

**Town of Newington
Board of Selectmen
February 7, 2001 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Board of Selectmen (BOS) Chairman John O'Reilly (R), Selectmen Cosmas Iocovozzi (I), & Christopher Cross (C); also, Executive Assistant (EA) Robert M. Belmore.

Chairman O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by I, second by C to approve the meeting minutes of 1/29/2001 as presented; motion passed, 3-0 vote.

New Business

- O'Reilly commented about the Pease Noise situation and presented updates from town attorney and the complaint log report. Cross mentioned that although there were a number of flights being transferred out, there was still an on-going presence and concern about the noise situation.
- Chairman O'Reilly distributed copies of a written motion entitled – *Motion to Prevent Payment of the Statewide Property Tax* (copy attached to minutes). O'Reilly read the motion, 2nd by I. Discussion: Selectman Cos updated the Board on some recent contacts he had with coalition members. Selectman Cross said he supported the motion and advocated moving forward consistent with the other Coalition Communities. Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

Discussion: It was pointed out that Portsmouth Assistant City Manager Ted Jankowski was drafting a letter to NHMA regarding their policy position on a state wide property tax. Selectman I said they had asked NHMA at the beginning of this court battle to assist them and they had said no – they could not & needed to stay neutral. Cos expressed his displeasure with NHMA's present positioning. Selectman I made a motion to have Newington explore its withdrawal from membership to the NHMA (New Hampshire Municipal Association) based on their current position on the StateWide Property Tax. There was no second rather a consensus by the Board to table the withdrawal motion until their next meeting. Motion by O'Reilly to hold the NHMA annual membership dues check until NHMA responds to the Board's concerns, 2nd by I; 3-0 vote.

- The Board discussed duties and responsibilities of various elected officials including the Budget Committee, Town Treasurer, Road Agent position and the duties of the Selectmen. The Board decided to have the Chairman prepare a statement to the Budget Committee regarding their recent cuts to the Selectmen budgets.
- The Selectmen discussed possible changes to the fee structure to rent the Town Hall facility. Motion by I, 2nd by C to increase the rental of the meeting hall to \$50 and \$100 for the hall & kitchen. Motion amended to include a March 1, 2001 effective date. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0 vote.

Discussion: the Board decided to issue fee waivers on a case by case basis and to take under advisement the implementation of a one time fee for organizations that use the facility on a regular, ongoing basis.

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- Selectman C presented several requests from the building inspector that the Board discussed and acted on.
- The Board reviewed and approved several facility use applications. A request from the Portsmouth Little League to use the town baseball field from April 2 to April 27 was reviewed. The Board indicated that they should be reminded not to park at the School or at the tennis courts, also it should be coordinated with the town of Greenland's recreational director, Bob Krasko. The request was placed on hold.
- The Board approved a tax overpayment refund to Maritimes. A brief discussion was held about the upcoming revaluation.
- Motion by I, 2nd by C to appoint Ruth Fletcher as the Sewer Commission Clerk; passed by a 3-0 vote.
- A notice from the State was reviewed regarding the appointment of the town Health Officer. Motion by I, 2nd by C to re-appoint Peggy Lamson as the town Health Officer (provided she accept the appointment); motion passed, 3-0 vote.
- The Board voted 3-0 to approve the use of the town hall meeting room to NHMA to hold a Town Officials Workshop on April 16, 2001.

The Board reviewed other correspondence received.

It was decided to schedule a meeting for Tuesday, February 20, 2001 due to the Presidents Day Holiday observed by the town.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Belmore