

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday June 20th, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, HDC Chair Lulu Pickering, Recreation Committee Chair Rebecca Navelski, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

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

B. Arsenault moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:33pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a & e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

B. Arsenault moved to return to public session at 6:15pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, B. Arsenault-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

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

Minutes Approval: B. Arsenault asked that the June 13th, 2022 minutes be amended to add that B. Blonigen said that he had heard from many town residents that said that they don't think that it is the Town's responsibility to support kid's going to summer camp. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the June 6th, 2022 minutes and the June 13th, 2022 minutes as amended. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Manifest Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifests for \$102,008.54 dated 6/9/2022 and \$35,989.05 dated 6/16/2022. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

HDC Moose Plate Grant-Stone School-Lulu Pickering:

L. Pickering said that the Moose Grant will be for \$20,000 if Newington is approved. The Stone School was closed because it was unsafe. The grant money will be used to rebuild the steps at the Stone School, the entire price of the project is \$27,600. Once the steps are built for the Stone School then other work can be completed; such as a deep clean of the building, dealing with the rodent contamination, lead paint and asbestos. B. Arsenault asked why the building shouldn't be condemned. L. Pickering said that the Town has to follow the preservation restrictions in order for the Town to keep the

building. B. Arsenault asked what kind of stairs would we be getting for \$20,000, seems like a lot of money. L. Pickering said that they would remove the old steps and dispose of them, build a support system and put a fence around the area. L. Pickering said that it was free money from the State and once all these projects are completed at the Stone School then the Town can evaluate the possibilities for use of the building. L. Pickering said that the HDC put heat in at the Old Parsonage and since then 200 people have been at the building in six months. It has been a tremendous success; people need a place to go to socialize with their neighbors. B. Arsenault asked if there was a less expensive option. L. Pickering said no, she had contacted 14 contractors and had a hard time getting people to come to the site to give her an estimate. She doesn't want to put in any additional time into it now. B. Arsenault didn't understand why we are building stairs to a building that can't be entered. L. Pickering said that the stairs are the first project, once the stairs are done then the other projects can be completed using the funds from the Stone School capital reserve fund. B. Arsenault said that the residents haven't had a chance to say what they would like to happen to the Stone School. L. Pickering said that during the CLG Grant process, there will be a public hearing when residents can voice their opinions on the future of the building. B. Arsenault asked what temporary fix could be done for the steps. L. Pickering said that the grant was due on Wednesday. B. Arsenault asked if the Town is obligated to do the steps if we receive the grant. L. Pickering said yes. B. Blonigen moved to approve the Moose Grant application to see where it leads us to with the State. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. T. Connors and B. Blonigen in favor, B. Arsenault opposed.

Recreation Summer Camp Voucher Program:

B. Arsenault said that there are two different ways for the voucher program this summer. There could be a total amount of \$20,000 that is divided by the number of family's that complete the voucher forms at the end of the summer or a flat rate of \$400 for each camper could be given. T. Connors thought the flat fee was a fair compromise. B. Blonigen agreed and thought that there should be a cap of \$20,000. R. Navelski said that she appreciated the Board raising the amount to \$400 per camper. **B. Arsenault moved to approve \$400 per camper for the summer of 2022, with the same stipulations that were voted on at the May 31st, 2022 Board of Selectmen's meeting. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

B. Arsenault stated that it is reasonable to implement this summer's one-time voucher plan given that we were unable to host a Newington Camp, because the YMCA backed out, and our inability to raise our own camp within such short notice, as is what happened last year. Our intention moving forward would be to have a Recreation Committee and Recreation Coordinator that has a Newington Camp organized and ready for the Board to say "that is a good thing and should be funded". B. Arsenault said that the intention is to carry Camp Newington, the way it has always been, but

with a really organized plan. T. Connors agreed with B. Arsenault's statement. R. Navelski said that it is the intention of the Recreation Committee to meet earlier and have everything organized for the summer of 2023.

Lamprey Regional Cooperative Selectmen's Representative:

B. Arsenault volunteered to be the Selectmen's Representative.

Fox Point House Lease:

M. Roy asked that this item be tabled until a future meeting.

Nimble Hill Road Reconstruction Bid Review:

M. Roy said that the Town had received one bid. It was from Bourassa Construction, LLC for \$148,057.80. B. Arsenault said that is less than the amount budgeted. M. Roy said that there was \$190,000 in the budget line. **B. Blonigen moved to accept the bid from Bourassa Construction, LLC for \$148,057.80 for the Nimble Hill Road Reconstruction. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.** T. Connors asked that the project be done before school starts.

Personnel Policy-Draft Health Insurance Buy Out Policy:

A Health Insurance buy-out shall be available to any full-time employee, as the Town defines full-time by the Town's Personnel Policy, who is eligible for health insurance through the Town who opts out of such coverage for the applicable plan year and who is covered under another insurance plan, other than the Town's. The employee shall receive a payment equal to 33% of the Town's share of the health insurance premiums in exchange for opting out of such health insurance coverage. M. Roy said that this new policy mirrors the union contract language. **B. Blonigen moved to approve the Health Insurance Buy Out Policy. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

B. Arsenault asked if the Town had heard anything about the new Coast Bus Facility. M. Roy said that they have not asked for additional funds.

M. Roy said that two yellow magnolia trees have been ordered and will be planted soon. B. Blonigen said that there is a dead tree by the Cemetery. He would like it to be removed and plant two young maples to replace it.

B. Arsenault inquired about the Library Payment Agreement and whether the Library Trustees had given an answer back. M. Roy has not heard anything from the Library Trustees about the new payment request.

B. Arsenault thought that the Town should look into hiring a FAA attorney along with other towns to get ahead of the game. We should form a relationship and figure out what our next step is. B. Arsenault asked E. Boy to reach out to the Boards in Rye and

Durham and ask them to attend a Newington Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss the next moves that need to be made.

Kayak Racks:

Roger Dieker and Peter Welch have agreed on a design and the new racks are in the works.

B. Blonigen would like the steps by the beach at Fox Point to be repaired with a shorter step and rails on both sides. M. Roy will work on this.

The half year budget review will be given at the July 5th meeting. B. Arsenault would like to get a report on money that has been spent out of the capital reserve accounts so far this year.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:24pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder