Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 16th, 2021 Remote Via Zoom

Attending Meeting via Zoom: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Police Commission Chair Brenda Blonigen, Moderator Jack O'Reilly, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 6:00pm 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: The Board postponed the approval of the February 1, 2021 until the next meeting.

Manifest Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for $77,583.86 dated 1/28/2021, $309,263.87 dated 2/4/2021 and $99,277.70 dated 2/11/2021. 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 Requests:
M. Marconi moved the approve the following facility use requests:
Fire Department-Town Hall-Training-Various Dates
Newington School Supporters-Old Town Hall-Road Race-September 24, 25 & 26, 2021
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.

Seacoast Reliability Project Road Damage Discussion:
D. Hebert has reviewed the letter that will be sent Eversource about the road damage. The MOU that was signed by the Town and Eversource clearly allows the towns to make a final determination about the SW Cole report on the road damage. **K. Latchaw moved to approve the draft of the letter to be sent to Eversource. 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.**

M. Marconi thanked Denis Hebert for all his hard work on behalf of the Town.

Wilcox Way Update:
M. Roy said the town engineer, Eric Weinrieb, has given the town a "punch list" of items that need to be completed before accepting Wilcox Way as a town road. M. Roy said that the Engineer and the Town Planner both stated that the town should wait until

all the items on the "punch list" are completed and recommended that the board should delay accepting the road until the Spring. The Board concurred with this recommendation.

Motorized Vehicles on Town Property Updated Ordinance:
It has come to the attention of the Board that the 1986 town ordinance about motorized vehicles on town land does not include the Town Forest. The ordinance was approved by town meeting in 1986 and Pease didn't give Newington the Town Forest land until 1991. T. Connors thought that the town should put together a committee to review how to move forward. The committee would include the Planner, Police, and representatives from various committees and residents, to look at allowing motorized vehicles on town land and give their recommendations to the Board. **K. Latchaw moved to put together a committee to investigate the "motorized vehicles in the town forest" issue. 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.**

Right To Know:
T. Connors explained that a couple of weeks ago a town employee was sent to the Police Station to record a Police Commissioners meeting and was turned away. At the September 9, 2020 Budget Committee meeting they asked the Board of Selectmen to start recording all meetings and post them to the website. The Board has begun doing this. The NH Right to Know law says that anyone can go to any meeting and record it. The Board has since asked for a legal opinion. K. Latchaw recused himself from this discussion. Police Commission Chair B. Blonigen said that she thought that the law said that anyone could audio record the meeting not video the meeting. She said she was wrong and has called the town employee to apologize. T. Connors is glad that this issue has been resolved. The Board of Fire Engineers asked if they could record their meetings and post it on their website and the town's website. T. Connors said that they could sit down and work something out. M. Marconi said that all meetings should be recorded and posted so the residents can see what's going on in the Town.

Sansoucy Utility Appraisal Contract:
The 2021 contract is now $37,500 which is down $10,000. **K. Latchaw moved to approve the Sansoucy contract for 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.**
T. Connors thanked Karen Anderson for all her work and negotiations on the contract. She has done an outstanding job on behalf of the town.

Little Bay Water Line Construction Easement:
T. Connors explained that this easement is to allow Portsmouth Water use of an area at Fox Point as a staging area for the Little Bay Water Line construction project. The only

digging associated with this project is at the water line where the pipe comes up from the bay to Fox Point. Portsmouth Water has already come before the Conservation Commission with this proposal. The project is going to happen in the Fall of 2021 and Winter 2022. Portsmouth Water will restore the staging area to its original condition at the end of the project. **M. Marconi moved to approve the use of Fox Point by Portsmouth Water as a staging area for the Little Bay Water Line project. 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.**

Investment Policy:
K. Latchaw moved to approve the Investment policy for 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.

Town Meeting Location:
The Town Meeting is set for March 13, 2021. The School meeting will begin at 10:00am and the Town meeting will begin at 10:30am. There will be two locations for the meetings, the Fire Station and the Town Hall. Moderator Jack O'Reilly and Town Clerk Laura Coleman have worked out the voting process in both areas in case there is a ballot vote at some point. There will also be a Zoom component to the meeting. Residents will be able to Zoom from home and then come down to cast a ballot if needed. T. Connors commended L. Coleman, J. O'Reilly, M. Roy, E. Hoyt and M. Bilodeau for all their hard work and corporation. **K. Latchaw moved to approve the two locations for Town Meeting on March 13th, 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.**

T. Connors said that there will be a Design review meeting for the Safety/Bike lane before the Town Meeting. The town engineer will be there to answer questions.

Private Wells:
M. Roy said that the Air Force has been contacting residents to get information about how they use their wells. M. Marconi said that he had been contacted.

Adams Homestead Conservation Easement-Site Walk Date:
The dates are March 23, 24, 25 & 26. Board members will check their schedules and set up something.

Sale of State-Owned Land-Train Depot Status:
There is a new NH DOT project manager for the sale of state land. The Town is waiting to hear from her. T. Connors said that Lulu Pickering is keeping track of this project. The town will set up a meeting with the State, Board of Selectmen and L. Pickering to talk about the Train Depot at Bloody Point.

T. Connors thanked J. O'Reilly for all his hard work on behalf of the Town on the town meeting. The town will put the town meeting information that was voted on tonight in a letter to the State.

<u>Adjournment:</u> M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:29am. 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