

**Newington Board of Selectmen
Meeting**

**June 27, 2005
Newington Town Hall
6:30 p.m.**

Accepted 7/6/05

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Non-Public; according to RSA 91 A (a) II Personnel. Roll call to enter non-public; 6:02pm Selectman Stuart- yes, Selectman O'Reilly- yes, Chairman Iocovozzi- yes.

Adjourn Non-Public 6:23 p.m. No votes were taken.

Meeting was called back into the public session at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Chairman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Jan Stuart, Town Treasurer George Fletcher and Administrative Assistant Bea Marconi. Also, see attendance sheet

Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman O'Reilly asked if the Town has an investment policy. Town Treasurer Fletcher responded that the funds he controls must be liquid. Selectman O'Reilly suggested that Administrative Assistant Bea Marconi call the State and get a sample Investment Policy.

Chairman Iocovozzi asked Town Treasurer Fletcher to begin a discussion on the surplus/cash flow problem. Selectman O'Reilly said that he called Mr. Jim Katkin at the SAU office to find out what the SAU office does with surplus. AA Marconi said the response from Mr. Katkin was that the surplus is used as a credit against the district assessment as shown on the MS-25, filed with the DRA. The Town does not receive money back-the unspent money acts as a credit for the following year.

Town Treasurer Fletcher reported that the Town borrowed money 4 times. He would like to be included in the meeting with the DRA to set the tax rate. TT Fletcher suggested that the Selectmen figure out how much raises will be, retirement, health insurance, cars, future grants, etc. and try to set a surplus figure so the Town won't have to borrow funds. AA Marconi explained that when the DRA comes in October to set the tax rate, it is based on 2005 expenses, not the next years' budget. It is set for the current year. TT Fletcher asked if the surplus percentage could be increased. Selectman O'Reilly answered affirmatively. The cost of borrowing this money was only \$1,000. Selectman O'Reilly stated that a raised tax rate would be harder to swallow than to spend \$1,000 to borrow money. There was further discussion on the surplus. Ms. Barbara McDonald

feels that tax payers didn't understand what they were voting on with the budget concerning the surplus. TT Fletcher asked what would happen if there is a disaster. There is nothing in reserve. He said that his main point is that when people vote at Town meeting they should have known that the Town was planning on borrowing money. He feels the surplus should be increased to prevent the borrowing of money. 12% may be the correct percentage of surplus. Ms. Ruth Fletcher said that had she known when she signed purchase orders for the fire department that the money wasn't there, she would not have signed them until after the funds were there.

Chairman Iocovozzi said that the Board will try to adjust the budget this year as much as they can. TT Fletcher also suggested that the memo to conserve spending at the first part of the year be sent to not only departments but to the Fire Board of Engineers and the Police Commissioners. Mrs. Fletcher said that the Selectmen's memo was not sufficient. The Selectmen signed manifests that included clothing allowance, which could have waited until after the money was there.

Mr. Vincent Frank felt the Board did not make enough effort to get more than one bid for projects in town. Mr. Frank said he would check back minutes.

Chairman Iocovozzi asked TT Fletcher if there was anything else. TT Fletcher said that first, he would like to be included in the meeting where the tax rate is set. Second, there should be a delay in spending in the spring. A letter should go to the Engineers, Committees, Commissions and Department Heads.

TT Fletcher discussed the increase in his stipend from \$4000 to \$5000. Selectman Stuart said that based on TT Fletcher's work, he deserves more than what the Town offers him. After much discussion, it was decided to grant TT Fletcher a stipend of \$5000. Selectman Stuart made the motion to find the additional \$1000 in the BOS budget to increase Town Treasurer Fletcher's stipend to \$5000. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Selectman O'Reilly suggested amending the motion. Selectman Stuart made the amendment with the original motion that this \$1000 be taken from the legal line item of the BOS budget. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 3-0. Motion with amendment carries. Chairman Iocovozzi asked that the check be cut at the second cut for stipends in November/December.

Selectman O'Reilly motioned to approve and waive the fee for Hislop for Town Hall Use for July 17th. Seconded by Selectman Stuart. Vote 3-0.

AA Marconi updated the Board on a meeting she had with a Verizon representative. Verizon requests that the Town consider them for Broadband. Verizon sent a plan to the Town Office. There would be franchise fee that the Town would be given.

Resident Cliff Abbott brought several issues to the Board. The first was the stones by the bridge on the Spaulding Turnpike. The Cemetery could use these stones for cemetery walls. Chairman Iocovozzi said he would look into this.

Mr. Abbott's second issue was the water meter problem at the cemetery. The water is currently shut off. The Selectmen say there is around \$15,000 in the cemetery capital improvements plan. The Selectmen would like to possibly work on this water problem with the cemetery and library in the Spring of 2006. Mr. Abbott will find maps of pipes and septic deign to forward to the Selectmen.

Lastly, Mr. Abbott would like someone to clip or trim the bushes and brush. Chairman Iocovozzi will speak with Road Agent Leonard Thomas and added that the cemetery trustees have closed the water off at the cemetery due to a leak in the main system. This will be repaired as soon as the leak is located.

Correspondence from Altus Engineering was read. The certificate of insurance is good.

The next scheduled meeting is for July 4th, but being a holiday, the Selectmen will reschedule. There is a meeting with the NH DOT on July 6th at 6:30. The Selectmen will be meeting at 6:00 on July 6th.

Ms. McDonald mentioned that there was a resident who was introduced as a member of the Recreation Committee, but is not a member. AA Marconi was instructed to call Rec. Chairman Jack Anderson about this resident's appointment. No paper work has been filed with the Town Clerk or Selectmen.

Ms. McDonald requested a copy of the draft of the June 20th Selectmen's meeting.

There being no further business before the Board of Selectmen;

Selectman O'Reilly motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Selectman Stuart. Vote 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bea Marconi
Administrative Assistant