

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 3rd, 2020 Town Hall

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Town Clerk Laura Coleman, Deputy Town Clerk Doreen Caradonna, Moderator Jack O'Reilly, Supervisors of the Checklist, Gail Welch and Suzanne Vietas, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief, Pay Moynihan, State Representative, Dennis Malloy, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

**Election Discussion-Jack O'Reilly:**

T. Connors asked if the town was going to have enough election workers for the upcoming elections. L. Coleman thinks that they do. J. O'Reilly added that they may have to have longer shifts to cover the shortage. They could always use a couple of more people.

J. O'Reilly reviewed the new election requirements due to Covid-19.

- Voting will only be done in every other voting booth.
- There won't be curtains on the voting booths
- There will be two tables for voting instead of one.
- They are encouraging absentee voting.
- If the Town receives a lot of absentee ballots then they can start counting and verifying signatures the absentee ballots before election day.
- Election clerks need to be spaced apart
- J. O'Reilly met with the Police and Fire Chiefs to try and figure out a new flow of voters through the town hall. They are still working on the layout.
- All voters need to wear a mask. If someone refuses, they are still able to vote.
- J. O'Reilly is still decided if the workers will be fed or if they have to bring their food themselves.
- There is PPE coming for the two election days.
- 213 people voted in the 2016 primary, 10 by absentee ballot
- 617 people voted in the 2016 general election, 94 by absentee ballot
- J. O'Reilly thinks that there will be a lot more absentee ballots this year

L. Coleman point out that there are over 700 people of the checklist.

Same day voter registration is still allowed.

Voting for the NH primary will be on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am-7pm at the Town Hall.

Voting for the general election will be on Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-7pm at the Town Hall.

G. Welch pointed out that she had attended a zoom meeting about elections and thought that feeding the election workers was not allowed and that the PPE would be saved by each election worker and used again for the November election.

J. O'Reilly mentioned that all election workers should have their temperature taken the morning of the election.

T. Connors encouraged everyone to follow the Governor's guidelines for elections.

T. Connors thanked everyone for coming in and updating the Board and encouraged them to reach out if they need any help.

**Minutes Approval:**

M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Manifests Approval:**

K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for \$7,997.80 dated 7/23/2020, \$46,859.11 dated 7/23/2020 and \$65,464.65 dated 7/30/2020. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Sprague Noxious Fumes:**

The comment period for the Sprague settlement agreement is now open. The town's attorney and the air quality engineer have prepared a letter with the town's comments about the settlement. T. Connors thought that the attorney and engineer had done an excellent job.

**Safety Lane Update:**

M. Marconi updated the Board on the Safety Lane. The engineering plans are on display at the Town Hall. They are also on the town web site on the Safety Lane Committee's page. This is phase 1 of 3. The goal of the committee is to make the Town of Newington "walkable". The lane will not take anyone's property.

**Fire Station Addition Update:**

M. Roy explained that the bids that were received were analyzed by TMS architect, Shannon Alther. The Town received bids from \$175,000 to \$295,000.

It is recommended that only the negative pressure room be built to reduce the costs. Solid Routes from Manchester was the low bid. References have been checked. \$125,000 had been approved at the 2020 Town Meeting. **K. Latchaw moved to approve Solid Routes for the Fire Station addition. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Fox Point Invasive Plants Treatment Update:**

E. Boy explained that the "goat company" is currently at Fox Point for seven days. After the company leaves E. Boy will assess the effectiveness of the goats. The town won't know the true effectiveness until next spring.

K. Latchaw mentioned that Dave Caswell from Portsmouth Sign remade the "resident only" sign at Fox Point and didn't charge the town. K. Latchaw asked M. Roy to write a thank you letter to D. Caswell.

D. Malloy mentioned that some towns believe that absentee ballots may account for over 50% of all ballots in the 2020 elections.

K. Latchaw asked for an update on the Peterborough education lawsuit. M. Roy thought that it would be heard shortly by the Supreme Court.

The library will be open by appointment on Tuesdays 1pm-7pm and Fridays 9am-3pm. Please call 436-5154 to make an appointment. Appointments are for 30 minutes, with a maximum of 4 patrons at a time.

**Adjournment:** M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 4:41pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder