

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 1st, 2021 Remote Via Zoom

Attending Meeting by Phone: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Paul Deschaine, Project Manager, Board of Fire Engineers Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Brenda Blonigen, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:09pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

T Connors read the following statement; Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Minutes Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of January 28th, 2021 2:30pm meeting, January 28th, 2021 3pm meeting and January 28th, 2021. M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Facility Use Request:

K. Latchaw moved to approve the following request.

Police Department (Mike Sullivan)-Town Hall-May 5th & 6th, 9-5-Training

M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Paul Deschaine-Coalition of Communities MOU (Donor Towns):

P. Deschaine explained that the State Education Commission was formed in the early part of 2020. The Commission hired the American Institute for Research (AIR) to do a model for school funding in the state and the distribution formula to fund adequate education. The model showed that the average cost per student in NH exceeds the national average, however the distribution of the funds is the problem. Some towns are exceeding the average and some towns are below the average. The more money spent on education the better outcome. The average cost per student is approximately \$18,000. The model would suggest that Newington would have to raise \$8.6 million, keep \$1.4 million and turn over \$7.3 million to the state. Newington has joined a coalition led by Portsmouth's Assistant City Attorney Jane Ferrini to oppose this donor town legislation. M. Marconi moved to approve and authorize the Town of Newington to participate in the newly formed Coalition Communities 2.0 and further authorize Chair Ted Connors to sign the MOU and name Paul Deschaine as the representative for the Town of Newington. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T.

Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

K. Latchaw asked M. Roy to introduce Paul Deschaine to State Representative Dennis Malloy.

Birchtree School Request:

M. Roy spoke to the Police Chief and he indicated that he had no problems with the request. **K. Latchaw moved to approve The Birchtree School request. M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

Fire Department Grant Application for \$15,000:

E. Hoyt explained that the Fire Department plans to apply for a grant for workout equipment. The grant is for the same amount as the warrant article for workout equipment. E. Hoyt would like to go for both options; if they receive the grant and the warrant article passes then the Fire Department would turn the warrant article money back to the town. T. Connors thanked E. Hoyt for his work on this grant. **K. Latchaw moved to approve and accept the Fire Department application for the grant for workout equipment. M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

Brandon Arsenault-Safety Lane Warrant Article Discussion:

B. Arsenault sent an email to the Board of Selectmen asking them to reconsider their decision to encumber the \$140,000 for the Safety/Bike lane project. B. Arsenault believes that it was said at the 2020 town meeting that the funds would be returned to the unassigned funds if they weren't used in 2020. K. Latchaw said that he had read the transcript from the town meeting and couldn't find where it said that the funds would be returned if not used in 2020. The transcript says that the funds will be returned to the town if the project doesn't go forward. T. Connors said that support for the Safety/Bike lane was high at the town meeting. B. Arsenault said that there weren't that many people at the town meeting because it was at the beginning of Covid. He thought that it was not fair to the volunteers who worked on the budget, to have this added at the last minute. T. Connors thought that the town should proceed with the safety/bike path, but it should be put on a warrant article for a 2021 town meeting vote. M. Roy read the proposed warrant article that would be sent to the Budget Committee tomorrow if approved.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$620,208. for the purpose of designing and constructing a safety lane along Nimble Hill Road from Shattuck Way to Arboretum Drive and to authorize the Selectmen to accept \$496,166. to be reimbursed to the Town from Federal funds administered through the NH DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and to further raise \$124,042. (20% match). This sum to come from unassigned fund

balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner.

K Latchaw moved to approve the safety Lane warrant article as read by M. Roy. M Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:00pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder