

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday October 25th, 2021

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Road Agent Len Thomas, Historic District Commission Chair Lulu Pickering, Historic District Commission member Margaret Lamson, Conservation Commission Chair Jane Hislop, Dockmaster Peter Welch, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Sewer Commissioner Rick Stern, 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 Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of October 12th, 2021. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifest for \$19,510.34 dated 10/21/2021. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Highway Department Budget Review:

M. Roy explained that the Highway Department 2022 budget is in the working stages we wait to get input from the Rockingham County Planning Commission about the road paving and Connecticut Crack sealing about crack sealing next year. The rest of the 2022 budget is very similar to 2021. L. Thomas said that most of his plow drivers will be back for the winter. The new backhoe is working great. L. Thomas and M. Roy reviewed the roads that were paved or going to be paved in 2021. Airport Road and Hodgdon Farm Lane were paved in 2021. Nimble Hill Road (Coleman to Fox Point) will be paved in November 2021. Shattuck Way by Sprague will be shimmed in November 2021. The McIntyre sink hole repair will also be done. The proposed 2022 paving budget includes paving McIntyre Road (Newington Road to the top of the hill by the Airport opening) and Little Bay Road (Captain's Landing to Fox Point Road). The 2022 budget also includes paving Little Bay Road (McIntyre Road to the Transfer Station) for \$90,000. The alternative plan for this would be to reclaim & shim this in 2021 and then do the top coat in 2022. \$113,675 will be required with this alternate plan. The Highway Department only has \$97,000 remaining in their 2021 paving budget, however there is money left in the culvert expense line that could be used to cover the difference. **M. Marconi moved to approve the alternative paving plan for 2021. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

M. Marconi asked if salt prices have gone up in 2022. L. Thomas said they were the same.

Conservation Commission Member, Jim Tucker-Resignation:

T. Connors accepted the resignation of Jim Tucker. T. Connors asked M. Roy to send a letter to thank him for his years of service to the Town. T. Connors also asked M. Roy to send a letter of thanks to Erika Mantz for her service to the Town.

2022 Health Insurance Proposals-Harvard Pilgrim/HealthTrust :

M. Roy said that if the Town stays with the same plan in 2022 there would be a savings of \$43,000. M. Marconi thanked Finance Director Sheryl Bagley for all her outstanding work on this project.

Insurance Budget Review-Workers Compensation and Property Liability:

M. Roy explained that the first two expense lines, TAD Employee Comp and TAD Employee Benefits, will have \$1 in each. The Workers Compensation expense line will be the same in 2022. The Property and Liability expense has increased in 2022 due to the increased issues with cyber security.

Transfer Station Budget Review:

The 2022 budget is decreasing as the brush grinding and hauling of construction materials that was experienced due to Covid has decreased in 2021. M. Marconi asked if the transfer station would like a flagpole that he no longer needs. M. Roy will ask Craig Daigle.

Ford Fusion Bid Opening:

T. Connors opened the two bids that were submitted. Cars R Us submitted a bid for \$955, Commercial Bus & Vehicles, LLC submitted a bid for \$1,573. **M. Marconi moved to award the Ford Fusion bid to Commercial Bus & Vehicles, LLC for \$1,573. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Historic District Commission Budget Review:

L. Pickering said that the HDC added \$7,000 in wages for 2022. This would be used for support to the committee, minute taking, grant filing, the Old Parsonage renovation. L. Pickering would also like to start the process of doing an inventory of what is in all the boxes at the Old Town Hall. She would like to get someone that would work one day a week with her to go through everything. L. Pickering said that she thinks this is a fair request. P. Lamson said that the inventory work is very important. M. Marconi asked if she was asking for enough money to do all this. L. Pickering said that no money has been invested in documenting this history for years. T. Connors asked about the \$8,000 in the grants expense line. L. Pickering said that it has to be in the budget in case they apply for a grant. However, the State only has \$70,000 for CLG grants in 2022. L. Pickering said that they are also requesting a \$3,000 encumbrance for 2022. M. Roy reminded L. Pickering that items can not be encumbered unless you have a contract signed for the work to be done in 2022. L. Pickering said that she will get back to M. Roy on this item.

Fox Point Dock & Wall Reconstruction:

M. Roy said that the town waterfront engineer, Duncan Mellor, has reviewed the Fox Point dock and wall and said that it is in need of repair. Dockmaster Peter Welch said that the pilings, on the land side, are 75%-80% corroded. T. Connors explained that this issue came to his attention in the spring and they have been working on the repair options. P. Welch recommends that the necessary repairs to the dock and wall. T. Connors said that there is \$120,000 in the Fox Point Capital Reserve Fund. This repair would cost \$50,000. **M. Marconi moved to accept the recommendation of the dockmaster to repair the dock and wall. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

NH DOT Final MOA-General Sullivan Bridge:

M. Roy reviewed the latest memo from the DOT to the Town about the bridge. This is the same offer that the State has given the town before, \$150,000 for the restoration of the Train Depot building. M. Marconi said that the offer has not changed from the beginning. T. Connors would like to postpone this issue until the next meeting when Bob Blonigen will be present.

L. Pickering said that the state has actually made a great deal of progress on this issue. The state has agreed to give the depot to the town. They have indicated that they will work with the Historic Society and hopefully transfer the property to them. Helen Frink has been working to get the train depot on the "Seven to Save" list of the NH Preservation Alliance. If the train depot is chosen to be on the list, then it will be easier to get a grant for the restoration. The Newington Historical Society would like to create a Bloody Point Park and preserve the depot and create trails for the public.

Trustee of the Trust Funds:

1. Moving Capital Reserve Funds to Three Bearings

2. Three Bearings Fee-Budget line or directly deducted from revenues

T. Connors said that the Treasurer and the Finance Director have reviewed the proposal and recommend the transfer of the funds. The investments will be conservative. The town can get funds in two weeks. TD Bank said that this transfer will not affect the town's ability to borrow money in the future. Three Bearings has a license to do business in NH. The rate of return is better than the town is getting now. **M. Marconi moved to accept the Trustees of the Trust Fund's recommendation to change the capital reserve funds to Three Bearings. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

M. Roy asked if the Board would like the fee to be taken out of a budget line or revenue. R. Stern asked what the fee was going to be. M. Roy said half of one percent. R. Stern asked how the town is protected from losing money. M. Roy said that the investments are conservative, 85% in bonds and 15% in large cap stock. A. Hyland Hebert asked

why the funds need to be moved. M. Marconi said that TD Bank would no longer do the reports that the State requires. R. Stern asked how long this contract is for. T. Connors said three years. T. Connors said that the Board of Selectmen actually have no say in the movement of Capital Reserve Funds. The Trustees of the Trust Funds can do this without the Selectmen's approval. They have brought this before the Selectmen as a courtesy.

Conservation Commission Budget Review:

J. Hislop said that the Conservation Commission has not used much of their 2021 budget because of the continuing effect of Covid. She is requesting to encumber \$5,000 from the consultant expense line and \$500 from the community education expense line.

J. Hislop said that there is no point in asking for more money in 2022 if the money hasn't been spent in 2021. The Conservation Commission won't ask for a warrant article in 2022 because there are two new subdivisions in town that will take land out of current use. When land is taken out of current use, the Conservation Commission gets a portion of the penalty that is assessed by the town. The commission currently has an open seat and is looking for a new member.

Fire Department Grant for \$15,000:

The Fire Dept received a grant for \$15,000. This grant is for gym equipment for the department. The grant covers 95% of the cost and the department will cover the other 5% out of their 2021 budget. **M. Marconi moved to expend the grant funds. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:05pm. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder