

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday October 17th, 2022

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, EDC Coordinator Paul Deschaine, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Recreation Committee Member Jessica Morgan, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:36pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Manifest Approval:** B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifests for \$39,803.82 dated 9/29/2022 and \$171,597.36 dated 10/6/2022. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**2017 Ford Explorer Bid Opening:**

T. Connors opened the one bid that the Board of Selectmen received for the 2017 Ford Explorer. The bid is for \$5,080 from Ringwood Motors. B. Blonigen moved to accept the bid of \$5,080 from Ringwood Motors for the 2017 Ford Explorer. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Arboretum Drive Striping:**

The Board received an email from Police Chief Mike Bilodeau about the need for road striping on Arboretum Drive. M. Roy reached out to Portsmouth to ask that they stripe the road because it was a safety issue. Portsmouth said that they didn't think it was necessary. B. Arsenault moved to send the letter from the Police Chief to Portsmouth and ask for Arboretum Road to be striped because it is a safety issue. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**HealthTrust Health & Dental Rates 2023:**

M. Roy stated that the health and dental rates for the AB Plan and the BC Plan have increased by 11.7% for 2023. The employee portion of the monthly charge will be increasing by 1% in 2023 and will now be 11%. B. Arsenault asked if the health and dental plans have been put out to bid. M. Roy said that the Property & Liability and Workers Compensation insurance have been put out to bid, but the health and dental plans remain the same because the union contract for the firefighters is for the AB Plan form HealthTrust. B. Arsenault questioned why a company would be named in a union contract. Discussion ensued about the plan and the contract and if it could be "bid out" for a plan that was equal to the AB Plan that is mentioned in the union contract. The Selectmen asked M. Roy to bid out health and dental.

### **Fence for Pickleball Courts-South Newington:**

B. Blonigen said that he had gone to the courts in South Newington and agreed that a fence would be a good idea and wondered if the Recreation Committee had the money for it in their 2022 budget. B. Arsenault is concerned that the committee is just spending it because they have the money left over in their budget. B. Arsenault recommended that this item be included in the Recreation Committee's 2023 budget so it could be brought before the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

### **Slides for the Old Town Hall Playground:**

B. Arsenault stated that the slides for the Old Town Hall are different than the fence for the pickleball court because the Budget Committee and town have been discussing having the slides replaced for years. Also, if the slide was purchased now, the Town could save \$5,000. **B. Arsenault moved to advise the Recreation Committee not to wait until the Spring to purchase the slides. 50% could be paid out of the 2022 budget and the other 50% should be included in their 2023 budget. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

### **Electric Coop:**

B. Blonigen asked if Newington was in the electric coop that many of the surrounding towns were considering joining. M. Roy said no. Portsmouth Councilman John Tabor is pushing this forward. M. Roy will reach out to him to get more information.

**Minutes Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the October 3rd, 2022 minutes as amended. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

The Library Trustees sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking to start processing their own payroll beginning in January 2023. The letter is attached as part of the minutes. The Board will review the letter.

### **Planning Board 2023 Budget Review:**

Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert presented the budget to the Selectmen. The 2023 budget is the same amount as 2022. A few amounts have been switched around but the bottom line is the same. D. Hebert asked the computer repair expense line be changed to the Computer Repair & Replacement Expense line. The Cybersecurity audit recommended that the planning consultant's computer be replaced in 2023. D. Hebert said that the Planning Board budget will be returning \$50,000 to the town from its 2022 budget. B. Arsenault asked if the consultant expense line needed to be that high. D. Hebert said that the Planning Board is expecting big development in 2023 so the consultant will be working more hours. T. Connors asked if D. Hebert knew the start date for the development on the old Watson property. D. Hebert said that the DES has slowed down the project and hopefully it will start soon if they can get contractors.

B. Blonigen said that he has asked Attorney Eric Mayer to come to a Planning Board meeting to discuss changes for ordinances in 2023.

**Economic Development Committee 2023 Budget Review:**

Paul Deschaine presented the budget to the Selectmen. The 2023 budget is 10% less than the 2022 budget approved by the Budget Committee before the \$5,000 reduction voted at the 2022 town meeting. The committee meets every other month. They bought an advertisement in the Patriots Yearbook that is distributed to luxury boxes at Foxboro. The committee sent out three newsletters to Newington businesses. The committee would like to work on the website so that it comes up better in search engines to get more hits.

Recreation Committee Member Jessica Morgan entered the meeting.

Discussion ensued about purchasing the slides for the Old Town Hall. **B. Arsenault moved to ask the Recreation Committee to go back to the vendor and ask if they could put down, not to exceed, 50% deposit now for the slide and ask the vendor if they could store it over the winter. Would they still receive the discount if this was done. The Committee should encumber the remaining balance to be paid in the Spring of 2023. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

In order for the Town to receive the \$5,000 savings on the slide it has to be paid for and delivered by 10/26/22. Discussion ensued about where the slide could be stored for the winter. It can't be stored outside.

J. Morgan said that pickleball is now being played at the courts in South Newington, so the fence is needed now.

D. Hebert asked why the COAST bus invoice had not been paid yet. E. Boy said that the due date on the invoice was 12/31/22.

**Adjournment: B. Blonigen moved to adjourn at 6:32pm. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder