

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 2nd, 2020 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Economic Development Chair Jeff Hiatt, Economic Development Vice-Chair Mike Donahue, Conservation Commission Co-Chairs Jane Hislop and Jim Weiner, Recreation Committee Co-Chairs Laura Stone and Rebecca Navelski, Police Commission Chair Brenda Blonigen, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 4:59pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of October 26, 2020, with suggested changes. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

HealthTrust Return of Contributions \$30,536.90:

Healthtrust has returned \$30,536.90 to the Town of Newington. Employees that had health insurance during the time period of the return will be receiving money back. The amount that will be received will be based on the percentage that they paid for insurance during that time. **K. Latchaw moved to accept the \$30,536.90 from Healthtrust. M. Marconi seconded the motion will all in favor.**

Historic Train Depot:

Historic District Commission Chair L. Pickering contacted the Board of Selectmen because she has become aware that the train depot land, that is currently owned by the State, is being put up for sale. L. Pickering wants to save the historic train depot that is on the land. She is asking that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to the State Representatives and US Senators asking that the State deed the train depot to the town. T. Connors stated that the Board of Selectmen had sent a letter to the State a couple of years ago indicating that Newington wanted to acquire the depot but would send another one. K. Latchaw suggested that M. Roy check the floodplain map to see if the depot is in the floodplain. **M. Marconi moved to send a letter to the Senators and federal representatives asking for the State to give the historic train depot to Newington. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Sample of Oath of Office:

M. Roy showed the board the sample of the draft oath of office. The draft has a paragraph that would replace the decorum section in the personnel policies. B. Blonigen did not understand why the oath of office needed to be changed when the NH Constitution and the NH RSA is very clear on what to do when

someone acts inappropriately. T. Connors explained that the board thought that it is important to put something in writing because of a past incident. M. Roy explained that it is important to protect employees in the event a town official acts inappropriately. Also, the RSA that deals with town official's behavior, is about behavior in meetings and doesn't apply to outside of meetings. A. Hyland Hebert said that section 84 of the NH constitution deals with the oath of office. T. Connors said that the board will review section 84 of the NH constitution.

Recreation equipment: Jessica Morgan has contacted the town office to ask about how to proceed to get more safe and up to date playground equipment in 2021. She would like to try getting contributions from businesses in town. T. Connors thought that getting more equipment was a good idea and would like J. Morgan to work with the recreation committee to put together a plan to get more equipment in 2021.

Recording all town public meetings: The town is purchasing an iPad to record all town public meetings. The recordings will be posted on the town website. The board is going to hire someone to record the meetings. T. Connors thanked Emily Savinelli for recording and posting the meetings the last couple of years.

Fire Dept. Consultant Study: The Board of Fire Engineers is reviewing the completed consultant's study of the Fire Dept. this week at their meeting. T. Connors discussed with Engineer Chair John Klanchesser about getting together with the Fire Engineers to review the report.

T. Connors recessed the meeting at 5:14pm.

T. Connors resumed the meeting at 5:25pm.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests for \$13,244.68 dated 10/29/2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Campfire at Boy Scout Event on Fox Point on November 7th & 8th, 2020:
The Boy Scouts would like to have campfires at their event on the weekend of November 7th & 8th. Fire Chief Hoyt is fine with the campfires but since Fox Point is town property the Board of Selectmen need to approve the campfires. **K. Latchaw moved to approve the campfires on Fox Point the weekend of November 7th & 8th at the Boy Scout event. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Economic Development Committee 2021 Budget:

J. Hiatt and M. Donahue presented the budget to the Selectmen. The EDC 2021 budget is \$1,082 lower than their 2020 budgeted amount. J. Hiatt and M.

Donahue understand that 2021 is an uncertain at this point but feel that it is important to maintain the ability to have outreach programs for attracting new business and industry to Newington and maintaining the businesses the town currently has. M. Donahue explained that the website needs to become more user friendly. At the last EDC meeting B. Arsenault has some good suggestions to make that happen. T. Connors thanked J. Hiatt and M. Donahue for coming to the meeting.

T. Connors recessed the meeting at 5:31pm.

T. Connors resumed the meeting at 5:56pm.

Conservation Commission 2021 Budget:

Co-Chairs Jane Hislop and Jim Weiner presented their budget to the Selectmen. The 2021 Conservation budget is \$3,250 higher than the 2020 budgeted amount, a 47% increase. The increase is due to a couple of large, anticipated projects in Newington during the year. The Watson property is close to being sold and the mall property may be changing. The consulting expense line has been increased because of this. There is \$1,000 added to the legal expense line. T. Connors explained that the board is trying to have all the legal expenses in one area. J. Weiner said that they would be keeping the amount in the legal line. J. Hislop explained that they wanted money in their legal line because if they need a legal opinion quickly then it would be easier if they had the money in their budget. J. Hislop would like to see the Mark West report for the ARM application. T. Connors thanked J. Hislop and J. Weiner for coming to the meeting.

Recreation Committee 2021 Budget:

Co-Chairs Laura Stone and Rebecca Navelski presented their budget to the Selectmen. The Recreation 2021 budget is the same amount as the 2020 budget because the committee is not sure what is going to be happening in 2021. R. Navelski would like to buy an outdoor stage for outdoor events. T. Connors asked her to get quotes for an outside stage. The committee is going to be doing the ice rink this winter. The lining was ordered today.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:16pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder