

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 12th, 2023

Present: Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Chris Wayss and Town Administrator Martha Roy.

B. Blonigen called the meeting to order at 7:39^{am}~~pm~~, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Portsmouth Indoor Multisport Complex Site Investigation Committee Discussion:

B. Blonigen explained that Selectmen Brandon Arsenault couldn't be at the meeting today, but he sent an email about this subject.

B. Blonigen read B. Arsenault's items that he hopes Brian Haberstroh can ask as the Committee evolves:

1. What is the public contribution to this project?
2. Will a private company be running it or will this be a publicly run facility?
3. Will this be tax free to the entity that is running it?
4. What will the public contribution be? Free land, no taxes?

C. Wayss said that his feelings about this subject are very similar. He thought Newington's Rep on the committee, Brian Haberstroh, should do a lot of listening and ask the right questions about the expectations for this project. C. Wayss said that is important that Newington and B. Haberstroh are noncommittal to anything until we have a proposal and all can give input.

B. Blonigen agreed and thanked Brian Haberstroh for stepping up to represent Newington and thought it was important to give B. Haberstroh direction as Newington's representative.

B. Blonigen said that he is suspicious of Portsmouth because they love to develop and now that they want to build this facility, they have no land left for it. B. Blonigen would like B. Haberstroh to go to that committee and find out what their thought process is. How is this going to be funded? What is the committee recommending for its location? Newington has a mall that is searching for clientele. B. Blonigen doesn't want the committee walking into the meeting with the thought that they are going to put this complex at the mall location. He hopes they will explore all possible locations in the seacoast.

C. Wayss said that if the entity wanted to build the sports complex at the mall and they create a deal with the owners of the mall to build the complex there, it would be a great source of income for Newington. The committee needs to examine all options and then come forward with a proposal.

B. Blonigen said that any proposal that comes forward would have to have public hearings for the residents to voice their thoughts. The Planning Board and Recreation Committee would also be involved in the process.

C. Wayss said that B. Haberstroh has a lot of knowledge in this area and will be a real benefit to the Town during this process and his participation is really appreciated.

Old Business:

B. Blonigen said that he walked into the Town Forest and found the fence post and put a cone on top of it. L. Thomas and crew will be removing it.

M. Roy said that Torrington could meet with the Selectmen on Wednesday, November 1st. Another meeting will be held on Thursday November 2nd, which will include meeting with the USAF and budget reviews.

B. Blonigen asked when they are going to start digging the pipe on Fox Point Rd. M. Roy said that she has an email into to Bourassa Construction asking that and will report back. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to ask them to do something with the water shutoffs that are in the middle of Fox Point Road. They could take the caps off and set them on a guardrail and put a cone over the hole.

Public Comment:

There was none.

Adjournment: C. Wayss moved to adjourn at 7:49^{am}~~pm~~. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Eleanor Boy, Recorder