

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 7th, 2021

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Recreation Committee Members; Rebecca Navelski, Bill Wright, Jen Semprini, Nat Johnson, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Planning Board Member Chris Cross, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:08pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve minutes of August 2nd, 2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests for \$378,981.66 dated 8/5/2021, \$246,978.71 dated 8/12/2021, \$35,309.70 dated 8/19/2021, \$83,962.63 dated 8/26/21 and \$193541.26 dated 9/2/21. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Facility Use Requests:

M. Marconi moved to approve the following facility use requests:

Newington School-Old Town Hall & Grove-9/8/21-Back to School Picnic

Fire Department-Town Hall-Various Dates-Training

B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recreation Committee:

M. Roy let everyone know that the YMCA reached out to her today and said that they can run the summer camp for Newington next summer. R. Navelski said that the Recreation Committee would like to have a part time Recreation Director to run the summer camp and Septemberfest. The residents want more activities and it is too much for the volunteer committee. T. Connors said that this summer has been a huge burden on the Recreation Committee volunteers and the town hall staff. R. Navelski voiced her concern that the YMCA would say that they would do the summer camp in 2022 and then pull out at the last minute and the town would be in the same situation as they were this summer. T. Connors would like to get a letter from the YMCA saying that they will be able to do the camp in 2022. The Recreation Committee would like to get a bigger summer camp staff so the camp could be offered to more residents. There are many children would go to different school but would like to attend the summer camp. M. Marconi expressed concern that it would be hard to get staff in the current worker shortage in the area. M. Marconi would like to see the town continue with the YMCA

in 2022 and then consider a Recreation Director the next year. T. Connors asked the Recreation Committee to put together a proposal for the Director with budget numbers for the Selectmen and Budget Committee to review. B. Wright said that they had put together a proposal for a college student to work for 10 weeks, full time, \$20-\$25/hour. T. Connors thought that the town should keep all options on the table. B. Blonigen Thought that even if the town uses the YMCA in 2022, we should still get a Recreation Director. C. Cross suggested that the town get a binding contract with the YMCA by January 2022. T. Connors thanked the Recreation Committee for their outstanding job cleaning the Old Town Hall and surrounding area.

M. Roy asked the Selectmen if they would like to require masks for the Recreation Committee's Trolley Rides in October. M. Roy called the State House and no masks are required there. D. Hebert said that masks are required on all public transportation. **M. Marconi moved to require masks on the Recreation Committee's Trolley rides in October. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.** M. Marconi thanked the Recreation Committee for all they do for the Town.

E. Hoyt asked if the Fire Department could buy a projector and speakers for their upcoming training. Everyone would be able to use these items in the future. M. Roy thanked him.

Air Show Road Closures:

The Police Chief wants to limit traffic in Newington for the air show. There are no requirements, it is self-imposed.

Eversource Road Damage Settlement Agreement:

D. Hebert and M. Roy recommend that the Board of Selectmen accept the agreement. **M. Marconi moved to ratify the action taken at the August 23, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting and accept the Eversource Road Damage Settlement Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign it. B. Bloingen seconded the motion. All were in favor.** D. Hebert suggested that the town use the settlement money for repairs at Hannah Lane. M. Roy said that she would check with the Rockingham Planning Commission about the repair priorities in town.

Nimble Hill Road Paving:

The Town has received two bids for the paving on Nimble Hill Road from the school to Fox Point Road. One was for \$43,897 for the paving and \$22,759 for the top coat for a total of \$66,656 and the second one was \$35,442 for the paving and \$19,128 for the top coat for a total of \$57,570 from Bell & Flynn. **M. Marconi moved to ratify the action taken at the August 23, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting and accept bid from Bell & Flynn for the paving of Nimble Hill Road from the school to Fox Point Road for \$57,570 and authorize the Chair to sign the bid. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Sprague Settlement Agreement:

M. Roy said that the agreement was for two million dollars. T. Connors said that it would increase the tax rate by 20 cents. T. Connors said that Judge Morrill had done an excellent job. **M. Marconi moved to ratify the action taken at the August 23, 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting and accept the Sprague abatement settlement agreement and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. B. Bloingen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Havard Pilgrim Health Insurance Quote:

The Board asked M. Roy to get bids for Health Insurance for 2022.

Request for Sale of Town Land:

Mark Phillips has asked the Town to consider selling him a piece of land near his property on River Road. He would use it for parking. T. Connors said that there were a lot of pipes under this piece of land. Town council suggested that the Board ask the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to review the request. **B. Bloingen moved to send the request to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to consider. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Fox Point Dock Work:

Dock Master Peter Welch says that the dock needs to be stabilized and the steps down to the beach need to be redone. He is currently acquiring quotes for the work.

Planters on Woodbury Ave:

M. Roy asked if the Board would like to put planters in the median along Woodbury Ave. to make it look better. A. Hyland Hebert thought that it would be too much trouble to maintain. The Board thought that no planters were needed.

The Fire Department has received a \$15,000 grant for gym equipment. The Town's portion is \$715. **M. Marconi moved to accept and expend the \$15,000 grant for the Fire Department's gym equipment. B. Bloingen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Fireworks for Septemberfest:

M. Marconi moved to allow fireworks at Septemberfest on Saturday September 18th, 2021. B. Bloingen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Fire Department will be there and will wet down the area.

Crown Victoria Bid:

The Town received one bid for the Crown Victoria for \$1,050 from Chase Coleman. **B. Bloingen moved to accept the bid from Chase Coleman for \$1,050. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 5:52pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (b). 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 6:17pm, 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 6:18pm. T. Connors seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder