

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday July 25th, 2022

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Residents Wil Gilbert and Emily Savinelli, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** B. Arsenault asked for a change in the minutes to read that C&J Bus does not take public assistance. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes as amended. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Manifest Approval:** B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifests for \$53,857.09 dated 7/7/2022, \$145,052.07 dated 7/14/2022, \$3,697.00 dated 7/15/22 and \$35,218.20 dated 7/21/22 B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Facility Use Requests:**

**B. Blonigen moved to approve the following requests:**

Newington School-Old Town Hall and Grove-Sept 7<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date Sept 8<sup>th</sup>)-Back to School Picnic

**B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Resignation:**

**B. Arsenault moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Kathy Latchaw from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.** T. Connors asked M. Roy to send a letter to Kathy Latchaw to thank her for her service to the town.

**Appointment:**

M. Roy explained that Jarrad Savinelli donates the fireworks for Septemberfest every year. He has requested to be appointed to the Recreation Committee.

**B. Blonigen moved to appoint Jarrad Savinelli to the Recreation Committee. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**2023 Budget Review Schedule:**

The Board reviewed the following budget schedule:

Monday-October 3

6:00pm Cemetery  
6:20pm Sewer  
6:40pm Library

Monday-October 17

6:00pm Economic Development  
6:20pm Planning  
6:35pm Police  
6:55pm Emergency Management

Monday-October 24

6:00pm Fire  
6:30pm Recreation

Monday-October 31

6:00pm Conservation  
6:15pm Historic District  
6:30pm Highway

**B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 budget schedule. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

B. Arsenault asked if M. Roy had heard back from the Library about the proposed payment process that the Board had sent to them. M. Roy said no. B. Blonigen said that this is an unsettled issue that needs to be resolved. B. Arsenault asked M. Roy to reach out to the Library Trustees to set up a meeting before budget season. M. Roy said that the Trustees still want to receive the unspent funds from their budget at the end of the year. The consensus of the Board of Selectmen is that the money should be returned to the taxpayers.

**Workers Compensation and Property Liability Insurance Renewal:**

M. Roy reviewed the Primex proposal for insurance coverage. For property and liability insurance, Primex is proposing a three-year contract with a 9% maximum increase cap each year. For workers compensation insurance Primex is proposing a three-year contract with an 8% maximum increase cap each year. M. Roy said that she has bid out both insurances in the past and has found that other insurances don't insure for a dam catastrophe. We have two dams in town. Primex has a \$0 deductible for cyber-related claims and provides replacement costs for buildings. M. Roy recommends that the Board award the insurance to Primex. Discussion ensued about the liability for the dams and cyber issues that other towns in NH have had. M. Roy said that Newington paid \$99,000 for property and liability insurance last year, but the town received \$19,000 back from Primex. This is another advantage of Primex because they

are a non-profit, and it is a pooled insurance group of most of the towns, cities and school districts in the state; they return "excess funds" to the town. **B. Arsenault moved to table this item until M. Roy can get other quotes for both property and liability and workers compensation insurance and to investigate different dam insurance. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

The board would like to get a report from the Finance Director about how far over budget we are expecting to be from the high cost of fuel. M. Roy said that it looks like at least \$20,000 over for all the town buildings. B. Blonigen would like to know how much each building is costing the town and ways to reduce the costs. B. Blonigen would like Building Inspector Steven Paquin to come to a meeting and give his recommendations to the Board. B. Blonigen pointed out that the Police and Fire Departments based their fuel budgets on \$3.50/gallon. A. Hyland Hebert said that the Fire Department has been watching their fuel expense line closely and is looking for places in their budget where the extra expense can be covered.

B. Arsenault discussed the cyber security audit that was just completed. B. Blonigen said that the Board had voted to do it earlier in the year. M. Roy said that it shouldn't have to be done again. The company that completed the audit is going to come in and talk to all the departments. B. Blonigen would like to discuss the audit with the company in a non-public session. M. Roy will schedule a meeting.

**Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 5:48pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder

