

**Disclaimer.** Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 19, 2020**

**Present:** Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman  
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman  
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen remote public access meeting. This meeting was made available to the public via Zoom Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen and attendees went around the room and announced themselves.

First Selectman Needleman announced that audio attendees will be muted during the meeting except during public comment. Attendees were asked to please identify themselves for the record prior to making any comments.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion** was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Agenda. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to approve the August 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence**

**Transfer Station Sticker Extension**

There was discussing that the annual transfer station stickers expire at the end of September, which involves significant paperwork in the Town Clerk's office. The Selectmen felt that due to the excessive work in the Town Clerk's office due to the upcoming Presidential Election, the Selectmen would like to extend the expiration date to December.

**Clean Up – Storm Isaias**

The Public Works Crew is still picking up debris around Town. Residents have been leaving brush and sticks along the roadways, and the Public Works Crew has been picking it up to help residents with Town clean up. Public Works is doing a terrific job.

**Centerbrook Village Main Street Enhancements Project Update**

Mr. Needleman reported the project is anticipated to be completed by October. The delay has primarily been due to COVID. The last piece is the completion of the sidewalk and crosswalk. The parts for the pedestrian gate by the railroad tracks had a 3-month lead time.

**Eversource and Power Outages**

There was discussion on areas in Town that were without power for a significant amount of time after Storm Isaias, which was totally unnecessary. On Ingham Hill there was a blown breaker that was only a 10-minute fix, but it took many days to repair. There was further discussion that old electricity lines in Town should be updated or on a scheduled maintenance upgrade plan.

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### Election Concerns

The Selectmen discussed the enormous amount of work and stress related to the primaries and the absentee ballots. Some residents came to the Town Clerk's office for an absentee ballot and some did it by mail. The Secretary of State is going to mail out applications and then every Town Clerk must mail out thousands of absentee ballots. The Selectmen are strongly recommending that Essex residents drop off their ballots in the State of Connecticut ballot box located in the parking lot of the Essex Town Hall at 29 West Avenue. Mr. Needleman reported that the Town Clerk's office is going to need additional assistance. Mr. Needleman stated that the Selectmen's office staff and the Registrar's office staff can assist the Town Clerk's office. There are also concerns with the personnel that will be needed during the opening of the absentee ballots on election day and doing it safely while practicing social distancing.

**Public Announcements / Comment:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions**

##### Emergency Management Director

Mr. Needleman reported that William Buckridge, the Town's long-time Emergency Management Director contacted the Region 2 coordinator and asked to resign as the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Essex. Mr. Needleman appointed Lisa Fasulo as the Director of Emergency Management and William Buckridge as Emergency Management Director emeritus. The Town is looking for a Deputy Emergency Management Director.

#### **Planning and Zoning Ordinance**

There was discussion on combining the Planning Commission and the Zoning Commission Ordinances.

**Motion** was made by Stacia Libby to table the Ordinance Repealing Prior Ordinances Establishing the Essex Zoning Commission and the Essex Planning Commission and Establishing in Place Thereof a Combined Planning and Zoning Commission to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

#### **An Amendment to the Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Elderly or Disabled Homeowners and Gold Star Parents and Spouses**

There was discussion on the Amendment to the Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Elderly or Disabled Homeowners and Gold Star Parents and Spouses.

**Motion** was made by Norman Needleman to approve and add the Amendment to the Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Elderly or Disabled Homeowners and Gold Star Parents and Spouses to a Public Hearing and a Special Town Meeting for the Legislative Body's approval. Norman Needleman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**Public Hearing** None

**Set Town Meeting** None

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**Public Comment / Announcements:** None

**SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

There was discussion of the possibility the Town Hall may have an opportunity of acquiring land that could be joined with the Civic Campus.

There was discussion that the Town should mandate that any gas stations that have any major renovations must install a generator. During the last storm, the stations in Essex were all closed because they do not have generators.

There was discussion that the Selectmen are hopeful that a COVID vaccine will be approved by the FDA soon.

The Selectmen discussed the opening of the schools and the problems associated with the reopening.

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was moved and seconded and unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Lucarelli