

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 17th, 2020 Town Hall

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Police Chief Mike Bilodeau, Residents; Chris Cross and Emily Savinelli, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:02pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of July 14th, 2020, July 30th, 2020 and August 3rd, 2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

E. Boy explained that at the previous Board of Selectmen's meeting the minutes of July 17th, 2020 were listed on the agenda. E. Boy made a mistake when preparing the agenda. There was no meeting on July 17th, 2020 and no minutes. E. Boy apologized for the error.

**Manifest Approval:** K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for \$214,596.15 dated 8/6/2020 and \$125,634.47 dated 8/13/2020. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Evidence Locker Installation- Police Chief Mike Bilodeau:**

M. Bilodeau explained that the Police Department has had the evidence lockers for a couple of months and just need to get them installed. In October, the department is scheduled to have their policies reviewed by CALEA Police Certifying Agency. In December CALEA will be on site to assess how the police department is progressing towards their accreditation. If the lockers aren't installed by October it will delay the accreditation. The installation will take one or two days.

T. Connors explained that many residents have been outspoken about how the Town is spending the budgeted money during the Covid crisis.

**K. Latchaw moved to approve the installation of the evidence lockers in the Police Station before the October inspection. The amount will not exceed \$5,000. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Sprague Comments-Meeting with State:**

The Town has received 32 complaints about the odor coming from Sprague. These complaints were sent to the NHDES. The DES responded that there was

not much they could do. The Board of Selectmen just met with an attorney about the next steps the Town can take to get some action from Sprague. T. Connors expressed his frustration with the DES. The Town does not know the implications of the odor and the effects on the town. C. Cross commented that there will always be odors in the industrial area. T. Connors explained that these odor complaints were from the residential area and were making some people ill with headaches etc. M. Roy explained that the town has been working with Sprague for 2 years documenting the odors, the time of day, the weather on the day, just as NH Dept of Environmental Services has asked the town to do, now they are telling the town they want more information.

**Budget Potential Reductions Information:**

The Board reviewed the letter that will be sent to all departments about the 2021 budget. M. Roy will be sending it out tomorrow. The departments are being asked to keep their operating budgets level funded.

**Governor's New Emergency Order:**

A couple of new items have been added to the order. If someone has traveled outside of New England in the past 14 days, then the individual must quarantine for 14 days and should not be allowed in the facility. A new symptom of Covid-19 has been added to the questionnaire; gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. **M. Marconi moved to have this new symptom of Covid-19 added to the employee questionnaire. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**New Covid-19 Daily Screening Questionnaire:**

This item was discussed above.

**Clicker Cost to Replace:**

M. Roy pointed out that the cost to replace a clicker is \$50, instead of the \$30 that is originally charged when the resident receives their clicker. M. Roy thought that both costs should be \$30. **M. Marconi moved to reduce the amount for a clicker replacement from \$50 to \$30. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**2020 Elections:**

The Board of Selectmen met with Moderator Jack O'Reilly and Town Clerk Laura Coleman to go over the procedures for the 2020 elections, the primary on September 8<sup>th</sup> and the general election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. M. Roy said that J. O'Reilly and L. Coleman believe that they will have enough people to run the election.

**Mott Pond:**

Tom Rossi contacted the Selectmen to ask if the level on Mott Pond could be brought up because the smell is unpleasant. T. Connors mentioned that the level is down because there has been so little rain this summer and believed a “plank” could be put in to raise the water level. The plank should be left in for two weeks and then the water level should be checked again. A log should be kept recording the rainfall and the level of the pond. There is also a tree in the pond. M. Roy said that L. Thomas spoke to Mr. Spinney and got permission to remove the tree.

**Tent:**

T. Connors recommended that the Town keep the tent through the month of September. This cost is reimbursed to the Town through the Covid relief fund. **M. Marconi moved to keep the tent through September. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from the Chair of the Police Commission about the town’s personnel policies. The Board will be sending a reply this week.

The State is currently having a lot of hearings and discussion about the school funding/donor town issue. The State has developed an Education Funding Commission to determine how they should raise more funds for education. The tax impact to Newington was over 1million dollars in 20001. The Selectmen are sending letters in opposition, along with Portsmouth and other seacoast towns.

**Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 5:34pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder