

**Newington Board of Selectmen
Meeting**

**April 4, 2005
Newington Town Hall
6:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Chairman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman Jan Stuart, Residents George and Ruth Fletcher, Barbara McDonald, Cliff Abbott, Gail Pare, Lulu Pickering, Building Inspector Charlie Smart and Secretary Brenda Foster

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Iocovozzi at 6:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous

A memo was read from Town Treasurer George Fletcher appointing Laura Coleman as Deputy Treasurer. The Board had no problem with this.

Another memo was read from Town Treasurer George Fletcher informing the Selectmen of the elected positions on the Sewer Commission for 2005. Jean Bowser will serve as Treasurer, Ruth Fletcher as Clerk, Robert Hart Sr. as Vice Chairman and George Fletcher will be serving as Chairman. The Board had no problem with this.

Resident Barbara McDonald questioned the status of the Frink Easement project. Chairman Iocovozzi stated that the deed was signed last week, a meeting is set up for next week with the lawyer, and the closing should be held within two weeks.

Ms. McDonald also inquired about the possibility of the bringing someone in to do the Conservation Commission minutes. There is money in the Conservation budget that could be allotted for this. The current members can not participate and take the minutes. Chairman Iocovozzi suggested checking with Sandra Sweeney and see if she would be available to take the minutes.

Mr. Fletcher suggested to the Board that a payroll audit for 2003 – 2004 be conducted. He believes that there are procedural changes that might be recommended. There needs to be a more solid system of checks and balances. Selectman Stuart stated that she feels this is a good time to conduct a payroll audit since a new person will be coming into the office in AA Gillespie's place. Mr. Fletcher reiterated that the system of checks and balances should allow whoever does the payroll to completely understand the process, for example the steps for a pay raise at the Fire Department and the hours. Do the employees clock in or have sheets they fill out? Issues like that should be known.

Mr. Abbott asked if the Trust Funds are audited. Chairman Iocovozzi answered affirmatively. The trust funds are audited each year. Chairman Iocovozzi also said that

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without AA Gillespie being present specific questions may not be answered. Mr. Abbott said he understands this.

Gail Pare asked the status of Purchase Order for getting photographs at UNH. Chairman Iocovozzi said Town Planner Morgan has the P.O. and the check will not be cut until funds are available. Mr. Fletcher will be getting the TANS loan in a few weeks.

Mr. John Frink asked if there will be any problems closing on the easement deal since AA Gillespie will be leaving at the end of the month. He also stated that any Thursday will be good for him. Chairman Iocovozzi said that this will not be affected by AA Gillespie's resignation.

Mr. Larry Wahl asked about the ditches being filled. Chairman Iocovozzi said that he will be meeting with the engineers on Thursday. To receive a dredge and fill permit areas must be designated. That is what they are working on. Mr. Wahl said that they might want to review the downstream side of Coleman Drive for dredge and fill.

A memo was read from Conservation Commission Chairman Margaret Lamson regarding appointments and reappointments. She stated in her memo that George Fletcher and Margaret Lamson are up for reappointment for three years and that Justin Richardson is requesting appointment to the Conservation Commission. Motion made by Selectman Stuart to accept the reappointment of George Fletcher and Margaret Lamson for three year terms and the appointment of Justin Richardson for a three year term. Seconded by Chairman Iocovozzi. Vote 2-0.

Resident Lulu Pickering spoke to the Board regarding issues she has with the Trust Funds. Chairman Iocovozzi told her before she started speaking that AA Gillespie should be present. Ms. Pickering proceeded to suggest that all paperwork be held at the Town Office. Ms. Pickering feels that Randy Dunham has not been forthcoming in trustee information. Ms. Pickering pointed out that there are losses that are unaccounted for. Chairman Iocovozzi told Ms. Pickering again that a meeting should be held with the Selectmen, Trustees of the Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustees. Ms. Pickering continued to speak. She said that at last weeks Trustee's meeting that a financial group called "Henkel" was brought in. Chairman Iocovozzi said both sides need to be heard in this situation and a meeting between the groups should be held. Ms. Pickering stated that the matter of loss is not as important as the lack of forthcoming. Once again Chairman Iocovozzi said that no more should be said without the trustees being present. Ms.

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Pickering's recommendation is that all paperwork be held here at the Town Office and this should be done immediately. Chairman Iocovozzi asked that Ms. Pickering hold all recommendations until a meeting can be held between all parties. Ms. Pickering is concerned that this outside financial investment firm is being used without the Town's knowledge and without having been put out to bid. Chairman Iocovozzi said at the meeting the questions will be answered. Ms. Pickering restated that all the paperwork should be present and in the Town Office. Chairman Iocovozzi agreed. Ms. Pickering also said that the Town is not a client of Mr. Dunham's firm and if his firm has a deal with the Henkel Investors that this arrangement needs to stop. Ms. Pickering also had concerns about completing grant paperwork due to the State for the posts at the cemetery.

Building Inspector Communication

A memo was read from BI Charles Smart stating that he feels it would be in the best interest of the Town to have a new furnace installed in the old meeting house. Currently BI Smart is currently gathering costs. Ms. Pare asked if it is worth looking into a heat pump. Mr. Wahl answered that this would require an electrical change. Chairman Iocovozzi explained that the heat pumps draw heat from the air and blow it in but below 33 degrees an additional heating source would be necessary. BI Smart pointed out that the heat is only used once a week. Chairman Iocovozzi instructed BI Smart to continue getting prices.

Another memo was read from BI Smart regarding the installation of a panic button system in the Selectmen's office, Town Clerk's office and the reception area. BI Smart said that most town halls have already put such a system in place. Ms. Pare suggested using panic bracelets like the Langdon Library used to. BI Smart said it is worth being looked into. Chairman Iocovozzi asked for more research to be done before a decision is made.

BI Smart requested that the Board allow him to increase the application fee for Industrial and Commercial building permits from \$30.00 (thirty dollars) to \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) to cover costs of review, increase the application fee for new homes from \$30.00 (thirty dollars) to \$50.00 (fifty dollars) and eliminate the application fee for commercial/industrial trade permits and increase the base permit fee to \$100.00 (one hundred dollars). BI Smart explained that bigger commercial applications take more time to review than residential applications that are charged the same fee. The goal is to allow the Town to increase recovery costs. Selectman Stuart made the motion to accept the changes suggested by BI Smart to increase the application fees for Industrial and

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Commercial Building permits, application fees for new homes and the change in commercial/industrial trade permits. Seconded by Chairman Iocovozzi. Vote 2-0.

Signatures and Approvals

The list of new addresses for Shattuck Way/ River Road was reviewed. There was discussion. Selectman Stuart made the motion to accept these address changes and Chairman Iocovozzi sign on behalf of the Board. Seconded by Chairman Iocovozzi. Vote 2-0.

Town Hall Use

A Town Hall Use form from Rockingham Planning Commission for a meeting on June 9th from 6:30 – 9:30 was reviewed. Selectman Stuart made the motion to approve this town hall use request. Seconded by Chairman Iocovozzi. Vote 2-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Selectmen;

Meeting Adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Foster
Secretary