

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 31st, 2022

Present: Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, PDA Representative Peggy Lamson, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Library Director Lara Berry, Library Trustees Peter Welch and Jack O'Reilly, Newington Resident Huddy Grandy, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, David Choate, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

B. Blonigen called the meeting to order at 5:33pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2022 and May 19, 2022. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifests for \$25,097.46 dated 5/19/2022 and \$87,037.34 dated 5/26/2022. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Peggy Lamson-Pease Development Authority:

P. Lamson reviewed the recent developments at the PDA. At the May PDA meeting Procon/Kane said that they were moving away from air cargo businesses and are moving towards aeronautical research businesses. However, at the same meeting EWA said that they are going forward with their plans for air cargo at Pease. EWA has not given anything to the PDA staff yet and are not under any option at this point. B. Arsenault asked if P. Lamson believed that Procan/Kane said that they were not going for air cargo on the 227 land, but has not said anything about the North Apron property. P. Lamson said that she doesn't trust anyone until the full plans are presented to the PDA. B. Arsenault asked if P. Lamson would vote for the extension for Procan/Kane. P. Lamson said that she is going to watch the situation carefully. B. Blonigen asked if giving the extension to Procon/Kane could hold off EWA's development. P. Lamson agreed with the idea.

EWA has put out press releases about air cargo, they will be presenting their plan at the June PDA meeting. The PDA board has not said how they feel about air cargo. B. Arsenault asked if P. Lamson was going to vote to extend Procon/Kane's option in June. P. Lamson said that she would have to evaluate the decision at the time. H. Grandy asked if Procon/Kane could submit revised language in their proposal to not permit air cargo. P. Lamson said that they have not agreed to that and there is no wavering. B. Arsenault said that he thought it was key to find out if extending Procon/Kane's option could block EWA's air cargo proposal. B. Arsenault asked if any proposal that includes more flights over Newington would be a "no" vote. P. Lamson

said yes. B. Arsenault pointed out that there are no sublease rules for Procon/Kane in their agreement. They could sublease to EWA on the North 40 property. B. Blonigen thought that the language in the option should be changed to say no air cargo. Before the June 19th PDA meeting, B. Arsenault would like to have P. Lamson back at the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss her vote on the extension of the Procon/Kane option. B. Blonigen would like to have Susan Parker attend the meeting too. E. Boy will contact both of them.

M. Roy entered the meeting.

Public Library Payment Schedule:

The Library Trustees and the Selectmen reviewed the draft proposal for future payments from the Town to the Library. The Town proposes to pay one quarter of the budgeted operating expenses each quarter. The new agreement would include the operating expenses plus the audit expense, the insurance expense and the utilities (water, propane and electricity). The Board of Selectmen would like to get a detailed report of expenditures at the end of each month similar to what the town gives all departments now. The Library Trustees don't agree with this. The Board of Selectmen would also like the library to return any unspent money back to the General Fund at the end of the year. The Library Trustees don't agree with this. B. Blonigen said that the money for their budget is raised by taxes and should be returned to the tax payers. L. Berry said that all the funds that are allocated are the library's. B. Arsenault said that he is not comfortable prefunding their bills each quarter. P. Welch said that he thought that quarterly reports would be ok. P. Welch said that the goal of this new agreement is so the library can see their bills sooner and catch a problem earlier. L. Berry said that the library receives about \$14,000 in trust interest each year. B. Blonigen asked why we are trying to fix something that isn't broken. M. Roy said that according to state law nothing can change until the Board of Selectmen and the Library Trustees agree to the process. B. Arsenault said that he couldn't get behind an agreement that includes the library keeping the unspent budgeted money at the end of the year. M. Roy recommends not signing the agreement until the library agrees to return the extra money at the end of the year. L. Berry said that the leftover money each year is approximately \$200 per year. J. O'Reilly said that there is a Library Trustee's meeting on June 2nd and the changes in the contract will be discussed.

The Board discussed the design of the new kayak racks at Fox Point with Peter Welch, the Town's Dock Master. P. Welch thought the old design was better and the racks would last longer. He will reach out to Roger Dieker to tell him his thoughts.

Finance Director, Sheryl Bagley, discussed the Actual & Budgeted Expenses as of 5/31/2022 for the budget with the Board. B. Arsenault asked about the Coakley expense line. M. Roy explained that the Town never has any idea what expenses will be for the coming year. It is dependent on what tests the EPA and DES determine should

be completed in any given year. Budgeting this line every year is just speculation. B. Arsenault thought it was important to share these numbers with the tax payers.

Sale of Town Land Bid Review & Action, Tax Map 19, Lot 2-A:

The Town received one bid for \$15,000, the minimum bid was \$175,000. B. Arsenault moved to decline the bid from Mark Phillips for \$15,000. It is too far below the minimum bid amount. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recreation Committee Goals & Summer Camp/Voucher Program:

B. Arsenault said that the Recreation Committee has \$35,000 in their budget for Summer Camp. Newington is not doing a summer camp this year so these funds will not be spent. B. Arsenault thought that it was not the Town's responsibility to provide child care for the summer. B. Arsenault thanked M. Roy for all her hard work providing options for parents by securing spots for Newington residents at other camps in the area. He stated that the \$35,000 allotted in the Recreation Committee's budget could be used to ease the burden for Newington families. \$35,000 divided by 50 students would be \$750 per camper. B. Arsenault moved to propose a voucher program that will pay \$250 per camper between the ages of 5 to 13, that attends a summer camp three or more days a week and can be justified by receipts at the end of the summer. B. Blonigen seconded the motion, but added that exceptions can be made under exceptional circumstances. All were in favor.

Wilcox Way Acceptance:

B. Blonigen pointed out that Wilcox is a very benevolent corporation in Town. They constructed Wilcox Way with all building codes in mind and the Town benefits from this road. B. Arsenault moved to accept Wilcox Way as a public road as recommended by the Town engineer and the Town's legal team. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Porta Pottie Cost Update:

E. Boy updated the Board on the current porta pottie situation. The Town's current vendor raised their prices from \$91 to \$350 per porta pottie each month. There are no vendors that can accommodate us over the summer but there is availability in the fall. B. Arsenault moved to remove the porta pottie located at the Old Town Hall. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

B. Blonigen asked that the dumpster at the Old Town Hall be moved to the Highway garage so that it will be covered by the cameras up there.

B. Arsenault mentioned that the islands on Woodbury Ave. are overgrown. M. Roy said that the Highway Department mows them, but will look into the problem.

B. Arsenault also mentioned that some of the trees that the State planted have died and is wondering if they are under some type of warranty.

B. Arsenault would also like to see the continuation of planting trees along Nimble Hill Road. E. Boy will find out how much the Town spent in the past planting trees.

B. Blonigen moved to enter a nonpublic session at 7:20pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a & e). B. Arsenault seconded the motion and B. Blonigen asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen- Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes. All were in favor.

B. Blonigen moved to return to public session at 8:00pm, seconded by B. Arsenault. B. Blonigen asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes. All were in favor.

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

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 8:01pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder