

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday April 17th, 2023

Present: Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Selectman Chris Wayss, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Police Chief Mike Bilodeau, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Town Administrator Martha Roy and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

B. Blonigen called the meeting to order at 5:34pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the minutes of March 20th, 2023, March 21st, 2023, March 27th, 2023 and April 3rd, 2023. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifests for \$226,798.36 dated 3/30/2023 and \$81,387.59 dated 4/6/23. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Finance Director Sheryl Bagley-First Quarter 2023 Budget Review:

S. Bagley explained that the report is through April 15th. The Highway salt expense line is \$22,000 over the 2023 budgeted amount. M. Roy said that the highway staff will be attending salt school this summer. C. Wayss asked if Morton Salt had a contract with the town. M. Roy said yes. M. Roy said that Morton Salt is the only vendor that has the specific type of salt that the town uses. B. Arsenault would like the Road Agent to come to a Selectmen's meeting. C. Wayss questioned if the subcontractor could be taking too much salt for Woodbury Ave. The general legal expense line is higher than expected due to the Fox Run Mall abatement. The encumbrance listed on the report should be \$3,542.70 instead of \$35,427.00. B. Arsenault thought S. Bagley did a nice job on the report. B. Blonigen said he enjoys getting the report and said that it would be available to residents at the Town Hall.

Police Chief Michael Bilodeau and Fire Chief EJ Hoyt-Side by Side Grant:

E. Hoyt and M. Bilodeau asked the Selectmen to approve the grant for an ATV to be used by both the Police and Fire Departments. The Police Department would use it for the Airshow in September. They applied for the \$12,592 grant. There is no matching amount. The Fire Department found an ATV in Laconia. This dealership is the only one in the area that honors government pricing. The check for the grant is on its way to the town. The check will be for \$12,500, the additional \$92 will be taken out of the emergency management budget. The ATV will be kept in the Police garage. S. Bagley explained that the check would be deposited into the town's grant fund, not the general fund. B. Arsenault asked if this ATV would replace anything. E. Hoyt said no. This

ATV can be used on the refuge because the trails aren't maintained as well as they used to be. This ATV could be used for any special event in town; road races, events at Fox Point, events at the mall, events at the soccer fields and the Town Forest. There will be no trailer for it. B. Arsenault asked if ATVs are allowed on town roads. M. Bilodeau said that it varies by town. B. Blonigen asked them to look at how the city of Berlin does it. M. Bilodeau said that the NH Fish and Game regulates ATVs on roads. B. Blonigen asked that they find out what kind of ordinance is needed to have the ATV on our roads. B. Arsenault said that he would be in favor of the grant if the ATV won't be replaced in ten years and a bunch of accessories won't be added. E. Hoyt said that he agrees with B. Arsenault, but they can apply for a grant every year to add to the ATV. M. Bilodeau said that they would like to use the ATV in the Town Forest if someone gets injured and needs to be taken out. M. Bilodeau said that there are companies out there that could support them adding equipment to the ATV. C. Wayss suggested that they look at businesses at Pease for support. C. Wayss voiced his concern about not having a trailer and using the ATV on town roads. The tires on an ATV are not supposed to be used on roads, they are not very stable and have diminished turning ability. C. Wayss asked that the departments don't use their personal vehicles to transport the ATV. B. Arsenault said that he wouldn't support a gift that ends up costing the town more in the future. E. Hoyt said that the only equipment they want to add to the ATV would be a stokes basket holder that would be used to transport injured people on. They will look at other sources to pay for it. **B. Arsenault moved to accept and expend the side-by-side grant for the ATV as long as it is not binding the future replacement of the ATV and no further money will be spent on this project, except for maintenance, and that there is a clear understanding that this is a gift and should be treated that way and authorized the Chair to sign the grant. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Investment Policy:

M. Roy said that the Investment Policy is the same as last year except for the date and the Selectmen's names. **B. Arsenault moved to accept the Investment Policy as written. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Little Bay Waterline Replacement Update:

B. Arsenault explained that the Selectmen had met with the town's attorney and came up with items that should be included in the MOU.

The Board reviewed the MOU and made changes. B Blonigen will meet with Denis Hebert and Eric Weinrieb, PE about the road bonding/paving section and determine the language to be inserted in the MOU regarding that. Attached is the proposed MOU.

Labeling Paddle Craft:

E. Hoyt said that he had met with the Coast Guard and they would like to see all non-motorized water craft have an ID sticker on it with the owner's name and phone number. The Fire and Police departments are in favor of this request. B. Blonigen would like to get the dock master's opinion on this. C. Wayss thought that an ID sticker should be mandatory for use of the kayak racks.

1965 Water Agreement with Portsmouth Amendment:

Discussion ensued about the original 1965 water agreement with Portsmouth. Who was responsible for what in reference to the water lines. D. Hebert said that the developers pay to bring the water into the development. The homeowners pay for the taps. The waterlines are owned by Portsmouth. New roads in town fall under the responsibility of the developer, existing water lines fall under the 1965 agreement. B. Arsenault said that the "grey" areas in the 1965 agreement need to be cleared up before an amendment can be considered. The process for installation needs to be very clear. The Selectmen would like to talk to their attorney first to clarify what the 1965 agreement means before anything is amended. B. Blonigen said that they need to clean up the old agreement before add anything to it. The Board asked M. Roy to have our town attorney speak with the City of Portsmouth's attorney about this.

General Sullivan Bridge-DOT Agreement:

Both Dover and Newington don't want to maintain the bridge in the winter. M. Bilodeau said that he likes the agreement that Dover signed. B. Arsenault would like to review the Dover agreement before making any decisions.

Stone School Report:

The Selectmen reviewed the report done on the Stone School's current conditions and suggested repairs. B. Blonigen said that the report was incomplete because it didn't include any prices for the suggested work. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to send an email to the entire Stone School Committee to let them know that the Selectmen have the report but are waiting for more information. B. Arsenault said that the NHPA hasn't reviewed or approved the report yet. C. Wayss said that he would bring the report to the Stone School Committee that is meeting tomorrow, but considers the report a draft and won't be complete until there are dollar amounts in it. B. Arsenault thought that an application for a grant shouldn't be done until the NHPA signs off on the report and estimates are included. B. Blonigen said it is important to let the Stone School Committee go through the process of looking at all options and coming up with a recommendation. C. Wayss said that the committee needs to understand the dollar amounts before going forward.

Wilcox Industries Tour:

M. Roy will contact Jim Teetzel and ask how many people can come on the tour. The Board decided that Monday May 8th at 2:30pm would be the best time for them for a tour.

Appointments:

B. Arsenault moved to appoint Jane Kendall as an alternate for the Conservation Commission. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

B. Arsenault moved to appoint Meghann Wayss as an alternate for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. B. Arsenault and B. Blonigen in favor. C. Wayss abstained.

B. Arsenault moved to appoint Lillian Wilson as an alternate for the Library Trustees. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Craig Daigle submitted a letter to the Selectmen telling them that the cost to recycle glass has made it not financially feasible to continue this. He is working on the recycling options.

The Restoration Board at Pease received 4 applicants for 5 positions. They sounded positive about the Board's nomination.

Greenland vs Newington update: Greenland appealed Newington's request to deny.

The Planning Board was in favor of the sale of land to Wilcox, but voted against it because the property had town utilities under it. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to ask the Town Engineer to take another look at the property and see if the town could retain the rights of the utilities on the property but Wilcox could purchase it. D. Hebert said that it could inhibit future widening of Woodbury Ave. and that Jim Teetzel understood if the town couldn't sell the land to the company.

The Planning Board recommends that the property on Old Dover Road to be bought by one of the abutters. If the abutters aren't interested then it shouldn't be sold.

B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to contact an attorney about asking the abutters about purchasing the property.

C. Wayss would like to commend the residents that have been picking up trash on town roads. M. Roy will reach out to the Recreation Director about putting together a town wide cleanup day.

The Board would like to thank Jessica Morgan for all her hard work on completing the slide installation at the Old Town Hall. The Board recommended sending thank you letters to Jessica Morgan and the Recreation Committee.

Public Comment:

There was none.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:30pm. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder