

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Newington Town Hall

October 16, 2006

Preliminary

Chairman O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:40pm

Present: Chairman O'Reilly, Selectman Stuart, Selectman Iovovozzi, Town Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Building Inspector Charlie Smart, Police Chief Tretter, George Fletcher, Jean Bowser, Barbara McDonald, Sandi Clark, Jim Garity, Cliff Abbott, Dottie Watson at 8:20pm

Selectman Stuart stated that she wanted to clarify a comment made at the October 2nd meeting. Selectman Stuart stated that it was recorded in the Portsmouth Herald that Dr. George Cushing was against the after school program. He is in fact for the after school program providing it's at minimum cost to the town.

Minute Approval

Selectman Stuart moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 2nd. Selectman Iocovozzi seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, motion passed.

Police - Draft to the Alarm Fees

Chief Tretter stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of changing the alarm fees for the local businesses in town. Due to the increase in the number of businesses in Newington, sending out the renewals has become a clerical nightmare. The Chief feels by increasing the prices of the permit would help the matter. Chairman O'Reilly read off the list of all of the new fee prices. A public hearing is scheduled for November 6th on this matter, per the Selectmen.

Police – Agency Data Sharing Software Grant

Chief Tretter also brought up a grant that would pay for updated software to get information from surrounding police stations on a person. This technology would be installed in the police cruisers. Selectman Iocovozzi asked if the grant was 100%, which the Chief answered yes. Chief Tretter also added that they would be in competition with the state police on obtaining grant funds.

Permit Fees

Charlie Smart, the town's Building Inspector recommends an increase in the permit fees. Charlie would like an increase of \$1.00, bringing the residential rate to \$7.00 and the commercial rate to \$9.00. Even with this increases Newington would still be less than Portsmouth. Charlie added that he is trying to maintain a level of running the building department at 125%. Chairman O'Reilly asked how much revenue the building department has brought in so far this year. Charlie answered 50% more than last year or maybe more. Effective date would be November 1, 2006. **Selectman Iocovozzi moved to approve the increase in fees. Selectman Stuart seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, motion passed.**

Meeting House Engineering

Charlie stated that the engineering at the Meeting House had begun today (so voted to approve Oct 2.) There was a brief discussion on the Carriage House. It was suggested that there should be a feasibility study done on the building (Carriage Hse) to determine the best use for the building. Charlie stated that the engineering study would consist of a drawing of the building as it is now, with a plan to start preservation, etc. (Scope of work description attached) After further discussion, **Selectman Iocovozzi** moved to proceed with the engineering study on the Carriage House not to

exceed the amount of \$12,500.00. *Selectman Stuart* seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, *motion passed. Selectman Iocovozzi added that this shall be paid out of the Capital Reserve for Fox Point. Chairman O'Reilly thought that this project may need to be brought up at the Town Meeting (first the DRA) so that we can be sure that our Cap Res does not have to have a change of purpose voted on.*

Town Hall Maintenance Line

Chairman O'Reilly stated that the Town Hall Bldg budget would be over drawn significantly due to the roofing job. Charlie explained why the job is more than expected. Chairman O'Reilly stated that money could be taken from various locations to help cover the expense of the roof work.

Chairman O'Reilly announced that there would be a public hearing on bow hunting on town owned property on October 23rd.

Van Re-Bid

Selectman Stuart stated that there was a problem with the recent bids for the 1988 town van. One of the bids that came in was late and had to be disqualified. Selectman Stuart feels as if the van should be awarded to the next highest bidder. Selectman Iocovozzi suggests the entire process starts over again. Because all the bid amounts were made public and after further discussion, *Selectman Stuart moved* to accept the bid of Rick Stern in the amount of \$775.00. After seconding for discussion, Selectman Iocovozzi stated that the board has the right to throw out bids. Selectman Iocovozzi feels it should start over. *Chairman O'Reilly* called a roll call vote, 2-1 *motion passed.*

New Truck Study – Verbatim

Jack: "I don't know who was on the committee, if you could just enlighten us. Were there like three people, five people?") George Fletcher: "The meeting members were; Lenny Thomas, Rick Stern, Larry Wahl, Joe Mitchell, Jack Hoyt, George Fletcher. The meeting was held at the town hall as requested by the Board of Selectmen. The purpose of this meeting was to ask the town's people if they wanted a big plow truck or a small plow truck to best serve the town. The town is approximately 14 miles of road so total with both sided to plow is 28 miles. Shattuck way takes four passes to clear because it is extra wide. This makes it 30 miles to plow. In the near future the state of New Hampshire plans to turn over Nimble Hill Rd., the underpass that lead from Rockingham Electric to the town, Shattuck way will be extended to Gosling Road. These will add and additional 8 miles to plow to the already 30 miles to plow. For a total of 38 miles to plow. Currently the Town has (in audible...1998.....with plow.....1994 international....with plow standard.....2004 ford1ton. We discussed the following concerns: Do we have enough drivers with plow experience and CDL licenses to keep two big plow trucks out plowing? The Road Agent stated that he has 6 drives available maybe one more. Is the town garage going to be able to house one more big plow truck? The Road Agent said he should be able to house it because the town van will be sold. And he will be able to fit the truck in, but probably not the front plow. (In auditable) Something about drifting snow. The real bad places are not until McIntyre road and Shattuck Way. With the high winds there will need to be another big truck to handle the drifting snow. One big truck will not be able to handle the job by itself. What about safety? The traffic along Shattuck way is increasing everyday. And especially during the winter months with oil and gas trucks traveling on them. And we must keep these roads safe for all travelers. All emergency vehicles must be able to easily pass through area. Nimble Hill Road, Little Bay Road to McIntyre through Newington has become the short cut through Newington, believe me I drive it every day and there is a lot of traffic. And in order to keep it safe for travelers it will require more attention from plowing, salting and sanding than ever before. What will it be like with the new mall in Greenland? People now and days get out work, shop; go to medical appointments regardless to the weather. Therefore the demand to keep these roads open is greater than was five years ago. Most people attending the meeting thought felt that the need for a big plow truck to adequately plow and sand. But the only thing is if the plow truck breaks down even with a flat tire we could way behind and the two older trucks could not keep up with the snow. A vote was taken and it was five votes for a big plow truck and one vote for a small plow truck.

I talked to Guy when he said that he couldn't make it and I told him why don't you write up your concerns and I'll air them with the committee. But I didn't get any thing.

Chairman O'Reilly: "Good report George and good job to the other committee members. To back up a while we have had three to four months of arguments over what truck we should buy. We put \$58,000.00 in the budget for what we thought would be for a small truck"

Selectman Iocovozzi interrupted by saying: "Don't call it a small truck, it's not a small truck, it's not a six wheeler"

Chairman O'Reilly: "Of the two trucks a bigger or a smaller, (laughing) I know it's not biggest.

Selectman Iocovozzi: "Medium"

Chairman O'Reilly: "Okay Medium all right and I basically, being that I'm not knowledgeable I couldn't make a decision, George said that he would get a committee together and I said I would go along with the recommendation of the committee."

Selectman Stuart: "I think that the committee did an excellent job, the report, I mean everything is covered and everything came back in a timely manner and I thank you very much. And I..."

Selectman Iocovozzi interrupted by saying: Thought was put into it and I don't have a problem with, I disagree with it, I think a lot of it is organizational.

Every one talks at once.

Selectman Iocovozzi: "What we had planned to do, we discussed when we put the money in the budget was to replace the middle truck. Right now we don't have those other roads, we don't know if we're gonna get those other roads.

Selectman Stuart start to speak and the other two Selectmen began to speak as well.

Chairman O'Reilly: I knew that if we bid on both sizes there would be one descending vote (not sure if that is what he said). Either way I said I would go along with them.

Selectman Iocovozzi: And I don't agree with some, I don't disagree with some of the issues that they bring in, but not what I'm doing in my business, buy equipment for different applications, the so call middle truck has applications. Its there to cul-de-sacs, its there to do the underpass, we don't need a truck with a wing on it to do this. It needs to be done as team work; I don't tell the Road Agent how to plow. I disagree with how he does it, and u I told him that. But he is the road agent and he does it how he wants to do it. But to maximize what we have and maximize any piece of equipment, you have to really organize. Where you need the truck with the wing on it, you make sure its there and it can move form one side of the town from the other with no problem. But they need to be in team work. I don't want to get into it, why should I? But I couldn't operate my business the way you know the feeling is here. Number one where are the 6 CDL drivers? I don't think we have 3 that are on our list. Do we? Cause we get copies of their licenses to make sure that our insurance will cover them. Correct? There aren't gonna be many CDL drivers down the road. Lenny and Skip retire there's two right there. You need something in order to get Tink out there to plow on the bad nights. The theory of the whole truck issue was to replace the middle truck that we have-the truck that's supposed to do the intersections-the truck that is supposed to pick up the slack from the big one. We don't have the money, says Cos...

Jack: Well, we do in the Cap. Reserve.

Cos: I wouldn't touch the Cap Reserve. What if you blow a motor? What if we get other problems? Like a problem with the International – The standard? Those aren't cheap items. How much money do we have in Cap Res?

Jack: \$ 102,000 no, wait...\$ 75,000

Cos: I wish I had \$ 75,000 to give away. Break downs could happen at any time. In fact, we have an issue with one of the plows right now...Didn't Lenny come and talk to you about it? (to Bea) Re-doing the cut – trip edge on the International. That has to be done in the amount of \$ 2,200. So I wouldn't touch that fund.

Jack: He also has a maintenance line too.

Cos: It takes a lot of money.

Jan: At this point, and Cos, I am sorry we disagree, we did decide we were going to need another vehicle, we did agree to having a committee formed, they did a find job and came back with a good presentation. I think it covered everything and I am ready to make a motion to proceed to go ahead and continue on with what ever we need to do to for the bid process for the big truck.

Cos: All right. Now we're not taking the roads over til next year. Correct?

Jan: Cos, I am making a motion.

Cos: Oh, ok.

Cos: I'll second it for discussion purposes. I would put it up to the town.ok....and if the town says, if they require us to spend – how much?

Jack: Approx \$ 112,000

Cos – ok \$ 112,000 – figure 10% over...bring it to the town for, we'll have the money in the.....

George – at least 5 grand more

Cos - I've been reading a lot of articles about the new motors coming out – they may be our salvation anyway. There's no hurry cuz we don't have these roads yet. So if we put it out on the floor at town meeting and they say yea or nay, if they say yea, we put it out for bid, we get a State bid who ever bid.... Did International bid this year?

George: International (muffled – inaudible)

Cos: Ok and what ever happens, happens, we go with the State Bid of Peterbilt, we go with Peterbilt, if not then, International, if not Chevy, whatever.

Jack: I did discuss this at the budget meeting a few weeks ago. The question was, did we actually commit with the warrant art...that line item, to have to buy the least expensive of the 2 trucks and they basically were in total agreement that no, we could take the money from the Cap Res and Cap Out Lay if we so felt that was the right way to go. So, I mean budget wise, I don't think we have to go to the Town.

Cos: I'd like to put it this way, if we all ready have \$ 56,000 in there, we only have to go to the town for another

Jack: That money goes away. That \$58,000 goes to zero if we don't spend it. It gets raised by Taxes anyway....

Jan: I'll move the question.

Cos: What good is a plan if you have a plan in place?

Jack: Like I said, I asked George to be on a committee and we asked them to do a job...and they did a good job...

Cos: Oh, they did a good job. I'll disagree with a few things they said, you know, I could tell you that we're gonna have nor'easters every week....and if that's the case, I wouldn't have an International, I'd bring in an OshKosh.

Jack: Jan moved the question; I'll call for a vote by roll call. Jan has the motion to buy the larger of the two or the more expensive of the two trucks. Jan (yes), Cos (nope), Jack (yes). Based on what I committed to is what the committee recommended. Now this has to go to bid process, this isn't so we'll just get the one that's on the lot.

Cos: Is it, does it have to be bought this year, because this is snow season now.

Jack: Like I said, if we have a contract we can encumber the \$58,000.00.

Cos: ok

Jack: Now to answer your question, let's assume that we made a contract and we weren't going to get until March or February, just hypothetical.

Jan: Just like the fire truck. The idea was to expedite it.

Jack: Just like the fire truck, they signed for it in March and we still don't have it. Should we Town Meeting wise, last that long, somebody says hey we don't want it. And we could break a contract with penalty I'm sure, I don't know how all that works.

Jan; My question would be who is spec this out? Is the committee going to spec this out? Which personally at this point, they have come so far, they have done (inaudible).

Cos: Spec it out, spec it out.

Jack: When you say that you mean what size sander and what size blades?

Jan: Yeah and a price

Jack: We gotta put it out for bid. Well if we had the specs, which we pretty much have them anyway (inaudible)

Cos: I look at the committee, and no disrespect, but I don't see anybody that has bought or worked trucks.

Jack: We did ask Guy.

Cos: Hey he didn't give any in put, did he give you anything verbally George?

Jack: And that's too bad.

George: He was only concerned with CDL drivers and we addressed that. I asked him if he would write us a note on Friday and the meeting was on Tuesday. And I also asked Charlie Coleman. The board was interested in demo and something that was on the lot. The quote that I got from Liberty, or Charlie Smart got from Liberty, they have a truck on the lot with an old engine right now with town tax (I could not make out the end of the sentence)

Jan: Where is it right now?

George: At Liberty International.

Jan: Which is located where?

Someone answered: Manchester.

George: They said if you want, they would bring the truck over Friday for the town to see. I think I mentioned it before, you may or may not remember, the two big changes this are instead of a right front spring builder because of the plow and wing. They are now using an airbag, which is cheaper and it's a great deal. This other this is that they increased the thickness of the frame so you don't need a double frame. Before you needed a double frame with rust panels between the two bars.

Cos: What do you mean, they made tensile steel like Chevy?

George: Well it's thicker.

Jan: Well I for one, I would like to see the truck.

Cos and Jack at the same time both say to bring it up.

George: When would you like for it to happen?

Jack: Whenever we can get it up this way?

Cos: A truck is a truck. Well that's why when you pick out something that expensive, you should know what you're talking about.

Jan: You know, and if I don't then I know where to go to get the information.

Cos: To a salesman, of course.

Jan: That's not fair.

Cos: That's not fair? Jan when was the last time you bought a truck?

Multiple people talking and I can not make out the audio.

Jan: There were a number of qualified people on the committee.

Cos: Everybody is qualified and everybody has the right to say something. It's kind of funny that I don't know what I'm talking about and the most expensive truck I ever bought was \$108,000.00. So I think I know what I'm talking about, I think I do. I may not know Tink, I may not, but I do know this we had talked about replacing a truck. We had a plan in place, now we have no plan. We have no plan. It's hit or miss. We're not taking the roads over for another two years, right, you're jumping ahead, we have a problem with the department of environmental services with the way we clean our trucks. We need a building. (Someone says something to Cos; I can not make out the audio) No I'm not, I enjoy this. I will wear my button, don't be stuck on stupid.

Multiple people talking could not make out audio.

Cos: I enjoy it a lot because it proves one thing, people that we should ask for expertise. I may not know, but I would know this, I make money doing this, this is my business, I don't ask the tax payers to pay my bills. You over did it.

Jack: Okay it's done, next item.

Bea: we need a date for the truck to come down.

Jack; Um, date for the truck, what day is toady, Monday? What day do you want it to come down? Some time this week? Thursday- Friday?

Cos: You can bring it in but you still have to bid it out

Jack: We know that.

Cos: George still got the top wipers, does the truck have the top wipers. The truck should have the wipers.

Jan: George is Wednesday a possibility?

George: Yup.

Jack: Well, Lenny is doing trash during the day.

Jan: Well, I was gonna make it later in the day. We can do it Thursday.

Cos: At 5pm. I'm not going to be there. George are they still having trouble with their turbos. They were having trouble with their turbos.

George: No they are not having trouble.

Jack: Next item....Sandi Clark has been waiting very patiently

(George and Cos were debating, I can not)

George: The one thing I tried to do is not knock the other vehicles.

Cos: You had made a statement that all the parts are available over at Liberty International, I went looking for a turbo for one of my Fords that has an international motor in it, plus Amco transmission waited three weeks to get a transmission for one of their vehicles. Check on it. That's all I'm asking is for you to check on it. If you can get it quicker than I can, then I'll come to you.

Discussion was then changed.

Sandi Clark-Fee and Town Hall Request

Sandi Clark spoke to this issue; she wanted to see if the other dates and plays would be approved. The Board of Selectmen agreed to see how the November show went before committing the building to more dates.

Production coordinator James Cady addressed the issue of how important it is to schedule these plays and concerts in advance. By booking early it allows for publicity and advertising. Mr. Caddy thought that charging \$100.00 for rehearsals was a little too high and he hopes that the price could be lowered.

They are not a non-profit organization at the present time but have begun the process. Sandi will check with the Recreation Committee to see if they would like to support the December children's shows in any way.

Facility Use Fee Schedule

Old Town Hall: 2 nd floor function room	\$ 50.00
Kitchen only	\$ 50.00
2 nd fl room & kitchen	\$100.00
Comm/Ind. Rental: 2 nd fl function room	\$200.00
Kitchen only	\$200.00
2 nd fl & kitchen	\$300.00
Town Hall: Auditorium	\$ 75.00
Kitchen	\$ 75.00
Auditorium & Kitchen	\$150.00
Commercial/IndRental	\$350.00

Selectman Stuart moved to accept the amended rates. *Selectman Iocovozzi* seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, ***motion passed.*** ***The Chair was going to look into defining more the criteria for waiving fees.***

Town Hall Use

The Newington Brownies requested the use of the Grove and the Old Town hall for October 22nd. *Selectman Iocovozzi* moved to approve their request with the fee waived. Seconded by *Selectman Stuart*. So voted 3-0, motion passed.

The Marine Docent requested to use the Town hall on November 14th. *Selectman Stuart* moved to approve the their request. *Selectman Iocovozzi* seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, motion approved. Fee waived as non profit fee criteria has not been better defined as of yet.

Barbara McDonald asked why there was a public hearing going on Oct 23. *Selectman Stuart* answered that this is to prohibit any type of hunting on town owned property.

Being that there was no further discussion before the board, *Selectman Iocovozzi* moved to adjourn. *Selectman Stuart* seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, ***motion passed.***

Meeting Adjourned 8:10ish pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant