

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday October 18th, 2021

Present: Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Finance Director, Sheryl Bagley, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Board of Fire Engineers Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Fire Engineer Jim Fabrizio, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

M. Marconi called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the minutes of October 4th, 2021 and October 14th, 2021. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifest for \$113,621.82 dated 10/14/2021. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

B. Blonigen moved to approve the following requests:

Len Thomas-Town Hall-December 12th, 2021-Baby Shower

Susan Daigle-Fox Point-September 24, 2022-Wedding

M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fire Department Budget Review and Warrant Articles:

The operating budget for the Fire Department has decreased by \$7,639 for 2022. E. Hoyt reviewed the expense lines that have increases or decreases; the telephone expense line is increasing by \$510 due to an increase in cellular plan costs, The Ambulance Billing expense line is decreasing by \$500 due to a change in vendor, the Leased Equipment expense line is increasing by \$850 due to the purchase of new software to augment ongoing radio/dispatch issues, the Computer expense line is increasing by \$1,000 due to the increased cost of equipment and hardware, the Vehicle Fuel line has decreased by \$1,000 due to a reduction in spending, the Alarm Maintenance expense line is decreasing by \$10,000 due to the upgrades to the fire alarm radio boxes was completed in 2021 and the Equipment Purchases expense line will increase by \$1,000 due to the increased cost of equipment and supplies.

The warrant articles for 2022 are \$200,000 for Vehicle Replacement and \$50,000 for Ambulance replacement. Both of these warrant articles are part of the Fire Department's vehicle replacement capital improvement plan. M. Marconi asked how the current ambulance is doing. E. Hoyt said that it is doing very well. There is a \$60,000 warrant article for a new ¾ ton truck to be used as a truck for the Assistant Chief. The new 2021 truck will be given to the Chief. The State is now recommending that trucks be used as command cars so that equipment can be put in the back, away from the firefighters. The current command car is 12 years old. The last warrant article is for \$5,000 to be placed in the Fire Equipment replacement capital reserve fund.

M. Marconi asked how much was spent on the forestry truck in 2021. E. Hoyt said that most of the maintenance is done "in house" so the cost is minimal. M. Marconi asked how the boat was doing. E. Hoyt is happy with the boat. In a month they will be taking it down to the Riverside Pickering lock for the winter.

E. Hoyt asked if the Fire Department could use the exterior of the Carriage House for training on Wednesday morning. They would like to place a fog machine inside and have the crew traverse the outside. It was a consensus of the Board the allow them to use the Carriage House on Wednesday.

Health Trust and Harvard Pilgrim Rates and 2022 Plans:

M. Roy said that the 2022 rates for Health Trust are down 8%. M. Roy expects to receive Harvard Pilgrim's revised rates next week. The Board will discuss all plans, all rates and the COLA at an upcoming meeting.

Police Highway Safety Grant for \$3,400:

B. Blonigen moved to apply and accept the Police Safety Grant for \$3,400. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

EP Newington Tax Settlement:

B. Blonigen is pleased with the settlement and said that it was exactly what the Town asked for. M. Marconi said that there were many meetings to get to this point. D. Hebert asked what the settlement was for. B. Blonigen said that this settlement was for the 2019 and 2020 tax years. The Town will pay EP Newington \$1,000,000. The assessed amounts will be \$190,000,000 in 2021 and \$185,000,000 for 2022. **B. Blonigen moved to accept the EP Newington settlement for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

D. Hebert inquired about the letter from the Selectmen in support of COAST bus. M. Roy said it is on their desk to sign. M. Marconi thanked D. Hebert for all his work on behalf of the town for COAST bus.

Adjournment: B. Blonigen moved to adjourn at 5:21pm. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder