

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday August 29th, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, HDC Chair Lulu Pickering, Library Trustee Jack O'Reilly, Library Director Lara Berry, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Wil Gilbert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

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

B. Arsenault moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:30pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (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 5:59pm, 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 moved to approve the August 8th, 2022 minutes and the August 25th, 2022 minutes as amended. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Blonigen moved to approve the manifests for \$95,445.59 dated 8/11/2022, \$26,338.41 dated 8/18/2022, \$17,152.61 dated 8/25/2022 and \$307.76 dated 8/25/2022. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lulu Pickering:

Old Stone School Update: M. Roy said that the Board is exploring the deed with legal to see what can be done with the Stone School. L. Pickering reminded the Board that all three parties need to agree before anything can be done. T. Connors said that they are still waiting for the legal opinion. L. Pickering asked that the Town share this information when they receive it. L. Pickering said that she will hear about the Moose Grant by the end of September. L. Pickering has three concerns about the Stone School; the rodent waste, asbestos and the lead paint. L. Pickering thinks that the Stone School needs a deep cleaning, removal of ceiling tiles and asbestos testing. The Stone School capital reserve fund could be used for the cost of these safety issues. B. Arsenault asked what the goal for the Stone School is? L. Pickering said that the Town has done nothing

for 19 years. B. Arsenault said that the town residents have voted down several proposals that have been put before them. B. Arsenault thinks that the residents should be able to decide what will happen to the Stone School. T. Connors pointed out that nothing can be decided until the Town hears from the Air Force.

Old Parsonage Costs:

L. Pickering said that there are smart thermostats in the Old Parsonage already, but are not able to be used because there is no internet in the Old Parsonage. The electricity budget for the Old Parsonage in 2021 was \$300. It was \$600 for 2022. L. Pickering said that they only heat the first floor and she feels the increased cost is worth it because it is now enjoyed by many more residents.

Railroad Depot:

L. Pickering said that there have been several meetings about the Railroad Depot, but there has been no progress. T. Connors pointed out that the projected cost for restoration of the depot was very high for a building that wouldn't be used and the shoreline mitigation that will be required is very expensive. T. Connors said that the town can't commit that kind of money to the project. L. Pickering said that no shoreline mitigation will be required. L. Pickering said that the Town can buy the property and then lease it to the Historic Society. The Town would be getting the property for free. Portsmouth has had great success renting the top floor of historic properties for income. B. Arsenault thinks that this property is too much of a burden for the town to take on and thinks this item should be tabled until a later date. B. Blonigen would like to hear more about the shoreline mitigation for the property. L. Pickering asked that the Board give her an official response to the letter she sent to the Board about the depot.

HDC Minutes:

B. Blonigen said that there are no minutes for the last HDC meeting that he attended. L. Pickering said that her budget got cut and the municipality is responsible for producing the minutes. B. Blonigen suggested that the HDC meet at the Town Hall. The meetings could be recorded and then minutes could be produced from the recording. L. Pickering said that she won't meet at the Town Hall.

Dirt Left from Library Project:

There is dirt behind the Stone School from the library addition. J. O'Reilly said that the library doesn't want the dirt. M. Roy will ask Len Thomas what should be done with it.

B. Blonigen asked how the Old Town Hall historic items project went. L. Pickering said that it went fantastic. The next step will be to get all the information digitalized.

T. Connors thanked L. Pickering for all the work she does on behalf of the Town.

Jack O'Reilly-Elections Update:

J. O'Reilly said that there have been changes made for the election and there are new requirements. J. O'Reilly reviewed several election day procedures; the route for voting, the school supporters will have their table by the door, the new Recreation Director will have a table in the lobby to advertise the Senior Dinner, masks are optional, the ballot clerk desk shields are optional, there will be a voter reconciliation at the end of voting. T. Connors asked J. O'Reilly if he thought that preparation for the elections was in good shape. J. O'Reilly said yes.

Library Trustees-New Procedure Discussion:

M. Roy said that the Town and the Library Trustees have had discussions about a new procedure proposal for payment of Library expenses. There are still two outstanding issues. The Board would like to get a detailed expense report each month from the Library and the Town would like to have the library return any unspent funds from their budget back to the Town at the end of the year to lower taxes. J. O'Reilly pointed out that the library doesn't have to bring their budget to the Selectmen, they are only required to bring it to the Budget Committee. M. Roy pointed out that when she submits the MS-27 report to the State, there is a place to record the Selectmen's recommendation for all the departments' budgets. L. Berry said that the library trustees are happy to submit their budget to the Selectmen as they always have and they will give monthly reports, but they don't want to agree to give the left-over budget money back to the town. B. Blonigen thought that the money should be given back to the taxpayers. L. Berry said that they use the extra funds to replenish the library trust fund. L. Berry handed out a "sample" agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the Library Trustees that references RSA 32:7, section 1.

Transfer Station Cameras:

The Board asked M. Roy to contact vendors about the installation of a camera at the transfer station.

Portsmouth Water Temporary Access and Construction Easement Site Walk:

M. Roy said that the water project will be completed in 2023. A new agreement will be needed. Portsmouth Water would like to do a site walk with the Selectmen on October 3rd. M. Roy believes the projected start date would be in the Spring of 2023. B. Arsenault said that there should definitely be a site walk before scheduling a start date, but asked that it be done about 30 days before the project is going to start.

Police Cruiser Status:

M. Roy explained that one of the police cruisers had died and needs a new engine. B. Blonigen suggested that the Police Department turn the car over to the town to be sold. B. Arsenault and T. Connors agreed.

School Funding/Statewide Education Property Tax Coalition of Communities

Support:

B. Blonigen said that he thinks its important for Newington to maintain a position on the coalition to support the other towns in the coalition. **B. Arsenault moved to sign the new coalition agreement. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

USAF Water and Sediment Sampling Request:

B. Blonigen moved to allow the USAF to take three samples in Newington for testing. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. All were in favor. B. Arsenault asked if this item needs to go before the Planning Board. M. Roy said that the samples will be taken from town land which is the Board of Selectmen's jurisdiction. B. Arsenault would like to get the results of the samples that were taken last year.

B. Arsenault asked that signs be put up at the Fox Point stairs that says "use at your own risk". B. Arsenault asked about the status of hiring of the new building inspector. M. Roy said that she is waiting for further resumes. The Board received the COAST budget to review before budget season. B. Arsenault would like to have better notification to residents when roadwork is going to be done.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:41pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder