

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; Julie Magnuson, Planning and Zoning Administrator; P.J. Lovely, Recreation Director

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: Add non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Real Estate (by Kessler); add under Informational: School System Plan (by Connell)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (S): October 16, 2017; October 16, 2017 Non-Public Minutes.

Minutes of October 16, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2017 meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

NPS Minutes of October 16, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes of the October 16, 2017 meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of November 6, 2017 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Spaulding, Sr. again expressed his concerns about his appraisal by Avitar to the BOS. Town Manager Rieseberg stated he would look into it for Mr. Spaulding, Sr. They discussed a timeframe to have the information for taxation purposes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Selectman Hooper stated the Library Arts Center (LAC) would open their Gallery of Gifts the week of November 12, 2017. There would be an Open House at this time. Selectman Hooper stated that there was an Endowment Fund Drive at the LAC. For more information contact the LAC. He also wanted to commend the PWD and Water Department employees who worked hard in Town during the recent flooding. He had had good feedback on the crews and their work by residents.

Selectman Wilmot stated he had attended the play "Birdcage" at the Opera House. He encouraged everyone to check out the Opera House website: there were several good programs that would be put on.

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:

Recreation Department – 50 Years!

Mr. P.J. Lovely addressed the BOS and stated there would be a ‘Shin Dig’ to celebrate and thank the many volunteers that have made the Rec Department programs possible throughout the years. The celebration would be held at the Moose Club on Friday, December 1, 2018. Volunteers attending would be free, other going could purchase tickets at the Rec. Center. The Rec Center currently had 127 volunteers to assist with their programs. They could use more.

Mr. Lovely gave a synopsis of the fall and winter activities provided through the Rec Department. Fall activities had been: soccer, flag football and the kid zone program (for preschoolers). The winter activities were: wrestling (grades 1-8) and basketball (grades 1-6), volleyball for men and women, 40+ basketball for men. The Rec Department was currently in need of a 3-4 grade basketball (girls) coach. Currently parents could register their children in programs online and pay at the Rec Center. Soon they will also be able to pay online.

Mr. Lovely was asked about the fields and maintenance agreement with the school. He answered all questions and told the BOS that in addition, the school would be making a new sign for the Sichel soccer field and that there would be a meeting with the school concerning fencing in one of the basketball courts and putting the Skateboard Park there.

RSA 79-e

Ms. Julie Magnuson addressed the BOS and explained the concept of having RSA 79-e as an incentive for businesses to invest in Newport. There was a general discussion on what it would do and how it would potentially affect Newport. The Board members asked Ms. Magnuson to continue investigating the possibility of having RSA 79-e. Chairman Kessler stated there would be public hearings about it and that the proposal would go to the voters at Town Meeting. Ms. Magnuson was asked to provide copies of documents on the proposal to the BOS.

Storm Damage Update

Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the BOS and listed the streets and bridges that had been affected by the storm and the work done on each. He stated that there had been no damages with Town infrastructure.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board and asked about having a PSA stating information to the public about outages. There was a discussion on the instillation of a Code Red system.

Shooting Range Update

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the project was moving along. The pavilion would be finished in December 2017. The concrete backstop would be built in Spring 2018. The Sturm Ruger Company had been contacted; they had volunteered people to assist in the construction.

DPW Roofing Project Update

Town Manager Rieseberg stated there were three bids on the roof project. The BOS would need to discuss the bids in NPS.

District Court Lease

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the lease on the District Courthouse was almost up. He needed direction from the BOS about how to proceed. It would be discussed in NPS.

Joint Meeting with School Board

Chairman Kessler stated the school district had in their minutes that they wanted to meet with the BOS. The School Superintendent had been in touch with Town Manager Rieseberg concerning a date. Items the BOS would like to discuss were: the CIP, the athletic field agreement, combining Town and School finances. The meeting would be held in November/December 2017.

Tax Rate

Finance Director Brown passed out an estimated tax rate calculation to the BOS. He answered all financial questions and stated that the tax bills were on track to be out before Christmas 2017.

School Strategic Planning Group

Selectman Connell stated there had been three meetings on the school strategic plan. There were fifteen (15) members on the committee. There were three items they were working on: Core Values, Vision, and the Mission Statement. The group was almost finished with the seven identified Core Values. The Core Values were scheduled to be completed in November 2017 at which time they would be vetted to the community.

When all three parts were completed the school system would have a 'roadmap' to follow.

There was a general discussion on facilitators for the committee, the meetings, directions to meet the goals and the representatives that comprised the committee.

ACTION ITEMS: None

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the BOS and stated he would like to apply for the vacant position on the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). Chairman Kessler requested he fill out an application form; the moderator of the BAC appointed the members.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Pending Litigation, RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Dismissal, Promotion, Compensation of Public Employee and RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Real Estate at 7:45 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit NPS at 8:20 p.m.*

There were no votes taken or decisions made.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: November 20, 2017