

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 28th, 2023

Present: Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Chris Wayss, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Building Inspector Jeremy Boston, Board of Fire Engineer Chair John Klanchesser, Board of Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Budget Committee Member Maggie Cooke, Town Administrator Martha Roy, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

B. Blonigen called the meeting to order at 5:34pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: C. Wayss moved to approve the minutes of November 1st, 2023. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor. C. Wayss moved to table approval of the minutes of November 14, 2023. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

M. Roy said that Torrington had called her and said that they understood the Selectmen's concern with housing located at the Fox Run Mall site. They believe that they will be bringing a proposal to the Selectmen that does not include housing. They hear the Selectmen loud and clear and that the Selectmen will be elated when you see their presentation. B. Blonigen hoped that the buildup is not overdone.

Manifest Approval: C. Wayss moved to approve the manifest for \$349,477.98 dated 11/16/2023. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor. C. ways moved to approve the manifest for \$25,176.03 dated 11/22/2023. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

C. Wayss moved to approve the following facility use request;
UNH Marine Docents-Town Hall-Holiday Party-December 14th.

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

C. Wayss moved to approve the following facility use request;
Newington School-Old Town Hall Fields-Star Gazing-November 30th.

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

C. Wayss moved to approve the following facility use request;
Newington School-Town Hall-Holiday Luncheon-December 22nd.

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

C. Wayss moved to approve the following facility use request;
Lulu Pickering-Old Town Hall-Party-January 12, 2024.

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

C. Wayss moved to approve the following facility use request;

Newington Town Church-Town Hall-Free Celtic Concert-February 16, 2024.

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

Fox Point Rental/Hot Water Heater-Jeremy Boston:

B. Blonigen said that the Board was pleased with all the work J. Boston had done on getting all the numbers for this project and think that J. Boston should proceed with the plan. Redoing the electric panel would have been moved and the cost would have been excessive. J. Boston said that doing the combo unit would mean that no utility equipment would be in the basement anymore. J. Boston thought that the boiler and the hot water heater that are currently in the Fox Point rental house could be used for future use in another town building.

2024 Budget Review:

M. Roy said that the 2024 budget is \$8,988,419, the difference between the 2023 budget and the 2024 budget is \$194,851. When you deduct the difference from the Sewer budget and the Cemetery trust expenses the difference is a \$88,000 increase. The notable changes are; the Fire Department warrant article for new personnel was cut to \$101,868, COAST Bus was cut by \$11,823 and the Pest Control budget was cut by \$30,650. Most warrant articles were cut by 50%. M. Roy said that she talked to Selectman Arsenault today and he was in favor of this budget. M. Roy said that she had reached out to the Recreation Committee for confirmation regarding the budget cut of \$80,000 from their Summer Program budget line due to the change in the Camp program for 2024. The changes are that families don't have to sign up for all nine weeks, they can sign up for fewer weeks, the YMCA will take over full administration of the camp and there will be no contribution from the Town.

C. Wayss moved to approve the 2024 budget of \$8,988,419. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

C. Wayss moved to send that budget amount on to the Budget Committee. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Public Comment:

B. Blonigen thanked the Fire Department for inviting him to lunch the other day to discuss the warrant article.

B. Blonigen thanked everyone in Town that came together on the budget. This was a tough year. A revaluation will be done in 2024.

The new Fire truck is coming on Thursday or Friday. Discussion ensued about where the old fire truck should be stored while the Town is waiting to sell it.

Ann Hyland Hebert asked if there was a time limit on bids for the old truck. B. Blonigen said the Board has not discussed that yet and haven't discussed the next phase if no bids are received.

B. Blonigen said that the Fox Point rental house was posted a "no pets" but thinks it is too restrictive and would like to entertain pets with a small security deposit to cover the pet.

B. Blonigen said that Wilcox came before the Planning Board last night and the Board did move in favor of their proposal. They still need to go to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Procon came before the Planning Board last night with a proposal for a retirement building across Nimble Hill Road from Mitchell's Gulf Station. It would be a three-phase retirement community. There will be a public meeting on this proposal soon. This area is in an Office District where this use is not authorized. There would have to be a zoning overlay to allow that in the office district.

A chain restaurant is looking at the Mavis Tire location.

The Planning Board will have to relook at the Town's workforce housing overlays.

There is nothing new from the PDA.

Wood Engineering is putting in some new wells on town property to monitor PFAS.

The Selectmen will ask the Air Force to come in once a year to update the residents on their findings with the PFAS.

Adjournment: C. Wayss moved to adjourn at 6:04pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Eleanor Boy, Recorder