

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

August 3, 2020

MEMORIAL BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen present: Tamara Butcher, Chairwoman, Dick Hendl and George McCusker

Others present: B. Manning, Pixie Hill and Janet Hendl

B stated that the meeting with the moderators provided a lot of good information but as far as making some of the hard decisions the comments were “stay tuned”. B sent out an email to all the moderators in the Kearsarge school district and heard back from two, Bracket in Bradford and Mike in New London. The general consensus seems to be that the moderators are not going to allow people in the voting booths that aren’t wearing masks. B feels the issue is if someone is going to sue the town they will sue the town not the moderator or any of the election officials, so the recommendation is that each town should make their basic decision as to what they want to do. B feels it would be wise to have the board of selectmen make a statement that the town will require masks be worn at the election on the primary and the general election. Dick would like to expand beyond that and proposed the board pass a temporary ordinance that masks must be worn at any polling place in the town of Springfield until the pandemic is officially declared over. B stated right now the concern is the two elections we’ve got coming up. Dick then suggested to extend the temporary ordinance through the March election as well. B said the issue now is that you can’t deny people the right to vote. In talking with Pixie, B said the way it will work is people refusing to wear a mask will be given the option to vote by absentee ballot, which would be delivered to them in their car. They will set up three or four parking spaces for this purpose. Pixie feels this will only be an issue for possibly two or three voters.

Pixie said that the ordinance will be posted in several places, possibly even run an ad in the shopper.

Tamara is in agreeance with Dick’s proposal of the temporary ordinance and having designated parking spaces for the absentee ballot voters. Dick has offered to draft the ordinance and it will have it available for review by tomorrow.

B said they are allowed to do a partial processing of the absentee ballots prior to the election. They can open the outer envelope and mark the checklist with a highlighter that this is an absentee ballot that came back. They cannot open the inner envelope. The partial processing can be done Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday prior to the election. However it can only be done on one of those days, it needs to be posted 48 hours in advance, you have to let the secretary of state know and the moderator and three other officials must be present. This process must also be done over Zoom in case anyone wants to contest an absentee ballot person. B said they are proposing to do the partial processing on Monday starting at 3pm. Pixie stated

they already have the people they need for this. B said they should go ahead and get that posted and notify the appropriate people.

Pixie will be picking up the PPE and sneeze guards for the election on August 17th. Janet Hendl asked if there is an age limit for people working at the polls. B said you must be 17 years old to work at the polls, and they must be a Springfield resident.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Jill Hastings
Deputy Administrative Assistant