

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 5th, 2020 Old Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Police Commission Chair Brenda Blonigen, Fire Chief E. Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Board of Fire Engineer Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer, Ann Hyland Hebert, Cemetery Trustees Chair Alan Wilson, Cemetery Trustee Peggy Lamson, Sewer Commission Chair Skip Cole, Sewer Plant Manager Denis Messier, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 4:30pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020 and September 25th, 2020. August 27, 2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Manifest Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for \$17,418.79 dated 9/24/2020 and \$161,627.45 dated 10/1/2020. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

M. Marconi moved to approve the following facility use request:

Seacoast Lacrosse-Old Town Hall Fields-October 17-29-Practice & Games

K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Halloween 2020:

The following guidelines for Halloween were developed by the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Newington School Supporters member and the Town Administrator.

Several surrounding towns are having Trick or Treat on Saturday October 31st from 5-7.

The Police Chief and the Fire Chief recommended to have Newington's trick or treat at the same time to lessen out of town visitors.

Homes who participate in Trick or Treat

- Only give out wrapped items
- Give out items outside or in a way to keep 6 foot distance, or behind a storm glass door, replace treats before each visit of kids

- Avoid direct distribution of candy for people participating in “handing out” candy, suggest not using bowls for kids to stick their hands into but instead spread candy on a table of platter
- Put out sanitizer

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE TURN YOUR OUTSIDE LIGHTS OFF SO CHILDREN WON'T APPROACH YOUR HOUSE

Trick or Treaters who are participating should

- Parents and kids in small groups, preferably family members only and within your neighborhood
- Avoid large groups and going inside homes
- Carry hand sanitizer, gloves are NOT recommended
- Masks are recommended when within 6 feet of others (costume masks don't count)

M. Marconi moved to adopt the Halloween 2020 guidelines. K. Latchaw seconded the motion will all in favor.

Police Over Expenditure:

The Police Department asked for approval of the below over expenditure request.

Vehicle Maint 01-4210-15-660 by \$2,118.39 take out of 01-4210-15-290 to cover.

Uniforms 01-4210-15-275 by \$633.99 take out of 01-4210-15-610 to cover.

Equip. Contracts 01-4210-15-484 \$3,500 take out of 01-4210-15-440 (\$2,000) and 01-4210-15-290 (\$1,500) to cover.

K. Latchaw moved to approve the Police Department over expenditure request.

M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Discussion ensued about the value in bidding out town services and not going to the same vendor repeatedly without getting a bid from another vendor. M. Marconi thought that Portsmouth Ford was an expensive choice for police vehicle services. M. Roy will contact the Chief about bidding out their vehicle maintenance services.

The board also discussed the uniform allowance for the police department. The board asked M. Roy to contact surrounding towns to see what their uniform allowance policy is.

Cyber Security:

M. Roy explained that towns are facing many ways that hackers are trying to get data. The Town's insurance carrier Primex, is pushing for the town to offer cyber security breach training. The department heads recently had a presentation

about the subject. Employees need to be trained on the risks when clicking on attachments. Several surrounding towns have dealt with this problem.

B. Blonigen suggested that the town hire an IT person full time for all departments. M. Roy said that the town currently spends \$30,000 a year for IT management. The Department Heads had discussed a central IT position but the cost of a full-time person would be approximately \$100,000 for salary and benefits. K. Latchaw suggested that the town split an IT person with another small town to reduce the costs. The board asked M. Roy to draft a policy and procedure for cyber security.

Ken Ernstoff Request:

It was a consensus of the board to allow the Newington Democrats to set up a table at the transfer station.

Taping of Meetings:

Emily Savinelli has asked if the all town boards could add Zoom to meetings so residents could listen in to the meetings. M. Roy stated that she and E. Boy had met with Randell Bush to discuss the best way to record meetings. The Board of Selectmen recommends that all town meetings be taped and put on the website. The Board asked M. Roy to proceed in getting the equipment needed to record the meetings.

General Sullivan Bridge:

L. Pickering contacted the Town Hall to let us know that there is a meeting coming up to discuss the General Sullivan bridge. She will attend the meeting and report back to the Selectmen. L. Pickering also had a couple of ideas on how to spend the \$20,000 that Eversource gave the town for the restoration of historic buildings. L. Pickering's three ideas were Bloody Point, Old Parsonage or the old cemeteries. T. Connors liked the idea of putting the money toward the Old Parsonage. The Board consensus was that this was a good direction.

Cemetery Budget:

Cemetery trustees, Alan Wilson and Peggy Lamson, presented their 2021 budget to the Selectmen. The 2021 budget is \$3,000 less than their 2020 budget.

Discussion ensued about the cemetery trees. A. Wilson doesn't think that 2021 is the year to do work on the cemetery trees. P. Lamson agreed but pointed out that it will have to be done at some point. The cemetery trustees are looking for a new cemetery sexton. The library is going to put dirt in the cemetery during the construction of their new parking area. Cemetery plots cost \$300 each and any change in the amount has to go before Town meeting.

Sewer Budget:

Sewer Commission Chair S. Cole and Plant Manager D. Messier presented their 2021 budget to the Selectmen. The 2021 budget is \$24,000 less than their 2020 budget.

The contract has been signed for the replacement of the force main. Work should start next week. The force main won't affect the budget until 2022.

Discussion ensued about a grant to reduce the amount for users, the new nitrogen levels for the bay, power plants abatements and Wilcox Way paving. The Board asked M. Roy to call Mr. Bell about the last coat for Wilcox Way.

Fire Department Budget:

Fire Chief E. Hoyt presented the budget to the Selectmen. The 2021 operating budget is approximately \$5,000 less than the 2020 budget.

M. Marconi thanked the Chief for maintaining a level operating budget.

The proposed fire department warrant articles were reviewed. One warrant article was for a 10-year lease/purchase of a new fire truck. A lease is a good option because of the manufacturer's service and warranties. The department is looking at three manufacturers. A lease would not require the town to put a large amount of money into the fire vehicle capital reserve account every year. The interest is low. The town would own the truck after 10 years. The life of the truck is between 20-25 years.

K. Latchaw asked if the Fire Department could lease their protective clothing? J. Klanchesser said no.

T. Connors explained that the Selectmen are watching the town finances very carefully and appreciate all the departments' cooperation. Newington had another large business, Regal Cinemas, close today.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:09pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder