

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday May 16th, 2022

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault via Zoom, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Board of Fire Engineers Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Mark Phillips, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Blonigen moved to enter a nonpublic session at 6:01pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). B. Arsenault seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen- Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

**B. Blonigen moved to return to public session at 6:35pm, seconded by B. Arsenault. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

**B. Blonigen moved to seal the minutes indefinitely. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes. All were in favor.**

**Minutes Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the minutes of April 25, 2022. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Manifest Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifests for \$35,482.12 dated 4/28/2022, \$205,450.76 dated 5/5/22 and \$93,142.19 dated 5/12/2022. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Facility Use Requests:**

**B. Blonigen moved to approve the following facility use request:  
Recreation Committee-Fox Point-September 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2022-September  
B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in Favor.**

**Public Library Payment Schedule:**

This item was tabled until the May 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Selectmen's meeting.

**Fire Department Command Car Repair:**

P. Moynihan reported that it would cost \$3,928.16 for the needed mechanical repairs to the Suburban and \$6,473.38 to repair the body rot on the rear quarter panels. The Fire Department would like to purchase a new truck instead of doing the repairs to the

Suburban. P. Moynihan said that there are no state bids for trucks in 2022. He reached out to the 2021 vendors to get quotes from them. Some vendors give municipalities a discount and some do not. P. Moynihan gave the Board a list of vendors and the prices of a new truck. The prices ranged from \$43,000 to \$72,125. This price is just for the truck and doesn't include outfitting the truck which is approximately \$21,000. B. Blonigen said that the Board had gambled that the Suburban could last another year and they lost. B. Arsenault asked about the minimum specifications for the truck. P. Moynihan said that the truck needs to be a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck because it is the back up towing truck for the department. B. Arsenault expressed his concern about the high fuel costs associated with the command cars being driven back and forth to the Chiefs' residences each day. P. Moynihan said that they do that because they can't leave the Town exposed. B. Arsenault asked if the forestry vehicle could be used as the tow vehicle. P. Moynihan said that you need a CDL license to use the forestry truck to tow. B. Arsenault asked if the body repair needed to be done to pass the inspection. P. Moynihan said yes. B. Blonigen thought that the Suburban was past the point of repair. B. Arsenault doesn't like the idea of a gas guzzler going up and down Route 16 every day. P. Moynihan said that the command vehicles are not included in the Fire Department Vehicle Capital Improvement Plan and would like to redo the CIP to include these vehicle purchases in the future. Discussion ensued about where the money for the new truck would come out of the budget. E. Hoyt said that the Fire Department has a budget line for equipment and vehicle purchases that has \$10,000 in it. The department could overspend this line. A. Hyland Hebert pointed out that the Fire Department has had a lower budget the past couple of years and they have had revenue each year that has been deposited in the general fund. B. Blonigen suggested that \$12,000 could be taken out of the Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund and \$10,000 could be taken out of the Fire Department expense line for equipment and vehicle purchases. J. Klanchesser pointed out that the fuel expense line will be over budget in 2022. B. Arsenault asked if the department could look at more economical options. P. Moynihan said that he would look at the difference between a  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton and  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton trucks fuel usage. M. Roy said that if the money was going to come from the town budget, then the Board would have to figure out what would have to be cut. M. Roy asked if one of the Highway Department vehicles could tow for the Fire Department. P. Moynihan said yes. B. Blonigen suggested that this item be tabled for 72 hours so research could be done about where the money would come from. M. Roy will notify the Chiefs and the Board of Fire Engineers about another meeting later in the week. B. Arsenault would like to look at cross utilizing other vehicles in Town. **B. Blonigen moved to table this item until later in the week. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Recreation Committee Goals and Budget:**

**B. Blonigen** moved to table this item because there were no Recreation Committee members present for an explanation. **B. Arsenault** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Sale of Town Land Tax Map 19, Lot 2A Bid Opening:**

The Town received one bid for \$15,000 from Mark Phillips with a \$1,500 bid security enclosed with the bid. M. Roy read the attached addendum to the sealed bid offer. In addition to my bid, I will warrant to:

- Immediately hire a land surveyor to survey the property, so that the Town can construct a proper deed defining the land to be sold, at no cost to the Town.
- Voluntarily merge the Town owned lot with my adjacent lot, Map 19, Lot 2.
- Seek Planning Board approval for the largest possible building able to fit on the combined lots.
- Either construct said building or sell the approved project to a user approved by the Town as soon as possible, generating taxes on a potential half million dollar property.

M. Roy said that the minimum bid was \$175,000.

Mark Phillips said that he had talked to Keith Cota at the NH Department of Transportation and he said that the land had no value because of all the utilities under the land. As an independent lot it had no value. The land only has value if it is attached to the adjacent lot that is owned by Mark Phillips. **T. Connors** moved that the Board will review the bid and get back to M. Phillips. **B. Arsenault** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Dumpling Cove Easement-Drainage Bid Review and Award:**

The Board received one bid for the Dumpling Cove Easement Drainage project from William P. Davis Excavating, LLC for \$59,880. Newington resident John Chamberlain has requested this work be done and will pay for the project. This project is needed because the easement area that provides the drainage from Dumpling Cove to the Bay is overgrown and holding water, which is potentially causing the resident's basement to flood. **B. Arsenault** asked if the Town should help with the bill. **T. Connors** said that if the resident is willing to pay for the work the Town should let him pay especially when the 2022 budget is so tight. **B. Blonigen** moved to award the contract to William P. Davis Excavating, LLC for \$59,880, effective upon the date the reimbursement agreement is signed by John Chamberlain. **B. Arsenault** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Mott Pond Dam Height:**

**B. Blonigen** inspected the Mott Pond Dam and is concerned with the level of the pond. There is currently one board out of the dam which lowers the pond by one foot. The

Town's engineer recommends that no boards should be taken out of the dam. B. Blonigen would like to hear from the State and their opinion on the effect on the wildlife in the pond if the level of the water is raised or lowered. B. Arsenault thought that the board should be put back.

**Fox Point Dock Wood Selection:**

T. Connors said that it was time to do something to fix the dock. B. Arsenault thought that pressure treated wood is a better choice than Brazilian wood. T. Connors and B. Blonigen agreed. **B. Blonigen moved to do the dock repairs with pressure treated wood. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Fox Point Kayak Rack Design Review:**

A resident has submitted a new design for two new kayak racks at Fox Point. It would cost \$356 in materials. The two older racks could be in one location and the two newer racks would be in another location. B. Blonigen thought it was a great idea and would recommend that the Dock Master be consulted about the project.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment Resignation-Katherine Latchaw:**

B. Arsenault said that it was too bad to lose her from the Zoning Board. T. Connors said that he would talk to Kathy Latchaw and try to get her to continue as an alternate to the Zoning Board. **B. Blonigen moved to table this item until T. Connors talked to Kathy Latchaw. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Rockingham Planning Commission Appointment:**

**B. Blonigen moved to appoint Planning Board member Chris Cross to the Rockingham Planning Commission. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

B. Blonigen mentioned that the Planning Board was talking about appointing an alternate to their Zoning Board member Peter Welch. B. Blonigen doesn't believe that the Planning Board can appoint an alternate to a sitting member and would like to get a legal opinion on this.

E. Boy updated the Board of the Town's porta pottie situation. The Town has been paying \$91 per month for the rental of each of the Town's four porta potties. She just received the latest bill from United Site Services and their prices went up to \$350 per month for each porta pottie. E. Boy is currently calling local companies and trying to find out the options going forward. B. Arsenault asked if the Town could reduce the number of porta potties around Town. The four locations are: Fox Point dock (summer only), Old Town Hall (summer only), Transfer Station (year round for employees), Tennis Court/Skating Rink (year round). E. Boy will get the new prices and then the Board can make a decision.

M. Roy left the meeting.

**PDA Development Update:**

B. Arsenault said that there is no critical movement needed before the May 19<sup>th</sup> PDA meeting. B. Blonigen will attend the meeting. B. Arsenault asked E. Boy to invite Newington's PDA representative, Peggy Lamson, to the May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Board of Selectmen meeting.

**Adjournment:** B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:28pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder

