

**TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Board of Selectmen Minutes**  
**September 20, 2021 6:30 pm - Regular Business Meeting**  
**Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773**  
**Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 850 3296 0407 Passcode: 506260**  
**+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)**

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**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Keith Sayer, Herbert Tellor, Jr.; Barry Connell

**SELECTMAN ABSENT:** John Hooper II, Vice Chairman

**STAFF PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Steven Yannuzzi, Fire Chief; Brent Wilmot, Police Chief; Alex Lee, Lieutenant; Paul Beaudet, Lieutenant; Matthew Twining, Officer

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Dick Wentzell, Hanna Anderson, Deborah Twining and Emily Twining

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Representative from Norwich Solar Technologies (Note: Chairman Kessler addressed)

**NCTV:** John Lunn, Executive Director NCTV

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

**SWEARING IN AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICER:** Police Chief Brent Wilmot addressed the Selectboard and stated he was in attendance for the celebration of the hiring of Newport's newest police officer, Mr. Matthew Twining. Police Chief Wilmot told the Board of Mr. Twining's exemplary background experience and educational qualifications. He stated Mr. Twining had moved to Newport from New Jersey for the position in the department and has successfully completed the process for every new police department hire. After Police Chief Wilmot swore in Mr. Matthew Twining to the rank of full-time Officer in the Newport Police Department; Officer Matthew Twining's fiancée, Hanna Anderson came forward and pinned on his badge. The Selectboard congratulated Officer Twining.

Officer Twining addressed the Board members and thanked them for the opportunity to join the Newport Police Department. He was looking forward to starting his career in Newport. Chairman Kessler addressed Chief Wilmot and asked what Officer Twining's next step was. Chief Wilmot explained the discussions he was having with the state concerning a waiver to forgo attendance at the Police Academy. The Board thanked Police Chief Wilmot, Officer Twining and his family for attending the meeting.

**AGENDA REVIEW: MOVE:** SRVRTC Renovations Update to after AGENDA REVIEW (Kessler); Fire Alarm Ordinance to after SRVRTC Renovations Update; (Kessler) **ADD:** NPS RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Litigation (Rieseberg)

Chairman Kessler addressed the representative from Norwich Solar Technologies. He asked if he would like his agenda item moved as well. The representative agreed and thanked the Chairman. Town Manager Rieseberg stated that Turkey Hill would not be on the agenda. The Town has not received final approval from Counsel. The Norwich Solar representative stated there was miscommunication between the company and Town.

*Agenda Items were taken out of Order*

**INFORMATIONAL:** Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center Renovations Update-Jennifer Opalinski, SRVRTC Director - (For complete PowerPoint Presentation and other CTE renovation updates go to [www.nctv-nh.org](http://www.nctv-nh.org) ). Ms. Jennifer Opalinski, Director of the SRVTC; addressed the Selectboard and thanked them for the opportunity to speak and give them an update on the CTE renovation plans. She stated her PowerPoint presentation was on the SRVRTC website; hard copies were provided to the Board. Ms. Opalinski briefly explained the work Lavallee/Brensinger Architects have done and the work the Renovation Advisory Committee (RAC) has done. Ms. Opalinski gave the Board construction cost information and explained the proposed renovations and expansions to the CTE clinical areas for optimum educational benefits. The Selectmen were informed of courses and programs that will be available to youth, adults and the community at large through the CTE. Ms. Opalinski concluded with an explanation of the 75%/25% match grant funding the school will be receiving, including the Elementary & the Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funding which will go towards lowering the 25% local match funds (A potential \$2.5 million will be available for the project). Ms. Opalinski then gave the state timeline and deadline for the CTE renovation project. School voting is March 8, 2022. The amount of a Bond for the CTE is yet to be determined. Ms. Opalinski answered all questions from the Selectmen.

Fire Alarm Ordinance - Chairman Kessler addressed Fire Chief Yannuzzi and asked if there were any changes in the Fire Alarm Ordinance document. Fire Chief Yannuzzi stated that there were no changes to the updated ordinance document that was submitted at the August 30, 2021 meeting. He again explained that the purpose of the ordinance was to standardize the fire alarm code and system in Newport. When asked by Chairman Kessler; Fire Chief Yannuzzi stated that a good date to initiate the new ordinance would be January 1, 2022. He answered all questions from the Board and public. On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Sayer; ***the Board adopted the Fire Alarm Ordinance as presented by Fire Chief Steven Yannuzzi effective January 1, 2022. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S):** August 30, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

**CONSENT AGENDA:** On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the September 20, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

**OPEN FORUM:** Mr. Dick Wentzell addressed the Selectboard and stated the Selectmen's full contact information was still not on the Town website. After a discussion between Mr. Wentzell and the Board members; Selectman Connell requested that the email and contact information was updated on the website. Town Manager Rieseberg was directed to correct the website. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. also discussed the Town website, communications with the Board members and privacy issues between citizens and individual Selectboard members.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Selectman Sayer had nothing to share at this time. Selectman Tellor informed the Board and public that Jeff Miller had been named Athletic Director of the Year. Selectman Connell said that two residents had asked him about what was happening with the Depot building. After a general discussion it was stated that at this time there was no definite plan for the building.

Chairman Kessler said that the BOS Retreat will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the BOS Room.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

Community Center Update - Chairman Kessler stated that at the September 13, 2021 meeting of the Community Center Committee it was the consensus of the group to postpone requesting a Bond from the townspeople for a Community Center. The Committee wanted to work with the school; they did not want them to lose the 75% state grant funding for a renovation to the CTE. Currently the Community Center Committee is:

- ❖ Contacting previous pledgers to see if they will again pledge their monetary amount
- ❖ Starting a longer-term process of raising the \$3.5 million in local pledges from individual and group donations

❖ Going through the process of reviewing construction costs and monitoring their fluctuation  
Chairman Kessler said there will be a meeting on October 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the BOS Room to discuss a long-term plan to go for a tentative Bond in 2023.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. debated at length to go for a Town Bond in May 2022.

Review of Town Common Rental Agreement - After a general review of the current Town Common Rental Agreement the Board members and Town Manager Rieseberg brainstormed potential ways to deter the public from misusing the Common. The Board concurred to continue discussions on the Agreement at the Board Retreat.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Adoption of Updated Personnel Plan - After a general discussion on the consolidation of the plan with the sections the BOS has adopted over the last few years, the Board members decided to postpone its adoption to a future meeting. On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted to table the adoption of the updated Personnel Plan to the BOS meeting on October 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Turkey Hill Solar- (action postponed due to legal technicalities)

**APPOINTMENTS:** none

On a motion by Selectman Connell seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted by roll call to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Litigation at 8:36 pm. The motion passed 4-0-0.*  
Present were Board members Jeffrey Kessler, Herb Tellor, Barry Connell and Keith Sayer. Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg was also in attendance.

The Board exited NPS at 9:44 p.m.

There was no action taken.

*The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

**The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for October 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Approved on: October 4, 2021