

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday October 3rd, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Library Trustee and Sewer Commissioner Jack O'Reilly, Library Director Lara Berry, Finance Director Sheryl +Bagley, Cemetery Trustee Chair Alan Wilson, Cemetery Trustee Peggy Lamson, Sewer Commissioner Rick Stern, Sewer Commissioner Tom Hazelton, Sewer Plant Manager Denis Messier, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Arsenault moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:30pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (b). T. Connors seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

B. Arsenault moved to return to public session at 6:08pm, seconded by T. Connors. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

B. Arsenault moved to seal the minutes indefinitely. T. Connors seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

T. Connors congratulated the Recreation Committee on their Senior Dinner event. T. Connors said that it was very well done and "tipped his hat" to the new Recreation Director Esmerelda for all her hard work on the dinner.

Minutes Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the September 23rd, 2022 minutes. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifests for \$224.63 dated 9/21/2022 and \$31,951.91 dated 9/22/2022. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the following requests:

Recreation Committee-Trunk or Treat-TH Parking Lot-October 30th 4-7pm

Recreation Committee-Trolley Rides-OTH-October 23rd-11:30am-7pm.

T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Cemetery 2023 Budget Review:

Cemetery Trustees Alan Wilson and Peggy Lamson presented the budget to the Selectmen. The 2023 budget is \$200 less than the 2022 budget. The wages line has been reduced because they don't have a cemetery sexton and are very thankful for their volunteers. A. Wilson said that the Trustees want to repave the road between the eastern and western extension area of the cemetery. A. Wilson believes it will cost around \$20,000 which would be taken out of their capital reserve account. A. Wilson also said that the trustees would like to close the capital reserve fund that they started for the columbarium. They believe that it is no longer needed. A. Wilson mentioned that this was a recommendation by the consultant. M. Roy stated that to change the purpose of a capital reserve fund it would have to go before Town Meeting and receive a 2/3 vote. They also want to increase the cost of a cemetery plot from \$300 to \$600. Prices have not increased since 1993.

Sewer 2023 Budget Review:

Sewer Plant Manager Denis Messier presented the budget to the Selectmen. The 2023 budget is a little less than the 2022 budget. B. Arsenault asked how the plant ran this year. D. Messier said that it ran well and they didn't have to dip into the Enterprise Fund at all. New EPA testing has increased the testing line by \$10,000. The Major Maintenance line has increased due to generators. D. Messier said that they are trying to keep rates low, but have fewer users. R. Stern pointed out that sludge removal is getting difficult because fewer places are accepting it. Eventually it will cost more to dispose of it, but right now it is a major unknown. Discussion ensued about the Town Services expense line and what it was used for. S. Bagley will look into it and get back to the Board. B. Arsenault asked about any capital improvements or major maintenance. D. Messier said that he is trying to hold off on any of that.

Appointments:

B. Arsenault moved to appoint Kara Anderson and Brian Semprini to the Economic Development Committee. Each for a term of two years. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Railroad Depot Decision-Reply to HDC:

B. Arsenault agreed with Lulu Pickering that the Board of Selectmen should give the HDC a clear direction about the Railroad Depot. B. Arsenault still has two questions about the property. One, is the Town responsible for the shoreline mitigation on the property and two, what will happen to the depot if the Town doesn't take possession?

B. Arsenault moved to not accept ownership of the Railroad Depot because it would be too much of a burden for the taxpayers to take on. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfer Station Camera:

M. Roy said that WIFI would have to be installed at the Transfer Station for \$2,100/year and the camera would be a one time cost of \$2,100. B. Arsenault said that the Board takes security seriously, but thinks the cost is too much. **B. Arsenault moved to recommend not installing a camera at the Transfer Station. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Third Quarter Expenditure Report Review-Sheryl Bagley, Finance Director:

S. Bagley explained that \$4.08 million of the \$7.26 budget has been spent as of 9/15/22. That is 56%. However, there many items that are not spent until the fourth quarter, including the \$450,000 for the Capital Reserve accounts. The Town Buildings budgets are over spent because of the higher costs of electricity, propane and gas. Land Management is over spent because of the dock repair and increased cost of the hydrants in town. Both the Fire Department and Police Department wages lines are down, due to the fact that they are having trouble filling positions. Salaries town wide are 40% spent at 1.57 million.

Library 2023 Budget Review:

L. Berry and J. O' Reilly presented their budget to the Selectmen. The 2023 budget is \$18,000 more than the 2022 budget. L. Berry explained that some expense lines had increased in the 2023 budget because the library is receiving less money from the trust funds to offset costs. The library is able to spend the interest from the trustee funds and since interest rates are lower, they will be receiving less money. In 2021 they received approximately \$10,000 in interest. They have added a legal expense line for \$2,000, the electricity line increased by \$10,000 and the operating expense line increased by \$13,600. B. Arsenault asked what the operating expense line paid for. L. Berry said that it was for the cleaning of the library, the fire inspections, the alarm inspections, furnace inspections (they have 5 furnaces) and other annual inspections. B. Arsenault would like to see the operating expense line separated to be able to see the expenses better instead of everything lumped into the one expenses line. A warrant article for \$20,000 to be added to the Library Capital Reserve fund is also proposed for 2023.

Trick or Treating 2023:

B. Arsenault moved to schedule Trick or Treating for Sunday October 30th from 5-7pm. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lack of Maintenance-Spaulling Exit 3-Letter to the State:

B. Arsenault moved to send a letter to the NHDOT about the lack of maintenance at exit 3 of the Spaulding Turnpike. T. Connors seconded the motion and added that he would like the letter to be cc'd to the Governor, The Executive Council and the PDA. All were in favor.

Letter to the Historic District Commission-Minutes must be taken.:

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from HDC Chair Lulu Pickering asking for an additional \$150 per month be added to the HDC budget so she can pay someone to come and produce minutes for their meetings and do other projects. B. Arsenault pointed out that the HDC is currently having meetings and not producing minutes, which is illegal. B. Arsenault suggested that the HDC have their meetings in the Town Hall, so the meeting could be recorded and then someone could do the minutes from the recording. B. Arsenault suggested that the request for \$150 per month be added to their 2023 budget. The HDC has to produce minutes from their meetings.

Planning Board Over Expenditure Request:

E. Boy explained that this request was no longer needed because the invoice that caused the over expenditure was incorrect. Once the invoice is corrected there will be no need for this request. D. Hebert questioned the process for over expenditures in a department's budget. M. Roy said that they have been processing over expenditures this way for several years and that overspent lines are specifically addressed in RSA 32.

Unanticipated Revenue-Dumpling Cove Drainage Easement \$59,880:

B. Arsenault moved to accept the \$59,880 as unanticipated revenue. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Public Health and Safety Hazard-No Porta Potty-Old Town Hall:

M. Roy said that Selectman Blonigen had attended the last HDC meeting and there was concern raised by Peggy Lamson because the porta potty had been removed from the Old Town Hall parking lot. B. Arsenault asked if the Old Town Hall could be reconfigured so people would have access to the bathroom. Discussion ensued about the cost to do that and the need to have someone open the building each morning and lock it up at night. **B. Arsenault moved to not bring back the porta potty at the Old Town Hall. People could use the facilities at the library. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:23pm. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder