

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday October 24th, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Board of Fire Engineers Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer Jim Fabrizio, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Recreation Committee Chair Rebecca Navelski, Recreation Committee Members Jessica Morgan and Jack O'Reilly, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Arsenault moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:30pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

B. Arsenault moved to return to public session at 6:01pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

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

Minutes Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the October 17th, 2022 minutes as amended. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifests for \$143,400.95 dated 10/13/2022 and \$71,111.19 dated 10/20/2022. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

B. Blonigen moved to approve the following requests:

Recreation Committee-OTH-Nov 3rd, 14th, 21st, 28th, & Dec 5th, 12th-Dance Lessons

Mike Grube-Fox Point-Nov 5th & 6th-Boy Scout Camp Out

Marcia Salem-TH Auditorium-October 29th-Funeral Reception

B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fire Department 2023 Budget Review:

Fire Chief E. Hoyt presented the budget to the Selectmen. The overall budget increased by 3.5%. Increases in the budget are anticipated due to the salaries in the union contract, health insurance and the COLA. The operating part of the budget only

increased by .22%. The hazardous materials dues increased by \$1,000. E. Hoyt believes that Newington benefits from this even with the increase, considering all the utilities in town. The vehicle fuel line increased by \$7,500. The department is predicting spending \$1,700 per month or \$21,000 for the year. The alarm maintenance line decreased by \$4,000 because the alarm upgrades have been completed. E. Hoyt said that they will not overrun their 2022 budget.

B. Blonigen stated that once the new building inspector gets familiarized with town he will be working on getting quotes for an engineering review of the Fire Dept structure. He asked M. Roy to list what items need to be received from the Fire Dept. M. Roy stated the pictures of the footings and Fire Station plans.

Emergency Management 2023 Budget Review:

E. Hoyt presented the budget to the Selectmen. The only change in the budget is an increase in the phone expense line because the police station now has an upgraded phone system. They plan on buying traffic cones and some additional signs in 2023. Barricades were purchased in 2022 and the rest of the emergency food.

Recreation Slides-will vendor accept 50% deposit and still give us the discount:

J. Morgan told the Selectmen that the vendor wants 100% due now, but has agreed to store the slides for the winter and will deliver in the Spring. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the 100% payment (\$14,517) to the vendor for the slides at this time in order to get \$5,000 taken off the original price. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.** B. Blonigen asked where, in the Recreation budget, would this money come from. M. Roy said that the committee has money left over in their summer camp expense line. The expense will be charged to the general supplies expense line and the summer camp line will absorb the expense for the overall budget.

November 8th Elections:

Voting will take place at the Town Hall from 8am to 7pm. The Board of Selectmen or their representative will be at the Town Hall all day. Newington has been selected to run one of the State's new machines for the election. A representative of the state will also be here all day to oversee the new machine. They are going to test the new machine on Monday, October 31st at 10am.

Recreation Committee 2023 Budget Review:

T. Connors expressed his frustration because the Selectmen did not receive a budget from the Recreation Committee ahead of time so they could review it. J. O'Reilly and Jessica Morgan also expressed their frustration. J. O'Reilly presented the budget to the Selectmen. J. O'Reilly said that the new Recreation Director is working out and her hours have been bumped up for 2023. She will have the same hourly rate but more hours. The general supplies line has increased because the committee is planning on having a lot of activities for all residents in 2023. The voucher line has decreased a little.

J. Morgan and R. Navelski have talked with the YMCA about the summer camp program. The YMCA has a new director and they are hopeful that the YMCA will run a summer camp in Newington in 2023. J. Morgan said that they expect to hear news in the next couple of weeks. They don't know the charge for the summer camp yet. J. Morgan said that the YMCA charge for summer camp could be \$2,000 per child. If they have 45 kids, the cost would be \$90,000, with a net amount of \$18,000 out of pocket for the town. The camp will definitely be more expensive in 2023. Discussion ensued about Septemberfest and the crowds attending. The committee is not sure that everyone was a Newington resident. They are considering hiring an off-duty police officer to make sure that only Newington residents are attending Septemberfest. The Holiday Light expense line has doubled because everything is more expensive and they want to increase the activities to include more residents, not just children. The Recreation Committee will be asking for \$10,000 to be added to their capital reserve account. They want to do the Senior Dinner in the spring next year.

M. Roy said that Mike Hoffman, the interim building inspector, has put together a report on cost saving actions that could be taken at the Old Town Hall. Mike Hoffman has agreed to stay on for a while to work with the new building inspector, Jeremy Boston.

B. Arsenault said that he had attended the last Conservation Commission meeting. They are discussing creating a trust fund that the interest from that new fund would be available for conservation easement or conservation land purchase.. M. Roy said that they will be meeting with legal counsel on this issue.

There is new language in the agreement with the PDA for the development of the land there. B. Arsenault asked if the PDA reps, Susan Parker and Peggy Lamson, could attend the October 31st Selectmen meeting to address the new language. E. Boy will follow up with the representatives.

The Board would like to discuss the letter that they received from the Library Trustees with the Trustees. B. Blonigen wants to meet with the trustees and not the librarian. T. Connors said that he is tired of the librarian dictating to the selectmen and making demands. They can't take no for an answer.

M. Roy said that she had reached out to the Community Power Coalition about the joining. She has not heard back yet.

The Board asked E. Boy to reach out the Conservation Commission Chair, Jane Hislop, and ask about an endangered plant that was found on the North 40 property at Pease.

The Selectmen received an email from the Historic District Commission Chair Lulu Pickering asking to hire someone to take the minutes at their meetings. T. Connors

questioned where the money would come from to pay this minute taker. B. Arsenault suggested that L. Pickering include this request in their 2023 budget.

B. Arsenault asked about the Moose Grant. When was the grant due? Did we get the grant? How much is the town responsible for?

Discussion ensued about grant money that was supposed to be used for an air purification system in the Town Hall. M. Roy explained that when the grant was first discussed, it was believed that the money had to be used for a specific project. It was later found out that the \$88,000 the Town received did not have to be used for anything specific. M. Roy said that the air purification project could be added to the 2023 budget.

The Town hasn't received a response from the NHDOT about the long grass at Exit 3.

The Town Engineer, Eric Weinrieb, is reviewing the calculations for the flooding on Shattuck Way. M. Roy is expecting his report soon.

The Board would like to see more of the data that Wood Engineering has processed for the Town of Newington. M. Roy said we have received some results that is in the Selectmen's "To Be Signed" folder. The results take 60-90 days.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:17pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder