

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 8, 2018 -Town Hall

**Present:** Chair Jan Stuart, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ted Connors, Andy Head, Fire Chief, Jeff LeDuc, Assistant Fire Chief, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

J. Stuart called the meeting to order at 4:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of December 28th, 2017 as amended. T. Connors seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Manifest Approval:** T. Connors moved to approve the manifest of 1/2/18 in the amount of \$217,289.53. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Encumbrances:**

M. Marconi moved to approve the following encumbrances:

**2016 Re-encumbrances:**

01-4589-48-690	HDC Special Projects	Portsmouth Sign	\$1,856
01-4312-21-395	Highway Resurfacing	Bell & Flynn	\$75,000
01-4312-21-395	Highway Resurfacing	Bell & Flynn	\$40,000

**2017 Encumbrances:**

01-4194-10-430	Old Parsonage	John Wastrom-Mason	\$2,580
01-4194-06-430	Meeting House	John Wastrom-Mason	\$2,300
01-4191-08-680	PB Master Plan	Rock Planning Comm	\$11,000
01-4194-06-430	Meeting House	Architectural Millwork	\$800

T. Connors seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Fire Department Amended Budget:**

Chief Head presented the changes to his 2018 budget. There is a \$54,844.17 increase in the wages section of the budget. This is made up of the Union contracted increases, general part time hours increase, COLA for non-union management and an increase in hours for the PT Deputy Chief. Discussion ensued about the union contract increase in 2018, part time employees vs. full time employees, the average length of stay for part time fire fighters and low full time staff turnover. The part time Deputy Chief's hours would increase from 35 to 39 as of 4/1/18. These items will be reviewed by the Budget Committee on January 17<sup>th</sup>. T. Connors moved to approve a cut to the part time wages proposal in the amount of \$7,578. This reduces the line to a \$10,000. increase, similar to the Police Dept.

**Personnel Policy Changes:**

M. Roy suggested that there are three items to work on.

1) the language that references days vs hours in the vacation policy 2) Health Insurance policy change to state "Part time employees who work 20 hours or more, regularly scheduled, are eligible for health insurance subject to paying 100% of the premium." and 3) implementing a "cap" for vacation payout at retirement. J. Stuart would like to see the current employees grandfathered in. M. Roy pointed out that the Union contract has a 240 hour cap. She will check with legal counsel as to any other updates needed.

**Police Budget Review:** Debbie Zabkar, Finance Director, has been reviewing the proposed budget with the Police Department and they have found some changes necessary. Health insurance will decrease by approximately \$32,000. and other changes netted an overall decrease of \$29,271.

**Tax Deeding Process:** The Selectmen asked for a status on the tax deeding that needs to occur. M. Roy will meet with Laura Coleman, Debbie Zabkar, and a Selectman to develop a plan for this project.

✓ **Fox Point:** The Historic District Commission is applying for a grant to study the Piscataqua Bridge abutments. The application for the grant has to be approved by the Selectmen. J. Stuart is concerned that if Fox Point is listed on the National Register then it would have to be open to the general public rather than just Newington residents. M. Roy will call L. Pickering to find out how the grant is connected with the National Register.

**Snow Day:** The Selectmen would like M. Roy to develop a written snow day policy.

**Meeting House:** There was no heat at the Meeting House on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup>. The Building Inspector attended to the matter. There are more meetings at the Meeting House sponsored by the churches this year. T. Connors would like M. Roy to set up a meeting with the church members about help with the care of the Meeting House. The Selectmen would also like a list of all the Meeting House expenses.

**Adjournment:** M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:12pm. T. Connors seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder