

HAMILTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town Hall Memorial Room, 577 Bay Road

August 29, 2019

Selectmen Present: Chair Jeff Hubbard, Rosemary Kennedy, Shawn Farrell, William Olson, and Darcy Dale

Selectmen Absent: None

Town Manager: Joe Domelowicz

At 5:30 p.m. Jeff Hubbard called to order an emergency meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS). He said the purpose of the meeting was for one agenda item only: to discuss a water ban.

[The Pledge of Allegiance was not recited.]

AGENDA

State of Water Supply Conservation—Vote to Establish Water Ban

Town Manager Joe Domelowicz referred to information supplied to the BOS by Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Tim Olson. In that document it was stated: *“As of August 23rd, 2019, the discharge flow rate of the Ipswich River near the Willowdale Dam has dropped below the flows rates deemed necessary by MassDEP to sustain a healthy watershed.”* Director Olson’s recommended course of action was the enactment of a water ban on all outdoor use of lawn and garden sprinklers of all types, including the use of drip irrigation hoses or other devices that use subsurface application. Hand watering would be permitted, however. The ban includes water from private wells. Anyone violating the ban is subject to a \$50 fine for the first violation and \$100 for each one subsequent.

Mr. Domelowicz said they would be taking steps to get the word out about the mandatory ban, putting a notice on the Town’s signboard, hanging a large banner, utilizing Code Red, etc.

Decision:

Darcy Dale made a motion that the BOS accept the Town of Hamilton's DPW water ban notice as written. William Olson seconded the motion.

Further Discussion:

Rosemary Kennedy asked how long the ban would be in effect. Mr. Domelowicz referred to the graph in their packets showing the levels, which typically should be above 53 and had come down to below 40. He said they had continued to drop even lower than that until yesterday. With last night's rain, the level crept up a bit, but it may take a while to go all the way back up.

William Olson asked what will happen if it keeps trending down. Mr. Domelowicz said he hadn't asked Mr. [Tim] Olson about that, but that wasn't expected. He said typically late July and August are dry months and this year it had taken until the end of August to have to enact the ban. With the approach of fall, people typically tend to stop their attention to their lawns and gardens and the water levels climb back up.

Decision (Continued):

The BOS voted unanimously (5-0) to enact the water ban.

Adjournment

Ms. Dale made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Ms. Kennedy seconded the motion. The BOS voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Cookson 9/9/2019
Mary Alice Cookson Date
Minutes Secretary

Attest:

Darcy Dale 9/9/2019
Darcy Dale Date
Board of Selectmen Clerk