

# MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/707749032>

**MONDAY, April 13, 2020**

## 7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Gruber, Stiles, Storey-King, Turner and Vail

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to accept the March 9, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

### II. MANAGER'S REPORT

#### • **Update from Police and Fire/EMS Chief's**

Police Chief Rumsey reported that when the Corona Virus outbreak began, the Police Department immediately began working on how to modify their operations in order to continue to deliver public safety services to the Town, while keeping the officer's as safe as possible. A plan was put into place to assure the continuity of operations in the event that a staff member becomes ill. Currently, we are in contact with surrounding Town and County departments and Satewide public safety organizations to keep abreast of the best practices for departments that are operating during this very strange time. We are currently operating at full staff and remain capable of responding to calls.

Fire Chief Dan Small reported that the Fire Department was concerned about maintaining staffing, but is happy to report that the troops have done a great job in stepping up to be sure that apparatus is on the road and responding to calls. This current situation adds one more layer of concern that the Fire/Rescue department has when going to calls and staff is doing a great job in keeping the stress levels at a minimum. He is in constant contact with Maine EMS to discuss new EMS protocols to make sure we are staying current. Office Manager, Patty Murphy, is currently charged with getting supplies and PPE. She is doing an excellent job in keeping the inventory at a safe level. He proud of his department and how they have stepped up during this difficult time. He urged everyone not to let their guard down. We all need to continue to be safe.

### III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

### IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

#### **20 – 015 To hear a report from the Police Chief re: DHHS residential facilities.**

Chief Rumsey reported that there have been some recent issues in a residential neighborhood in Cumberland that resulted in the over-use of emergency services, and created significant disturbance to the peace and quiet of area.

The residence in question is rented to a Maine company that provides home and community based services to adults with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities and brain injuries. In a two month period between early December, 2019 and early February of this year, our police and rescue units have responded to the home at least two dozen times to deal with a resident in the home. The resident was variously out of control and threatening to staff, trying to leave the residence in the company of unknown individuals, and exhibiting other behavioral and mental health symptoms. Each time we responded, the neighbors were well aware of the presence of police cruisers and ambulances on the street, and at times, the noise level from the resident or from our response to the calls was truly disruptive.

Chief Rumsey said that he is happy to report that the resident in question was relocated to a different home in Maine, and since that time there have been no police or rescue calls to the home. He is aware, though, that questions remain for some community members.

The home in question and hundreds like it across the state of Maine exist as part of a national effort to move away from the institutionalization of adults with intellectual and behavioral disabilities. These homes are generally funded through Medicaid to allow beneficiaries to receive services in homes or communities rather than being isolated or warehoused. These homes usually have one or two residents, and employees of the company providing care are on site, normally 24 hours per day.

When issues arise with a Cumberland resident, regardless of whether the person is in DHHS custody and receiving home and community based services or whether they are living at home with parents who provide care for them, the Police and Fire Department generally follow the same strategy. We seek to establish rapport and a relationship with all parties involved so that we can efficiently and professionally handle any issues that arise, while ensuring public safety and protecting the rights of everyone. In this particular case, we worked hard to establish relationships with the property management company who represented the homeowner, with the service provider, and with DHHS's Office of Aging and Disability Services. Although the situation was frustrating for neighbors, care givers and first responders, our partnership and open communication resulted in the decision to find an alternate placement for the disruptive resident.

Chief Rumsey said that he would be more than willing to meet with anyone to discuss home-based services in Cumberland in more detail, if they would like to.

Chairman Storey-King asked for any public comment.

Chelsea (last name inaudible) said that she feels that there is not a good means of communication with the home in her area and her neighborhood has been discouraged from communicating with the home, and this is an issue. They should have someone to reach out to with concerns.

Police Chief Rumsey said that as with any neighbor to neighbor issue, the first step would be to go over and knock on the door and explain who you are and strike up a conversation. If that does not work, the next best course of action would be to contact him and he can figure out which company is running that particular home and help put them in contact with a supervisor. The Police Department would also like to be made aware of any issues going on so they can be apprised and help offer a solution.

## **20 – 016 To reappoint William Longley as Code Enforcement Officer and Dan Small as alternate from April 1, 2020 to March 31 2021.**

Town Manager Shane said that this is an annual appointment of the Code Enforcement Officer and alternate.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Copp, to reappoint William Longley as Code Enforcement Officer and Dan Small as alternate from April 1, 2020 to March 31 2021.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

**20 – 017 To set the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> for Spring Bulky Item Pick Up Week.**

Town Manager Shane said that Waste Management is ready to move forward with our bulky item pick up week and staff is recommending May 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to set the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> for Spring Bulky Item Pick-up Week.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

**20 – 018 To consider and act on suspending brush facility fees until July 1, 2020.**

Town Manager Shane explained that Town Hall is not open for business, therefore he is recommending suspending the brush dump passes until July 1<sup>st</sup>. People are using the facility and being very respectful of each other and social distancing.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Vail, to suspend brush facility fees until July 1, 2020.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

**20 – 019 To authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with David Swan for the Historical Society Building renovation project after Final review by the Finance Committee.**

Town Manager Shane explained that he and Councilor Vail have worked very diligently with David Swan, the low bidder on the project, and they have been able to bring the price below \$350,000. The project will not start before June or July, but Mr. Swan wants to start ordering supplies.

Councilor Vail said that he looks forward to sitting down with the Finance Committee to do a review of this project.

Motion by Councilor Vail, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with David Swan for the Historical Society Building renovation project, after review by the Finance Committee.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

**20 – 020 To consider and act on awarding the salt shed and Town Hall renovation projects to Ledgewood Construction.**

Town Manager Shane said that these two projects are part of our bond and they came in at the guaranteed maximum price for both projects. Last August, the Council approved a \$7 million dollars bond and the

money has been sitting in our bank account since January. We are anxious to get started on these projects and he will be happy to work with the Finance Committee to review these projects as well.

Councilor Vail said that he would like the Finance Committee to review the numbers and quotes on these projects.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to award the salt shed and Town Hall renovation projects to Ledgewood Construction, after review by the Finance Committee.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

## V. NEW BUSINESS

**Councilor Copp** – he urged everybody to stay safe.

**Councilor Vail** – he would like the Town to do an inventory to see how many acres of land are available to be put into agriculture. It is now more important than ever so we can feed our community, if need be. This is very important to him.

**Councilor Stiles** – to follow up on Councilor Vail's comments, our local farm stores are doing very well right now. Jeff Storey said the he is having a hard time keeping up with the public demand at his store. He personally markets and uses other people's hay for his animals.

**Councilor Gruber** – our Food Pantry had over 70 customers last week. We are constantly looking at new ways to improve the Food Pantry.

**Councilor Edes** – said the he is so proud of our community and how everybody pulls together. He wished everybody the best.

He recognized Chairman Storey-King for all her years of service to our school and her retirement. He realizes that this current situation is not the way she envisioned her last year, but he considers her a quality teacher and a quality person. Well done.

**Councilor Turner** – he went to Hannaford today and they are doing a good job at helping customers to maintain social distancing. He urged everyone not to be glued to the bad news on television. We all need to remain optimistic.

**Chairman Storey-King** - she reminded everyone to stay the course and stay at home. What we are doing is working.

She received a piece of mail from the Cumberland County Maine Water. This is not a government issued piece of mail, it is from a company trying to get you to have them test your water for a fee.

**Town Manager Shane** – tomorrow evening we will be broadcasting from the Council Chambers the final neighborhood meeting on the new Town garage project. Engineer, Dan Diffin will be presenting the lighting plan. This meeting will be broadcast on channel 1302.

We are working diligently, per the Town Council's directive, to reduce the FY2021 municipal budget. It will be less than the current year budget. We have strategies in place to accomplish this. The difficulty is that while we are reducing expenses, we are currently losing revenues in excise tax, revenue sharing and Recreation programs. Even if the municipal budget comes in at a zero increase, the school and county budgets will increase our tax rate.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Vail, to adjourn.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS  
TIME: 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore  
Council Secretary