

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Town of Newington-Town Hall
September 5, 2006

Preliminary

Chairman Jack O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:05pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jack O'Reilly-Chairman, Selectman Jan Stuart, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Administrative Assistant-Beatrice Marconi, Treasurer-George Fletcher, Mike Goot of Fosters Daily Democrat (left at 6:45), Jean Bowser, Rick and Doreen Stern, Barbara McDonald, Lisa Zhe of the Portsmouth Herald (arrived at 6:50). Invited was Bob Vachon of Vachon & Clukay – Town Auditors.

A presentation by Mr. Vachon opened the meeting with a summary of the results of the Town's 2005 year end audit. To state briefly, 'the Town is in very good shape'.

Net Assets: \$ 6.41 Million = an increase of \$ 1.358 million over 2004.

Restricted Assets: \$ 1.3 million = an increase of \$ 195,000 over 2004.

Unrestricted government-wide net assets = \$ 2.96 million = an increase of \$ 1.39 million over 2004.

Property and other taxes increased in revenue by \$ 1,082,000 from 2004.

Activities in expenses were \$ 3,516,000 which was an increase of \$ 251,000 over 2004.

Other revenue increased by \$ 172,500 over 2004.

Sewer expenses were \$ 714,000 which represented an increase of only \$17,500 over 2004.

Sewer revenues were \$ 618,000 which was an increase of \$ 86,000 over 2004.

Our current fund balance for tax rate setting is \$ 1,210,051. Bob recommended we keep between 10 and 17% for retainage rather than the 5-17% range as recommended by the DRA. He felt keeping \$750,000 to 1 million is a safe amount. We increased our fund balance by \$ 621,722 over 2004.

Actual expenditures were \$ 186,260 less than budgeted amounts.

Bob ended by congratulating the Selectmen on their continued efforts to update town policies and procedures as Newington continues to grow.

Minute Approval

Selectman Stuart made a motion table the meeting minutes of August 14th. **Selectman Iocovozzi** seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, **motion passed**.

Selectman Stuart made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 21st. **Selectman Iocovozzi** seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, **motion passed**.

Town Hall Maintenance Account

Chairman O'Reilly wanted the Board to be aware that the Town Hall Maintenance Account may be over spent this year. He stated that the rubber roof project could come out of capital reserve however, he would like to wait until October to see where we are with other projects regarding funds.

Furniture for the Old Town Hall

Chairman O'Reilly gave an overview of what is needed to furnish Old Town Hall. He stated that a lot of money was put into the construction of this building and the town should spend the extra money to make it useable. Tables, chairs, flatware, cookware and more have been budgeted at

\$8300.00 for service for 60 people. There is approx \$30,000 still remaining unspent of the \$850,000 bond which will go to reducing the debt once the items are purchased.

Selectman Iocovozzi moved to spend \$8300.00 to begin the furniture buy. Selectman Stuart seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, motion passed. Chairman O'Reilly added that he spoke with Chairman Smith of the Budgeted Committee and he stated that it was okay with them.

Shattuck Way Pavement

Rick Stern spoke of a wash board effect in the pavement of Shattuck Way and was concerned that the State had deficiencies in funds to finish the job properly (due to dirty dirt costs). Rick feels that the Board of Selectmen should contact the Executive Council and encourage them to support this project for completion. The Board concurred. Selectman Stuart will call Ruth Griffin and the Board will write a letter.

Short Cut by the Old Parsonage

Charlie Smart brought up the fact that people are using the path by the Old Parsonage to get to Pease faster. All of the Selectmen agreed that that path should not be used and to have Leonard Thomas put big boulders there to block it off.

Public Hearing for Spaulding Project

Chairman O'Reilly read the invitation to a Public hearing scheduled for September 21st at 7pm. at the St. Thomas gymnasium to discuss the Spaulding Turnpike project and bridges within.

Town Hall Use

Selectman Stuart moved to approve the following requests. Richard and Barbara Spinney Old Town Hall Bathrooms and Grove July 15 2007 (contingent on the fee), Santos Town Hall and auditorium and kitchen Oct 14, Celiac Spru at the Town Hall auditorium Sept 21 (fee waived). All motions were **seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi**. So voted 3-0, **motions passed**. Newington Brownies at the Old Town Hall September 19th 7-8pm (fee waived). Selectman Iocovozzi moved to approve this request. Selectman Stuart seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, **motion passed**. Newington Brownies at the Old Town Hall every other Tuesday until next June from 5:30 until 8pm. Selectman Stuart was worried that the building would be tied up too much. It was stated that the Brownies agreed to accommodate any other person needing to use the building. **Selectman Iocovozzi** moved to approve. Selectman Stuart seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, **motion passed**.

Highway Truck Purchase

A discussion regarding the need of the Town for a big truck vs. smaller one continued with Selectman Stuart strongly feeling we should purchase a large one and Selectman Iocovozzi stating a smaller one is all we need. Chairman Jack O'Reilly then read quotes from the Budget Committee meeting with the Board conducted Feb 4, 2006 when the truck issue was discussed-Cap Out Lay for small truck purchase was set at \$ 58,000.

B. McDonald suggested the master plan be reviewed regarding long term needs of the town. Selectman Iocovozzi was very concerned with the current highway building and storage of this large vehicle. Selectman Stuart was very concerned with the roads being turned over to the town and what if our current large plow truck had a problem. George reminded the Board that any delay in the purchase of any truck would result in at least a \$5,000 increase due to new emissions requirements of the engines in next years models. Rick Stern asked about the wings on the big truck then Chairman O'Reilly called for an end of discussion. ***Selectman Iocovozzi moved to***

rescind last week's vote for the Town to move forward in the purchase of the large truck. Jack O'Reilly seconded. Motion passed 2-0 with Selectman Jan Stuart voting against the motion.

The Board then agreed that establishing a committee to study the needs of the Town would be the best route to take. The Board mentioned Larry Wahl and Rick Stern said he may be available. Jack felt he would like to be included, however Jan thought it was best the committee report back to the board. George said Lenny Thomas would be good too. Jack said he is open to a recommendation by various people and is keeping an open mind. George was asked to contact those he felt had something to contribute. This committee will meet and report back to the Selectmen with their findings.

Police Department Septic

The bid was put out in April with only one response. RG Young submitted a proposal in the amount of \$8476.00. **Selectman Stuart** moved to accept the proposal from RG Young not to exceed the amount of \$8500.00, contingent upon all the items as shown on RFP are met. **Selectman Iocovozzi** seconded the motion. So voted 3-0, **motion passed.**

Old Town Hall Security

The Board needed to sign off on the central signal monitoring. **Selectman Iocovozzi** moved to approve. Seconded by **Selectman Stuart**. So voted 3-0, **motion passed.**

Brickyard Way Road Project

There were two estimates submitted. Tennis Court Construction in the amount of \$129,750. Durrell in the amount of \$115,000.00. Selectman Iocovozzi suggested that the jobs be done in sections or maybe just doing the drainage this year. **Selectman Iocovozzi** moved to throw out proposals. **Selectman Stuart** seconded. So voted 3-0, **motion passed.** The engineer is to be contacted to work with Charlie to separate the job out - as funding just was not allocated to cover that amount of expense. The job will be re-bid once redirected.

Mosquito Trapping

Charlie Smart submitted a memo that stated that with five weeks left in trapping the cost is \$500.00 to \$600.00 per week should the Board wish to participate. Selectman Stuart asked if we trap and find an infected mosquito what will happen then. No one really had an answer so this question was postponed until next meeting.

New Business: Selectman Iocovozzi asked about the Fire Department pull boxes in S Newington. Selectman Stuart says it is true that there is no alarm system as when a pole was hit, it was not repaired. Jack had spoken with the Chief and stated that it could be that the system is obsolete. More details will be found out and reported back on.

Chairman O'Reilly reminded all that there will be additional air activity as the Vermont National Guard will be here at Pease for the next 6 weeks.

Selectman Stuart moved to adjourn. **Selectman Iocovozzi** seconded. So voted 3-0, **motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi