

**Newington Board of Selectmen
Meeting**

**October 4, 2004
Newington Town Hall
6:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Chairman Jan Stuart, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, George Fletcher and AA Cynthia Gillespie.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to order 6:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Motion made by Selectman O'Reilly to accept the minutes of September 27, 2004.
Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

George Fletcher spoke to the Board about sewer manhole covers on Shattuck Way and River Road. Mr. Fletcher stated that a Mr. Ted Blood approached the Sewer Commission with a bill for repairs to his car because he had hit a defective manhole cover. The Sewer Commission asked Attorney Loughlin to draw up a release for Mr. Blood to sign and the Sewer Commission will reimburse Mr. Blood for the damages. Mr. Fletcher said that his concern is not about the amount going to Mr. Blood, but about who should be held responsible for damages to the manhole covers in the future. Mr. Fletcher said that there are about 8 or 9 manhole covers that are going to be repaired this year. Georgia Pacific pulls in about 100 loads per day, as well as Waste Management, Sprague and other trucks that come through town. There are about four businesses that really contribute to the damage to the roads. Mr. Fletcher asked why can't these companies help pay for the manhole covers. Selectman Iocovozzi said it would be impossible to go to only four or five companies on that road and make them pay for the repairs. He added that he feels that this is part of the Sewer District's infrastructure and repairing them is part of the cost of doing business. He added that the covers that are there now are twenty five years old. Mr. Fletcher pointed out that the next twenty five years will be different because of the increased traffic and weight. Selectman Iocovozzi stated that maybe the Sewer Commission could check with their insurance carrier to see if they can get a special policy to cover the manholes and what the cost would be. Mr. Fletcher said that if it's not too expensive it would be a good idea.

There was discussion on the Personnel Plan revision. Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to resend the previous vote to adopt the Personnel Plan until further changes have been made. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0

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Selectman O'Reilly spoke about the bond needed for the purchase of the Conservation easement on the Frink Farm. He mentioned that the Conservation Commission may be ready to pay the total amount the Town owes for the purchase. This will save the Town the amount of the interest on the Bond. He added that if the Conservation Commission does put up the total amount that the Selectmen should increase the amount in next years warrant article returning \$75,000 to \$100,000 to the Conservation Capital Reserve Account. AA Gillespie stated that the Town will still need to put up the \$600,000 owed by the Federal Government at the time of the closing. She stated that if the Town requests the Feds to release the funds prior to closing it will take 60 days. AA Gillespie stated that she has checked with the Bank of New Hampshire and they said they can loan the Town the \$600,000 in a Grant Anticipation Note, they need two weeks. Selectman O' Reilly made the motion to allow the Town to Bond up to \$275,000 minus whatever the Conservation Commission contributes. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Selectman Iocovozzi made the motion to sign a Grant Anticipation Note for up to \$600,000. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 3-0.

Chairman Stuart asked if the Board of Selectmen would like to meet with the Board of Fire Engineers. There was discussion on the amount of money that the Fire department spends on dues, memberships and other expenses. Selectman O'Reilly said that the Police Commissioners review every purchase order that goes through their department and he doubts that the Fire Engineers do the same. The main concern is that tax dollars are being spent on frivolous things, like the Portsmouth Rotary Club. The Board asked AA Gillespie to invite the Board of Fire Engineers to a Selectmen's meeting.

AA Gillespie said that John Newick, Fabyan Grounds care, asked if the Town wanted him to remove the dead plants from the Police Department's garden. The Selectmen said no, Road Agent Leonard Thomas can take care of it.

Selectman Iocovozzi addressed the Board concerning a problem at the Cemetery. Mr. Kowalski's wife passed away and Mr. Cliff Abbott sold him two graves. Then Mr. Kowalski purchase six different graves and moved his wife to the new grave site. Mr. Kowalski ordered a stone monument and wanted to place the monument only between four of the graves leaving two of the graves with no stone incase other members of the family wanted to use the other two graves. Mr. Abbott told Mr. Kowalski the monument could not be centered only between four of the graves that it had to be centered between all six of the graves. Saturday, Mr. Kowalski called Selectman Iocovozzi and met

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Selectman Iocovozzi at his office bringing a two page letter. Mr. Kowalski wants to sue the Town because Mr. Abbott never told him about not being able to place the monument until after Mr. Kowalski already had it engraved. Mr. Kowalski had to pay to move his wife at his own expense and already paid for the monument. Selectman Iocovozzi spoke with Mr. Abbott about the situation. It ended with Mr. Abbott going to Mr. Kowalski's house to tell him the monument will be fine. Mr. Abbott was supposed to call Selectman Iocovozzi after that but he didn't. Selectman Iocovozzi checked back with Mr. Kowalski and Mr. Kowalski said that a letter was on his doorstep stating Mr. Abbott's resignation from the Cemetery Committee. Chairman Stuart suggested that the Cemetery needs a full time Sexton and that it should be some one that is a resident of the Town. Selectman Iocovozzi stated that it has to be someone that can do the paperwork as well as and the time to do the selling. He added that there is a lot to the process. Selectman Iocovozzi suggested that the Board talk to Mr. Abbott and to clarify if he has resigned or not.

AA Gillespie asked if Billy Beals was buried at the Newington Cemetery. The Town has not received any burial or cremation certificate on Billy yet. Selectman Iocovozzi said Mr. Beals was cremated and asked AA Gillespie to ask Mr. Abbott.

Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to accept \$10.00 in lieu of taxes from Great Bay Services. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

A memo and quotes from Rick St. Laurent for a carpet/floor cleaner was read. The machines will strip the floor and since the Town is putting so much money into a new floor for the Town Hall it should be maintained and taken care of. The Selectmen requested that AA Gillespie ask how long it would take Mr. St. Laurent to take care of the floors. Selectman Iocovozzi asked if it would be less expensive to hire the work out twice a year. Chairman Stuart stated that the Board will take it under advisement.

Chairman Stuart said that the "No Fire Arms" sign near Kent's Pond is in the wrong place. Chairman Stuart suggested that the sign be placed at the entrance of the path that leads into Flynn pit.

Signatures and Approvals

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to approve the appointments of Dale Sylvia and Christopher DeWolf as deputy forest fire wardens. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

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The Deputy Forest Fire Warden appointment application for Dale Sylvia was signed.

The Deputy Forest Fire Warden appointment application for Christopher DeWolf was signed.

The Newington Sewer Commission letter dated September 28th was read. The Sewer Commission voted unanimously to nominate Thomas Redden to be appointed to the Sewer Commission. Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to appoint Thomas Redden to the Sewer Commission. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

An abatement of property tax for B & M Railroad was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen.

The Purchase Order to transfer the funds for 2004 to the Capital Reserve Accounts in the amount of \$240,000 was approved and signed.

The Purchase Order to transfer the funds for 2004 to the Conservation Land Acquisition Account in the amount of \$50,000 was approved and signed.

The Selectmen reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's Report for August 2004.

Town Hall Use

A Town Hall use form from Thermo Electron for an October 21st meeting was approved and signed.

A Town Hall use form from Doug Reed for a November 18th Celiac Sprue Meeting was approved and signed.

There being no further business before the Board:

Adjourn 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gillespie
Administrative Assistant