

Newington Board of Selectmen Meeting

June 20, 2005
Newington Town Hall
6:30 p.m.

Accepted July 6, 2005

In attendance: Chairman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Jan Stuart, Building Inspector Charles Smart, CMA Representatives Craig Mussellman and Jeff Murray, Mike Morrison of Municipal Pest Management and Administrative Assistant Bea Marconi-also see attached attendance sheet.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Iocovozzi asked for a motion to accept the minutes of June 6, 2005. Resident Barbara McDonald spoke up and said she has "several things" with the minutes. They are as follows; Darrell Brown's name wasn't listed and the minutes said there was an e-mail from Mary Currier but there were no other details. Mrs. McDonald also said that she spoke and it was not included in the minutes. Mrs. McDonald also mentioned other issues with past minutes. In the minutes of May 31st, 2005 she had suggested the Board use a landscaper, not an arborist. Also, Mrs. McDonald spoke of the RSAs for a non-public. Another item of Mrs. McDonald was of the use of abbreviations in the minutes. She spoke of the Frink Easement documents. Administrative Assistant (further known as AA) Bea Marconi will add the e-mail attachment to the back of the minutes. Mrs. McDonald also complained that the meeting on May 31st was listed as a work session but it was a regular Selectmen's meeting. Chairman Iocovozzi said it was originally planned to be a work session but as the following week wore on, there was so much on the agenda that it became a regular meeting. Mrs. McDonald asked how the public is supposed to know that it was regular meeting if it was planned as a work session. Selectman O'Reilly said you can not go back and change the facts of the meeting. The *posting* is the way to know. The meeting of the 31st was not posted as a work session, but as a regular meeting. Chairman Iocovozzi said that the minute items by Mrs. McDonald will be noted.

Resident Vincent Frank asked why he was taken off the agenda. Chairman Iocovozzi said that the agenda was so full that it was decided to move Mr. Frank and Town Treasurer George Fletcher to the next meeting (June 27) so they would each have more time to speak. Chairman Iocovozzi had told Mr. Frank that he is the Chairman and decides who is on the agenda. Mr. Frank considers this a "gag". Chairman Iocovozzi said that under parliamentary procedure the Chairman is responsible for the agenda. Mr. Frank requested 15 minutes or the whole meeting and Chairman Iocovozzi felt this could not happen at this particular meeting. Mr. Frank said he'll sit and wait for his five minutes at the end of the meeting.

Kathy Brown and Bill Burns, franchise operators for IHOP asked for permission to have IHOP open 24 hours on Fridays and Saturdays thru Labor Day Weekend. Mr. Burns said this would be a trial basis only. The Planning Board felt this did not violate any Town ordinances and this issue was passed on to the Selectmen. Selectman Stuart made the motion to give IHOP permission to operate 24hours on Fridays and Saturdays until Labor Day. Seconded with amendment by Selectman O'Reilly to be through Labor Day Weekend. Roll call vote; Selectman Stuart- yes, Selectman O'Reilly- yes, Chairman Iocovozzi- yes. **Vote 3-0.** IHOP will provide a written request for the Selectmen to sign.

Building Inspector Charles Smart (further referred to as BI Smart) discussed the Old Parsonage with the Board. The flashing is bad around the chimney. An estimate from Larry Haas to repair the flashing on the roof by the chimney requires \$4,200. BI Smart also recommended that FA Gray look at the paint and plaster inside where the mold is growing. Drop in screens should be placed in the windows for ventilation. BI Smart said the windows are currently painted shut. There is mold on the chimney and in the plaster. Selectman O'Reilly said that next year a capital reserve for old Parsonage maintenance should be budgeted for. Selectman O'Reilly motioned for the Selectmen to accept the bid from Larry Haas for \$4,200. Seconded by Selectman Stuart. **Vote 3-0.** the Historic District Commission (further known as the HDC) should be notified as well as a written proposal from Haas.

Chairman Iocovozzi said that there are several appointments to consider. Resident Fred Smith would like to be appointed to the HDC, Gail Klanchesser to be appointed to the Rockingham Planning Commission and Vincent Frank to the Conservation Commission. Conservation Commission Chairman Margaret Lamson said that she feels Mr. Frank will be an asset to the Conservation Commission due to his membership on the Planning Board. Mrs. Lamson also said that Mrs. Klanchesser will be a great asset to the Town as a member of the Rockingham Planning Commission. Selectman O'Reilly moved to appoint Fred Smith to the HDC. Seconded by Selectman Stuart. **Vote 3-0.** Selectman Stuart moved to appoint Gail Klanchesser to the Rockingham Planning Commission. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. **Vote 3-0.** Selectman Stuart moved to appoint Vincent Frank to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Chairman Iocovozzi. Roll call vote; Selectman Stuart- yes, Selectman O'Reilly- no, Chairman Iocovozzi- yes. **Vote 2-1.**

A letter from the Pease Development Authority (further known as PDA) regarding an ad hoc committee for the Division of Ports and Harbors. Ms. Margaret Lamson, a representative on the PDA spoke to the Board about this committee. The PDA wants the community involved in deciding the future of the ports and harbors in this area. The committee meets for the first time July 11th. Meetings may be held quarterly. 3 members are needed from Newington, as part of this 18 member committee. AA Marconi was instructed to post a need for members at the Library, Town Hall and South Newington. Selectman O'Reilly quickly read the responsibilities of the members of this committee.

A proposal from Hartmann Enterprises was read for the repair of the sidewalk drain at the Police Department. Chairman Iocovozzi clarified that the back of the Police Department building floods each time it rains. Selectman Stuart motioned to accept the proposal from Hartmann Enterprises for the repair of the sidewalk drain at the Police Department not to exceed \$2731. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. **Vote 3-0.**

The Conservation Commission is asking for assistance from the Town Hall Office with maintaining minutes. Ms. Lamson said that Kay Akerly had been secretary for years but is unable to be used in that capacity at this time. Selectman O'Reilly suggested that next year money be budgeted to pay for someone to take the minutes. Mrs. Barbara McDonald complained that the Conservation Commission should not have to budget money towards this. The receptionist sits and reads "romance novels" instead of working. Why not give her something to do. Selectman Stuart asked AA Marconi to tell the audience what the receptionist does. AA Marconi said that Mrs. Brenda Foster, receptionist, does the draft of minutes, revenues, payables, answers phone calls, processes bills, files, Town Report, and has helped Cemetery Committee and other committees. AA Marconi said that since she is new, that she has been taking a lot of Mrs. Foster's time to help her acclimate to her position. Mrs. Barbara McDonald said that by law the Conservation Commission is a regulatory board that requires minutes. Selectman Stuart asked if there was a secretary or treasurer on the Commission. Mrs. Lamson said no. Mrs. Lamson said that she appreciated the minutes that Mrs. Foster had done. Chairman Iocovozzi asked if the Board minded if the receptionist does the Conservation minutes. The Board had no objections as long as there was no time pressure on the receptionist to complete the minutes. AA Marconi mentioned that August 1st there will be a new receptionist, and it will be important that whoever speaks during meetings should state their names for clarification.

Craig Musselman and Jeff Murray from CMA Engineers spoke to the Board regarding the Old Town Hall. CMA is currently working on an RFP for Design Build proposals for the Old Town Hall. A public hearing will be held before the proposal is accepted.

Chairman Iocovozzi announced that the Selectmen would like to hold a public informational forum on the Old Town Hall because of the amount of questions and interest. This will be held Wednesday, July 13th and 6:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. CMA will be available at that time and any concerns by the public will be discussed at that meeting.

Mr. Mike Morrison of Municipal Pest Management spoke to the Board about testing birds and mosquitoes for disease. Mr. Morrison continues to test the birds and send results to the State and is developing a West Nile emergency plan. Selectman O'Reilly suggested that the Selectmen create a newsletter with the spraying schedule and information on dead birds and west nile virus.

Chairman Iocovozzi read a letter from Altus Engineering regarding the tennis court renovations. Altus Engineering will be meeting with the Recreation Committee at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22nd. Chairman Iocovozzi will be attending that meeting.

There was a motion from Selectman O'Reilly to approve and sign the Verizon Pole License request. Seconded by Selectman Stuart. **Vote 3-0.**

The Department of Transportation will be holding an informational session for the Town of Newington on July 6th at 6:00 p.m. There were many concerns expressed by the public that should be answered. Chairman Iocovozzi said that he needs a list of questions to send to the DOT so they're prepared to answer. Resident David Sweeney expressed concerns about yielding off of Exit 4 onto the Turnpike and Mrs. McDonald hoped that DOT would provide detailed maps showing alternate routes, etc. Chairman Iocovozzi made a note of this and said that these and other concerns will be relayed to the DOT. Selectman O'Reilly emphasized that this meeting is strictly to benefit Newington residents as it pertained to Newington concerns only.

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to approve the Air Force Association's use of the Town Grove and Thermo's use of the Town Hall. Seconded by Selectman Stuart. **Vote 3-0.**

New Business

Mr. Anderson asked about the storage of the playground that is being taken down this week. Mr. Anderson contacted Road Agent Leonard Thomas and was told that the playground could be stored at the Carriage House. **The Board approved.** The new playground is still set to be installed July 11th.

Mr. Frank expressed dissatisfaction with the town's use of many engineers. Ms. Coleman asked if CMA is doing the same thing that Austin Architects did. Chairman Iocovozzi replied that CMA is putting everything in one package form to be bid out. In order to get concerns taken care of an architect/ engineer is needed. Chairman Iocovozzi said that this ensures that everything is ADA compliant and that the residents are happy with the plans. There was a question on the engineering expenses incurred so far. This information will be researched and available at the July 13th meeting. Ms. Coleman asked about money set aside. Selectman O'Reilly said that this is a contingency fund. Resident Clifford Abbott requested totals on how much has been spent and how much remains for this project. Chairman Iocovozzi replied that this will be available at the July 13th meeting. Chairman Iocovozzi requested that AA Marconi check on getting a certificate of insurance from CMA if the Town doesn't already have a copy.

Resident Jim Noseworthy asked about drain work done by the Town. Chairman Iocovozzi said that the Dredge & Fill permit is in the works and until that is obtained the Town can not move forward. The drain that Mr. Noseworthy is concerned about, near his property, was on the list. Mr. Frizzell asked if the bridge by the school fields is included in that permit. Chairman Iocovozzi affirmed that it is. This can be discussed at the Recreation meeting.

Mr. Sweeney asked about the tennis courts. He asked why the nets are not up so that children can use the courts. Chairman Iocovozzi replied that at Town Meeting the issue of liability was brought up. When the engineer looked at the courts he said to lock the courts up. The courts are unsafe at this time. Mr. Sweeney asked what the difference is between this year and last year and why the courts are locked. Chairman Iocovozzi reiterated that Altus Engineering declared the courts unsafe and the Selectmen were told to lock the courts up because of liability. Ms. Coleman asked why it isn't fixed already instead of wasting money on confirming that the courts are unsafe. Chairman Iocovozzi responded that things must be hired out. The tennis courts will be discussed at the Recreation Meeting on Wednesday.

Ms. McDonald expressed concerns with the deficit and borrowing money. Chairman Iocovozzi said the Town has a cash flow problem. Selectman O'Reilly tried to explain that money is taken in through fees and taxes. The school and county require so much. There is an estimate to how much you want to keep in surplus. The tax rate is set in October. By the end of December not everyone has spent all of their budgeted money. The Town has a very tight budget. The surplus to carry over at the end of the year is not there. Selectman O'Reilly said this is not unique to Newington. Chairman Iocovozzi said that there is a workshop meeting planned with Town Treasurer George Fletcher on Monday night. Mr. Fletcher said that the loan will be paid off this week.

Ms. McDonald asked the Selectmen about the \$18,000 rewarded to contract repairs for the carriage shed on the May 16th minutes. Chairman Iocovozzi said that these repairs are actually for the horse shed.

Mr. Frank asked about using the surplus to reduce the tax rate. Chairman Iocovozzi said it is a common practice. The Selectmen felt that their goal was to keep the tax rate down.

Ms. McDonald had yet another correction for the minutes of May 16th. She read that "Ms. McDonald mentioned that the Town Planner Tom Morgan should report to the Conservation Commission regarding the letter about the conservation easement as discussed earlier. All money will go to the Conservation Commission per the Board of Selectmen". The money was split between the Land Trust and the Conservation Commission. Ms. McDonald said she mentioned that the Selectmen should report to the Conservation Commission, not the Town Planner.

Chairman Iocovozzi announced the Non-Public part of the meeting was about to begin; according to RSA 91-A:3, II a & b - personnel & legal. Roll call to enter non-public; Selectman Stuart- yes, Selectman O'Reilly- yes, Chairman Iocovozzi- yes.

Adjourn Non-Public 9:49 p.m.

Selectman Stuart made the motion to seal the minutes of the non-public. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Motion passed 3-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Selectmen;

Meeting Adjourned 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bea Marconi
Administrative Assistant