

NOTICE

Town of Lowell

SELECT BOARD MEETING

THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON

Tuesday September 1, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.

AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

AGENDA:

- **Sign Orders**
- **Approve minutes from August 18, 2020**
- **Listers-Errors and omissions Discussion**
- **Other business**

SELECTBOARD:

Richard Pion- Chm.

Alden Warner

Darren Pion

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING

TOWN OF LOWELL

Meeting held on September 1, 2020

Board members present:

Alden Warner, Darren Pion

Christy Pion-Town Clerk

Priscilla Matten-Treasurer

Calvin Allen-Road Commissioner

Guests:

Jonathan Morin-Running for Orleans-Essex Senate

Chris Hager-Lister

Lerold Chase-Lister

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Sign Orders:

- ❖ Orders were approved and signed by the Board unanimously for the Treasurer

Minutes for August 18, 2020:

- ❖ Minutes for August 18, 2020 were approved and signed by the Board unanimously

Other Business:

- ❖ Jonathan Morin introduced himself as a republican candidate, for one of the Orleans-Essex State Senate positions. He is a resident of Holland, Vt., and noted that he grew up on a large family farm. He also noted he decided to become involved because of his concerns regarding the present status of some our Vermont Laws. He presented cards, which included his phone number, and expressed a desire to hear the concerns of others. His goal is to get our concerns to the legislative body and push for a review of them.
- ❖ Priscilla informed the Board she had received a call from Judy Humphrey. Judy's husband, Cedric, about a year ago, had fallen, broken his back and was unable to move. Last year they were forgiven the penalty on property taxes due to the circumstances. Judy reported that Cedric had regained some mobility but was still unable to walk. They were advised to enroll in a very expensive procedure, which provides a high rate of success for enabling leg mobility. Much of this expense will not be covered by

insurance. Judy has been paying \$100/month for the past year toward her tax bill. She had planned to upgrade her monthly payment to \$500/month to get it all paid, but now she cannot do that until after paying for the procedure. She is still paying \$100/month. She asked if her penalty could be forgiven this year. The Board discussed it and was agreeable to forgive the penalty, based on the fact that there has been an ongoing attempt at paying taxes.

- ❖ Priscilla presented a written statement of findings from Jesse Currie, Forrester, following his inspection of Gelo Park. The Board requested his inspection based on the prior Board discussion regarding safety and liability concerns of the dying pine in the park. Jesse Currie noted the spreading of the fungus known as the white pine blister rust and the high mortality rate because of this. Many of the trees are already dead and more are dying. He also noted mixed undergrowth that would benefit from removal of the pines. The Board decided to notify the school board of the Forrester’s report and their decision to follow the Forrester’s recommendations to make the Gelo Park safe again. The Board also agreed to invite the School Board to the Park so they could witness the reasons for safety concerns. The remedial process will begin next week, and the Board will continue to oversee in order to maintain the Park for future safe public travel.

Listers – Error and Omissions Discussion:

- ❖ Lerry explained to the Board that the Green Mountain Power production is supposed to have been recorded in the Grand List Municipal report as exempt. It had not been done in the beginning, which made the Municipal Grant List recorded incorrectly, even though it made no impact on town taxes, due to no municipal tax. The process was copied from year to year and so this year it became a problem, as this is the first year of a municipal tax. This meant that the rate of tax had been incorrectly determined to arrive at the \$52,063.68 total municipal tax. The rate had been calculated on the Grand List, including the Green Mtn. Power exempt amount mentioned above. The town will, therefore, not get \$52,063.68 but instead get \$27,816.16. The Errors and Omissions certificate was signed by the Listers, Board Members and Town Clerk.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 40	\$	1,060.94
➤ General Order # 41	\$	212,065.99
➤ General Order # 42	\$	377.25
➤ Payroll Order # 37	\$	6,326.61

Signed by the Board for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling - **\$ 219,830.79**

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christy M. Pion & Priscilla Matten

Next meeting date: September 15, 2020 at the Town Office Building

Richard Pion- Chairman

Christy M. Pion – Selectboard Clerk

Alden Warner

Darren Pion