

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday March 6th, 2023

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Building Inspector Jeremy Boston, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Residents Lis Connors and David Obertanec, Town Administrator Martha Roy and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the minutes of February 21st, 2023. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Manifest Approval:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifests for \$30,615.45 dated 2/23/2023 and \$349,058.00 dated 3/9/23. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Facility Use Request:**

**B. Arsenault moved to approve the following requests;**

Brenda Blonigen-Sabine Strong Foundation 33-August 13, 2023-Old Town Hall-Outside area

Peter Latchaw-NPS-TH Auditorium-March 31, 2023-Portsmouth Symphony Quartet

Carrie Ely-Celebration of Life-March 25, 2023-Town Hall

**B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Spirit of Newington Presentation:**

This item was postponed until a later meeting.

**Portsmouth Waterline Public Hearing:**

The Public Hearing for the Portsmouth Waterline will be Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 5:30pm at the Town Hall. Brian Goetz from the Portsmouth water department and the engineers for the project, Wright-Pierce, will be in attendance.

**Sprague Odor Complaints Status:**

There have been numerous odor complaints lately. Sprague has responded that they don't believe they are all from their location and suggested that it might be from Sea-3. Sea3 told M. Roy that they report all repairs leaks/concerns immediately to the Fire Dept. The representative from Sprague pointed out that it says "Sprague" right on the complaint form on the Towns' website and would like the form to not include their name. B. Arsenault pointed out that residents may be hesitate to complete the form

because it asks for your name, address, phone number and email. Many people don't want to include that information and the Town would get a better response if that information wasn't on the forms. M. Roy said that those fields are not required fields on the form. B. Blonigen asked if Paul Deschaine could look at the form and make it more generic and not have the residents name on the forms.

**Stone School Committee:**

The committee will include a Board of Selectmen Rep, a Planning Board Rep, an HDC Rep, Building Inspector Jeremy Boston, Town Planner John Krebs, John Lamson and Kara Anderson.

**Community Power Coalition Update:**

M. Roy, J. Boston, Lara Berry and Jamie Belanger all attended a zoom meeting about the Community Power Coalition. There were 60 people in the zoom meeting. The benefit of the coalition is potentially lower rates. However, the Town just switched its electric supplier and is getting a good rate. The Town has no exposure. B. Blonigen suggested that the Town have a public forum with representatives from the coalition so they can explain everything to the residents. If the Town decides to go with the coalition, it means that all residents are automatically signed up for the coalition, but then they can opt out. It is unclear how this would affect residents with solar power. J. Boston suggested that Newington wait a year to see how it goes in other communities and they look at it again. M. Roy will reach out to a rep and invite them to a future meeting.

T. Connors thanked everyone for the past six years of support during his time as a Selectmen. He has enjoyed serving Newington very much and will miss it.

**Adjournment:** B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 5:53pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder