

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of April 1, 2019 6:30 pm
Public Hearings and Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman; Barry Connell, William Wilmot, Jr.; John Hooper, II

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Malory Tetreault, Mindy Newcomb, Ed Karr, Tom Gallagher and Bert Spaulding, Sr.

GUEST PRESENT: Jim Merriam, Norwich Solar Technologies, Inc.

NCTV: Louis Cassorla

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kessler called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: Add NPS: RSA 91-A:3II (d) consideration of lease or purchase of personal property (Kessler).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): Minutes of March 18, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the BOS minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

NPS Minutes of March 18, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the BOS NPS minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Minutes of March 21, 2019: Selectman Fratzel made a motion *to approve the BOS minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting.* After a short discussion on formatting of minutes, the motion was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The minutes were approved as presented. The motion passed 3-0-2 (Connell and Hooper abstained).*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of April 1, 2019 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Tom Gallagher addressed the BOS and asked what the status of the American flags on the poles along Main Street. Town Manager Rieseberg stated that everything was ready for them to be put up for Memorial Day and they will remain up until after Veterans Day. He explained that all materials and flags have arrived and the staff was scheduling installation. Mr. Gallagher thanked the Board and Town Manager.

Mr. Ed Karr addressed the Board and stated the water and sewer rates were increased in 2018. He wanted clarification before the Deliberative Session about the Bond for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Mr. Karr asked about any new (water/sewer) rates that will be set. He asked if payment (of Bond) was only by users. The Bond would be going to the entire town; both users and nonusers. Mr. Karr asked when the increase in user rates would be in 2019.

Chairman Kessler stated there had not been discussion among the BOS about increases yet. The BOS had taken public comments; water and sewer rates would again be increased the fall of 2019.

Mr. Karr asked for an explanation of why the whole Town voted on it (if only the users would pay for the Bond) and how it would financially affect him.

Chairman Kessler and Mr. Karr discussed the Bond and rate increase issue. Chairman Kessler stated the Town was currently under an EPA Administrative Order by Consent. Mr. Karr asked Chairman Kessler if he would explain the penalties Newport would incur if they did not vote in favor of the Warrant Article.

There was a discussion on penalties, rate increases and the Warrant Article among Mr. Karr and Chairman Kessler.

Town Manager Rieseberg explained to Mr. Karr the penalties and the reason the whole Town voted on the Bond.

Mr. Karr stated that under “wants and needs” the Bond issue for the WWTP was a definite need to vote in favor of. Town Manager Rieseberg concurred with his statement and gave financial information concerning the Bond.

Mr. Karr addressed Town Manager Rieseberg and inquired about additional grants to assist in the payment of the Bond. Town Manager Rieseberg stated the Town was looking for additional grants, but he was not optimistic that they would find another one. If they did, the money would go toward the project.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the Town had a Bond for the first time the system did not work for upgrades to the water treatment plant.

Finance Director Brown explained that in 2011 the Town passed a bond to upgrade the WWTP. The project failed. The Town recouped money spent through litigation. He explained the financial aspects of the bonds for the project.

Mr. Karr concluded by again stating that the passing of Warrant Article 5 for the upgrade of the WWTP was a “gotta, not a want a”.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. spoke on Article 5. He then spoke on Article 6. He asked for the tax impact and other financial information. Finance Director Brown and Board members answered all of his questions.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Wilmot sent pictures of utility poles on the corner of Park Street and North Main Street to the town manager. There were new and old poles placed there, making it difficult to see. Town Manager Rieseberg would look into it.

Selectman Hooper agreed that there were old and new poles throughout Newport. The old poles had not been taken down after new replacement poles were installed. Selectman Fratzel concurred.

Selectman Hooper reminded and encouraged the public to attend the Deliberative Session. It would be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the Opera House.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Connell concurred with Selectman Hooper's request for people to attend the Deliberative Session.

Chairman Kessler stated there were two Selectmen seats up for reelection (3 year terms) and one Trustee of the Trust Fund (3 year term). Sign-ups to put your name on the ballot begin Friday, April 5, 2019.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. asked the Town Manager to explain the differences between the proposed operating budget and the default budget. Chairman Kessler stated that he would add: Explanation of Budget and Default Budget under INFORMATIONAL.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Solar Project Update: Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the BOS and requested that the Solar Project be discussed in a NPS with the representative from Norwich Solar Technologies, Inc. who was in attendance at the meeting.

Deliberative Session Board of Selectmen Warrant Assignments: Chairman Kessler and Selectmen divided the responsibility of reading the Warrant Articles at the Deliberative Session.

Warrant Article 1. No one

Warrant Article 2. No one

Warrant Article 3. Selectman Hooper

Warrant Article 4. Selectman Fratzel

Warrant Article 5. Selectman Wilmot

Warrant Article 6. Selectman Kessler

Warrant Article 7. Selectman Connell

Warrant Article 8. Selectman Connell

Warrant Article 9. Selectman Fratzel

Warrant Article 10. Selectman Wilmot

Warrant Article 11. Selectman Hooper

Warrant Article 12. Selectman Wilmot

Warrant Article 13. Selectman Kessler

Warrant Article 14. Petitioner

Warrant Article 15. No one

Explanation of Budget versus Default Budget: Finance Director Brown gave a succinct explanation as to the difference between the Budget and Default Budget.

ACTION ITEMS: none

APPOINTMENTS: none

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (d) consideration of lease or purchase of personal property at 7:38 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg and Mr. Jim Merriam of Norwich Solar Technologies, Inc. were asked to attend the NPS.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted unanimously to exit the non-public session at 8:32 p.m.*

No action was taken.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for April 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: April 15, 2019