

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Minutes of February 7, 2022
Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 831 3767 5180 Passcode: 936109
+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Wentzell, Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Guenter Hubert

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.

AGENDA REVIEW: Chairman Kessler noted that the next regular BOS meeting will be on February 21, 2022 (agenda stated February 14, 2022). He asked that all notices and agendas reflect the correction.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): December 6, 2021 - Selectman Tellor *made a motion to amend and table the minutes of the December 6, 2021 in order to revise the verbiage of the first action item motion.* It was seconded by Selectman Connell. *The motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-0.*

December 20, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-0.*

NPS December 20, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes of the December 20, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-0.*

January 17, 2022 - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2022 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote 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 February 7, 2022 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: (for full discussion, go to: www.nctv-nh.org). Mr. Dick Wentzell addressed the Board with items of concern.

- ❖ He revisited his opinion of the Town and dog licenses
- ❖ He asked for the Town's plan concerning a matter of litigation
- ❖ He asked the Chairman of the BOS to explain why in the last four years the non-public session minutes did not have any information in them.

The Board members answered questions and made statements concerning each item.

(For full discussion, go to: www.nctv-nh.org). Mr. Spaulding, Sr. repeated a request to break away three lots (that had been merged). He read a prepared statement. Mr. Spaulding then asked Chairman Kessler to read aloud from Planning Board minutes of Case 2002-ANFP-004-Amy and Jeff Winkler. He also referenced Planning Board Case 2002-SDFD-008 Amy and Jeff Winkler as well as Zoning Board approval for their Case on August 29, 2002 (he gave the BOS copies of the 2002 cases). Mr. Spaulding, Sr. clarified the action he would like the Board to take. There was a lengthy discussion on the requested lot restorations, previous deeds of the parcels, RSA 674:39(a) and overturning the assessor's decision. Selectman Tellor asked if the Town might incur any legal problems. Chairman Kessler stated he would ask Town Manager Rieseberg to write up a decision with correct terminology for a vote at the next BOS meeting. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. disagreed to the proposed process and the postponement of a decision by the Board. He discussed the request with Chairman Kessler. Selectman Connell stated it was a simple request and motion. Chairman Kessler called for his motion. Selectman Connell made a motion ***to approve the lot restoration by Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. of Map 234 Lot 002.*** It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. ***The motion passed 4-0-0.***

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. then addressed the Board and stated he would like a decision by the Board on his riverside property and island. He wanted the lots separated for tax purposes. He explained his reasons and then held another discussion with the Board members concerning the land and his request. Selectman Connell asked Mr. Spaulding, Sr. if his request was to separate the (river front) land and the island for tax purposes. He was told yes. Selectman Tellor asked if there were map and lot numbers for the parcel to reference. He read Tax Map 234 Lot 031 off the site plan Mr. Spaulding, Sr. provided. Mr. Tellor moved ***to separate the island from the strip of land next to the Sugar River Tax Map 234 Lot 031 making them two different lots.*** It was seconded by Selectman Connell. There was no discussion. ***The motion passed 4-0-0.*** Mr. Spaulding, Sr. then read aloud a quitclaim concerning the island on the Sugar River.

Chairman Kessler moved the APPOINTMENT agenda item out of order.

APPOINTMENT(S): Conservation Commission Appointment: Guenter Hubert-3-Year Term to expire June 2025 - On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; ***the Board appointed Mr. Guenter Hubert to a three-year term as a full member of the Conservation Commission, his term to expire in June 2025.*** ***The motion passed 4-0-0.*** The Board congratulated Mr. Guenter Hubert on his appointment.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Connell stated he was very pleased with the edition of the Newport Times magazine. He and his wife feel it was very well done. He has also received many compliments from citizens.

Selectman Sayer stated he and his wife were also impressed with the magazine.

Chairman Kessler stated the second edition was coming out in March 2022. The deadline to submit articles for printing was February 18, 2022. He would be writing an article promoting the Community Center. Selectman Connell stated he knew the Conservation Commission wanted to submit something. Selectman Tellor concurred and stated they were writing and submitting one for the March 2022 edition.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated the printing of the Newport Times was planned for three years. He was glad to see it finalized and in print.

INFORMATIONAL: Notice of Delinquent Taxes- 33 Turkey Hill Road - Town Manager Rieseberg explained that the delinquent taxes were on the lot where the second set of solar arrays currently is located. He and the Board members reviewed the history of the property, the initial purchase by Norwich Solar Technologies and their subsequent donation of the land to the Town of Newport. Town Manager Rieseberg explained that the delinquent taxes occurred while Norwich Solar Technology was the owner.

They wanted to get the Board's input as to whether the Town should collect the delinquent taxes or abate them. Selectman Connell asked if they (Norwich Solar) owned the land. Town Manager Rieseberg reiterated that the company had owned it and did not pay its taxes. They subsequently gifted the land to the Town. Selectman

Connell asked how delinquent the taxes on the property were. He was told as of 2015. They owed \$19,230.51. Town Manager Rieseberg and the Board discussed the issue. The Board was told Norwich Solar currently pays the Town a stipend for the use of the land (equal to the tax amount without the solar array on the property).

Selectman Connell made a motion *to abate the amount of taxes owed by Norwich Solar Technologies on 33 Turkey Hill Road*. Chairman Kessler suggested changing the tax bill to the amount paid by them now (stipend equal to tax amount without the solar array). Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the problem with that was that every year the amount will change. The Board members and Town Manager Rieseberg further discussed the owed taxes. It was stated there was a motion on the floor. Selectman Tellor stated he was concerned about setting a precedent. After additional discussion, Selectman Tellor seconded the motion. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. ***The motion passed 4-0-0.***

Community Center Update - Chairman Kessler stated that Saturday, February 5, 2022 the School Board held their Deliberative Session. He Stated that one of the Articles the Town would be voting on was a Bond for the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center Renovation (\$1.9 million bond/\$15 million project).

- \$13 million dollars will be coming from the state and federal government
- \$1.9 million dollars will be coming from a local Bond
- Its initial impact will be \$.11.

If the townspeople did not pass the bond in 2022; they will lose \$13 million dollars in grant funding. They will have to pay \$2 million for upkeep to the old building. Chairman Kessler stressed the importance of the investment of the renovation in the future of Newport.

Chairman Kessler stated the Town will be going to build a new Community Center (\$7 million)

- ❖ \$4 million will be coming from a local Bond.
- ❖ \$3 million are to be raised locally by grants and donations
- ❖ Including the pledge of \$1.5 million, the Community Center has raised almost \$2.4 million.

If the Town Bond is not passed in 2022, they will lose \$1.7 million toward the Community Center.

Chairman Kessler explained that the new Community Center was an important Town investment to meet the needs of the community. He stated that both the renovation to the CTE and new Community Center are vital to the Town of Newport.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. spoke in support of both bonds.

ACTION ITEMS: Adoption of the Newport Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022 - Selectman Connell made *a motion to accept and adopt the Newport Hazard Mitigation Plan Update of 2022*. It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. ***The motion passed 4-0-0.*** After being acknowledged by Chairman Kessler, Selectman Tellor read aloud a Resolution Adopting the Newport Hazard Mitigation Plan Update on February 7, 2022.

Parlin Field CRRSA Act-Non-Development Grant: Authorize Town Manager Rieseberg to Sign All Related Documents - Town Manager Rieseberg explained that he was asking the Board to enter into the Airport Coronavirus Relief Grant Program (ACRGP) State Block Grant Agreement (CRRSA Act-Non-Development Grant SBG 13-02-2021) in the amount of \$13,000 and to authorize the town manager to accept and expend said funds.

Selectman Tellor made a motion *to approve and enter into the agreement for the grant from the Airport Coronavirus Relief Grant Program (ACRGP) State Block Grant Agreement (CRRSA Act-Non-Development Grant SBG 13-02-2021) in the amount of \$13,000 and to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign all related documents and expend the funds on the Town's behalf*. It was seconded by Selectman Connell. ***The motion passed 4-0-0.***

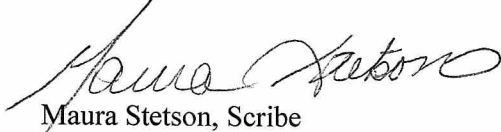
Chairman Kessler asked for a motion to go into non-public session for Pending Litigation. On a motion by Selectman Teller, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Pending Litigation at 8:33 pm. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

The Board exited nonpublic session at 8:48 pm.

No action was taken.

The Board voted to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maura Stetson".

Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for February 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: February 21, 2022