

**Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2013- Town Hall
6:30pm**

Call to Order: Rick Stern called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Present: Chair, Rick Stern, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, and Town Administrator Martha Roy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was declared.

Minutes Approval: Rick stated that the minutes would be tabled and reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Manifest Approval: Cosmas moved to approve manifests dated 12/03/13 for \$44,596.65, 12/10/13 for 57,912.64 and 12/10/13 for \$2,011,140.21 seconded by Rick and the motion passed, 2-0.

Conservation Commission Budget Review- Nancy Cauvet and Julie Fijas appeared representing the Commission. The recording secretary's wages are low as they were allocated to a different budget rather than Conservation Commission. There was a disparity between the Commission budget and the Selectmen's rendition of same. The Commission stated that there should be \$2,500. added to the Town Forest line. The Board added that amount to the proposed budget bringing the total to \$15,426.

Julie Fijas discussed the new Community Education line explaining that \$1,500 of the line would be for a resident and business mailer to include topics such as: Department of Environmental Services and Wetlands regulations, setbacks, how to keep their septic systems efficient and in addition to this \$1,000. would be used to hold educational sessions for the community and business leaders on subjects such as storm water runoff and nitrogen loading; two issues that affect Great Bay. Rain garden education would be part of the program as well.

Cosmas moved to recommend a Conservation Commission budget to the Budget Committee of \$15,426. Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Habitat for Humanity Abatement Request: The Board tabled this matter until the next meeting.

TD Bank Historic Images Request: Martha explained that TD Bank had requested two photos Rick asked which branch the photos would be displayed at. Martha stated she would find out and get back to the Board on this point. They also requested research be completed on whether originals were available.

Pest and Mosquito Spraying Bid: Rick requested placing the pest removal and mosquito spraying services out to bid. Cosmas emphasized that the mosquito contractor had been completing work in Newington for a very long time but it does not hurt to place it out to bid. Both Selectmen agreed that these should be bid out using identical specifications for all.

Planning Board Budget Review: Martha noted that the Board had already met with the Planning Board and just needed to vote on the amount to be recommended. Cosmas moved to recommend a Planning Board budget of \$185,394. to the Budget Committee, seconded by Rick. All were in favor.

Buildings & Grounds Budget Review: The Board reviewed 2014 projects proposed by the Building Inspector. The Board asked Road Agent, Leonard Thomas if he had any issues that needed to be addressed at the Town Garage and he replied that they were all set. Cosmas asked about the plans for the Fox Point rental house and Rick requested that this be discussed with the full Board.

Fire Department Plow Request: Jeff LeDuc represented the Fire Chief and department and requested that a plow be purchased to be placed on the 2002 utility vehicle to plow driveways in an emergency during a snow storm as well as to plow the Fire Department parking lot. Discussion ensued about a V Plow versus a regular plow. Rick suggested purchase of a regular plow for the department as there was a sizeable learning curve with a V Plow. Given the number of employees that could be driving the utility vehicle it would be safer for all to purchase a regular plow. Jeff stated the quote for a V Plow is \$5,925. installed. Fire Engineer, Ruth Fletcher stated that she was in agreement that a straight plow would be best. **Cosmas moved to approve the purchase of the plow and prefers the straight plow purchase rather than a V Plow. Rick seconded the motion and all were in favor.** Jeff stated that the Highway Agent and Fire Chief have discussed this purchase and how plowing would proceed. Martha stated that the plow can be covered under the Town's liability insurance at no further cost. Fire Engineer, John Klanchesser stated they may use the plow for some clearing of fire hydrants but that the Highway Department Kubota tractor would primarily be used for this function.

Highway Department Mower Purchase- Leonard proposed the purchase of a tractor and mowing deck from Boston Lawnmower totaling \$8,998. Cosmas stated that we have the Kubota to mow the Town grounds. He stated that it

takes about three days to complete all of the mowing. Rick asked if Leonard had received any other prices on other tractors. Leonard stated that a John Deere would cost approximately \$25,000. Rick asked that Leonard get a few more quotes on a tractor and mower.

Emergency Management Budget- This will be postponed as the Police Chief could not attend. Rick stated that the Fire Chief had told the Police Chief he was not interested in participating as a Co-Director of the Emergency Management Program. John stated he was not aware of this. The Board emphasized the importance of the Fire Chief being involved in this program.

GIS Data Release Request: The Board discussed the request by Doucet Survey to attain digital tax map lines via Rockingham Planning Commission. Rick stated it was important that they sign the same agreement required of previous entities. After speaking with Town Planner, Tom Morgan, Rick stated that there were three requests for this information. Doucet, National Guard and Hoyle Tanner had all expressed interest although currently only Doucet had placed a request in writing to the Board.

Cosmas moved that Doucet be authorized to purchase in digital format auto cad drawings of the tax maps lines within the Town of Newington with the contingency that they will not release it to any other entity and are responsible to pay any fees for this dispersement. Rick seconded the motion and all were in favor. Rick stated that the other two requests will need to be placed in writing to the Board prior to action being taken on them.

Facilities Use Requests:

Cosmas moved to approve the change in Church Supper dates from March 15, 2014 to March 8, 2014, seconded by Rick with all in favor.

Cosmas moved to approve the Sheryl Estes request to use the Town Hall for a Christmas party on December 24, 2013. Rick seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Old Business : John mentioned the need for the Fire Department parking lot apron to be repaired. Cosmas asked if this was in the Capital Improvement Plan. Rick will check with Tom regarding this.

Cosmas read a letter from Sue Smith requesting that a donation to the Tony Rahn Scholarship fund in honor of Kenneth and Darlene Rahn. **Cosmas moved to authorize the donation of \$500. for the above purpose. Rick seconded this motion and all were in favor.**

Jane Mazeau stated that some of the meeting minutes show as draft on the website and should be changed to final version. She also noted that the November 21, 2013 minutes mentioned the Police Chief under the Sewer Department discussion, and that Gup Knox was referred to as the Chair. She pointed out that some actual department budget numbers are shown and some are not. Martha said thank you for bringing these issues to her attention and that she would make these changes.

Alfred Smith stated that he has been very impressed with the job SWAMP has done over the years spraying the Town for mosquitos. Rick agreed with Alfred.

Right To Know Educational Session: John mentioned that the Local Government Center could hold a Right To Know class for \$475. for a two hour class and he inquired as to whether the Board was interested in attending. Cosmas mentioned that LGC had these classes from time to time for a reduced cost. Rick stated he would ask LGC could have the class here in Newington that all town officials and employees could attend for a reduced price.

Budget Committee Minutes Recorder: Cosmas stated he thought a minute taker should be retained for Budget Committee meetings. Rick stated that the full Board should discuss this.

Adjourn: Cosmas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm and Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor.