

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Tuesday March 23, 2021**

**Via Zoom Call**

**6:30 PM**

**Select Board members on the call:** George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

**Other Attendees:** Connie Kieley, Bill McDonnell, Sharon Sawtell, Brian Kullgren, David Rosen, Mike Flynn, Deb Harling, Steve Andersen & Gail Cromwell

Meeting called to order by Caisse at 6:30 PM.

**Chairman Ken Caisse Remarks:**

- *Caisse reminded participants that the meeting was being held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, Emergency Order #12, Section 3.*

**Public Comment:** None

**Old Business:**

- **Marsh Litigation Update:** *Ezell reported that the mediation is scheduled for Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 5pm and he will be attending that meeting with our town attorney.*
- **Update on COVID19 initiatives:** *Bill McDonnell reported that the state system is up and running and the 50+up category are now eligible for the vaccination. Bill also reported that there will be another mass vaccination clinic held in Loudon this weekend.*

**New Business:**

- **New School Board Rep – Elizabeth Swan:** *Caisse made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Swan as the new Temple school board representative effective immediately. Ezell seconded the motion, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.*
- **SB2 Warrant Article – Brian Kullgren:** *Brian mentioned that the wording on the SB2 warrant article that was posted was a little different from the wording on the actual petition he submitted to the town. He added that he did not have a problem with this as long as it does not interfere with anything. Caisse said we will find out how it got changed and amend it at town meeting if need be. It was noted that the SB2 hearing is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>.*
- **Lions Club – Use of Town Common:** *Caisse stated that the Lions club has requested to use the town common on May 22 or 23<sup>rd</sup> for a brown bag meeting from 4 to 6pm, and they expect less than 30 people will attend and they will be compliant with all CDC recommendations. George Willard mentioned he has spoken with EMD Bill McDonnell about opening up the town common and the*

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

ballfield for everyone as long as they practice social distancing and wear masks. Willard noted they also discussed keeping the Town Hall building closed for another 2 weeks to a month. McDonnell added that the current executive order encourages outdoor activity with masks and social distancing and he sees no reason not to open the town common and the ballfield. Willard motioned to open the town common and the ballfield with social distancing and mask wearing, and to allow the Lions club to use the common on May 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. Caisse seconded the motion, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

- **Memorial Day Festivities & Cemetery service – Sharon Sawtell:** Sharon informed the board that her in-laws have purchased a plot at the cemetery and she would like to have her husband's ashes buried there on June 6<sup>th</sup> the same day as the town's Memorial Day festivities. She added that all the family members will be there that day and she would like to have a small service at the cemetery. Willard added that he organized last year's small event and hopes to have it again this year. He will know more by May 1<sup>st</sup> and we will notify her. Sharon also asked if she could hire 2 men from the town band to play taps at the service. Caisse said we could reach out to the band organizers to get in touch with her. It was also mentioned that the cemetery guidelines do not include Sunday burials. The town will confirm this and let Sharon know.
- **Town Hall – David Rosen:** David stated that since the town hall was opened for voting, he requests that he be allowed to use the building to hold his small tai chi classes. He added they will adhere to all of the CDC guidelines. Bill McDonnell added that the most current guidelines for fitness classes, recommend they be held outdoors so David can use the town common. Rosen stated it is still too cold outside. McDonnell said the guidelines require ventilation which is actively moving air so opening a window or door, is not enough. Ezell added that the town offices are considering opening in May and that possibly we could open the town hall then as well. Caisse commented the board has been strong on keeping the town hall closed and they agreed to revisit this again in a month.
- **ZBA Questions – Steve Andersen:** Steve spoke on Ben Fisk's behalf, asking to have a conversation about the mounting legal fees the ZBA is passing along to Ben. He noted that Ben is more than willing to pay \$3500 for the recently hired town expert's, however they feel it is unfair to have the town attorney present at every hearing and those legal fees have reached over 9K. Steve added that he wanted a motion to only charge an applicant legal fees if the applicant causes them, for example, by lying or providing bogus information. Ezell stated that he has spoken with legal and was told that the select board has no authority over the zoning board and they cannot waive the legal fees. Caisse motioned to seek counsel from attorney Biron Bedard to explore options. Ezell seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Mike Flynn asked what the select board can do with ZBA officials stating the committee has rejected the experts multiple times with no reasons why and is taking way to long to reach a decision. Ezell stated that the removal of a ZBA member requires them to do some really horrible stuff like embezzlement, and he reminded the participants that the ZBA has specific steps they have to follow and it is not that uncommon for a huge case like this to take this long.
- **Update on Abatement Request:** Caisse asked if they should talk with legal on this matter. Ezell said in the past, they have never entirely waived the paying of taxes due to a hardship but have waived

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

*interest fees and offered payment plans. Caisse motioned to wave the interest to date and find out about a possible payment plan. Ezell seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in approval.*

- **Sign Certification of Yield Taxes & Tax Levy - Society for the Protection of NH Forests:** *The board signed the documents and noted this was a large cut and generated a decent amount of money for the town.*
- **Sign 2 LUCT tax bills – Brett Mason (Moran Rd.):** *The board signed the LUCT bills and need to sign the warrant which is at the office.*
- **Approve Meeting Minutes March 8, 2021:** *– After discussion and corrections, Caisse motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Willard seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor.*

**Other Business:**

- *Willard motioned to appoint Deb Harling as an alternate member of the ZBA to replace Honey Hastings. Ezell mentioned Allan Pickman was also interested in joining the ZBA and possibly Emily Sliviak. No formal letters of interest were submitted from Allan or Emily. Connie Kieley added that she believed it is the town's policy that the committee makes recommendations first then they take it to the select board for approval. Connie noted that as of now, the ZBA had not weighed in on any candidates. Ultimately, since this is not a town policy and the select board has the authority, the motion passed with Caisse seconding the motion made by Willard. Roll call vote, Caisse yes, Willard yes, Ezell abstained. It was noted that 2 member's terms will be up in June, therefore, there will be one more opening after that.*
- *The Town Clerk submitted a letter to the select board reminding them that her Deputy Clerk is resigning effective March 31<sup>st</sup>, and therefore, she has chosen Elizabeth Maxcy-Humphrey as the replacement. The select board had no objections to this choice.*
- *Gail Cromwell commented that making an appointment to the ZBA is a major decision and the select board should not be doing this now and are out of order and they are ignoring Allan Pickman who is a very qualified consideration. Gail stated the select board should undo the appointment of Deb Harling and consult with the ZBA first on who would be the best candidate, and then go into the next meeting to do any appointments.*

**Committee updates: NONE**

- **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:42 PM. Motion by Willard, second by Ezell, roll call vote Ezell yes, Willard yes, Caisse yes.

**Next Select Board Meeting:** Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Remote numbers will be provided in the event we are still handling meetings remotely. Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Carole Singelais

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING