

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday January 10th, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi via Zoom, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Board of Fire Engineers Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Steven Paquin, Building Inspector, Martha Roy, Town Administrator via Zoom and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of December 15th, 2021, December 20th, 2021 and December 27th, 2021 B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2022 Buildings Budgets Revisions-Electricity Lines-Steven Paquin:

S. Paquin recommends that the electricity budget expenses lines for town buildings be increased due to an increase in the rates. Town Hall would increase from \$11,500 to \$13,500, Old Town Hall from \$3,000 to \$3,500, Fire Station from \$8,800 to 12,500 and the Police Station from \$8,500 to \$9,500. The Fire Station has the largest increase due to the addition. **M. Marconi moved to increase the town buildings electrical expense lines; Town Hall an increase of \$2,000, Old Town Hall an increase of \$500, Fire Station an increase of \$3,700 and Police Station an increase of \$1,000. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

2022 Town Hall Lobby Video Recording-DMV Audit-Steven Paquin:

When the State audited the Town Clerk's office it was recommended that a camera be installed to record transactions at the Town Clerk's window. S. Paquin recommends the 2 Way Communications (Steller Networks) proposal for \$3,513.90. This system would cover both the Town Clerk's window and the Town Hall window and it would run off the current system that is already installed at the Town Hall. This proposal would be for an additional camera and an upgrade to the computer that runs the cameras.

S. Paquin also presented two proposals for recording meetings at the Town Hall. The first quote is from 2 Way Communications (Steller Networks) for \$2,461.22. The second quote is from Town Hall Streams for \$3,000. B. Blonigan likes the proposal from 2 Wat because the town owns the system and there is no contract so the town could back out anytime. T. Connors likes the proposal from Town Hall Streams because they do all the work. All the town staff has to do is tell them when meetings are taking place and

Town Hall Streams records the meeting and also uploads it and keeps it for five years. The Town of Rye currently uses this system and likes it a lot. Discussion ensued about the benefits of the two systems.

M. Marconi moved to accept the proposal from 2 Way Communications (Steller Networks) for the installation of a camera in the town hall to cover the town clerk window and town office window for \$3,513.90 and to accept the proposal from Town Hall Streams for recording meetings in the Town Hall for \$3,000. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2022 Police Budget Approval for \$1,912,389:

The 2022 Police has decreased due to health coverage choices. **M. Marconi moved to approve the Police Department budget for \$1,912,389 and to pass it along to the Budget Committee. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Sale of Town Land Tax Map 19, Lot 2:

The Board reviewed the letter from Town Assessor, Ed Tinker, about the assessment of the property. The Board held two public meetings about the sale and received public comment. M. Marconi stated that he normally doesn't support the sale of town land, but think this sale is beneficial to the town. **M. Marconi moved to approve the sale of the town land, Tax Map 19, Lot 2, through public bidding with a minimum bid requirement of \$222,000. The bids shall be subject to the terms that the Board of Selectmen believe are in the best interest if the Town. The bids will be due on February 7, 2022. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

2022 Seasonal PT Recreation Director Warrant Article \$10,000:

B. Blonigen moved to not recommend the 2022 Seasonal PT Recreation Director warrant article for \$10,000. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2022 Library Building Capital Reserve Warrant Article \$20,000:

B. Blonigen would like to know what the \$20,000 is for. Originally it was for the foundation, but then the trustees repaired it themselves for \$6,000. The Board decided to table this item until more information is received.

2022 Historic Preservation Capital Reserve Fund \$10,000:

This money would be used to catalog items in the Old Town Hall. **B. Blonigen moved to not recommend the 2022 Historic Preservation Capital Reserve Fund for \$10,000. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

2022 HDC Budget Grant Line Increase From \$8,000 to \$10,000:

B. Blonigen moved to increase the HDC budget grant line from \$8,000 to \$10,000 contingent that the money will not be spent if the grant is not received. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2022 Stone School Budget Increase Request \$10,000:

M. Roy said that there is a Stone School Capital Reserve fund that has over \$31,000 in it. S. Paquin said that he is attended an HDC meeting this morning and they discussed the Stone School improvements that need to be done. S. Paquin feels that hazard mitigation for the building has to be done before asking a contractor to come into the building. T. Connors asked if the hazard mitigation could be done for \$30,000. S. Paquin said that he thought so. **M. Marconi moved to not recommend the Stone School \$10,000 budget increase. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

USAF Soil Testing Request-Transfer Station & Fire Station:

B. Blonigen liked this letter from the USAF much better than the previous letter. However, he is concerned that they mentioned that they think the pollution around the Fire Station was caused by the Town not the USAF because the Fire Department washed out tanker trucks after fires. E. Hoyt said that the fire department flushes hoses at the scene, not at the Fire Station. Eric Weinrieb, Town Engineer, wrote a letter recommended that the Board allow the USAF to test at these sites. **M. Marconi moved to allow the USAF to test the grounds for PFOAs at the Fire Station and Transfer Station. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Draft Vacation Buy Back Policy-Requirement for Use of Vacation Time:

M. Roy said that she was contacted by Rick Stern because he was concerned about burn out from the fire fighters if they don't take any vacation. E. Hoyt said that the department can't mandate people to take time off. The department has resources for mental and physical health of the firefighters. E. Hoyt has talked to R. Stern and explained that this is not an issue for his department. B. Blonigen explained that this was brought up during union negotiations and believes that good decisions were made and sees this policy as a "win, win". M. Roy said that this draft policy will be forwarded to all departments for their input.

IAFF Local 4104 Union 2022 Tentative Agreement Review and Vote:

The Board reviewed the draft warrant article. T. Connors said that it has been reviewed by the negotiation team and was approved by legal. B. Blonigen thought that the Town had done a good job on the negotiations and treated people fairly. It is important to have quality employees at a fair rate. **B. Blonigen moved to approve the IAFF Local 4104 Union 2022 agreement as proposed. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 1:39pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (c). B. Blonigen seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to return to public session at 1:44pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to seal the minutes indefinitely. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes. All were in favor.

Adjournment: B. Blonigen moved to adjourn at 1:44pm. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder