

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 22nd, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Michael Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Town Moderator Jack O'Reilly, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 2:00pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a& e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to return to public session at 2:50pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-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, B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes. All were in favor.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of January 31st, 2022. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifests for \$176,474.45 dated 2/3/2022, \$34,271.42 dated 2/10/2022 and \$87,080.41 dated 2/17/2022. M. Marconi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

M. Marconi moved to approve the following facility use requests: Peter Latchaw-Old Town Hall Field-March-June Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-8pm- Lacrosse Practice and Sabine Strong Road Race-August 8, 2022-Old Town Hall Picnic Area. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in Favor.

Tax Map 19, Lot 2-Sale of Town Land-Bid Requirements:

M. Marconi moved to go out to bid on town land, Tax Map 19, Lot 2, for a minimum of \$175,000 as recommended by the Town Assessor. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to also go out to bid on lot B, River Road, as indicated on the diagram in the Selectmen's meeting packets, for a minimum of \$25,000 as

recommended by the Town Assessor. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Resignations:

M. Marconi moved to accept with regret the following resignations:

Matt Morton-Zoning Board, Ralph Estes-Zoning Board, Edna Mosher-Zoning Board and Jill Boynton-Economic Development Committee. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

T. Connors thanked everyone for their service and said that the Zoning Board needs strong people that aren't afraid to think "out of the box". B. Blonigen asked that an advertisement be placed in the Newsletter asking for volunteers to sit on the Zoning Board.

Solid Waste Pick Up-Len Thomas Retirement-Temp Hauling Quotes Review:

Len Thomas has retired from trash pick-up, but will continue as the Town's Road Agent. The Town has put out bids for temporary services for March and April and then will get permanent bids for services after that. B. Blonigen thought the Town should start with a one-year contract. M. Roy said that the town could save money by requiring that trash barrels be purchased and the trash pick up is automated. B. Blonigen didn't want to purchase trash cans the first year, maybe years 2 or 3. February 23rd is Len's last trash run. M. Marconi asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Len.

Jack O'Reilly-March Election & Town Meeting:

Voting is in two weeks at the Town Hall from 11am-7pm. The set up will be the same as last year. The health officer said that it was ok to sell food, but it will be at the door in the auditorium on the way out. The test ballots for the voting machine will be run soon. M. Marconi asked if there were any questions about doing away with the voting machines. J. O'Reilly said not in this town. T. Connors asked about the RSA that states that if your name is on the ballot then you can't handle the ballots, feed ballots into the machine or count votes. J. O'Reilly said that he won't be touching any ballots. J. O'Reilly asked about the mask mandate for voting. T. Connors said that the Board will be evaluating it before the election.

Luxury Vapes, Fox Run Mall, "Retail Tobacco Only" License-NH Liquor Commission Notice:

The Board decided to table this issue until there is more information available.

Gulf of Maine Task Force-Extra Seat for Newington:

The Board received an email from Mike Donahue saying that there is a potential opportunity to get Newington another seat at the table. T. Connors is the current representative for Newington on this task force. M. Roy will pursue this potential additional seat.

Pease Development Authority Semiannual Noise Compatibility Meeting:

This meeting will take place on March 3rd at 6:30pm at the PDA. M. Roy will send out an urgent alert to let residents know this.

Pease Development Authority Air Cargo Proposal:

Paul Brean is going to come to a meeting to update the Board on this project. T. Connors would also like to invite the two representatives to the PDA, Peggy Lamson and Susan Parker. M. Roy will set up a date when Paul Brean is available. B. Blonigen said that he was disappointed that the Board had not been briefed on this yet.

Police Chief Mike Bilodeau-Legalization of Marijuana Bill:

There is a bill currently going through the process that would legalize marijuana in NH. The Governor could still veto this bill, but in the meantime Chief Bilodeau recommends that the Town consider new zoning for potential distribution centers in Newington. M. Bilodeau recommends that the town have this zoning in place before legalization happens. The Chief is not in favor of distributions centers in Newington due to the robberies of centers that has happened in other locations. If marijuana becomes legal in NH it will be controlled by the State the same as the State regulates alcohol. B. Blonigen said that he will bring it up to the Planning Board for discussion. T. Connors asked that M. Roy prepare a letter to the Planning Board from the Board of Selectmen asking them to consider this zoning change.

B. Blonigen asked E. Hoyt if there was any word on the damage to the fire truck. E. Hoyt said that the repair will be \$15,000. This truck will be the spare truck when the new truck arrives in late May 2022. B. Blonigen asked if there was any interest in the truck the Town will be retiring. E. Hoyt said that it is 27 years old, so there is little interest. It could be donated or sold. The Fire Department's new pickup truck has arrived and is currently being outfitted.

T. Connors recessed the meeting at 3:24pm. The meeting will resume at 4pm.

M. Marconi called the meeting back to order at 4:00pm.

Conference Call with USPS & Senator Shaheen's Office to discuss a New Zip Code for Newington and Problems with the Postal Service:

Mark and Rose Phillips explained the problems they are having due to Portsmouth naming a road, for an apartment complex, Hodgdon Way. They are receiving all kinds of mail, packages, furniture delivery, pizza delivery etc. M. Phillips believes that Portsmouth illegally named that road in Portsmouth the same name as a road in Newington because the two towns share a zip code. M. Phillips has gone to many City Council meetings to express his frustration, but Portsmouth is unwilling to change the

name of the road. M. Phillips thought that a new zip code for Newington would solve this problem. A representative of the postal service said that this wasn't possible because Newington applied for a zip code in 2017 and was turned down. Newington can't reapply for 10 years. M. Phillips asked why Newington couldn't use the zip code 03805, that already exists and was used for mail to civilians at the Air Base. The postal representatives said that it couldn't be used. Manchester sorts all the mail that comes to Portsmouth and then it is delivered. It seems the problem is with the sorting in Manchester.

Discussion ensued about how to correct this problem. The post office could meet with the tenants of the apartment complex and explain the postal process and the correct way to address a letter.

A postal representative from Senator Shaheen's office stated that other towns have faced this problem and have resolved it by changing the name of the street in their town. It is really the only thing that Newington controls and it would solve the problem. The postal representative will reach out to Portsmouth and the owners of the West End Yards apartment complex and see if a meeting can be set up to discuss the problem.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 4:30pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder