

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday June 28th, 2021

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Recreation Committee Member Bill Wright, Town Engineer Eric Weinrieb, Residents Sharon and Daryll Brown, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of May 20th, 2021 and June 1, 2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Manifest Approval:** M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests for \$63,418.86 dated 5/20/2021, \$12,955.32 dated 5/27/2021, \$330,752.61 dated 6/3/2021, \$101,200.39 dated 6/10/2021, \$23,627.34 dated 6/17/2021 and \$27,038.73 dated 6/24/2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Facility Use Requests:**

**M. Marconi moved to approve the following requests:**

John Stone-OTH Field-Ultimate Frisbee-Mondays & Wednesdays 7/5-8/11/21, 5:30-9

Newington Church-Town Hall-Church Supper-October 16<sup>th</sup>

Newington Church-Town Hall-Craft Fair-November 13<sup>th</sup>

**B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Appointment:**

**M. Marconi moved to appoint Martin Callahan to the Recreation Committee. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**First Half Town Budget & Revenues-Sheryl Bagley, Finance Director:**

S. Bagley thanked M. Roy for all her help in preparing the budget review memo that is in the Selectmen's packets. #9 in the memo, is the concern for the detail expense line in the Fire Department's budget. This line is the expense for the Fire Department working at the vaccine sites. This expense line has an offsetting revenue line. E. Hoyt distributed a chart showing a breakdown of the details worked through 6/27/21. E. Hoyt said that \$71,424 has been collected in revenue and anticipates that there will be a \$8,700 profit when all the final numbers come in. The vaccine site will be closing on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The line currently shows as \$79,861 over expended. There was a concern that this would adversely affect the Fire Department's budget. S. Bagley contacted the Town's auditors,

Vachon & Clukey, and found out that the Town can increase its revenue budget to include the reimbursements the Fire Department has received and increase the expense line to accommodate this over expenditure. When the final numbers come in for the revenue and expenditures the Board of Selectmen can vote to accept the unanticipated revenue and the increased expense. S. Bagley said that the Town is in a healthy cash position. T. Connors mentioned that taxes are due 7/1/21, so the Town's cash position will even be better once all the taxes are paid. Newington Park was appraised for \$12 million and just sold for \$13 million, which will help the Town.

#### **Fire Station Projects:**

The Fire Station maintenance line only has \$11,000 remaining for the year and they have many projects that need to get done. T. Connors said that the Selectmen had budgeted more money for Fire Station projects in 2021, but the Budget Committee cut the Town Buildings budget. E. Hoyt said that the two doors in the addition need to have glass windows installed in them. They will buy the glass and do the installation themselves. Last year a report was completed that reviewed the operations of the Fire Department, E. Hoyt would like to get a second report done covering the building and the maintenance of the building. T. Connors thought that the first step would be to hire a structural engineer to see if the Fire Station can handle a second floor. P. Moynihan thought that a list and order of projects should be completed.

#### **K9-Trust-Continuing Resolution:**

The Board received an email from the Town attorney suggesting that the Selectmen move to continue the Explosive Detection K-9 trust for another year from 2/1/21-2/1/22. Then the Board can have a warrant article in 2022 to authorize the Selectmen to continue this trust indefinitely or until rescinded. M. Marconi thought that there should be a warrant article each year to continue the trust. B. Blonigen asked how many years the dog would be working and suggested the Police Chief be contacted. The Board decided to table this item until the Chief is contacted.

#### **Stone School Painting/Deed Review:**

T. Connors said that the Board had just gotten off the phone with the Town attorney and he suggested that the Stone School be converted into workforce housing. T. Connors said that the Town should do something with it. T. Connors asked D. Hebert to get together with Town Planner, John Krebs, and discuss this possibility. D. Hebert said that the septic system will need to be reviewed and the zoning changed, plus anything in the Historic District is very difficult to work on. B. Blonigen said that the deed is very restrictive and doesn't think that anything can be done with it. T. Connors said that the deed will have to be revised with the Air Force.

#### **FEMA Grant Application Request (up to \$11,000):**

**M. Marconi moved to submit the FEMA grant application for up to \$11,000. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

M. Roy said that the Town has already received \$18,000 from the GOFERR Covid 19 grants.

**Video Recording Meetings-Continuation Procedure:**

The Board reviewed the number of hours that would be needed to video all the board and committee meetings. T. Connors thought that taping the meetings was a value to residents and many have asked for it. If committees would record their own meetings, then the cost could be reduced. D. Hebert does not want to be recorded because of security issues. B. Wright said that New Hampshire has an RSA that states that anyone can come into any meeting and record it. P. Moynihan said that once a meeting is recorded then it becomes a part of public record and think legal should take a look at this. A. Hyland Hebert said that the Budget Committee had cut this line from the Selectmen's budget. E. Boy said that the Budget Committee is only allowed to cut an amount from the overall budget, they can't cut a specific expense line. T. Connors thinks that every board and committee should be recorded. M. Roy asked if the Board would like to continue to record meetings. T. Connors said yes. M. Marconi said that these are the first negative comments he has heard about the recordings. B. Blonigen asked if the Town has enough space to store these recordings. M. Marconi said they are stored on the cloud. D. Hebert would like to have audio recordings instead on video recordings.

**Recreation Request-Cut Down 2 Trees by Tennis Court:**

Bill Wright reported that the Recreation Committee has voted unanimously to recommend cutting the two trees by the tennis court. This will help with the maintenance of the courts and fence and the future root problems in the area. B. Blonigen asked if these were the trees we just trimmed. M. Roy said yes. B. Wright said that the Town can continue to spend money to trim these trees every year and they will continue to grow and dump more stuff on the courts and damage the fence. B. Wright said that the Town depends too much on volunteers to do work that other towns hire people to do. T. Connors said that the Town tried to add an additional person to the highway crew a couple of years ago, but it was voted down by the Town. B. Blonigen asked if the courts were for residents only. B. Wright said yes. A. Hyland Hebert asked what damage has been done to the courts and does the damage warrant the cutting of the trees. A. Hyland Hebert thought that it is projected damage, not actual damage. B. Blonigen thought that the Town should have an arborist look at the trees. The Board decided to table this item until the arborist looks at it.

T. Connors recessed the meeting at 5:03pm.

T. Connors called the meeting back to order at 5:10pm.

**Eversource Road Damage-Denis Hebert:**

Eversource is not honoring the agreement with the Town.

**M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:15pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors-Yes, M. Marconi- Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.**

**M. Marconi moved to return to public session at 5:35pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.**

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

**M. Marconi moved to recommend the \$50,000 settlement with Eversource contingent upon legal approval. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Water Level Mott Pond-Daryll Brown:**

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Daryll Brown outlining the water issues he has been having. The Board also received a letter from Edward "Ashley" Holgate. T. Connors said that the Browns asked to have Mott Pond lowered last year and it was lowered one foot in November. Mr. Russo complained about the smell of the pond when it was lowered. E. Weinrieb said that this property has had water problems for years. This is not a new issue. E. Weinrieb suggested that the Browns hire a hydrogeologist to complete a report to show the cause of their issues. Without the science it is hard to know what is causing the water issues. It is the homeowner's responsibility to show what the problem is. The Browns would like the Town to drop the water level another foot. E. Weinrieb said he could not support this without the science to back it up. T. Connors would like to look into this issue a little more and get back to the Browns.

**Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:08pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder