

**Town of Newington
Board of Selectmen
March 19, 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 6:33 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Motion by Cos, second by Chris to accept the meeting minutes of 2/20/01 and 3/12/01 as presented. Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

Meeting with Congressman John Sununu's representative

Mr. Sheridan Brown, Constituent Services Specialist, asked if the Board had any concerns or a need for assistance from the Congressman regarding any Federal Agency.

Town Forest: Selectman Cross suggested some help with Pease land. Selectman O'Reilly said the Town would like the forest area returned to the Town of Newington, even if it involved something like a 99 year lease to the Town. Barbara Hill said the Town was in a quandary, no one seemed to know if the Air Force transferred the town forest land area to the Pease Development Authority. It was noted that this land is the oldest town forest in the country.

Post Office: Selectman Iocovozzi asked for assistance in establishing a Post Office in the Town of Newington. He said that although there are less than a thousand residents, the Town swells to some 30,000 people in the course of the day. He said the Town would like its postal zip code back. He also said the Town would be willing to lease a town building to serve as a post office.

The Board concurred that a post office was important to the Town's identity. It was noted that the Air National Guard still uses "03803".

Open Space: The Board suggested the Congressman look at helping preserve the open space areas of the old air force base.

Sewer Commissioner

Selectman I gave the oath of office to newly elected sewer commissioner, Robert Hart, Sr.

Historic District Commission

HDC Chairman Barbara Hill updated the Board on Commission grant projects and asked for their support. The Board agreed to sign any necessary letters of support for their grant pursuits.

Transfer Station

Mike Walsh met with the Board to discuss the 2001 transfer station operations. The Board said he would have to attend the necessary training to be certified by the State. The Selectmen discussed what materials are acceptable. It was decided that the year 2000 schedule for the transfer station would carry over to this year - 2001.

Mott Cove

The Board discussed a request from Susan Lembcke to accept Mott Cove as a town road. The Board decided to hold off on scheduling a public hearing until they could conduct a site walk without any snow covering the road and road shoulders.

Deputy Tax Collector

Motion by I, second by C to accept the recommendation of the tax collector and appoint Theresa Tomlinson as a Deputy Tax Collector. Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

Deputy Town Treasurer

Motion by I, second by C to accept the recommendation of the treasurer and appoint George Fletcher as Deputy Treasurer. Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

Selectmen discussed a request from town treasurer Laura Coleman to purchase the BMSI check reconciliation software package at a cost of \$500. Selectman Cross asked was this the software (funding) she asked the Budget Committee to remove, they did, and now she wants it. Selectman O'Reilly concurred - it was. Motion by C, second by I to make the purchase despite the recommended elimination by the treasurer & subsequent action by the Budget Committee.

Miscellaneous

- Selectman O'Reilly mentioned there was a public forum on the State wide property tax issue on March 27th in Portsmouth that he was going to attend.
- The Board discussed the latest happenings regarding the Coalition's action in court including updates from O'Reilly on discussions with town counsel and from Selectman Iocovozzi regarding State of NH Officials publicly threatening to place liens on the Coalition Towns.
- The Board announced the NHMA Local Officials Workshop to be held at the Town Hall on April 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and asked that elected officials and departments be notified.
- Town roads were posted with a 10 ton weight limit restriction imposed by the BOS.
- Selectman Cross said he would forward as request for the Highway Safety Committee to convene and address the need for lights for town bike paths & perhaps pursue a State grant.
- The Board discussed the possibility of a one time nominal charge to non-profit organizations and town businesses for use of the town hall. The status quo will remain for now, no charge.

- The BOS discussed a March 19, 2001 dated request from H.L. Patten Construction to release the \$7,000 escrow funds held for the completion of construction items at 32 Nimble Hill Road. The Board forwarded the request to the Planning Board for review and action.
- The BOS reviewed a request by Mr. Jim Noble to use the softball fields. The Board tabled the request until O'Reilly could check on the dates that the Greenland-Newington League would be using the fields.
- Selectman R said he discussed the new Police Chief hiring process with Chief Stimson. R said an invitation was going to a former Selectman to sit on the screening committee.
- The Board approved applications to use the town hall including waiving the fee for the Church, Motion by C, second by I, 3-0 vote.
- The Board discussed the charge for copies made at the town hall for the public. The Board decided to maintain a charge of \$.25 per copied page.

Board of Selectmen roles & assignments

Chairman of Board - Motion by R to nominate Selectman Cross as Chairman, second by I, 3-0 vote. Selectman Iocovozzi thanked Selectman O'Reilly for his service as the Chairman for the last year. Selectman Cross also expressed his appreciation for Jack's hard work during the past year as Chair.

The following roles and assignments were agreed upon after some discussion.

Chairman of Board - Chris Cross
Budget Comm. Rep. - Chris Cross
Planning Board Rep. - Chris Cross

Police Dept. Liaison - Jack O'Reilly
Fire Dept. Liaison - Cos Iocovozzi
PDA Liaison - Chris Cross

Conservation Commission - Jack O'Reilly
Emergency Management - Jack O'Reilly
Historic District Commission - Jack O'Reilly

Highway Safety Committee - Cos Iocovozzi
Fox Point Committee - Cos Iocovozzi
Recreation Commission - Cos Iocovozzi

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Belmore