

**Town of Newport, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of March 5, 2018
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; Heath Marsden and Rick Kloeppel, airport co-managers

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tobin Menard, David Hoyt, Scott McCoy, David Doremus and Bert Spaulding, Sr.

GUEST: Don McCormick, Norwich Technologies

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): Minutes of February 5, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1(Wilmot abstained).*

Minutes of February 12, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Minutes of February 15, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

NPS Minutes of February 15, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes of the February 15, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Minutes of February 22, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1. (Hooper abstained)*

NPS Minutes of February 22, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes of the February 22, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1. (Hooper abstained)*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of March 5, 2018 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Scott McCoy, Cornish Turnpike, asked the Chair if there was a date for the reconstruction of the Oak Street Bridge (Green Bridge). Town Manager Rieseberg answered Mr. McCoy, giving general information and explained that after meeting with the contractor, they would have a schedule. The Town was hoping work will start this summer. He could not be more specific.

Mr. McCoy then asked about the bridge near the Oak Street Bridge, the Greenwood Bridge. He asked if that bridge would remain closed. Finance Director Brown and Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the Greenwood Bridge was not slated for repair at this time.

Mr. David Doremus addressed the Board and stated he was at the BOS to meet the Selectmen and answer any questions on a petition warrant article for an increase to the disabled veterans exemption he was trying to enact. Chairman Kessler addressed Mr. Doremus and stated, for clarification, that he was submitting a petition warrant article to increase the disabled exemption on property taxes. Mr. Doremus stated that was correct. Chairman Kessler reviewed the qualifying process to successfully submit a petition article. March 13, 2018 was the deadline to submit a petition article. Twenty five registered voters needed to sign the petition. Chairman Kessler and Mr. Doremus held a short discussion on the proposed petition warrant article. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. offered to look over Mr. Doremus' petition article after Open Forum and make recommendations.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed the BOS and gave information on the potential tax impact of the School Budget. He informed the public that School voting would be on March 13, 2018. He encouraged all registered voters to go to the polls and exercise their right to vote.

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

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Hooper had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Wilmot reminded the public that roads were currently posted for 6 tons (limit) because of mud season. He asked that people heed the signs; save the roads.

Chairman Kessler reminded the public that School voting would be next Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Polls would be open 8 a.m.-7:00 p.m. in the Opera House. Also, the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) would hold its first meeting on the Town budget on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the BOS room.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Budget Approval for BAC Review: Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the adjustments that the BOS had requested had been made. Finance Director Brown addressed the BOS and stated they had a summary of the budget as it was currently. The changes the BOS had requested were: payroll for the town manager contract, a \$5,000 change to the District Court section (\$2,500 added to the Capital Reserve line item, \$2,500 added to the maintenance line item). He reviewed the total for the operating budget and monies being requested in warrant articles for the BOS and public.

There was a short discussion by the Board and Finance Director Brown on the budget.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***the Board voted to accept the budget as presented (including the two additional articles: Recreation Land Purchase and Revaluation Capital Reserve coming out of Fund Balance) for forwarding to the Budget Advisory Committee. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Review of Preliminary Warrant: Finance Director Brown read aloud and explained the 27 Warrant Articles to the BOS and public. Town Manager Rieseberg and Finance Director Brown answered all questions from the Board members and public in attendance. Finance Director Brown also explained that any petition articles would be listed after the 27 Warrant Articles.

He gave the following timeframe for all 2018 Warrant Articles:

March 6: Warrant Articles would be sent to the BAC

March 19: Warrant Articles would go back to the BOS

March 21: BAC would give their recommendations; the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (NHRA) documents would be finalized

March 26: Selectmen would sign paperwork and the Warrant Articles would be posted

Dam Monitoring: Town Manager Rieseberg stated they were going to be installing a camera at the dam by Cross Street. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is working directly with the owners to revise their operating procedures and repair the dam.

Solar Energy Presentation by Norwich Technologies: Mr. Don McCormick of Norwich Solar Technologies gave a brief presentation updating 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 March 5, 2018 BOS vimeo at:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/newportnhselectmen>).

Mr. McCormick's presentation focused on:

1. The solar array in Newport would be historic: it will be the largest municipal project in NH
2. Solar energy benefits
3. Financing option of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA): no cost to the Town
4. Array is environmentally and financially sound
5. Proposed properties and size of arrays in Newport that would be used
6. Solar energy could be accomplished in Newport with a net zero solution (no cost to Town)
7. Multiple options for educational purposes
8. Construction process would commence after an affirmative vote at the 2018 Town Meeting

There was discussion on the ice chunks currently at the Pollard Road and WWTP sites, the FAA (solar) glare analysis for Newport that had not yet been done and roof installations.

Mr. Don McCormick of Norwich Technologies will present the completed solar glare analysis to the Airport Advisory Board (AAB) on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. He will contact Mr. John Merriman at Parlin Field concerning information needed for the analysis.

Norwich Technologies will be holding a Town Discussion on the potential solar arrays in Newport at the Richards Free Library on Thursday, March 8, 2018 from 6-8 pm. The presentation and discussion is open to the public.

NOHA Maintenance Fees: Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the BOS and stated that there had been several adjustments to the Opera House rental fees over the past few years. It was confusing as to which adjustment to use with individual entities. Town Manager Rieseberg listed the current scale. He asked the BOS to clarify the rental fees to use.

There was a general discussion on the fees charged, non-profits, exemptions (Town and School) and who kept the Book for scheduling Opera House functions (Town).

The Chair acknowledged Mr. Hoyt and asked him to clarify what the Newport Opera House Association (NOHA) has been paying. He complied, explaining NOHA has been paying \$125 per night.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the Town could enter into a lease agreement with NOHA and have the fees addressed in it.

Selectman Fratzel stated that until a lease could be drawn up between the Opera House and the Town he would propose the following: \$150 per day for NOHA plus the \$300 maintenance fee and \$300 per day plus the \$300 maintenance fee for everyone else.

There was a general discussion among the Board, Town Manager and Mr. Hoyt on the rental fees and maintenance of the Opera House.

Mr. Hoyt and Finance Director Brown also addressed the Board and reminded them of a few specific functions held by the Newport Chamber of Commerce at the Opera House.

A vote on the revised fee scale was requested by a member of the public.

Selectman Fratzel made a motion *to adjust the rental fees at the Opera House to \$300 per day plus a \$300 maintenance fee and \$150 per day for the Newport Opera House Association (NOHA) plus a \$300 maintenance fee per event.* The motion was seconded by Selectman Hooper. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

ACTION ITEMS: Approval of Proposed Groundwater Trust Fund Application and Related Documents:

Finance Director Brown addressed the BOS and explained the Groundwater Trust Fund Grant. He explained the dollar amount (\$1,507,000). He was requesting the BOS to authorize Town Manager Rieseberg to apply for and sign any documents related to the grant up to that amount.

If the BOS authorized Town Manager Rieseberg to accept the full amount then Finance Director Brown would work with the State to receive the money into a phased project.

Selectman Fratzel made a motion *to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg apply for and sign the documents for the Groundwater Trust Fund application and related documents up to \$1,507,000.* It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Approval of 2018 Local Source Water protection program Grants SWP-295 & SWP-296: There was a general discussion on the SWP-295 and SWP-296 grants.

Selectman Fratzel made a motion *to accept the proposed 2018 Local Source Water Protection Grant SWP-295 in the amount of \$19,965, and to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign any and all documents related to it.* It was seconded by Selectman Connell. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Selectman Fratzel made a motion *to accept the proposed 2018 Local Source Water Protection Grant SWP-296 in the amount of \$5,285 and to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign any and all documents related to it.* It was seconded by Selectman Connell. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

APPOINTMENTS: none

There being no further business, on a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot, *the Board voted to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: March 19, 2018