

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 23rd, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Police Chief, Mike Bilodeau, Sewer Commissioner, Rick Stern, Sewer Commissioner Skip Cole, Sewer Plant Manager Denis Messier, Cemetery Trustee, Peggy Lamson, Cemetery Trustee, Alan Wilson, Library Trustee Jack O'Reilly, Library Director, Lara Croft, Emily Savinelli, Derick Wilson, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval:

M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of August 19th, 2019, August 30, 2019 and September 16th, 2019. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Manifest Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for \$51,276.07 dated 9/17/2019. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Bike Path/Lights:

Many residents have sent e-mails to the Selectmen asking that a bike path be built for the Nimble Hill Road intersection with Fox Point Road and also that bike lanes be considered on town roads in the future. In 2012 the Board of Selectmen asked Altus Engineering to complete a preliminary evaluation to extend bicycle access along Nimble Hill Road from the end of Shattuck Way to Fox Point Road. M. Roy met with Altus and asked them to update their prior evaluation. Altus is proposing that a multiuse path be constructed in front of the Town Hall, crossing Fox Point Road and will terminate at the school. This will cost \$90,600. Altus is also proposing that a 3-foot-wide paved shoulder from Coleman Drive to the school. This will cost \$48,800. The Board asked the Police Chief to look at the proposal and give them his recommendation. T. Connors would like to appoint a committee to work on this project. This will be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Maple Tree Planting at the corner of Nimble Hill Road and Little Bay Road:

K. Latchaw moved to approve the planting of a maple tree at the corner of Nimble Hill Road and Little Bay Road on the outside of the cemetery wall. The Cemetery Trustees are in favor of this planting. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Smoking Ordinance:

The Town's attorney developed a "no tobacco on town property" temporary ordinance. This temporary ordinance will be in effect until the 2020 Town Meeting when a permanent ordinance will be voted on by the residents. M. Bilodeau asked about enforcement and fines. T. Connors explained that there will be no fines until the permanent ordinance is voted on in March 2020. **M. Marconi moved to approve the temporary smoking ordinance that prohibits any tobacco products on town property. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Joint Development of Right of Way Ordinance with other Towns:

The Town's attorney has offered to put together a Right of Way ordinance for several towns. It would be one ordinance for everyone. This will cut down the attorney's fees. M. Roy recommends that Newington be part of this. The board will discuss this at the next meeting.

Coakley Group Escrow Fund:

M. Roy told the board that there is \$44,000 in the Coakley Escrow Fund. This escrow fund was put in place in 2002. The money was given to the Town by the Coakley Group because it was thought that too much money had been contributed to the Coakley group by the towns at the time. A capital reserve account could be created as well to offset the future expenses associated with the Coakley project. **M. Marconi moved to add a warrant article to the 2020 Town Meeting to set up a capital reserve account for future Coakley landfill expenses. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

DOT Ten Year Plan Review:

The NH Department of Transportation has put out their 10-year plan for 2021-2030. The board reviewed the projects listed for Newington.

1. Environmental Remediation at the Former Newington Country Store Site (Bloody Point) from 2021-2023 for \$134,674
2. Highway and Bridge Maintenance Facility Construction between exit 3 and 4 along NH 16 in 2021 for \$7,125,084
3. Remove the Superstructure General Sullivan Bridge and Provide the most cost-effective bike/ pedestrian connection from 2022-2024 for \$29,935,353

The NH DOT is having several public hearings on the proposed projects. Local meetings are:

9/23/19 in Hampton at the Hampton Seashell Complex at 170 Ocean Blvd., 6pm

10/2/19 in Rochester at Frisbie Memorial Hospital in the Strafford Room, 11 Whitehall Road, 6pm

10/8/19 in Portsmouth at Public Library, 175 Parrott Ave., 6pm

10/28/2019 in Kingston at the Library, 56 Church Street, 6pm

Master Plan:

The Board of Selectmen gave the Planning Board a letter explaining their opinion on the Master Plan. T. Connors read the letter:

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Newington Planning Board

Dear Board members,

The critical element to the Master Plan is to protect the economic stability of the town. With the devaluing of Newington's two electric generation plants the tax base is in jeopardy. We urge you to be open minded regarding development of the Commercial and Office districts in the future. The zoning of the commercial/office districts must be open to new types of development to insure a solid financial base for the town.

Currently, the Master Plan Housing chapter promotes the development of senior housing in the commercial district. This should be expanded to include all housing and can be limited by the bedroom size and overall unit square footage.

Thank you for your consideration of this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Board of Selectmen

The Board feels it is very important that the town is as open as possible to anyone who would be proposing development of the mall area. K. Latchaw pointed out that the fossil fuel plants assessed value will be downgraded over the next several years. Newington must increase its tax base.

Police Grant:

Police Chief Mike Bilodeau explained that the Police Department has been approved to receive a grant from the State of NH that can be used for speed control and electronic devices for speed control. The department will get \$3,776 from the State. **K. Latchaw moved to apply for, accept and expend the Police Department grant. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Conservation Commission Over expenditure:

The Conservation Commission has submitted an over expenditure request. They want to take money out of the Town Forest expense line and put it in the beautification expense line so they can redo the sign on Fox Point Road. They want to either repair or replace the exact same sign. Rick Stern asked why the Conservation Commission was replacing signs. This falls under the authority of the Selectmen. The Board thanked R. Stern for his comment. **M. Marconi moved to table the Conservation Commission Over Expenditure Request until a later meeting. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

T. Connors called for a recess at 5:24pm.

The Board came back from the recess at 5:54pm.

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:55pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). 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.

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 5:59pm.

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.

Minutes:

M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of September 9, 2019 as amended. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Cemetery Budget 2020:

Cemetery Trustees Alan Wilson and Margaret Lamson presented the budget to the Selectmen. The 2020 budget's numbers are \$4,000 less than 2019. The Trustees would like to take the \$4,000 and place it in a new Capital Reserve account that would be used to save money for the future Cemetery Columbarium and will be voted on at the 2020 Town Meeting.

M. Lamson told the Board that four of the red maple trees in the PDA garden had been chewed up by the beavers that had gone under the fence.

M. Lamson thought that the Highway Department had done a fantastic job on the garden this year.

Sewer Budget 2020: Plant Manager Denis Messier and Sewer Commissioner Skip Cole presented the budget to the Selectmen. The 2020 budget is 4.4% less than last year. M. Roy mentioned that the Economic Development Committee had discussed some relief for Newington businesses for the sewer rates. D. Messier explained that the rates are set after the town meeting and the flows are analyzed. D. Messier can recommend a decrease, but the commissioners make the final decision.

Library Budget 2020: Library Director Lara Croft and Library Trustee, Jack O'Reilly presented the library budget. The 2020 budget is 3.81% more than last year. The increase is due to merit raises for the director and staff. J. O'Reilly explained that L. Croft is the only full time employee in town that does not receive step increases each year and she has not received a raise in two years. T. Connors cautioned L. Croft about merit raises. This had not been received well by the Budget Committee in the past. L. Croft explained that the trustees wanted merit raises because they felt that they motivate the staff's performance. L. Croft showed the Board charts that show how well the Newington Library performs compared to the other libraries in the State. M. Marconi congratulated L. Croft on the exceptional job she has done at the library.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:44pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder