

**Newington Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2011 Town Hall 6:30pm**

**Preliminary**

***Chr. Cosmas locovozzi called the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance***

**Present:** Chairman Cosmas locovozzi, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Rick Stern, Planner Tom Morgan, Road Agent Len Thomas, Keith Cota and Charles Blackburn of D.O.T., Robert Guy and Mary Ann O'Keefe, Mike and DeDe Walsh, and Beatrice Marconi Administrative Assistant.

***The Chair declared the Public Hearing Open at 6:31pm and read the following:***

***"Pursuant to NH RSA 41:14-A, the Newington Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall (205 Nimble Hill Road) to consider a proposal from the State of NH Department of Transportation for acquiring .01 ac. on Old Dover Road in Newington and 10,425 sq. ft. of slope easement along Woodbury Avenue - both being a portion of tax map 19 lot 19 - in conjunction with the Spaulding Turnpike Expansion Project."***

Keith Cota referred to the Spaulding Turnpike Expansion Project map and gave a brief presentation with time lines on the work to be performed. As part of that, Woodbury Avenue would have to be widened for proper drainage to be installed along with sidewalks. Therefore, a 10,425 sq ft slope easement will be needed from that piece of town owned land which separates Woodbury Avenue as is and Old Dover Road. In a site walk last Friday with D.O.T., Mr. Morgan and Mr. Thomas, several areas of concern were discussed such as protecting both the audio and visual buffer of the residents of Old Dover Road and Town vehicle turn around. The gate was discussed and all in all, a better buffer would be plantings than gate replacement.

This concerned the Walsh family as in case of emergency ie: fire, they felt exiting off of Old Dover Road would be close to impossible without a gate. The State noted that they could not make guarantees, however in emergencies, delays are quite normal as the safety personnel are focused on the property or lives in danger. The Walsh's went on to state that when the Allard fire happened a few years back, accessing and exiting to/from their homes was impossible with the equipment blocking all routes.

The Fire Chief will be asked to walk the area with their concerns in mind and will forward a letter to the Board. Meanwhile, Chr. locovozzi asked those in attendance what their preference was 'trees or plantings vs. gate'. All in all, the majority felt the audio and visual buffer was more important.

Regarding a turn around, the Road Agent and State felt a cut into the existing tree area on the town land would be a much easier and safer means to turn rather than in someone's driveway as they have done in the past. Keith Cota felt once the proper drainage system was built along Woodbury, that this cut in and possibly current drainage problem would be at least partially addressed. The State will do plantings in an effort to keep that area thick with growth and will instruct the contractor to not cut beyond the needed cut line. Mr. Walsh spoke of the contractor's parking and was concerned that Old Dover Road would be used for excess vehicles and workers transportation. Mr. Cota assured him that the contract will stipulate that no vehicles or porta potties are allowed to utilize Old Dover Road except what is necessary for use when working on Old Dover Road. They will be instructed to use the former Drive In Site.

The State will do enhanced landscaping. There was a brief discussion about sidewalks and that they are being built to enhance bicycle and pedestrian travel. There was also discussion about traffic flow and the possibility of prolonged delays in accessing Old Dover Road. Mr. Cota mentioned that the contract calls for full traffic flow during peak hours. However did note that with every road construction project, normal delays should be expected.

The turnaround will be paved but not the entire street. The Residents called for many trees to be planted. Selectman O'Reilly added that if a safety issue arises, it will be addressed at that time.

The State will forward a CAD plan showing the vegetation. More than likely, it will not be ready for the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing slated for Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. ***The public hearing was closed at 7:32pm.***

**C.O.L.A** - ***Selectman Stern moved to recommend 3% for C.O.L.A. Seconded by S. O'Reilly for discussion.*** S. O'Reilly felt based on the 4% sept to sept C.O.L.A. and local towns giving 3.5 and Social Security being 3.6%, he felt that 3.25% would be a good place to split the difference. ***Selectmen Stern agreed to amend his motion to be 3.25%. S. O'Reilly seconded the amendment and the amended motion passed on a roll call vote 3-0.*** When asked about a C.O.L.A. increase for stipend positions, both Chr. Locovozzi and S. Stern felt zero was in order for this year. However, during discussions with the Budget Committee, if they felt a C.O.L.A. should be issued for Stipend positions, then it will be pursued at that time. A step will be added to the Planners scale.

**Health Care Plan Proposal** changing from the Comp100 to the Comp 2500 was signed by the Board and will be distributed to the departments.

**Sewer Stipends:** The first of the 2011 payments were paid through the accounts payable system rather than payroll. The Board stated that although it should have been through payroll, a 1099 will be issued as well as a W-2 at year end as any remainder of stipends for the Commissioners due to be paid will be out of payroll. The Board suggested a letter be written by the Treasurer explaining this – that the first checks were issued via accounts payable in error and at year's end a 1099 would be issued for that portion but all future stipend checks will come via town's payroll.

**Invoice for Sewer Checks:** The Board of Selectmen will bill the Sewer Commission for these operational costs at years end but in the meantime, will pay the bill to satisfy the vendor to avoid any penalties.

**Fire Station Shrubs:** S. Stern thought it wise to plant what could be saved around the above ground tanks at the Highway Garage, with the remainder to be offered to the Library Trustees. He or Peg Lamson will follow that through.

**2012 Paving:** Altus Engineering via a memo notified the Board of those roads that have yet to have the finish coat. The AA was asked to call Altus for cost estimates for budget preparation and to call Bell & Flynn regarding from the Shattuck seam past Patterson. (may need risers). Altus continues engineering on the Mott Pond area for improvement and restoration. The Board hopes to have more information on Patterson before years end to encumber.

***S. O'Reilly moved to adjourn at 8:10. S. Stern seconded and hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectively Submitted,

**Beatrice Marconi**  
Administrative Assistant