

**Newington Board of Selectmen
Meeting**

**March 21, 2005
Newington Town Hall
6:00 p.m.**

In attendance: Chairman Jan Stuart, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Cos Iocovozzi, Road Agent Leonard Thomas, Town Planner Tom Morgan and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Gillespie

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Non-Public; legal in accordance to RSA

Non-Public was adjourned at 6:30. No votes were taken.

Public meeting opened at 6:30.

Chairman Stuart made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 3-0.

Town Planner Tom Morgan discussed Gosling Road improvements with the Board. He reminded the Board that this is a result of the PSNH wood chip project. PSNH had agreed to a \$500,000 upgrade of Gosling Road. On March 14th the Newington Planning Board approved the plans submitted by PSNH for the road improvements. The City of Portsmouth is also agreeable to the plan. The target date for this project is as soon as possible. Portsmouth is insisting that the improvements be done before the trucks are allowed to use the road. A through lane will be added from the turnpike to the traffic lights by McDonald's. There would be two lanes going straight and two lanes turning into the Crossings. There will be no taking of anyone else's property. PSNH managed to find the space in the current right of way. There will be a barrier between the Exxon and Mobil stations. No left turns can be taken after the barrier is put up. Mr. Morgan said that there will be opposition to this from the gas stations, but keep in mind the accidents that occur in that area. There will be a Public Hearing on March 31st in Portsmouth regarding these plans. Mr. Morgan plans on attending this hearing. The Newington Planning Board has also been discussing pedestrian improvements. Pedestrian bridges have been mentioned as well as a sidewalk on Gosling Road. There are rules and regulations regarding pedestrian signals which make this prospect unlikely.

Administrative Assistant Gillespie asked about contacting BayRing Communications. Selectman Iocovozzi said that he will look into some things and call Mr. Morgan when he's ready to contact BayRing about digging.

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Resident Gail Pare asked the Board what happens now that the Warrant Article for the Old Town Hall was approved. Selectman O'Reilly said that currently the Old Stone School will be locked up. The Town is on a list for the L-Chip grant. Selectman O'Reilly told Mrs. Pare that the Bond for the Old Town Hall can not be obtained until July. Chairman Stuart said that the Selectmen can not discuss any plans at this point because the Board has not had a chance to discuss the project yet. Selectman O'Reilly and Selectman Iocovozzi reiterated that plans can not be discussed until the Board has had time to discuss the procedure they want to follow. The Selectmen will take care of everything from this point. Ms. Peggy Lamson asked where the grants would be coming from. Ms. Pare answered that there are several groups interested in funding historic sites in Newington; the Getty Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are a couple examples.

Resident Jack Pare presented a program to the Selectmen called "Share the Road." This allows motorists to be aware that there are pedestrians and cyclists on the roads. Mr. Pare suggested that a minimum of ten signs be placed throughout Newington. Road Agent Leonard Thomas said that he will check with NE Barricade on a price for this project.

Resident Barbara McDonald mentioned that Turtle Crossing signs should be placed on McIntyre Road. As turtles hatch they are crossing the road and drivers are unaware of this.

Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf informed the Board that the ladder truck can not be used at this point. The pistons repair will cost \$9,500. There is money in the capital reserve fund for this. Once repaired the ladder truck will have to be recertified as well. This needs to be done as soon as possible. This truck will be going to E.J. Murphy's in Mass.

Chief Greenleaf also asked about scheduling the painting of the walls and bay floor in July or August of 2005. The walls will be painted first and then the floor will be repaired. Selectman O'Reilly made the suggestion to award the bid at the next meeting and then make a motion to allow Chief Greenleaf to call and schedule the repairs. There was discussion on the grants that have been awarded to the Newington Fire Department.

Resident Vincent Frank voiced his opinion on the plans for the Old Town Hall and Old Stone School. He requested copies of the tennis court proposals. Selectman Iocovozzi clarified that he will be talking to an engineer about the tennis court. Mr. Frank also requested that he be present when the engineer looks at the Old Town Hall and Old Stone School.

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Ms. Barbara McDonald was concerned about the lack of verbatim minutes. Chairman Stuart explained that Towns are no longer using verbatim minutes because of the expense. Larry Whal taped Saturday's Town Meeting and the tapes are available at the Town Hall. AA Gillespie said that even in State courts stenographers are no longer being used. Ms. McDonald asked if just because the Town meeting voted a certain amount for the Capital Reserve Funds, does the entire amount have to be spent. Selectman Iocovozzi clarified that the entire amount does not have to be spent.

Resident Lulu Pickering spoke to the Board regarding Town Meeting on Saturday. Her concern was that most of the people at the meeting voted in ways that reflected that the quality of life is more important than keeping the tax rate down. It was suggested that the Town apply for \$1.6 million in grants to cover both buildings and to apply for the maximum L-Chip grant possible. Ms. Pickering said she feels that both buildings didn't pass because only one Selectman recommended the articles. Chairman Stuart said that her stand is the same as Selectman Iocovozzi. Their stand was that the building articles should not be approved until next year and only one building at a time. Ms. Pickering said the longer the Town waits on the Old Stone School the more expensive it will be. Selectman Iocovozzi responded that Ms. Pickering's strategy is well thought but this year only one building was approved. The Old Stone School may or may not be approved next year. Ms. Pickering said she doesn't want to apply and push for L-chip grants if the Selectmen are not behind the project. Chairman Stuart said there are no guarantees of how the Town will vote next year. Building Inspector Charles Smart clarified that Ms. Pickering is just looking for support from the Selectmen on both buildings. The grant request that is already being processed is for both buildings. Ms. Pickering stated that she is simply looking for support from the three Selectmen. The Townspeople voted to approve the Old Town Hall article despite the imminent increase in the tax rate. Chairman Stuart said that she weighed this decision based on many things as did the other two Selectmen and stand behind their votes. Selectman Iocovozzi said the Board will do what the Town wants to do and has voted to do. The Selectmen have not discussed the Old Town Hall or any possible strategy, since the meeting was two days ago. Selectman Iocovozzi thanked Ms. Pickering for making her point and told her that this will be discussed at a later date.

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 2005. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

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Chairman Stuart made the motion to appoint Selectman Iocovozzi as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for 2005. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 2-0.

Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to appoint Jon Tretter as Co-Emergency Management Director of the Town of Newington. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Signatures and Approvals

An abatement for the State of New Hampshire was approved and signed based on the recommendation of Town Assessor Wil Corcoran.

A Veteran's Credit for James Griffin was approved and signed based on the recommendation of Town Assessor Wil Corcoran.

A Coin Operated Game Machine permit for Bickford's Family Restaurant was approved and signed.

A Coin Operated Game Machine permit for Tricorp Amusements was approved and signed.

A purchase order for 2005 dues for the Rockingham Planning Commission was approved and signed.

The MS-2 was reviewed, approved and signed by the Board of Selectmen.

Town Hall Use Form

A Town Hall Use Form from Richard Rines for an April 8th Seabreezes meeting was approved and signed.

A Town Hall Use Form from Thermo Electron for an April 22nd meeting was approved and signed.

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A Town Hall Use Form from Seacoast Wind Ensemble for an April 1st rehearsal was approved and signed.

A Town Hall Use Form from Seacoast Wind Ensemble for a December 3rd concert was approved and signed.

There being no further business before the Board:

Adjourn 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gillespie
Administrative Assistant