

## **TOWN OF RYE – BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Monday, July 6, 2020**

**2:00 p.m. – via Zoom**

*Present: Chair Phil Winslow, Vice-Chair Keriann Roman and Selectman Bill Epperson*

*Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron*

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order 2:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Statement by Phil Winslow:

As Chair of the Rye Board of Selectmen, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number: 646-558-8656 and Password: 649431 or by clicking on the following website address: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) ID #881-9022-7239.

Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the board at: [town.rye.nh.us](http://town.rye.nh.us) go to the Board of Selectmen page and click on the agenda for this meeting.

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting please email the Town Administrator at: [BBergeron@town.rye.nh.us](mailto:BBergeron@town.rye.nh.us)

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

#### Roll call attendance of Select Board:

- Phil Winslow

- Bill Epperson
- Keriann Roman

*Note: The Selectmen stated where they were located and confirmed that they were the only ones in the room for the meeting.*

Chair Winslow thanked Lee Arthur, Robert Glowacky and Keriann Roman for the outstanding job on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July presentation.

Vice-Chair Roman added that Lee Arthur did a great job. She put a lot of time into the project.

## **II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A) Re-Opening Town Hall Courtroom for Small Meetings**

Town Administrator Bergeron recommended that the courtroom be re-opened to any committee or commission who wish to meet in person. They will still have to follow the CDC guidelines of social distancing. She suggested blocking off seating and that the members of the groups sit 6 feet apart. She pointed out that the planning and zoning boards could be an issue, as well as the Board of Selectmen, due to the public attendance. Administrator Bergeron recommended keeping the ZOOM meetings for those that are not comfortable yet, but still want to participate. She stated that she believes that the Planning Board still wants to meet via ZOOM, but the Zoning Board wants to resume in person meetings.

Vice-Chair Roman stated that other towns have resumed in person meetings; however, they have moved the meetings to a larger venue. She pointed out that the courtroom is quite small and that may result in people congregating in the foyer in front of the Town Clerk's office. She recommended that any meeting that may have more than 5 or 6 people in the audience, be moved to the library or school. Also, everyone will have to wear a mask, except for when they're speaking.

Administrator Bergeron suggested that they ask the church if the Town could use their auditorium for larger meetings. She pointed out that the church is handicap accessible.

Chair Winslow stated that there would be no streaming of the meetings at the church; however, there could be ZOOM.

There were questions regarding when the library will be re-opening.

Chair Winslow asked Administrator Bergeron to check with the library, school, and church to see what opportunities there are for meeting spaces. If there is more than 10 people at a meeting, the courtroom will be too small, and the meeting will have to be moved elsewhere. Another recommendation is the room upstairs at the post office in Rye Harbor.

Planning Administrator Kim Reed, via chat box, commented; "Prefer ZOOM. Planning Board alone will be ten to twelve people, not including the applicant."

Administrator Bergeron reported that it looks like both planning and zoning will continue to use ZOOM.

### **B) Rye Water District Use of Parsons Field**

Chair Winslow stated that the Rye Water District's intent is to have an open-sided tent with chairs. The chairs will be placed six-feet apart. The District will provide masks for people that don't have them and will be providing bottled water.

Police Chief Walsh responded that the Police Department will be setting up cones and a crosswalk sign at the crosswalk for the pedestrians to cross over from the school. Chief Walsh doesn't feel that it will be necessary for an officer to be there because people will arrive at staggered times. The issue will be when the meeting gets out. Chief Walsh noted that Arik Jones, Rye Water District's Superintendent, said that he would be able to manage it. Chief Walsh stated that he will still have an officer go by and check on it.

Fire Chief Cotreau stated that there are no issues regarding fire prevention. He stated that he talked to Arik regarding the tent being fire resistant.

Chair Winslow pointed out that at past Water District annual meetings there have been between fifteen to twenty people. With COVID-19 the District is expecting fewer people to attend.

**Motion by Keriann Roman to allow the Rye Water District to put up a tent at Parsons Field for the District's Annual Meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> and to not require them to have a police detail at the event. Seconded by Bill Epperson.**

**Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Keriann Roman - Aye.**

**Motion: Passed**

### **C) Staffing of Town Clerk's Office**

Chair Winslow spoke about the understaffing in the Town Clerk's Office. He pointed out that currently there is an extreme back-log of work in the office. All the day-to-day activities have gone undone due to the shortage of help. Also, in the near future there will be the additional work required to get the absentee ballots out for the upcoming presidential election. He recommended that they bring Toni Suslowicz on full-time during July and to bring in Leigh DeRochemont for 20 hours a week.

Administrator Bergeron stated that Kate has some time to help out also.

Town Clerk Donna DeCotis stated that they could use Toni Suslowicz 40 hours a week for the month of July and use Kate as needed. In August they will reassess where they are at and possibly bring in extra help for the absentee ballots.

There was concern that if Toni worked 40 hours per week, she would be considered full-time. Administrator Bergeron will call the Department of Labor to get some answers to this question.

Vice Chair Roman recommended having Toni 38 hours per week, unless the Department of Labor gives the “green-light” on the 40 hours.

### **III. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Winslow asked Dennis McCarthy when the bulky containers will be opened.

Public Works Director stated that they will be open on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion by Phil Winslow to go into Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Legal Advice at 2:43 p.m. Seconded by Bill Epperson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Keriann Roman – Aye  
Motion passed**

**2:45 p.m.**

### **IV. Non-Public Session (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Legal Advice**

**At 2:43 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Legal Advice. Seconded by Keriann Roman. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Roman – Yes, Epperson – Yes.**

**At 3:45 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Keriann Roman. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Roman – Yes, Epperson – Yes.**

### **V. Other Business**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 3:46 p.m. Seconded by Keriann Roman.  
Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Keriann Roman – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye  
Motion passed**

Respectfully Submitted  
Dyana F. Ledger