

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 27th, 2020 Town Hall

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Newington School Principal Peter Latchaw, Moderator Jack O'Reilly, Deputy Town Clerk Doreen Caradonna, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

**Minutes:** M. Marconi Moved to approve the minutes of August 20,2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

**School Reopening-Peter Latchaw:**

P. Latchaw updated the Board of Selectmen on the reopening of school. The first day for students is Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Teachers are already back preparing.

The students will be physically in school Monday thru Thursday and remote learning will take place of Fridays. P. Latchaw believed it was important to have on day of remote learning so the building can be sanitized, and the teachers can have some down time to prepare for the following week.

There will be no professional days for teachers during the school year. There are 8 workdays in the beginning of the year and 3 at the end. The Newington School students will be going to school for 174 days. Newington's school days are longer, so they don't have to go the full 180 days.

M. Marconi asked if this plan was just for the first semester. P. Latchaw replied that it is for the whole school year.

In the classrooms the students will be spread out. Each desk will have a three-sided shield. Masks are required, but they can be pulled down when the student is sitting at their desk behind the shield.

The Newington School Supporters donated \$5,000 for outdoor learning. The school was able to purchase a couple of large tents, camp chairs and portable desks for each student.

The students will be with their classroom group all day. They will eat their lunch and snacks in the classroom and will go out to recess with their classroom

group only. There will be no visitors allowed in the school. Any appointments will be made for after school hours. Touchless sinks have been installed.

Newington School has its biggest enrollment ever with 52 students. Six of these students are tuition students. Almost all Newington families opted for in school learning verses remote.

The Board of Selectmen thanked P. Latchaw for all his hard work and dedication the children of Newington.

**Elections-Jack O'Reilly:**

J. O'Reilly explained that the biggest concern with the NH moderators is the mask issue. J. O'Reilly wants to require masks for the elections. There should be a greeter at the door and offer a mask to each person. If the person refuses to wear a mask, then there will be an option for them to vote.

T. Connors thought that J. O'Reilly should put a notice out to residents stating that masks are required in the voting area.

Some towns in NH are having a hard time finding volunteers to work the election. Newington has had plenty of volunteers.

Voting for the NH Primary will be Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> form 8am-7pm in the Town Hall.

People holding political signs outside the town hall will be required to stand six feet away from the walkway to the entrance of the building to ensure social distancing.

85,000 people in NH have asked for absentee ballots. The Town of Newington has had 79 people request absentee ballots.

The Board thanked J. O'Reilly for updating the Board on the upcoming election.

J. O'Reilly asked the Board if the Great Bay Stewards Road Race participants could run in Newington down on Fox Point. The Board said they would take it into consideration.

**Authorization to Issue Tax Anticipation Notes:**

M. Roy explained that if tax revenues fall short in December the Board of Selectmen need to authorize applying for a Tax Anticipation Note. This note will only be applied for if there is an anticipated shortfall in taxes received. **M.**

**Marconi moved to authorize the town to apply for a tax anticipation note. K. seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Election CARES Act Grant:**

J. O'Reilly and L. Coleman recommend not applying for the Election CARES Act Grant. The small amount of revenue that would be received is minimal compared to the amount of work it would take to apply for the grant. **M. Marconi moved to not apply for the Election CARES Act Grant. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Rockingham Planning Commission Ten Year Plan Approval:**

Newington's Safety Lane project should be added to the Rockingham County Planning Commission ten-year plan. **K. Latchaw moved to authorize the Safety Lane project be #1 on the list. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Town Safety Plan Review:**

The Town safety plan has been in place since 2016. The Town gets a discount from Primex because of this plan. **K. Latchaw moved to accept the Town's Safety Plan. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Temporary Alternative Duty Policy:**

This policy has been in place since 2016. If an employee is out on worker's comp, they could come back to work in some other position. **M. Marconi moved to accept the Temporary Alternative Duty Policy. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Motor Vehicle Driving Record Policy:**

This policy would include the driving record as part of the hiring process. Specific driving scores would be used as guidelines. The Board asked M. Roy to send out this policy to all the department heads. T. Connors recommended that the Board would take a look at this policy again at the mid-September BOS meeting.

**Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Use Policy:**

This policy has been in place since 2016. **M. Marconi moved to accept the Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Use Policy. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Slip Trip and Fall Policy:**

This policy has been in place since 2016. **M. Marconi moved to accept the Slip Trip and Fall Policy. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Copier Lease Recommendation:**

The Town's current copier lease ends on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The town has received three bids in addition to the state's bids. E. Boy recommends that the town award the contract to Conway Technologies for the Xerox copier. The new lease will be for the same amount and length as the last copier contract. **M. Marconi moved to accept the copier bid from Conway Technologies for the Xerox copier. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

D. Hebert update the Board of Selectmen on the Eversource project. Eversource has three more items to resolve. A pedestal looking out over the bay to be built, an indoor display of electric cables and a pamphlet about Newington's agricultural history will be produced. D. Hebert would like to know what the board would like Eversource to produce for the town. The Board will get back to D. Hebert next week.

**M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 3:46pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (I) and to move the meeting into the Board of Selectmen's office. K. Latchaw seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

M. Roy related to the Board the town's council's opinion on the personnel policies.

**K. Latchaw moved to return to public session, seconded by M. Marconi. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

The Board returned from the nonpublic session at 4:45pm.

**M. Marconi moved to seal the non-public minutes indefinitely. K. Latchaw seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

**Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 4:46pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder