



**Town of Newington
Board of Selectmen
November 5, 2001 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Board of Selectmen (BOS), Chairman John (Jack) O'Reilly (R) & Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi (I); also, Executive Assistant Robert M. Belmore.

Chairman O'Reilly called the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The BOS received a presentation from town auditor Robert Vachon on the completed FY 2000 financial audit. Also present were part-time bookkeeper Michelle Walker, town treasurer L. Coleman and deputy treasurer G. Fletcher. Mr. Vachon went over the findings of the audit using his Executive Summary handout. His comments included: the town continued its strong financial position; undesignated fund balance was \$968,000; planning needed to start on GASB 34 implementation; \$2.6 million of town funds needed to be collateralized; monthly reconciliation of the town general ledger to treasurer's records need to be implemented instead of end of year; Treasurer must sign check payments upon Board of Selectmen order – can only make recommendations to Board; Trustee of Trust Funds MS 9 and MS 10 reports did not match up to investment statements. Discussion of audit and procedures. BOS signed the MS 5 (DRA Report).

The Board started their regular business meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

1. The BOS voted 2-0 to accept the meeting minutes October 15 & 22, 2001.

Newington Energy LLC Expanded Work Hours Permit Renewal

The Board reviewed Newington Energy's request to extend their expanded work hours' permit until May 4, 2002. Mr. Walter Beck, Site Project Manager, met with the Board and he had submitted the request in writing. Resident Irv Beebe was present and he voiced his objection to any inclusion to allow Sunday working hours. Discussion. Motion by R, 2nd by I; 2-0 vote to approve the extension until May 4, 2002 under the same permit terms that include a right to revoke the permit if in the Selectmen's judgment any local impacts cannot be resolved in an equitable and expeditious manner.

The Board tabled the ICR Escrow fund release request until the Planning Board has had an opportunity to review it and offer a recommendation.

Building Department

The Board received a brief update from interim building inspector Charlie Smart. Chairman O'Reilly said the Board was soliciting applications for the part-time position.

2. Signature Folder.
 - a. The Board decided to forward Edna Mosher's abatement application for the year 2000 to the town assessing agent for a recommendation.
 - b. The Board discussed the proposed town purchasing policy. Motion by I, 2nd by R, 2-0 vote to adopt the final draft of the Policy.
 - c. The Board discussed the proposed revisions to the town personnel plan. Motion by I, 2nd by R, 2-0 vote to adopt the Personnel Plan as revised.

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3. New Business & Correspondence.
 - a. The Board discussed recently received Coalition correspondence. Discussion ensued regarding the state-wide property tax. Selectman Iocovozzi suggested it was now time to again discuss the issue and map out a course of action. The BOS decided to contact town counsel in this matter for a recommendation on the next step for the Board to take.
 - b. The BOS noted an AT&T complaint form received by AT&T Broadband.
 - c. Chairman O'Reilly noted town hall being closed in observance of the upcoming holidays: Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. O'Reilly mentioned that although the Selectmen's Office posts a 9am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday availability the Board had decided to keep it somewhat flexible based on ongoing work loads and service requests.
 - d. The Board approved an advisory budget directive to town departments that they would support no more than a 3% cost of living (COLA) increase to town employee wages for FY 2002.
 - e. The Board approved the Community Calendar request for \$70.80 to assist in their publication costs.
 - f. Assessing Services discussion: Motion by I, 2nd by R, 2-0 vote to advertise and solicit RFP /requests for proposals for annual town assessing services.
 - g. Grounds care & lawn services discussion: Motion by R, 2nd by I, 2-0 vote to advertise and solicit RFPs for annual ground care services.
 - h. Payroll services discussion: the Board decided to have the Chairman and Bob review alternative proposal/s.
 - i. Property insurance programs & workers compensation programs offered by NHMA PLT and Primex. The Board decided to keep Primex for workers compensation insurance and NHMA PLT for the town's property and public officials' liability insurance. Discussion about the NHMA PLT 2005 Program for continued coverage that would give the town a 5% reduction from standard rates and a rate freeze over the years of the program. Motion by I, 2nd by R, 2-0 vote to enter into the NHMA-PLT's multi year rate program/PLT 2005 as set forth on the adopted Resolution for Participation.
 - j. The BOS reviewed other correspondence and FY2002 funding requests.

Barbara Hill met with the Board.

She inquired about the Old Town Hall septic system. Selectman Iocovozzi said he would check to see if it was time to have it pumped. Mrs. Hill asked about No Hunting areas in town. The Board confirmed that the policy for the Fox Point and so-called Flynn Pit areas were still in effect. Mrs. Hill asked if the Board supported her pursuing grant monies for the old RR Depot – Bloody Point area. The Board confirmed their support.

Meeting was adjourned at about 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert M. Belmore