

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 19th, 2020 Old Town Hall

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Police Chief Mike Bilodeau, Police Commission Chair Brenda Blonigen, Police Commissioner Bill Wright, Police Commissioner Jack Hoyt, Police Admin Asst. Keri Wareing, Fire Chief E.J. Hoyt, Board of Fire Engineer Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer, Ann Hyland Hebert, Town Planner John Krebs, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

T. Connors asked that the location of the meeting be added to the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes. **K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the location correction, and the minutes of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Manifest Approval:** M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests for \$140,829.39 dated 10/8/2020 and \$88,023.77 dated 10/15/2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Facility Use Requests:**

**M. Marconi moved to approve the following facility use requests:**

Laura Sabine-Old Town Hall-November 7, 2020-Baby Shower

Boy Scouts (Gail Klanchesser)-Fox Point-November 7 & 8,2020-Campout

**K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Police Department Drug Forfeiture Funds:**

**M. Marconi moved to accept the Police Department unanticipated revenue of \$1,000. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**2021 Health and Dental Insurance Rates:**

M. Roy explained that health insurance rates have increased by 6.4%. Insurance rate increases are based on the claims submitted. The increase would be \$36,000 in 2021 for 29 employees. Dental rates have remained the same for 2021. T. Connors asked M. Roy to get other quotes for the health insurance. Harvard Pilgrim and CIGNA are two companies to look at. M. Roy commented that the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance accepts 99% of doctors in their network. Harvard Pilgrim and CIGNA don't accept as many doctors.

**2021 Social Security COLA:**

The 2021 Social Security COLA for 2021 is 1.3%.

**Wilcox Way Parking Lease Agreement:**

M. Roy passed out the proposed parking plan for Wilcox Way. There would be 98 parking spaces. The plan has been sent to town counsel for their review. Discussion ensued about the parking plan. The Board of Selectmen decided to do a site walk of the area on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am.

**Sprague Fumes:**

Mr. Winters from Sprague will be meeting with M. Roy and Paul Deschaine on Friday October 22, 2020. P. Deschaine has logged 59 odor complaints. K. Latchaw mentioned that there are trucks spilling liquid on Nimble Hill Road by Shattuck Way and the NHDES should be contacted.

**Donor Towns/Education Funding:**

P. Deschaine has been advocating for Newington with the Education Funding Committee. He will continue to monitor the situation and report back to the Board of Selectmen. There is a meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> with municipal officials on the subject.

**Double Electric Poles Status:**

Newington has 85 double poles and Portsmouth has 300 double poles. All the towns that are affected by the double poles have put together a proposal that will be given to the PUC. The town prioritized the double poles to be removed and decided that the double poles on Nimble Hill Road and the Historic District should be removed first.

**FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study:**

The town has received the new maps that go into effect in 2021. In order for the town to remain in good standing the maps need to be reviewed, understood and implemented in a short amount of time. **M. Marconi moved that M. Roy review the maps and send them to the Conservation Commission for their review. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Planning Board Budget:**

Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert and Town Planner John Krebs presented their 2021 budget to the Selectmen. The 2021 budget is level funded from 2020. D. Hebert thinks that 2021 is going to be a busy year for the Planning Board. Wilcox Industries is expanding, there is a proposed subdivision with 14-18 lots and the mall might be making some changes.

**Police Department Budget:**

Police Chief M. Bilodeau presented his budget to the Selectmen. The Police operating budget is level funded from 2020. In December 2020, the police department will be accredited. Some money has been moved between expense accounts to consolidate accounts. The vehicle maintenance account has been increased because three of the police vehicles have high mileage. K. Wareing is going to be trained as an additional manager for accreditation purposes. M. Sullivan is the only one trained now. \$6,000 has been added to the Police Commissioners account for legal fees. The commissioners would like to have access to legal fees for contract review and other items. The Police Commission would like to hire their own lawyer instead of going through the town because police issues are different from town issues. B. Wright asked if other departments in town have legal funds in their budgets. M. Roy said that the Planning Board is the only one that has legal funds due to state statute. M. Marconi inquired why the Police Department uses Portsmouth Used Car Center for their vehicle repairs. M. Bilodeau explained that they used to use a vendor in town, but it would take too long to get the cars back. Portsmouth Used Car Center gives them very good service. The department is able to bring cars in with just a phone call and get the cars back quickly.

**Emergency Management Budget:**

M. Marconi asked why the Police Chief's and Fire Chief's stipend was in this budget. M. Roy said that it has always been in the Emergency Management budget. There is an increase in the supplies line because they must restock the provisions closet at the Town Hall. They have been busy this year with security meetings at the PDA and the elections.

T. Connors thanked the Police Chief and Fire Chief for all their work on behalf of the town.

T. Connors asked M. Roy to invite Town Moderator Jack O'Reilly and Town Clerk Laura Coleman to the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> to talk about the upcoming election.

**Adjournment:** M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:20pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder