

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 20th, 2020 Remote Via Zoom Audio

Attending Meeting by Phone: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 3:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

T. Connors read the following statement:

As Chair of the Newington Board of Selectmen, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

The meeting will start by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

T. Connors took attendance. T. Connors, K. Latchaw, Mike Marconi, M. Roy and E. Boy are in attendance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of April 6th, 2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for \$76,926.11 dated 4/9/2020 and \$50,570.69 dated 4/16/2020. M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

T. Connors thanked everyone who is still working for the town. The Fire Department, the Police Department and the Town Hall Staff.

Many local businesses have contacted the Town because they will not have the money to pay their taxes in 2020. The Town will have to be conservative with the spending of funds going forward. The Town has the budget, as approved at the March Town Meeting, but might not have the cash. Money will only be spent on health and hazardous items.

Roadwork Paving Bids (Airport Road, Hodgdon Farm, Crack Sealing-misc roads):

M. Roy reviewed the road work that is going to be bid out. The bids must be held for 90 days and all can be rejected if necessary. The town will hopefully have a better view of the tax situation at that time. The projects may not go forward. All of the 2020 road projects are from the Rockingham Planning Commission's report of the roads and recommendations for the Town of Newington. K. Latchaw thought that the Town should consider that if the road projects are delayed then the roads will be more damaged and more expensive to repair.

Fox Run Mall Tax Payment Plan Request:

The Mall's management has asked the Town if they could pay their taxes every quarter for the rest of 2020. K. Latchaw thought that the Town should hold off on deciding about this until the second stimulus program is out. The Town needs to see what's happening before deciding. T. Connors is reluctant to move forward with this payment plan. This is a premature ask and a decision will be made at a later date when there is more information. Northeast Medical has also asked about the town's intentions regarding tax payments. **M. Marconi moved to table, for 60 days, the Mall's request for an alternative tax payment plan. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

Planning Board Status of Second Legal Opinion-Workforce Housing:

The Board asked M. Roy to send a second letter to the Planning Board asking them to respond to the first letter that was sent. In the first letter the Board wrote that 51% of the area for workforce housing must be in the residential zone and asked the Planning Board to put together a list of all the ADUs in Town that qualify for workforce housing. This number is very important when making any workforce housing decisions in the future to follow up on the first letter. **M. Marconi moved to approve a second letter being sent to the Planning Board about workforce housing. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

Investment Policy 2020:

This is the annual review and recommendation of the Investment Policy by the town treasurer.

K. Latchaw asked that the investment policy be posted on the town website. M. Marconi expressed concern that a member of the Board of Selectmen was not part of the investment committee. T. Connors pointed out that all investment recommendations by the committee must be approved by the Board of Selectmen. **M. Marconi moved to approve the 2020 Investment Policy. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

BOS letter to NHDES about the Sprague odor:

M. Roy read the letter to the NHDES that was recently signed by the BOS into the record.

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

April 15, 2020

Re: Sprague Industries- Noxious Fumes

Dear Commissioner Scott,

While the town of Newington is a business friendly, pro-development community we, and neighboring towns/cities, are experiencing constant noxious fumes from the Sprague plant to the point where we cannot work in our yards without being sick.

This has been a continuous problem for over a year without correction. We have been notifying Sprague of the noxious fumes (at the request of DES) to no avail. This has not been a problem in past years until early in 2019 that we can recall.

We request an investigation be initiated by your department to identify the source of the noxious fumes and whether or not prolonged exposure is harmful to our health. We are requesting Sprague develop a corrective action plan and provide your department and the town of Newington with a copy of the plan along with a timeframe to eliminate the noxious fumes.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Newington Board of Selectmen

Timothy "Ted" Connors, Chair

Kenneth Latchaw, Selectman

Michael Marconi, Selectman

Copy: Governor Christopher T. Sununu
State Senator Martha Fuller Clark
State Representative Dennis Malloy
State Representative Tamara Le
Craig A. Wright, Director, Air Resources Division
Linda Magoon DES Environmentalist

Mayor Robert Carrier, City of Dover
J. Michael Joyal, Jr., City Manager, City of Dover
Board of Selectmen, Town of Eliot, ME.
Dana Lee, Town Manager, Eliot, ME
Timothy Winters, Sprague Industries
Jason Littlefield, Sprague Industries

K. Latchaw asked M. Roy to put the letter on the website. M. Marconi added that the odor was very bad this morning.

Fox Point Invasive Plants:

K. Latchaw asked about the planned burning of the invasive plants. M. Roy said that the burn is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday April 29th. K. Latchaw thought that the residents in the area should be notified that this is scheduled to be done. T. Connors asked that research be done about using a caterpillar to bulldoze the invasive plants on the trails.

K. Latchaw asked about the Hannah Lane drainage project. M. Roy said that it is out to bid, with the bids due at the end of April. K. Latchaw thought that this project should be completed because it is a hazard in the winter with the water going across Nimble Hill road and freezing. T. Connors said that the Board will look at the bids when they come in and evaluate the project then.

T. Connors reminded everyone that at this point there are no public meetings allowed, no town buildings are open, and no playgrounds are open. The Town will continue to follow the rules set by Governor Sununu.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 3:27pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder