

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 21st, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Acting Fire Chief, EJ Hoyt, Fire Engineers; Ann Hebert and John Klanchesser, Planning Board Chair, Denis Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:02pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval:

M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of October 7th, 2019. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Manifests Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for \$216,220.98 dated 10/8/2019 and \$123,008.60 dated 10/15/2019. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

M. Marconi moved to approve the following Facility Use requests.

Judy Poulin- Old Town Hall-November 2nd-Birthday Party

Recreation Committee-Old Town Hall-December 8th-Holiday Party

K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Wayne Wood-Town Land Purchase:

Wayne Wood has contacted the Town and asked if the Town would be willing to sell him a piece of town owned property off Airport Road. The Board will review his request in detail, but the Town has not allowed sale of land in the past.

Mixed Use Independent Study Request:

The Selectmen agree that a Mixed Use Independent Study should be completed for the town. Town Planner Jerry Coogan gave Planning Board Chair, Denis Hebert the names of three independent consultants that could be used for the Mixed-Use study.

Lamprey Regional Cooperative Report-Mike Marconi:

M. Marconi updated the Board on the recent Lamprey Regional Coop meeting.

Stoneface Concerns- Sewer Rates Letter:

The Board reviewed the email received from Stoneface about the sewer rates. The Board is very concerned with this issue and has heard from other businesses in town about the high sewer rates. M. Roy is completing an analysis of neighboring towns to find out what the sewer rates and rental amounts are and report back to the Board.

The Board asked M. Roy to also look at other breweries in the area and their costs.

Congregational Church Letter-Parsonage Sale:

The Board reviewed the letter they received from Mary Wahl, the head deacon for the Newington Town Church. The congregation has decided to sell the church's property located at 317 Nimble Hill Road. The congregation agreed to offer the Selectmen a right of first refusal to purchase the property at its assessed value. T. Connors thanked the congregation for giving the Town an opportunity to purchase the property. The Board discussed the many buildings the town already has to maintain and manage. **M. Marconi moved to not buy the property located a 317 Nimble Hill Road. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Walking/Bike Path Committee:

The Board discussed putting together a committee to study the feasibility of constructing a walking/bike path in town. M. Roy has received emails from several residents asking for a path. The Board would like to include a representative from the Fire and Police Departments and a member of the Budget Committee on the new walking/bike path committee.

K. Latchaw asked M. Roy about the medians on Woodbury Ave. There seems to be a lot of crab grass there and the agreement was that good quality grass would be planted there. M. Roy explained that the Town could withhold money at the end of the project until all the town's concerns are addressed.

Solar Update:

The Board reviewed an article about the Pease Tradeport. The article states that Pease is looking at a possible solar array at the Tradeport in the future. The Board thought that the Town could "piggyback" with Pease to get a better quote on installing solar panels in town.

Conservation Wetland Update:

The Conservation Commission is currently working with Mark West, from West Environmental, to complete a mapping project as reference for a Wetlands Overlay Ordinance proposal that would be presented for a 2020 town meeting vote.

The Board asked M. Roy to prepare a letter to the Conservation Commission to let them know that the Board has heard from several concerned residents and would like to have a public meeting before anything is decided. The Board would like to know how many residents and which parcels of land will be affected by the new Wetlands Overlay Ordinance. T. Connors would like to get a map of the old wetlands and a map of the new proposed wetlands so he can see the difference.

The Board reviewed a resignation letter from Nell Ann Hiatt from the Historic District Commission. **M. Marconi moved to accept Nell Ann Hiatt's resignation with regret. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

T. Connors called for a recess at 5:50. The meeting was resumed at 5:54.

Planning Budget 2020:

Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert presented the budget to the Selectmen. The proposed 2020 budget is \$10,000 more than the 2019 budget. The contracted services expense line increased by \$24,900 and the Master Plan expense line decreased by \$14,900. A new contracted planner will be hired in 2020. There will be a 2 or 3 month overlap between the new and old contracted planner, that is why the amount in the contracted line has increased by \$24,900. In 2021 the amount budgeted in that line will decrease to \$84,000 because there won't be an overlap.

Fire Department Budget 2020:

Interim Fire Chief EJ Hoyt presented the budget to the Selectmen. The proposed 2020 budget is \$26,305 more than the 2019 budget. This increase does not include wage and health insurance increases for 2020. The Professional Training line increased by \$13,000. This is for a Paramedic training class for a current firefighter. The Legal line is requested to be reinstated. The Fire Department would like to be able to contact legal counsel without going through the town hall.

Discussion ensued about the Mixed-Use Independent Study for the mall. D. Hebert told the board that he is hoping that the study tells the town what development is feasible for that area. D. Hebert told the board that he is going to hire a company and have the study completed in six weeks. T. Connors thought that was a short time line and thought the residents needed more time to study the report and digest its content. M. Marconi mentioned that 40 years ago, when the mall was proposed for the Town of Newington it took 3 years of studies and meetings before a decision was made by the residents. T. Connors would like to see an extended period for discussion, the education of the results and a special town meeting for the residents.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:34pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder