

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday December 5th, 2022

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Attorney John Ratigan, Conservation Commission Chair Jane Hislop, Library Trustees Chair Jack O'Reilly, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Larry and Mary Wahl, Several Newington Residents and Church Members, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:33pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as amended, November 21, 2022 and November 28, 2022. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Manifest Approval:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifests for \$25,579.01 dated 11/17/2022, \$32,058.64 dated 11/23/2022 and \$437,048.41 dated 12/1/2022. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Facility Use Requests:**

B. Blonigen moved to approve the following requests:

Jessica Auger-OTH-January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023-Baby Shower

UNH Marine Docents Program (John Lamson)-TH-Dec 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>-Holiday Party

Newington School-TH Auditorium-December 22<sup>nd</sup>-Luncheon

HDC-Stone School-December 18<sup>th</sup>-Bonfire

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

**Newington Churches-Discussion of Meeting House Costs:**

T. Connors thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. The Board has been meeting with all department heads to emphasize the importance of conserving electricity & fuel this winter. The Building Inspector has projected a 40% increase in costs for fuel and electricity this winter. L. Wahl asked that the Board look into who owns the mailbox in front of the Parsonage. There is a new owner of the Parsonage and this issue needs clarification. L. Wahl asked about who requested a light on the outside of the Meeting House. The Building Inspector has written to the Selectmen about this, and it will be on a future agenda. B. Blonigen suggested using motion sensors, but there will be more discussion before anything is done. L. Wahl also mentioned that an electrician needs to look at the fire panel at the Meeting House. Rev. Jeff said that the church is a blessing for the Town. It is a beautiful building full of wonderful people.

Rev. Nancy said that she loves the congregation and the Town and each is a blessing for the other. A Church in a Town is a gift to the Town. W. Gilbert asked who has the authority to schedule events at the Meeting House. M. Roy said that the Board of Selectmen took over the scheduling in 2018. W. Gilbert would like to see the Meeting House used more for events like the Scouts and other groups. T. Connors thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**2023 Library Budget Correction:**

M. Roy explained that the new Library budget is \$254,524, which includes the reduction of \$4,500 in electricity and \$13,600 in operating expenses. B. Arsenault pointed out the library's equipment maintenance line is listed in the department budget as \$1,000 and the Selectmen's budget is \$1,300. B. Arsenault proposed reducing this line to \$1,000. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the Library 2023 budget of \$254,224. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Library Capital Reserve Article Placement on Warrant:**

B. Arsenault proposed adding the Library Capital Reserve Article back on the warrant because the \$20,000 is part of the Library building's capital improvement plan. B. Blonigen would like to take another look at the overall budget to make sure that the town is still at their budget goal for 2023.

**2023 Town Building Administration Budget Correction:**

**B. Arsenault moved to cut an additional \$2,000 from the contracted services line for a new budget total of \$16,500. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**2023 Town Buildings and Land Management Budget Corrections:**

M. Roy explained that the Town Buildings budget changed because the Carriage House was included in the first budget presented and it should have been included in the land management budget. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the new Town Buildings budget of \$181,700 and the new Land Management budget of \$61,750. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**2023 Emergency Management Budget Correction:**

**B. Arsenault moved to approve the new Emergency Management budget of \$20,670. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**B. Arsenault moved to enter a nonpublic session at 6:20pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

**B. Arsenault moved to return to public session at 7:02pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-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. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

B. Arsenault exited the meeting.

**Conservation Trust Warrant Articles:**

J. Ratigan put together two warrant articles for the 2023 town meeting. The first warrant article would change the percentage of money allowed in the account per RSA 79.25. The second warrant article would set up a new capital reserve perpetual trust fund for the Conservation Commission. J. Hislop is concerned that these would interfere with state regulations and that the Conservation Commission is only allowed to use the money in these accounts for very specific things such as land protection and public education. J. Ratigan said that both warrant articles are consistent with state laws. J. Ratigan explained that the interest from the new conservation perpetual trust fund would go into the current conservation capital reserve fund each year. There is a \$350,000 cap on this conservation fund. If the interest from the perpetual fund makes the conservation fund to go over \$350,000 the extra funds will remain in the trust fund. T. Connors would like to have an explanation of these warrant articles sent out to all residents in early January. J. Ratigan said that the funds from land use changes would be put in the new perpetual conservation trust fund. J. Hislop would like a guarantee that these funds would be used for conservation. J. Ratigan said that any changes would always have to go before the residents at the Town Meeting. J. Hislop asked how the town could keep this on the record 100 years from now. J. Ratigan said that once it is established it can't be changed without a vote at town meeting. J. Ratigan said that after there isn't any land left in town to conserve, the money could be used for trail maintenance, signs and drainage issues on easements and improvements to the town forest. B. Blonigen suggested adding language to the warrant article so the Conservation Commission can use the \$350,000 for additional projects such as; trail maintenance, signage, protecting the bay (eel grass) and improvements on conservation land easements. The next step is to bring the draft warrant articles to the Conservation Commission meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> for review. T. Connors said that the Board is in agreement to move forward with these warrant articles.

**Shattuck Way Drainage Issue:**

M. Roy called the NHDOT about the letter requesting the State install flow meters by the Shattuck Way drainage culvert at Custom Pools. The State DOT will be sending an official letter within the next week. They have special regulators to put on the culverts to figure out the flooding issues.

**Fox Point Dock & Stairs Repair Bid Results:**

This item was postponed until a future meeting.

**Budget Snapshot:**

S. Bagley reviewed the 2022 budget with the Board. The budget is on target.

**PDA No Trespass Signs-Town Forest:**

Most of the signs have been removed. The remaining will be removed soon.

**PDA Draft Letter to Reps:**

This item was postponed until a future meeting.

**Veteran's Property Tax Credits Warrant Article-Required Change:**

M. Roy explained that State law requires these changes be made. B. Blonigen read the proposed warrant articles. **B. Blonigen moved to move forward with both veteran warrant articles as written. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Economic Revitalization Zone Renewal:**

M. Roy said that this renewal is required every five years. The zone, that includes the office, industrial and commercial zones, would remain the same. This is a benefit to applicable businesses as they can apply for a discount to the NH Business Profits tax. **B. Blonigen moved to renew the Economic Revitalization Zone for five years. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**T. Connors moved to enter a nonpublic session at 7:50pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (I). B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

**B. Blonigen moved to return to public session at 8:02pm, seconded by T. Connors. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

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

**Adjournment: B. Blonigen moved to adjourn at 8:03pm. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder