Town of Newington, NH

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 16th, 2021

**Present**: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Board of Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Historic District Commission Chair Lulu Pickering, PDA Rep Peggy Lamson via phone, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

**M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:00pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors- Yes, M. Marconi- Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.**

**M. Marconi moved to return to public session at 5:42pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-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, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.**

T. Connors recessed the meeting until 6pm.

T. Connors called the meeting back to order at 6pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

T. Connors welcomed Bob Blonigen the newly elected Selectman and thanked all the people who worked so hard on the election and town meeting; Moderator Jack O’Reilly, Town Clerk Laura Coleman, Deputy Town Clerk Doreen Caradonna, Larry and Mary Wahl, the Fire Department and everyone else that contributed. It all worked out very well. T. Connors also thanked the Safety Lane Committee and all their efforts.

**Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of February 1st,** **2021 and February 16th, 2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests for $43,992.76 dated 2/18/2021, $74,748.41 dated 2/25/2021, $200,408.70 dated 3/4/2021 and $110,120.73 dated 3/11/2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Fire Truck Process-Assistant Chief Pat Moynihan and Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert:**

Engine 5 is currently 25 years old and needs to be replaced. P. Moynihan asked for three bids from three companies after giving them the list of replacement specs for the new truck.

Three bids were received; $668,896 for a KME Pro Pumper, $670,000 for a E-One Emax Pumper and $659,518 for a Pierce Enforcer Pumper. Every fire truck that is built is a custom truck for the buyer. P. Moynihan reached out to several Fire Departments that have purchased the KME Pro Pumper and all highly recommend the truck. KME also has a great service team. They have 3 repair shops in New England with a total of 18 mechanics. He stated that KME’s guarantees and warranties are the best and the longest. P. Moynihan and the Board of Fire Engineers recommend the KME Pro Pumper. M. Marconi asked if P. Moynihan expects there to be any hidden expenses. P. Moynihan said no. T. Connors asked if P. Moynihan had used the fire survey report to equip the truck with their recommendations. P. Moynihan said that he did. M. Roy would like to get a full list of the specs for the truck. P. Moynihan said that he would leave the three binders for the Selectmen to look at. B. Blonigen said that he would like the summary page listing the three vendors and the recommendation page. M. Marconi asked if there would be a down payment. P. Moynihan said there would be no down payment required. KME will hold the price until 4/15/21. They will start building the truck as soon as the contract is signed. M. Roy asked if P. Moynihan if there are other towns that do not put out an official RFP for a new fire truck. P. Moynihan said he had talked to Rochester because they had just purchased a truck using an RFP. They told P. Moynihan that they had used an RFP because they already knew which vendor they were going to use. Also, P. Moynihan pointed out that an RFP doesn’t address service of the truck and he believes that the service after the purchase is very important. B. Blonigen asked if the Board of Fire Engineers supported this recommendation. A. Hyland Hebert said that the Board had many conversations with P. Moynihan and thought that it was a good value for the dollar and would compliment what the department has now. P. Moynihan said that the Board of Fire Engineers voted 3-0, to recommend the purchase of this truck. T. Connors thanked P. Moynihan and A. Hyland Hebert for coming in and letting the Board of Selectmen know their recommendation for the purchase of a new fire truck.

**Pease Development Authority Status Report-Peggy Lamson:**

P. Lamson congratulated B. Blonigen on his victory and welcomed him. P. Lamson told the Board that the Million Air is requesting to be added as a Fixed Base Operator at PDA. Many hours have been spent on this project, the application had to be approved, the site plan had to be approved and there is a meeting tomorrow morning at 9am. T. Connors asked if the Pan Am building could be used because it was contaminated. P. Lamson said they weren’t going to use the Pan Am building, just the area behind it. They propose to build at 35 Exeter Street. T. Connors thanked P. Lamson for updating the Board.

**Facility Use Requests:**

**M. Marconi moved to approve the following requests:**

Recreation Department-Old Town Hall-March 28th-Egg Hunt

Seacoast Lacrosse-Peter Latchaw & Chris Russo-OTH Field & Lower School Field-Mid-

March to Mid-June-Practice

Robin Patenaude-Fox Point-July 17th-Wedding

**B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Volunteer Positions Advertisement:**

The Board reviewed the list of committees that are looking for volunteers. If anyone wants to volunteer, they should send an email or letter to the Selectmen asking the be considered for a committee by April 1st. B. Blonigen asked why a Town Forest Committee was necessary. T. Connors said that residents have asked for clarification on the activities allowed in the town forest, so he thought a committee could be put together to come up with a solution. B. Blonigen thought that members of other committees could be used for the Town Forest Committee. T. Connors thought that a member of the HDC, Conservation, Recreation, Library, Planning Board, the Police Chief and one or two residents that use the Town Forest would be a good blend for the committee. B. Blonigen asked why the Safety Lane Committee was still listed, T. Connors thought the committee should still exist because 50% of residents were in favor of the safety lane and another idea could be presented to the town at a later date. L. Pickering thought that the Safety Lane Committee should still be intact because Newington’s roads are still not safe. B. Blonigen said that the town has a Highway Safety Committee already that could address any issued on the roads. L. Pickering also said that many trails in the Town Forest are near contaminated areas and should be explained to users of the trails.

**Little Bay Water Line Temporary Construction Easement:**

M. Roy explained that this construction easement has been approved by the Conservation Commission and the Town’s attorney. **M. Marconi moved to authorize T.** **Connors to sign the Little Bay water line temporary construction easement. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Adams Homestead Conservation Easement-Site Walk Date:**

M. Roy explained that March 23, 24, 25 and 26 between 8-5 are available for the site walk and suggested that the site walk could be scheduled the same day as their non-public meeting next week. M. Roy will check with the other groups involved and get back to the Selectmen with a date.

**Pease Development Authority Joint Rep (Newington & Greenland):**

Peter Loughlin has been the PDA rep for Portsmouth and Newington for years. That position has been eliminated and now there is going to be a PDA rep for Newington & Greenland. T. Connors said that this is going to be a great loss for Newington and the PDA because Peter Loughlin has been a great asset for years. Newington and Greenland are advertising for applicants and then will pick a PDA rep from the list.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment-Temporary Appointments:**

Town Planner John Krebs has asked the Board of Selectmen to appoint two temporary members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the March 25th, 2021 meeting. This is needed because two members of the board are abutters to the applicant. Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair Matt Morton has recommended the appointment of Denis Hebert and Bob Burns. **B. Blonigen moved to** **appoint Denis Hebert and Bob Burns as temporary members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the March 25th, 2021 meeting. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.** L. Pickering explained that this is her nephew that is going before the Board of Adjustment on the 25th and asked that Denis Hebert not be appointed. T. Connors explained that the Board of Adjustment Chair Matt Morton has recommended these two people.

**Train Depot Status-Sale of State Land Bloody Point:**

L. Pickering explained that it appears that the tide is shifting in Newington’s favor for transferring the Train Depot and land at Bloody Point. This is possible because of the historic mitigation for the George Sullivan Bridge. The State was supposed to maintain the train depot while it was owned by them, they did not. The Town would like the State to fix up the building before Newington would take it over. B. Blonigen expressed his concern that the Town has no estimates on the cost to fix or maintain the building or the plans after the town gets the building. T. Connors said that the Board of Selectmen had sent a letter to the State asking for 1 million to fix up the building and land around it. B. Blonigen thought a park like Hilton park would be nice. L. Pickering agreed. T. Connors questioned if the Town needed another old building and land to maintain. L. Pickering said that this is a once in a generation opportunity to acquire this land. Once it is gone, it is gone. T. Connors said that the Selectmen would schedule a meeting with Jennifer Reczek from the NHDOT to discuss the agreement between the State and the Town.

**Piscataqua River Turning Basin Update**: M. Roy said that the Board had received a letter from Mike Donahue about the dredging of the turning basin. The project is short by $1.5 million. The legislature is taking up this issue.

The Board also received a letter from the Brown family asking that the water level in Motts Pond be reduced. T. Connors thought that if another plank was taken out the water level would be too low. B Blonigen raised concern about the wildlife if the level gets too low. T. Connors asked M. Roy to notify Mr. Brown that a plank has been removed.

**Election of Officers:**

T. Connors explained that usually the most senior Selectman was nominated for the Chair, which would be M. Marconi. M. Marconi appreciated the offer from T. Connors but would like to nominate T. Connors for the Chair position. **M. Marconi moved to** **nominate T. Connors for Chair of the Board of Selectmen. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Adjournment:** **M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 7:10pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Boy

Recorder