

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday November 1st, 2021

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Finance Director, Sheryl Bagley, Board of Fire Engineer Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland 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 Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of October 18th, 2021 and October 25th, 2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifest for \$88,674.21 dated 10/28/2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Video Procedure-Quotes for Town Hall Cameras:

M. Roy said that the draft of the proposed video procedure has been sent out to all the departments and committees. She has not received any comments about the procedure yet. Should the Town get an official camera for the auditorium? Should M. Roy get quotes for the camera? M. Marconi thought that it was a good idea and shouldn't be that expensive. B. Blonigen expressed his concern about the money being spent on this issue. T. Connors suggested that M. Roy get quotes for the camera and then the Board can make a decision based on the quotes. It was a consensus of the Board to table this item until the next meeting.

Old Parsonage-Comcast Service-\$233.44 per month, \$2,800 per year:

M. Roy said that the Historic District Commission has asked for internet to be installed in the Old Parsonage. B. Blonigen didn't know why they needed the internet at the Old Parsonage if there is already internet at the Old Town Hall and the Library right across the street. M. Roy will pass the Board's comments on to the HDC.

Cyber Security Analysis Review and Approval:

The Town received several bids for the cyber security analysis. M. Roy and Paul Deschaine have reviewed the bids and interviewed candidates. They recommend that the Board award the bid to ATOM. ATOM's bid was the least expensive at \$6900. Their proposal was reviewed by Newington resident, John Chamberlain, who had no issue with it and even volunteered to train the Town staff on cyber security. ATOM is a consultant to Portsmouth and are consultants to Primex, the town's property liability insurance carrier. \$3,500 would be spent in 2021 and \$3,500 would be budgeted for

2022. M. Marconi moved to accept the bid of ATOM for the town's cyber security analysis. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NH DOT Final MOA-General Sullivan Bridge:

The NHDOT wants the town to sign the Memorandum of Agreement. The train depot has been added to the NH Preservation Alliance's "Seven to Save" list. This should make it easier to get grants for the preservation. It was a consensus of the Board to table this item until the BOS receives more information about the grants etc.

Coleman Drive Street Light-Highway Safety Committee Report:

B. Blonigen said that the Highway Safety Committee met and discussed the street light on Coleman Drive. A shield could be added to the light like the one on Little Bay Extension. The majority of Coleman Drive residents would like the light to stay. T. Connors said that the idea of the shield was offered to the resident that asked for the light to be removed and it was rejected. Coleman Drive resident, John Klanchesser, said that the new LED lights are brighter than the previous lights and the light poles are taller. J. Klanchesser would actually like to see more lights not less.

Elections, Registration Budget:

The 2022 budget is \$11,226 more than the 2021 budget. The increase is due to three elections in 2022 compared to only one in 2021. The elections salary line is budgeted higher for extra help due to the uncertain Covid situation. Town Clerk, Laura Coleman, has asked the Board for approval of a new employee for the Town Clerk's office.

Tax Collector/Town Clerk Budget:

The 2022 budget is \$3,926 more than the 2021 budget. Town Clerk, Laura Coleman, has asked the Board for approval of a new employee for the Town Clerk's office in 2021, this employee will work the entire year in 2022. The office now has a second computer that can be used to help residents increased supplies are due to this new service.

Finance & Assessing Budget:

The 2022 budget is \$8,255 less than the 2021 budget.

Street Lighting Budget:

The 2022 budget is \$2,440 less than the 2021 budget. The LED conversion continues to save the town money.

Pest Control/Health/Welfare Budgets:

The 2022 Pest Control budget is the same as 2021. The 2022 Health budget is the same as 2021. The 2022 Welfare budget is \$9,000 less than the 2021 budget. It has been lowered due to the reduction in need post pandemic.

Land Management Budget:

The 2022 budget is \$3,658 less than the 2021 budget. The Town Hall staff has researched portable restrooms service in the area and our current provider is the best deal out there. The yearly hydrant rental went from \$275 per hydrant in 2021 to \$350 per hydrant in 2022. B. Blonigen mentioned that the Fire Department didn't get a higher rating because our hydrants aren't flushed out every year. B. Blonigen believes that Portsmouth Water doesn't flush them out because they are afraid a pipe will break when it is done. T. Connors asked M. Roy to send a letter to Portsmouth Water to ask them to flush out our hydrants.

M. Marconi called for a recess at 5:19pm.

T. Connors called the meeting back to order at 5:21pm.

T. Connors said that he would like to meet with Portsmouth Water, the City Manager and the Mayor to discuss the issues facing Newington; Fox Point, the hydrants and Arboretum Drive. M. Roy will set it up.

T. Connors would like to outsource the mowing of Fox Point. The Highway department is having trouble keeping up with the mowing in the summer. B. Blonigen doesn't think that now is a good time to add an expense to the budget. M. Roy said that it is very hard to mow the North, Middle and South fields because of the large ruts all over. The Kubota tractor can't manage them. The Town has had no luck finding a farmer to farm the fields. T. Connors would like to look at it again in the Spring and see how expensive it would be.

M. Roy said that all of the remaining funds in the Care of Trees line will be used in 2021.

Debt Service & Capital Outlay Budget:

The 2022 Debt Service budget is \$83,671 less than the 2021 budget. This reduction is due to the Coakley OU1-OU2 expense line being moved from debt service to capital outlay and the 3-year lease for ambulance equipment was finished in 2021.

The 2022 Capital Outlay budget is \$43,644 more than the 2021 budget due to the addition of the Coakley OU1-OU2 expense line being moved from debt service to capital outlay.

The Coakley budget for each year is an unknown. If the DES and EPA increase the testing then the fees will increase substantially.

Roadside Collection & Tipping Fees Budget:

The 2022 is the same as the 2021 budget.

EcoMaine Recycling 2022 Contract:

The fees have decreased for 2022. M. Roy said that transfer station superintendent, Craig Daigle, works very hard to keep the costs low. C. Daigle has reviewed the

contract and is hoping that the Board will approve it. The Board will review the contract and vote at the next meeting. B. Blonigen would like to see the compactor at the transfer station added to the Capital Improvement Plan. T. Connors said that it would cost between \$80,000-\$100,000 to bring in electricity for it. M. Marconi thought that a grant could be used for it. M. Marconi would like to see a ground solar array behind the transfer station added to the Capital Improvement Plan. B. Blonigen said that the town has some specific ordinances about solar arrays and the Board should look at the ordinance before they propose anything.

J. Klanchesser told M. Roy that she should call the Rye Town Hall and ask them about their camera system. B. Blonigen asked if they had a policy. J. Klanchesser said they might.

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:37pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a, c, d, and e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen- Yes, M. Marconi- Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

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

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

Adjournment: B. Blonigen moved to adjourn at 6:02pm. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder