

**Town of Newington
Board of Selectmen
January 7, 2002 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Board of Selectmen (BOS), Chairman John (Jack) O'Reilly, Selectman Cosmos Iocovozzi, & Selectman Jan Stuart; also, Fire Chief Larry Wahl & Board of Fire Engineers (BOFE), R. Guy Young, William White, & Wilbur Goins, and Executive Assistant Robert M. Belmore & Administrative Assistant Susan M Newcomer.

Chairman O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen discussed town business including the following:

- The Fire Department Budget Proposal for FY2002
- Selectman Budget
 1. Funding requests
 2. Mosquito Control
 3. Transfer Station
 4. Bulletin Board Repairs
- Review misc. applications, permits, abatements, and manifest for signature.
- Review New Correspondence & Business
 1. Coalition Meeting
 2. OEM Grant
 3. Job Descriptions

Fire Department Budget

In reviewing the Fire Department Budget Proposal for FY2002, it was noted by BOS Chairman O'Reilly that the proposed budget was up considerably. BOFE member Young explained that the increase was needed to hire new fire personnel to fully cover open shifts, i.e. to hire 1 person per shift to total 3 new fire department staff members. Young further added that due to the scheduling problems of the 7 Call Firefighters, only 3 to 4 were realistically available to fill in for vacations, etc.

Selectman Stuart, concerned with the taxpayers absorbing this cost all at once, recommended the possibility that 1 position be filled each year for three consecutive years. Chief Wahl replied that the needs are current due to the aftermath of September 11th, which has doubled overtime expenses within the department. Part of this expense is incurred when propane tankers come into port which requires that 5 people cover the fire station for 3 hours. Some of the Call Firefighters are unavailable to cover the station at those times.

BOS Chairman O'Reilly asked Chief Wahl if any money was available from the "Feds". Chief Wahl said no. Wahl also mentioned an agreement made in 1995 which stated that 2 people at one time, 24 hours per day, were to cover the fire station. The department is currently unable to fulfill that obligation without overtime.

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Selectman Stuart asked about the \$6,800 jump for the part-time secretary position. Young said the department had received only 4 resumes for the position and it seemed that the figure, based on 30 hours p/week at \$12 p/hr was realistic. Stuart was also concerned about Shift Leader stipends and wondered if it would cost less for a command position. After further discussion of this matter, it was noted that the figures for personnel were not complete. BOFE Young assured the Board of Selectmen that they would be complete for the Budget Committee meeting on January 23rd.

BOS chairman O'Reilly inquired about the price of the new phone system and wanted to know if the system would be the same as the one at the Police Department. Chief Wahl said yes. O'Reilly asked Wahl what the requested radios were for. Wahl said they needed 2 new mobile radios for the ambulance. There are problems with the ones they are using now. O'Reilly asked if the new radios would be digital and Wahl said no, they are unable to go digital at this time. Selectman Iocovozzi made a motion to forward the Fire Department Budget of \$663,786 to the Budget Committee as presented; second by O'Reilly. Motion passed 2-1 vote (Selectman Stuart – No, Selectmen O'Reilly and Iocovozzi – yes).

Minutes

Selectman Iocovozzi made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 10, 11, 17, and 27, 2001 Board of Selectmen meetings; motion seconded by Selectman Stuart, motion carried 3-0 vote.

Miscellaneous

A request for funding in the amount of \$16,980 for FY 2002 from the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) was denied by a 3-0 vote. The BOS discussed & took under advisement requests from L. Pickering for FY 2002 funding for 4-H and Newington Neighbor. The Board noted budget estimates received from R. G Young in the amount of \$3000 to cover asbestos removal and \$4232 for additional work to the Fire Station.

M.Morrison's NH DES Mosquito Permit Application was approved by a unanimous vote.

The Board approved, by a 3-0 vote, a game license application from CEC for 1 machine.

P. Pickering submitted an abatement application for an elderly exemption. A motion to accept the request was made by BOS Iocovozzi; seconded by Stuart. Motion carried 3-0. The BOS discussed & took under advisement an abatement application received from E.Mosher.

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A letter from Primex, that would allow the current Worker's Compensation Insurance rates to be locked in until December 31, 2004, was read. BOS Iocovozzi made a motion to accept the agreement; seconded by Stuart. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board decided to hold a special workshop meeting on January 14, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. to review assessment services and invited Will Corcoran to be present.

Selectman Iocovozzi agreed to attend the Coalition meeting in Concord on January 10th. Also, it was noted that the OEM Grant was received by the Police Department in the amount of \$33,282.76, an amount higher than expected. The job description for the Town Planner was approved unanimously. The Board confirmed they had approved the Administrative Assistant position job description.

The Chairman informed the Board he would be working on a Selectmen's Newsletter to include new town employees, needing a new transfer station attendant, etc..

Chairman O'Reilly called a recess at 6:55 p.m.

Public Info Meeting on DOT Exit 4 Turnpike Design

The Board reconvened in the Town Hall large meeting room at 7:00 p.m. for a Public Informational Meeting regarding NH DOT proposed safety improvements to the Spaulding Turnpike Exit 4.

Christopher Cross, resident, presented information that he had been working on with Newington property owners and the State Dept. of Transportation regarding alternative proposals to the DOT re-alignment of Exit 4.

Discussion took place among residents present, the Board of Selectmen, DOT representatives and C. Cross.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Newcomer
Administrative Assistant