

**Newington Board of Selectmen
Meeting**

**December 27, 2004
Newington Town Hall
6:00 p.m.**

In attendance: Chairman Jan Stuart, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf, Road Agent Leonard Thomas, Recreation Committee members Chris Belmare, Peter MacDonald and Keith Frizzell, Library Trustees Blake Staude and Patricia Bennett and AA Cynthia Gillespie.

6:00 PM – *Call to Order*

Pledge of Allegiance

Miscellaneous

Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf addressed the Board of Selectmen regarding the award of a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$64,665. The Chief stated that the Grant is for First Responder Safety and Response Enhancement. The reimbursement from Homeland Security is 100% upon purchase. Chief Greenleaf added that the equipment that has been approved for this Grant includes: a Sparks Computer System, a Tracker FRT, Amkus Rescue Tools and Rut Struts. The Chief asked for the Board's permission to place the order for the equipment pending an approval at Town Meeting (similar to the way the Police Department orders new cruisers). The Chief explained that the reason he would like to place the orders now is because prices on the equipment are due to go up after the first of the year. The Selectmen agreed that ordering the merchandise, pending approval at Town Meeting is acceptable.

Chief Greenleaf also spoke to the Selectmen about the Fire Station Bay Floors and Interior Painting. He presented the Board with three Bids on the interior painting and one Bid on the bay floors from Firehouse Floors. He explained that the floor is a 15 year product. He stressed that the floors need to be done soon because the cost of the floor has increased 6% from last year's estimated price.

Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to accept the minutes of December 6, 2004. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2004. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Signatures and Approvals

The Selectmen signed and approved a Supplemental Warrant in the amount of \$581.57.

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Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to approve and sign an abatement for Sprague & Sons. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Selectman Iocovozzi made a motion to approve and sign an abatement for Evelyn Ferland. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 3-0.

The Selectmen signed and approved the 2004 Equalization Ratio Report to be sent to the Department of Revenue.

A motion to appoint Margaret Lamson to the Pease Development Authority Board for a three year term was made by Selectman O'Reilly. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to accept the recommendation of Wil Corcoran, Assessing Agent and sign a Veteran's Credit for Gary Kiedaisch. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

The following appointments to Forest Fire Warden were reviewed and approved by the Board. Motion to accept made by Selectman O'Reilly, seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Tim Field	Dennis Cote
Dale Sylvia	Paul St. Cyr- Butler
Christopher DeWolf	Shawn Leathers
Thomas McQuade	Brain Jacques
David Low	Roy Greenleaf
Kenneth Stanley	Philip Sutton

Budget Reviews

Library Trustees Blake Staude and Patricia Bennett presented the Library Budget in the amount of \$53,378 to the Board. Mr. Staude pointed out that there is an increase in Librarian, Becky Marks salary. He explained that the Trustees took an average of Librarian's salaries in New Hampshire and came up with \$21.64 an hour. This is the second phase of a two-part increase for Becky that was discussed last year and will bring her up to the average librarian hourly rate in New Hampshire and right in line with smaller libraries in the seacoast. He added that the Trustees will not be asking for more than a COLA for Becky for 2006 onward. Mr. Staude pointed out that Becky is doing a wonderful job with the Library, circulation has doubled and patrons have increased. Selectman O'Reilly stated that part-timers are not entitled to the COLA. They can get raises at the discretion of the Boards.

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Mr. Staude stated that the Trustees would like to add \$2,600 for a maintenance person or custodian/janitorial service. He explained that this would be for a 3 or 4 hours per week to clean the Library. The Board asked if the Town custodian was cleaning the Library regularly. Patricia Bennett stated that he was cleaning the bathrooms and vacuuming the carpets. She added that the floors and the windows were not being cleaned. She stated that the Library is not being maintained in a manner in which the Trustees approve. Selectman Iocovozzi suggested that the Library Trustees send a memo to the Selectmen when issues like this arise. Selectman O'Reilly suggested that Rick St. Laurent the Town's custodian meet with Becky, to get a list of what needs to be done. Selectman O'Reilly pointed out a new line item for equipment maintenance of \$600. He asked if there was any equipment specifically in mind. Mrs. Bennett said this line item would include software and upkeep of all the equipment, such as the copier. Book maintenance is for plastic wrapping all the books as well as cases for video tapes and books on tapes. Selectman O'Reilly noticed that the supply line has decreased significantly. Selectman O'Reilly asked if they have anything in mind for the \$1,000 in equipment purchases. Mrs. Bennett stated they had not. Selectman O'Reilly stated that the Trustees are requesting a 11.4% increase in their budget. The Board requested that the Trustees increase Becky's salary in two parts, half this year and half next year. This will reduce the salary line by \$2,500. Mrs. Bennett suggested taking the \$1,000 out of the equipment purchase line. Selectman O'Reilly said that by making these two changes the Library budget will be \$49,878 and have a 4% increase.

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to recommend a Library Budget of \$49,878 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Road Agent Leonard Thomas presented the Highway Budget in the amount of \$108,531 to the Board. Selectman O'Reilly suggested cutting the road sweeping line to \$1000 instead of \$1,200 and roadside mowing to \$1,500 instead of \$2,000 and equipment rental down to \$700 instead of \$1,000. There was discussion on road salt. The price of salt has increased by \$12.00 a ton. During 2003 the Town used 713 tons. In 2004 it used 576 tons. After discussion by the Board \$86,000 was added to the Budget for Road Surface Maintenance and the other line item requested were not changed.

Selectman Iocovozzi pointed out that the work at Brickyard Way and Gundalow Landing is going to be expensive. Selectman O'Reilly noticed that the vehicle maintenance line is over expended. Road Agent Thomas explained that there have been a lot of problems with the 74 truck. He believes that the problems have been straightened out. Chairman Stuart suggested that the Board needs to start thinking about setting up a Capital Reserve Account for Highway vehicles. Road Agent Thomas requested an increase in his salary because of the increase in insurance prices. There was discussion on the Road Agent's salary and stipend. Selectman O'Reilly suggested an increase in salary to \$16.00 per hour. Chairman Stuart stated that she wants to see the Road Agent's stipend increased also. Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to recommend the Highway Budget of \$194,531 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

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Chris Belmare, Peter MacDonald and Keith Frizzell presented the Recreation Budget of \$52,595 to the Board. Selectman O'Reilly stated that the Recreation budget is up by 36%. Selectman O'Reilly asked what the \$10,000 for adult activities is for. Mr. Frizzell said that this is a pilot program. After looking into the Town of Newington joining the City of Portsmouth's Recreation program and getting a quote of approximately \$45,000 a year, the Recreation committee was concerned about the number of residents that would use the program. So the Committee decided that for the first year it would be better to set up a voucher program, to monitor the usage. If a Newington resident uses an activity that Portsmouth Recreation offers, the resident could bring their receipt to the Town Hall and be reimbursed. If a Portsmouth resident is charged \$3 to participate in the Easter egg hunt, and Newington resident is charged \$5, the Town of Newington would reimburse the Newington resident \$2. Mr. Frizzell pointed out that Newington residents will not be able to join Spinnaker Point with this system. Selectman O'Reilly said that he feels \$10,000 was too much if the average reimbursement will be \$5. He recommended decreasing the Voucher Program line to \$5,000. Mr. Frizzell said the amount needs to be high enough that the reimbursements can be tracked. There was discussion on the Newington Summer program. Mr. Frizzell stated that due to the decline in attendance it has become uneconomical both in a time and money stand point to have a Summer Program (last year there was 15 children). The Recreation Committee looked into the Portsmouth Summer Program and Camp Gundalow as alternatives. They did not get a good feeling about the Portsmouth Summer Program. The Committee recommended reimbursing residents 80% of the cost of Camp Gundalow. The Committee requested \$32,400 for 30 kids to go to Camp Gundalow. Selectman O'Reilly suggested that the Recreation Committee lower the estimated number of campers to 25 and reduce the co-pay to 50% from 80%. This would reduce the Summer Program line to \$27,000. Selectman O'Reilly asked what \$1,670 in General Maintenance is for. Mr. Frizzell said it is for labor to put the siding on the Recreation Shed. Selectman O'Reilly said he would do the work himself. He recommended decreasing this line to \$70.00. These changes will reduce the total Recreation Budget to \$40,595, a 5% increase. Selectman Iocovozzi made the motion to recommend the Recreation Budget of \$40,595 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 3-0.

The Recreation Committee presented the Board of Selectman with a list of Capital Improvement Projects for 2005 totaling \$157,400. The Board of Selectmen explained that Capital Improvement Projects can not be put into the Recreation's Operating Budget. These items need to be appropriated under Capital Outlay in the General Government Budget. Selectman O'Reilly said that he feels that the Ball Field maintenance, the Baseball backstop, and the Bridge to the Ball field can be budgeted for this year. Any work done to the playground at the school is the responsibility of the School Board. There have been quotes gathered on the Tennis Courts and the Board of Selectmen feels that the Tennis Courts are not a priority this year. The Board of Selectmen promised to look into the problems with the Fox Point Boat Ramp. Selectman O'Reilly recommended putting large ticket items before the Town's residents in the form of a Warrant Article.

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Selectman O' Reilly made the motion to recommend the Historic District Commission's budget of \$6,200 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Selectman Iocovozzi made the motion to recommend the Conservation Commission Budget of \$11,355 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 3-0.

There was discussion on the Cemetery Committee budget of \$15,850. The Contracted services/maintenance line was decreased to \$12,600 from \$15,000. Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to recommend a Cemetery Committee budget of \$13,150 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

There being no further business before the Board:

Adjourn 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gillespie
Administrative Assistant