

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday August 2nd, 2021

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen via Zoom, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Fire Engineer Chair John Klanchesser, Planning Board Member Chris Cross, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the public and non-public minutes of July 19th, 2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests for \$33,467.27 dated 7/22/2021 and \$32,344.02 dated 7/29/2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

M. Marconi moved to approve the following request:

Fire Department-Town Hall-9/20-9/24/21-Police and Fire Training

B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

B. Blonigen moved to approve the following request:

Fire Department-Town Hall-8/25/21-Training

M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote, B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to approve the following request:

Cassandra Hutchins-Town Hall-8/28/21-Birthday Party

B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote, B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Nimble Hill Road Paving:

The Town has received one quote for the paving of Nimble Hill Road from Fox Point Road to Coleman Drive. M. Roy is waiting for a second quote. M. Roy said that the Town had also received a notice today from Bourassa about the excavation of Hannah Lane and Nimble Hill Road starting Tuesday. Hannah Lane residents and John Frink have been notified of the work to be done. M. Marconi asked if the Town could consult with an engineer to see if Nimble Hill Road could be paved differently to prevent it from deteriorating so quickly. M. Roy said that she will consult with the Town engineer.

Fire Station 2020 Covid Expenses:

M. Roy explained that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert asked about the 2020 Covid expenses showing in the Fire Department's budget. The covid expenses won't hit the Fire Department's budget. The expenses will be shown in a different budget expense line that won't affect their budget.

Fire Station Structural Review:

M. Roy, E. Hoyt and Asst Chief Moynihan met with Bob Champagne, PE, from Summit Engineering about the Fire Station. The foundation is going to be dug out to review what was used. Bob Champagne will be contacting TMS Architects about what the original addition estimate included.

E. Hoyt let the Board of Selectmen know that the tower base for the antenna needs to be replaced in the future. They would like to put the new base right next to the old base so the antenna can be transferred easily. E. Hoyt will reach out to Two Way Communications about the new base.

Tennis Court Tree Trimming Status:

The Town Forester came to look at the trees by the tennis court. He reported that the two trees look to be in good shape. M. Roy asked about the roots going under the tennis courts and causing damage. The forester said that the roots will seek out grassy areas not under a tennis court. The forester pointed out two other trees in the area that need to be removed, a sugar maple and an elm by Fox Point Road.

Pease Greeters Update:

B. Blonigen reported that he hasn't heard anything about the Pease Greeters but he did talk to them about the air show in September. Portsmouth officials have been invited to attend the event as VIPs, but no one has reached out to Newington to invite them. T. Connors wasn't surprised, the Town is still waiting for a picture of the "Spirit of Newington" plane that was promised months ago.

Arboretum Drive Condition/Paving Update:

The estimate to grind and pave Arboretum Drive is \$300,000. This has been sent to Portsmouth. The estimate is high because nothing has been done to that road for 30 years.

American Rescue Plan-Application and Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds \$85,113:

M. Roy told the Board that many towns in Rockingham County are applying for this grant in the coming weeks. B. Bloingen asked why Newington's amount was so low. M. Roy said that the federal government determined how much each town received based on population. **M. Marconi moved to approve the application of the American Rescue Plan and accept the unanticipated funds of \$85,113 and further authorize the**

Chair to sign all documents. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote, B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

The Board reviewed the memo to departments about operating budget review for 2022. It recommends level funding. M. Roy mentioned that the meeting times may change. **M. Marconi moved to approve the memo. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

Cyber Security:

This is a big issue right now and is causing the cost of insurance to increase. An assessment, of the Town's cyber security risks, is in the 2021 budget. A flyer will be included in all paychecks about the importance of not opening emails and clicking on attachments.

Old Parsonage:

Two mini splits will be installed in the Old Parsonage with the \$20,000 that the Town received in a grant.

M. Roy said that there is now Wi-Fi in the Old Town Hall.

Back Hoe Purchase:

The Town has purchased a back hoe. M. Roy said that Cos Iocovozzi helped with the research and purchased. T. Connors asked M. Roy to prepare a letter of thanks for C. Iocovozzi. B. Blonigen was pleased that the back hoe came with a 5-year warranty on maintenance.

The Police Department has received a \$5,000 grant for their K-9 program from Northeast Credit Union. **M. Marconi moved to apply for and accept the \$5,000 unanticipated funds for the K-9 program. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors called for a roll call vote M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.**

The Board discussed the old police cruiser that the fire department has been using and agreed to place it out to bid,

Discussion ensued about the when the new pickup would be delivered and the double telephone poles that are being removed on Nimble Hill Road.

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:22pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi- Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to return to public session at 5:26pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-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.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 5:27pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder