

TOWN OF MONMOUTH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes (Remote) – May 20, 2020

PRESENT: Doug Ludewig – Chair, Timothy McDonald – Vice Chair, and Harold Jones and Dianna Boisvert (arrived at 6:12 pm) – Board Members.

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Cohen - Town Manager, Kevin Mulherin – Police Chief, David Shaw – CEO, Julie Sawtelle – Library Director, Patricia Hasch – President of Recreation Commission, Lisa Hasch, Sandra Schiller, Doreen Christ – Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. This remote meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Doug Ludewig – Chair. Linda Cohen did the Roll Call.

2. Approval of Minutes for 05/06/2020. The following change was made to the Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2020. On Page No. 1, Joe Fletcher’s Report, third sentence, add the words, “*at the North Monmouth Beach*”, to the end of the sentence. That motion taken shall also reflect this change. The following motion was made.

MOTION: *by Harold Jones, seconded by Timothy McDonald, to approve the Meeting Minutes for 05/06/2020, with the change to Joe Fletcher’s Report.*

VOTED: *3-0 (Passed).*

3. Department Reports. Kevin Mulherin – Police Chief reported the firearm qualifications have been completed. The Police Dept. responded to 236 calls for service during these months. Officers conducted 155 motor vehicle stops resulting in five (5) criminal summonses or arrests.

David Shaw – CEO reported collecting \$3,400 in fees with a value of \$628,000 for last month. This is, however, average for this time of year. There is a partial “Zoom” meeting scheduled for the Planning Board meeting for tomorrow evening, May 21, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Julie Sawtelle – Library Director stated that the Library Trustees have two (2) seats coming up (one is an appointment and one is elected). They are continuing to follow guidelines from the Maine State Library. They are trying to get recognized as a “*Unique Sector*”. Dianna Brooks, the oldest town resident, will be turning 107 years old on Friday, May 29, 2020. It has been put out on “Facebook” to send cards to her home.

Linda Cohen provided the following update for Dan Roy – Fire Chief. The Memorial Day event is all set. Two (2) Churches will ring bells at noon 21 times.

Linda Cohen also provided the following update for Bruce Balfour – PW Director. The Academy Road sidewalk should be complete by July 15, 2020. There will be another “*Free Clean-Up Weekend*” at the Transfer Station this Saturday, May 23, 2020.

Linda Cohen – Town Manager reported that Town Hall has re-opened, however, it is by appointment only. After June 1, 2020, the meeting sizes can get larger. Linda Cohen wanted to know if the Board wants future meetings to be held at the Theater or to continue on “Zoom”. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 3, 2020. Timothy McDonald suggested having one (1) more “Zoom” meeting. She reported that work on the Packard Road will be started and then they will move on to the Gilman Road work.

4. Select Board Reports. In regards to the Covid-19 reimbursement, Harold Jones requested that Linda Cohen reach out to the Mayor of Auburn. The State has received the money from the federal government, and he stated that he would like a clarification on the process for distributing it to municipalities.

Timothy McDonald said that he was remotely present for the School Board/Municipal Officer’s Budget Meeting held via “Zoom”. There is a \$265,000 to \$270,000 increase. He said that the School Transition Meeting Minutes should be posted on the Town’s Website for residents to review.

5. Public Comment. None.

6. Property Tax Abatement – 492 Ridge Road. Linda Cohen presented this item. The abatement is for Charmaine Brown for her recently acquired property at 492 Ridge Road and the reason being, due to the condition of the buildings. She stated that included in board member packets was a memorandum from Donna Hays - Assessors Agent, in

support of this abatement. Donna Hays stated that this request results in an abatement of \$438,000 in value or \$7,730.70 in taxes to be applied to the second half payment still outstanding. In Linda Cohen's cover memorandum she stated that the total interest due would be well under \$100 and she asked the Board to consider waiving the interest also. The following motion was made.

MOTION: *by Harold Jones, seconded by Dianna Boisvert, to approve the abatement, as recommended by Donna Hays - Assessors Agent and to waive the interest fees for the past due amount.*

VOTED: 4-0 (Passed).

7. Beach Access for the 2020 Season. Linda Cohen presented this item. The Recreation Commission held a "Zoom" meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020, in which they discussed concerns for the upcoming beach season. Covid-19 is the driving force behind their proposed "Resident and Guest Only" request. Closing the beach to non-residents would provide a sense of security to Monmouth residents. Currently, there is signage there. Patricia Hasch stated that it has always been posted, however, historically they have never kept out-of-towners out. It was stated that the Town of Winthrop limits to residents only. Lisa Hasch responded that crowds on a normal year are from 50-150. Clarification is needed as to the maximum crowd after June 1, 2020. Linda Cohen stated that she is waiting for a checklist from Augusta. Patricia Hasch said they will follow State guidelines. As of June 1, 2020, the maximum crowd is 50. The following motion was made.

MOTION: *by Timothy McDonald, seconded by Harold Jones to limit beach access to Monmouth residents only at this time.*

VOTED: 4-0 (Passed).

Harold Jones commented that guidance is needed from the State and suggested limiting swim lessons to residents also. It was decided to continue this discussion at the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting via "Zoom", which is Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

8. Authorizing Town Treasurer to Release Tax Acquired Property by Quit Claim Deed. This request is basically authorizing Linda Cohen – Town Treasurer, to sign off on Quit Claim Deeds, rather than having to wait for a meeting of this Board to sign off. Enclosed, in board member packets was the wordage, as proposed and read by Linda Cohen. The following motion was made.

MOTION: *by Harold Jones, seconded by Timothy McDonald, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is authorized to release by Quit Claim Deed any interest the Town may have acquired in and to any real property in the Town by virtue of tax liens and/or taxes for purposes of clearing title to real property in which the tax lien mortgage foreclosure process may have failed; provided, however that all outstanding taxes, interest, and costs related to the property are first paid to the Town.*

VOTED: 4-0 (Passed).

9. Warrant #24 - Payroll and Payables. Linda Cohen read a listing of items over \$1,000. The following motion was made.

MOTION: *by Timothy McDonald, seconded by Dianna Boisvert, to pay Warrant #24 – Payroll \$40,688.68 and Payables - \$29,910.37.*

VOTED: 4-0 (Passed).

10. Adjourn. The following motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: *by Timothy McDonald, seconded by Harold Jones, to adjourn the remote meeting at 6:48 pm.*

VOTED: 4-0 (Passed).

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen M. Christ
Recording Secretary - Town of Monmouth