. If you're going to do

that take a minute to think about how it affects certain members of the population particularly veterans. Just maybe take a step back and not do it.

Chairman Morin - I'd just like to remind everybody at home that this is the last every week meeting. We are going back to our normal schedule and our next meeting will be on July 14th. This is getting to be our second home, I'm going to miss it. Last but not least I'd like to wish everybody a happy 4th of July.

7. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman McGrath seconded by Selectman Roy, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

(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. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 7:20 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 7:55 p.m.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Coutu to approve salary increases for non-union personal as the Board agreed upon. A roll call vote was taken Carried 3-2. With Chairman Morin and Selectman Roy opposed. Selectman Roy asked the record note she agreed with all increases except the DPW Directors.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

David S. Morin, Chairman

Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Norman G. Martin, Selectman