

**Town of Newport, New Hampshire**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes for Meeting of November 20, 2017**  
**6:30 pm Regular Business Meeting**  
**Municipal Building**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; Julie Magnuson, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Arnold Greenleaf, Superintendent of WWTP

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bert Spaulding, Sr.

**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:** Accepted as presented.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (S):** November 6, 2017 Regular Minutes and November 6, 2017 Non-Public Minutes

Minutes of November 6, 2017 and NPS Minutes of November 6, 2017: On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the minutes and NPS minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:** On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of November 20, 2017 as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

**OPEN FORUM:** Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed Town Manager Rieseberg and stated he would send written information about the issue he would be talking about at the BOS meeting. He expressed concerns to the BOS concerning riverfront property that he owned. He requested that the property be separated from the lot it was attached to and that it be done in time for the December 2017 tax bill. Chairman Kessler addressed Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and stated that the RSA he had found clearly stated that the land should be separated from the abutting lot. It would be done. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated that he would pay for the deeding and recording at the Registrar of Deeds, but he requested that the separating of lots be done expediently.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. informed the BOS that he had filled out and handed in an application to become a member of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC).

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Selectman Hooper had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Wilmot stated he had attended the play "The Great Gatsby" at the Newport Opera House. It was a student acted and directed performance. It was excellent. Kudos to them.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler informed the viewing public that the Town Offices would be closed on Thursday (November 23<sup>rd</sup>) and Friday (November 24<sup>th</sup>) in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

**INFORMATIONAL:** RSA 79-e - Ms. Julie Magnuson addressed the BOS and explained additional research she had completed on the concept of adopting RSA 79-e as an incentive for businesses to invest in Newport. A physical map with street names would need to be drawn up to show the area in which 79-e could be implemented. There was a short discussion on what it would do, how it would be implemented and how it would potentially affect the Town of Newport. The Board members concurred that it would be a good thing to have as a way to potentially persuade new businesses to come to Newport. Selectman Hooper stated it was important to educate the public on 79-e. Chairman Kessler stated there would be public hearings on 79-e. If there was a positive response from the public and if the BOS agreed, the proposal would go to the voters at Town Meeting. Town Manager Rieseberg reminded the BOS that if 79-e was adopted at Town Meeting, they were not under any obligation to award it to people (businesses). It would be granted case by case. The Board members, Town Manager Rieseberg and Ms. Magnuson discussed the procedure to take in implementing 79-e. Town Manager Rieseberg stated more information on 79-e would be forthcoming to the Board members.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. gave his views on 79-e.

#### Schedule Change for BOS Meetings January 2018 (January 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>)

After a short discussion on the January 2018 meeting schedule, on a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; ***the Board voted to alter the Selectboard meeting schedule from January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>, to January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

Tax Deeded Properties: Town Manager Rieseberg explained the process proposed in selling the ten tax deeded properties to be addressed. (Attachment 1). He needed the Board's permission to sell them and also their acceptance of the bids. There was a short discussion on the process by the Board. Action on the item was deferred to later in the meeting.

#### Tax Rate/Bills

Finance Director Brown gave an update on the establishment of the tax rate and issuance of the tax bills to Newport residents. The proposed date for the final tax rate is Wednesday, November 22, 2017 or Monday, November 27, 2017. Tax bills will be sent out December 4, 2017 and will be due January 8, 2018.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:** Authorize Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg to Sell Tax Deeded Properties and Sign Any and All Related Documents

Selectman Wilmot made a motion ***to authorize Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg to sell tax deeded properties so listed and to sign any and all related documents.*** Selectman Hooper seconded the motion.

Selectman Fratzel asked if the motion could be amended to include that this would be done after the opening and acceptance of the bids.

Selectman Wilmot made a motion ***that the Selectboard authorize Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg to sell tax deeded properties listed in the minutes and to sign any and all related documents subsequent to their opening and direction from the Board of Selectmen on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2018.*** Selectman Fratzel seconded the motion. ***The motion passed 4-0-0.***

#### **APPOINTMENTS:** None

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into nonpublic session (NPS) pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Pending Litigation at 7:14. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

Finance Director Brown and Mr. Arnold Greenleaf were asked to attend the NPS.

**See NPS minutes for additional information.**

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Maura Stetson  
Scribe

Attachment 1

Approved on: December 4, 2017