

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
MARCH 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

Present: Chairman Tina Courtemanche, Selectman Ann Bond, Selectman Mike Crockwell,
Selectmen Richard Bean

Staff: Town Administrator David Jodoin, Recording Secretary Jillian McNeil

Excused: Selectman Sandy Goulet

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Tina Courtemanche called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. Citizen Comment:

None

III. Scheduled Meetings:

Discussion of Fireworks in Town

Deputy Chief Paul Gagnon, Pembroke Fire Department, and Lieutenant Gary Gaskell, Pembroke Police Department discussed the use of fireworks in Town with the Board. Selectman Courtemanche stated that there have been complaints made against the use of fireworks. Lt. Gaskell stated that with the current Town ordinances, the only enforcement options the Police Department has regarding fireworks is the noise ordinance. The current ordinance is Sunday-Thursday 10:00pm and Friday/Saturday is midnight. This year July 4th is on a Saturday which has a 12:00am cut off. Selectman Courtemanche asked if they have any safety concerns particularly in the Village area and shared her concerns for the debris that falls on the houses. Deputy Chief Gagnon stated that there is an inherent danger with fireworks. There are not a lot of reports of structure fires from debris but there are thousands of personal injury reports due to fireworks. However, there have not been a lot of injuries in Town. The State of NH has chosen to loosen restrictions on what fireworks are legal. Anything that can be bought within the state limits, is legal to use now. Deputy Chief Gagnon has concerns for who would enforce fireworks ordinances. Lt. Gaskell stated that if debris fell on the sidewalk (littering) or people were violating the noise ordinance, the Police Department would be the ones handling the enforcement.

Selectman Bean asked if the rumors about a house fire on Ross Road being from firework debris were true. Deputy Chief Gagnon answered that they were never able to determine what caused that particular structure fire. Selectman Bean asked if they should create an ordinance in case something like that happens so there is a chargeable offense. Deputy Chief Gagnon stated that fireworks are a problem and there are safety concerns but there is a high likelihood that if they create an ordinance, they will spend a lot of resources chasing down reports since it is often hard to determine who is setting them off.

David Jodoin expressed concerns for issuing fireworks permits because the Town would be authorizing the use of fireworks by people without any training or knowledge of how to properly use them. Deputy Chief Gagnon is uncomfortable with the idea of issuing permits for fireworks.

Selectman Bond stated that she would like to talk to town's who currently issue permits to see what their process is. There are also several town's that have done an outright ban of fireworks.

Selectman Bean read an email from Chief Gilman, Pembroke Police Department, stating that although the Town currently allows the State of New Hampshire to decide the usage laws, he would like to issue a ban on fireworks in the Village.

Selectman Bean would support a permit scenario. David Jodoin asked if there would be fine for people without a permit. Lt. Gaskell stated that he believes Hampton has a \$250 fine. Deputy Chief Gagnon asked if the Fire Department would be in charge of issuing the permits because they do not have full time staff to do that. Burn permits can currently be purchased online.

Jody Krajcik, 434 Pembroke Street, shared concerns for neighbors who set off fireworks over Route 3 and that the noise is annoying when they are being set off late at night. Jody also has a tenant who is a veteran with PTSD and he should have a choice in whether or not to hear them. Jody has shared her concerns with the State Fire Marshall as well.

Selectman Crockwell made a suggestion to have an ordinance saying they cannot be set off within so many feet of an occupied structure. Lt. Gaskell stated that right now they have to be set off on your own property. David stated that think either an all-out ban or nothing is the way to go.

Selectman Bond shared concerns for residents being unaware of the new ordinances. David stated that for the first offense for the first year, there would be a warning issued. They would also put notification up on the signs in town and on the website.

After further discussion, the Board decided to let the ordinances stand as they are this year and the question will go on the warrant at the 2021 Town Meeting.

IV. Old Business:

Tax Deeds

David presented the Board with an updated tax deed listing for 2020. This list is for non-payment of 2017 taxes. Deeding date is May 8, 2020

V. New Business:

Transportation Data Collection

The annual meeting with Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission to decide which roads will be a part of the 2020 traffic count will take place on Friday, April 24, 2020.

Selectman Bond asked if the counts done by developers are forwarded to CNRPC. David stated that unless they are a development of regional impact, they are not.

Appointments

Selectman Crockwell made a motion to appoint Gerry Fleury for a 90-day term to the Trustee of Trust Funds commencing on March 10, 2020 through June 10, 2020 or until another person shall be chosen. Selectmen Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Selectman Crockwell made a motion to re-appoint Brian Seaworth to the Planning Board. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Manifest/Abatements

Selectman Crockwell made a motion to approve the manifest and abatements as presented. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes 2/1820

Selectman Bond made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2020 as presented. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

VI. Town Administrator Report:

An application was submitted to the New Hampshire Division of Enforcement for Restaurant Beverage and Wine for a license at 139 Main Street.

A letter was submitted regarding the petition warrant articles regarding climate change.

Mr. Evans will be at the March 16th Selectman's meeting, to discuss the Upper Beacon/Range Road project. David is working with the Town Attorney to clean up the document that outlines the steps that need to be taken. Selectman Bond asked if they were still waiting on the cost estimate to open the Range Road and if the State has weighed in. David spoke with DOT and they will get involved when items are submitted if the road is to connect to Route 3. Mr. Evans is looking to only open 300 feet but would open the road all the way if it was required. Selectman Bean asked if there are still sewer issues. David stated that there are still capacity issues at this point.

VII. Committee Reports:

Selectman Bean – Economic Development Committee is meeting March 11th. David shared that a woman from the State is coming in to discuss economic revitalization zones and Selectman Bean was appointed Chair.

Selectman Bond – Planning Board met with San-Ken Homes. They approved waivers for sub-elevation to roadways, sidewalks, curbing, and to provide reduced setbacks as required by the Zoning Board. They also were notified that 439 Pembroke Street is going to add a farm stand. It was brought to her attention that there may be run off issues on Upper Beacon by residents of the area. David will share this with Jim Boisvert.

Selectman Crockwell – None

Selectman Courtemanche – None

VIII. Other/Citizen Comment:

None

IX. Non-Public Session

None

X. Adjourn:

Motion by Selectmen Bond, seconded by Selectmen Crockwell to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Motion Passes 4-0.

Ann Bond, Vice Chairman

For more detailed information, the meetings are now taped and can be seen on www.townhallstreams.com click on Pembroke NH and look for the day of the meeting under the month.