

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 28th, 2018 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Jim Weiner, Co-Chair Conservation Commission, Deputy Fire Chief, Darin Sabine, Assistant Fire Chief, EJ Hoyt, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 9:00am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of November 14th and 15th, 2018. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifest for \$34,607.44 dated 11/20/2018 and \$58,883.41 dated 11/27/18. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Facility Use Requests: M. Marconi moved to approve the following events:
UNH Marine Docents-Holiday Luncheon-TH-December 13th
Police Department-Pot Luck Dinner-OTH-December 14th
Newington School-Luncheon-TH-December 21st
K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Jim Weiner-Conservation Commission 2019 Budget:

J. Weiner discussed town forest management with the Selectmen. He gave the Selectmen the relevant state laws pertaining to town forest management. He informed the board that research should be completed to determine when the town forest was officially established and if management was ever delegated to the Conservation Commission. The Selectmen will review all of the information provided.

Budget discussion was held regarding the need to reduce expenses in all departments. The Selectmen and J. Weiner agreed to reduce the Legal Expense line from 1,000 to \$100. Should the need arise to spend further legal funds the Conservation Commission will let the Selectmen know. They also agreed to increase the consultant line from \$5,000 to \$7,500. This will allow for a wetlands map to be developed that shows all water egresses to the Great Bay. It will aid the Conservation Commission in decision making as various development plans come before them. M. Marconi stated that he wanted to make sure this plan could have all information the various town boards and departments need. T.

Connors requested that a combined group of relevant boards and departments determine what pieces a complete wetlands plan would include to make sure it is useful to all.

The Needle cast disease was discussed. K. Latchaw asked that the Conservation Commission complete research and produce an educational flyer about the disease for townspeople. J. Weiner stated that the Conservation Commission volunteer time is maximized on other projects. They believe this is a town-wide issue and should be addressed by the Selectmen.

Darin Sabine-SCBA Lease to Purchase Program: D. Sabine and EJ Hoyt explained to the Selectmen that the current SCBA equipment will become noncompliant with national Fire Protection Association regulations on December 1st. Many of the seacoast Fire Departments are in the same position, so they have banded together and achieved a group rate with Fire Tech and Safety for a 7 year lease to purchase program. The total amount of the lease to purchase is \$185,195.30 for 24 units. This is a savings of \$100,000 compared to the price the Fire Dept would have to pay next year. One payment per year will be made. The 2018 payment of \$20,000 will be taken out of the SCBA Capital Reserve Fund. The SCBA packs have a 10 year warranty and all maintenance of the equipment is included.

Discussion ensued about the amount of overtime and sick days paid by the Fire Department. D. Sabine ensured the Selectmen that he and EJ Hoyt are working hard to reduce both in 2019.

The Telephone budget line has an increase because the Fire Department is adding the "I am Responding" software. EJ Hoyt showed the Selectmen how this program can pull up information about a location such as points of entry and hazardous chemicals as well as the number of occupants.

The Computer expense line has also increased because the server and firewall are in bad shape and need to be upgraded.

K. Latchaw asked if the following cuts could be made from the Fire Department's budget:

The Plan Review expense line from \$1,000 to \$1

The Engineers OP Fund expense line from \$1,000 to \$700

The Radio Maintenance expense line from \$9,300 to \$3,500

The Vehicle Maintenance expense line from \$35,000 to \$33,000

The Equipment Purchases expense line from \$8,000 to \$7,000

The Public Education expense line from \$1,500 to \$1,300

D. Sabine could not speak to the Fire Engineers OP Fund or the legal line but could manage with the rest of the cuts.

M. Marconi moved to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the 7 Year SCBA Lease for \$185,195.30 as presented by the Fire Department. The 2018 payment of \$20,000 will be taken out of the SCBA Capital Reserve account. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

D. Sabine gave the Selectmen a list of fires in Newington and surrounding communities that the Fire Department has responded to.

2019 Tax Rate: M. Marconi moved to set the 2018 tax rate at \$9.27. The School portion of the tax rate increased from \$0.41 to \$0.78. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

2019 Assessing and Revaluation Costs: M. Roy stated that the Assessors have reduced their revaluation costs by \$90,000 compared to 5 years ago.

Fox Point House-Ceiling Painting: M. Marconi updated the Selectmen on the progress of the Fox Point house repairs: The ceiling painting is almost complete, down spouts will be ordered, the mold mitigation is scheduled for December 4th.

Building Gutter Extensions (2 rental house, 2 Town Hall and 1 PD): Kevin Kelley will order the extensions.

Fox Point Rental Rate: M. Marconi moved to reduce the Fox Point rental rate to \$1,995. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

PDA Housing Study Committee Representative and Alternate Appointment: An alternate is needed for January, February and March in 2019. T. Connors moved to appoint Mike Marconi as the alternate when Mike Donahue is unable to attend. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Fox Point Docks: The Selectmen have decided to allow the continuation of the dock storage on Fox Point until they receive a written request from the NH DES.

Eversource Legal Bills: The Selectmen reviewed the costs of the legal bills associated with the Eversource transmission lines. To date the Town has spent \$287,000. It was the consensus of the Board that currently no further money will be spent on legal representation as the SEC is just deliberating on the matter currently. The Board will reassess the situation after the SEC decision is released.

2019 Budget Review:

The following recommendations were made:

Selectmen will not take their 3% COLA stipend increase in 2019.

Executive Office Engineering line reduced from \$30,000 to \$25,000

Town Hall Computer Upgrade will be done over 2 years reducing the amount in 2019 by \$20,000

Planning Board Legal line reduced from \$25,000 to \$20,000

Town Hall Maintenance line reduced from \$53,500 to \$30,000 (eliminating French drain construction)

Police Station Maintenance reduced by \$10,000 (eliminated brick repointing)

Regional Associations reduced by 10% across the board

Police Department Prosecutor line reduced from \$39,000 to \$31,000

Police Department Professional Training reduced from \$6,500 to \$6,000

Police Department General Supplies reduced from \$6,300 to \$6,000

Police Department Equipment Maintenance reduced from \$15,590 to \$15,090

Police Department Vehicle Fuel reduced from \$20,810 to \$20,000

Police Department Vehicle Tires reduced from \$7,500 to \$7,000

Police Department Equipment Purchases from \$15,926 to \$15,000

Highway Department Telephone from \$2,200 to \$2,000

Highway Department-Combine the 2 lines; Ditches & Shoulders and Culverts ad reduce the combined expenses for \$2,000 to \$1,500

Highway Department Maintenance Supplies/Repair reduced from \$5,500 to \$5,000

Highway Department Equipment Rental from \$1,000 to \$800

Highway Department Roadside Tree Trimming reduced from \$1,200 to \$0. The \$1,200 will be consolidated with the HDC line and will now be in the Land Management Care of Trees expense line.

Highway Department Road Sand reduced from \$4,500 to \$4,000

Highway Department Equipment Purchases reduced from \$4,500 to \$4,000

Pest Control reduced from \$40,000 to \$38,000

Welfare-Direct Assistance from \$2,000 to \$1,000

Recreation Committee General Supplies reduced from \$550 to \$400

Recreation Committee Activities reduced from \$5,500 to \$5,000

Recreation Committee Summer Program reduced from \$35,000 to \$34,500

Recreation Committee General Maintenance reduced from \$4,800 to \$2,800

Land Management Grounds Keeping reduced from \$13,000 to \$12,500

Land Management Care of Trees increased from \$4,000 to \$11,200. This increase is due to the Highway Department's Tree line (\$1,200) and the HDC's tree line (\$6,000) being consolidated in this line.

Langdon Library Maintenance/Repairs reduced from \$1,000 to \$500

HDC Care of Trees reduced from \$6,000 to \$0

Economic Development Committee Wages reduced from \$12,480 to \$7,480.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 1:01pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder