

Town of Newport, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of September 18, 2017
6:30 pm Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building

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

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Joanne Dufour, Executive Assistant; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott McCoy, Laura Finke McCoy, Mary Schissel, Bert Spaulding, Sr.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Philip St. Cyr, Risk Management Consultant, Primex; Don McCormick, Manager and Joel Stettenhiem, CEO Norwich Solar Technologies; Sheryl A. Pratt, CPA and Tyler A. Paine, CPA Plodzick and Sanderson

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

AGENDA REVIEW: Move Action Item Library Arts Center (LAC) to before Informational agenda items (by Kessler)

PRESENTATIONS:

Primex Prime Program Membership Award

Mr. Philip St. Cyr addressed the BOS and congratulated them and the Town of Newport. He explained the Town has met all requirements for the Primex Prime Program. Monetary benefits will apply to Newport as of September 1, 2017. Mr. St. Cyr thanked Executive Assistant Joanne Dufour and other Town staff for the hard work involved to complete the process to become a Prime member.

After explaining the steps involved in the 2.5 month process, what the Town's responsibilities were and the benefits the Town received from Primex; a photo op of Mr. St. Cyr presenting a plaque to Ms. Dufour and one of Mr. St. Cyr, Dufour, Rieseberg and the entire Board was taken. A photograph from the presentation would be included in the company's newsletter.

Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board and stated that thanks to the commitment of Ms. Dufour the Town was now a Prime member. Chairman Kessler addressed Town Manager Rieseberg and asked if the premium reduction was \$7,000. He was told yes.

The BOS thanked Ms. Dufour.

Plodzick & Sanderson-2015 &2016 Audits

Sheryl Pratt, CPA and Tyler Paine, CPA reviewed the booklets given to the Board members concerning the 2015 & 2016 audits (for full presentation please go to September 18, 2017 BOS vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/channels/newportnhselectmen>). They thanked Finance Director Brown for all his assistance; they couldn't have done the audit without his help.

There was a general discussion on the monies needed for the retirement system. Chairman Kessler addressed the auditors and asked their opinion on the job being done by Finance Director Brown. Mr. Paine stated that Finance Director has done an excellent job.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; ***the Board voted to accept as presented the 2015-2016 audits of the Town of Newport. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

It was asked if audits would be put up on the Town website. They would. There was a general discussion among the Board members on the audits.

Solar Energy Presentation

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that several solar technology companies had been approached for bids to provide a zero net solar energy solution for the municipality of Newport, NH. Norwich Solar Technologies had been asked to come and make a presentation of what they could offer the Town to meet this goal.

Newport would enter into two long-term commitments:

1. Lease to a solar company the use of Town land for 20-25 years.
2. Buy the power that comes from the company's system.

The BOS would have to go to the townspeople at the 2018 Town Meeting for approval. The townspeople would have to agree to all documents at the 2018 Town Meeting.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. asked if there would be time for public input. He was told yes. Chairman Kessler acknowledged the representatives from Norwich Solar Technologies.

Mr. Don McCormick and Mr. Joel Stettenhiem of Norwich Solar Technologies gave a presentation to the BOS, community members present and viewing public on the potential of using solar energy in Newport with a net zero impact (for full presentation with slide show go to September 18, 2017 BOS vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/channels/newportnhselectmen>).

Their presentation focused on:

1. Solar energy was a new, clean energy solution
2. Solar energy was environmentally and financially sound
3. Solar energy presented multiple options for educational purposes
4. Solar energy arrays would put less-used Town properties to good use
5. Proposed properties in Newport that would be used
6. Solar energy could be accomplished in Newport with a net zero solution
7. Different financing options (PPA) were available with Norwich Solar Technologies
8. Construction would commence after an affirmative vote at the 2018 Town Meeting

The BOS announced they would recess to a NPS to discuss the solar technology company.

Mr. Don McCormick and Mr. Joel Stettenhiem from Norwich Solar Technologies were invited to attend the NPS.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION #1:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Real Estate at 7:55 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Selectboard members present were: Jeff Kessler, Todd Fratzel, William Wilmot, Barry Connell and John Hooper. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rieseberg, Mr. Don McCormick and Mr. Joel Stettenhiem.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted unanimously to exit the NPS at 8:25 p.m.***

No action was taken.

Chairman Kessler reopened the public meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Chairman Kessler stated that due to the late hour, the LAC agenda item would be heard.

ACTION ITEM:

Library Arts Center (LAC)-Request to Serve Alcohol on Town Property (Airport)

Mrs Laura Finke McCoy, representing the LAC, addressed the Board members and stated the LAC was again requesting a waiver of the Ordinance restricting alcohol on Town owned property. The LAC would be celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a 1960's-themed dinner and dance at the airport.

When asked, she stated:

- The LAC had the permission of the hangar owner.
- It would be a BYOB dinner. No liquor would be sold at the event.
- There would be a designated area for alcohol. Mrs. Finke McCoy explained where the airport staff had requested the alcohol area to be in the past and again this year.
- The event would be held on October 7, 2017 at Parlin Field in the Davis Hangar. Time of the event would be 6 p.m.-12 p.m.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated approval would be subject to receipt of an insurance rider. He was told it was a non-issue; the Library Arts Center was covered under the Town insurance.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the BOS waived the provisions of the Town Ordinance on drinking on Town Property on October 7, 2017 to support the Library Arts Center event at Parlin Field and to authorize Town Manager Rieseberg to sign any documents necessary to effectuate this decision. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (S): August 28, 2017 Regular Minutes and NPS minutes
Minutes of August 28, 2017:

Chairman Kessler tabled the regular and NPS BOS minutes of August 28, 2017 until the October 2, 2017 BOS meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of September 18, 2017 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: none

COMMUNICATIONS:

Selectman Hooper had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Wilmot stated he and his wife had accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Skip Rollins to Rochester, NH for the Run for the Fallen. It was a very moving experience.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler had nothing to share at this time.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL:

Update on County Parking Lot

The county parking lot was completed. The Town was assisting in the care of watering the landscaping.

LED Lighting Update

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the conversion to LED lighting on streetlights was complete. During the first week of October 2017 they would start converting the Town Office, Fire Department and DPW (Department of Public Works) buildings to LED lighting with the Smart Start Program.

Public Works Roof

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that bids were sent out to selective companies as well as an open bid. More information would be forthcoming.

Regional Dispatch

Town Manager Rieseberg stated having a regional dispatch in Newport was still in a conceptual stage. More information would be forthcoming. Selectman Wilmot explained his experience with regional dispatching through contact with the Claremont Police Department.

Opera House Use and Fees Policy

The agenda item was postponed to the October 2, 2017 BOS meeting. Various aspects of the policy would be discussed.

Miscellaneous:

- ❖ Selectman Fratzel asked that everything (bills) concerning the Opera House go before the BOS.
- ❖ The Garden Club was discussed. Chairman Kessler asked if the newly organized Garden Club could be asked to take over the landscaping duties at the county parking lot. Town Manager Rieseberg would look into it.
- ❖ Town Manager Rieseberg stated that spring roadside maintenance would be handled by the Rec Center under Mr. P.J. Lovely, Jr.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION #2:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into two non-public sessions pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Real Estate and NPS pursuant to 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation at 8:41 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

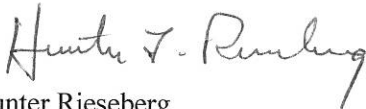
On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted unanimously to exit NPS at 9:02 p.m.*

There was no action taken.

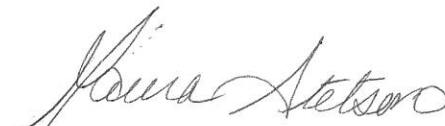
On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.*

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hunter Rieseberg
Town Manager



Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: October 2, 2017