

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for Meeting of May 20, 2019 6:30 pm

Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building

15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; Peter J. Lovely, Recreation Department Director; Rebecca Merrow, Recreation Supervisor/Day Camp Director; James Burroughs, Police Chief; Officer Katharine Marsh, Officer Alexander Marvin, Sergeant Charles McLeman, Lt. Matthew Hogan, Heath Marsden, Airport Manager

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. and Mrs Marvin, Bethany McLeman, Kathy Hubert, Steve Smith, Donna Mahair, Brandy Waterman, Shannon MacMichael, Jeff North, Larry Flint, Dick Wentzell and Bert Spaulding, Sr.

NCTV: John Lunn

CALL TO ORDER: Town Manager Rieseberg called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:33 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD ORGANIZATION:

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the Board of Selectmen would be electing officers for the upcoming year and asked for a nomination for the position of Chairman. Selectman Connell made a motion *to elect Selectman Kessler as Chairman*. It was seconded by Selectman Fratzel. There were no other nominations. Town Manager Rieseberg called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Kessler abstained).*

Chairman Kessler took over the meeting.

Chairman Kessler asked for a nomination for the position of Vice Chairman. Selectman Connell made a motion *to elect Selectman Fratzel to the position of Vice Chairman*. It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. There were no other nominations. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Fratzel abstained).*

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): Minutes of May 13, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the BOS minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting with the following correction: Page 1, last paragraph before adjournment should read:*

“Mr. Fratzel moved to modify the Town Manager’s existing employment agreement by changing the word “cause” in Section 4 with the word “malfeasance” and to amend Section x of the Agreement entitled “Term” from the current June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilmot. All members of the Board voted to support the motion.”

Chairman Kessler called for a vote on the minutes as modified. *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 May 20, 2019 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. relayed an incident that occurred during the May 14, 2019 voting day. Mr. Herb Teller had left his sign unattended during voting hours. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. had been asked, as an Election Official, to remove the sign because it was unattended. When they found out, Mr. P.J. Lovely, Mr. Larry Flint and Mr. Jeff Kessler immediately stated they would attend Mr. Tellers' sign so it would not have to be removed. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. thanked Chairman Kessler and Mr. Lovely for their assistance.

Dick Wentzell again addressed the Board with concerns on the Town Assessor, George Hildum. His concerns included assessing amounts, timesheets, payment and overseeing his position, insurance, legal bills and the use of Newport Town employees. He asked that the BOS look into these items and asked again why Mr. Hildum has never had to bid for the Town Assessor job. The Town Manager spoke to some of Mr. Wentzell's concerns and would look into the others. Chairman Kessler thanked Mr. Wentzell.

Chairman Kessler asked Ms. Mahair if the Chamber was in attendance for the Community Center. She informed Chairman Kessler that the Chamber was in attendance to talk about fireworks (requested by the BOS). Airport Manager Heath Marsden asked if the BOS had questions or concerns about the fireworks event. Representatives from the Chamber, Rec. Center and Airport were in attendance to answer any questions. Chairman Kessler asked for a synopsis of the event. Airport Manager Marsden stated it went extremely well.

- The Open House on Saturday was well attended; fewer transient pilots attended due to the wind conditions
- Volunteer pilots flew over 50 children on Eagle Flights
- The fireworks were exceptional
- The event was put together by volunteers from the Chamber, Rec Center and Airport
- The Rec Center paid for the fire apparatus to be at the airfield
- The Rec Center used their van and employees to run a shuttle from the high school to the airport all night
- Goshen Fire Department put up their lights for free
- There was police presence
- Parking was done by airport volunteers
- Newport Chevy donated the Bounce House
- They had generous monetary donations
- There were 1500-2000 people in attendance
- The New Hampshire Pyrotechnics Association had 50+ members in Newport. They rented out all the local motel rooms and campground spots; went to local businesses to eat.

The New Hampshire Pyrotechnics Association (NHPA) donated a \$15,000 show which was held on two evenings, with few noise complaints.

- We hope to hold the event again next year.

Brandy Waterman and Steve Smith, Chamber of Commerce, gave stellar reviews on the event. They stated that social media had covered it well with excellent reviews.

Selectman Hooper concurred with the Chamber review and said that the Town was still active at 10 pm. because of the event. He stated that businesses would love to help sponsor the event next year.

Police Chief Burroughs stated the event was very organized and well laid out. He continued, stating that the Newport PD officers could not donate their time; it was a cost to the Town. He was looking forward to a post event meeting with representatives from the three groups.

Selectman Fratzel thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the event. He has never seen so much great feedback on social media. It is a testament to the great event the Chamber put on.

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

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Wilmot stated the Sunshine Social was a huge success. It was a night of fun.

Selectman Hooper concurred with Selectman Wilmot that the Sunshine Social at the Opera House was great. He thanked all those who came out to vote (1000+) and for reelecting him for a three year term. Addressing Police Chief Burroughs, he stated that he had received phone calls concerning parking issues on Friday from the “stone” church (Cedar Street) to Main Street during tee ball practice on the Common.

Chairman Kessler thanked all those who came out to vote (1000+) and for reelecting him for a three year term. He thanked Linda Wadensten and Herb Teller for running and talking about the issues.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

Agenda Items were taken out of order to accommodate participants.

INFORMATIONAL: Letter of Commendation - Officer Alexander Marvin: Chairman Kessler read aloud the letter of commendation for Officer Alexander Marvin.

Letter of Commendation - Sergeant Charles McLeman: Vice Chairman Fratzel read aloud the letter of commendation for Sergeant Charles McLeman.

Police Chief Burroughs called the two officers to the front of the room. He addressed the BOS and stated the police department takes pride in cross training with the EMS. It was the CPR training they had received that helped lead to a successful outcome. He explained that the cross training allowed his officers to know where EMS items were in the ambulance in order to assist with the call. Police Chief Burroughs and the BOS members congratulated the officers.

Letter of Appreciation – Lt. Matthew Hogan, Prosecutor: Chairman Kessler read aloud the letter of appreciation for Lt. Matthew Hogan.

Vice Chairman Fratzel read aloud the letter of appreciation for Lt. Matthew Hogan from John Stewart MPA, Adjunct Lecturer, Keene Police Department (Ret.).

Police Chief Burroughs called Lt. Hogan to the front of the room. He stated that with Lt. Hogan’s 30+ years of service he represented the department well. He additionally stated that he had had these three accolades brought to the BOS attention because National Police Week had just occurred (May 12-18, 2019).

Police Chief Burroughs thanked the BOS for acknowledging the Newport officers hard work and achievements.

Community Center – Next Steps: Chairman Kessler stated that on May 14, 2019 the Community Center received 45-47% of the vote (it needed 60% for the Bond Issue to pass). He said he did not think it failed from lack of need, but lack of understanding of what the needs are and the condition (how old and worn out) of the current facility. The Rec Center is not serving as many children as it could if it was a larger facility. Mr. Lovely stated that Chairman Kessler’s assessment was correct, the support of the community has been tremendous; in four months’ time they had raised almost \$1.8 million dollars. The Community Center almost had the vote; this year was not the year for it (to pass). He stated that representatives of the Rec Center and Community Center Committee had come to the BOS as a group for guidance as they went forward. He stated it was definitely a need in the Town; the need would not go away. The citizens deserve a better Community Center; the present one is in

tough shape. It will cost a lot to renovate it if that was the direction the BOS would like to go. The Community Center Committee needs a plan that more people in the community will get behind.

Each Selectman was asked his opinion of the direction the Community Center Committee should take. Each Selectman gave his vote of confidence in the project. They listed the following:

- ❖ The Rec Center needs a lot of work
- ❖ It was a tough year to tackle more tax expense
- ❖ The public needed to be educated on the project
- ❖ The proposal came together really fast; there was a lack of time to get to some of the people
- ❖ Information needed to be brought to the people (attend and speak to local group meetings) not have special meetings for people to go to

Mr. John Lunn addressed the Board and stated he was a Selectman when they passed the Police Station. He chaired the last renovation at the Richards Free Library. Mr. Lunn remembered the proposals that failed in each and he thought the proposal was large for the community. He explained that the site plans looked like the Town was trying to build a large facility for many things, when really what the Town needs is a place for the kids and a gym. If the current gym could be renovated and build some new rooms with it so it was not as large a footprint as was proposed it may be more acceptable to the community. Mr. Lunn gave historical data on previous bond proposals that failed. He commended the 2019 Community Center attempt, but felt it was too large. Public perception is important.

Selectman Fratzel and Chairman Kessler spoke to Mr. Lunn's statements. They said that public education was important.

Mrs. Kathy Hubert spoke concerning the Police Station and Richards School bond articles. Addressing Mr. Lovely, she stated that he might want to send out a questionnaire with information but also asking what questions the community members had or want answered. Unanimous input is the best way to get the information needed.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. spoke positively to the Police Station and proposed Community Center. He stated that monetarily (tax wise) 2019 was not the right year to bring the proposal to the voters. He encouraged them to go forward with their work.

Mr. Larry Flint addressed the BOS and stated a new Community Center was an investment in the community going forward. Values of property would be increased; economically it would increase and improve the whole area. We need to build for the future, we need to be visionaries.

Mr. Flint stated that what the Committee did not explain well was that they were taking the ambulance garage and building a new one, why a pool was not feasible and that the Youth Baseball would not have a field.

Chairman Kessler asked for the pleasure of the Board. Selectman Wilmot asked if he wanted a resolution, consensus or other. Chairman Kessler requested a motion.

Selectman Wilmot made a motion ***that the Board of Selectmen heartily resolve to move the Community Center project forward for another year's worth of work.*** It was seconded by Selectman Connell.

In discussion Selectman Fratzel stated the committee was looking for the support of the BOS. Selectman Hooper asked about an indoor or outdoor walking track. He was told there was one planned.

Mr. Lovely addressed the Chair and asked if the BOS endorsed the plan what does it entail for changes made to the plan? Mr. Lovely, Chairman Kessler, Selectman Connell and Selectman Fratzel held a discussion on the proposal.

Chairman Kessler called for a vote. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

State Budget Process – Kathy Hubert: Mrs. Hubert and Mr. Lunn gave a lengthy overview of all that has happened in Concord (Senate Finance Committee) with educational funding since the May 6, 2019 BOS meeting.

Mrs. Hubert stated they were working on not having non-funded mandates by the federal government. She explained innovative ways that some representatives have tried to get more money for education. She stated a few things that Newporters could do:

- Write Senator Ruth Ward
- Sign a petition (Mrs. Hubert provided one)
- Ask representatives to make education a priority

Contacts to write to: Governor, members of the Finance Committee

Mrs. Hubert would send via email the names of State contacts and their addresses for the Board members.

Mrs. Hubert stated she would be going to the next Newport school board meeting and will ask Newport to join Claremont in an SAU. Concluding, she stated that how the State funds the school systems is important.

Chairman Kessler asked for the pleasure of the Board. Selectman Wilmot stated that the BOS as a group could send letters.

Selectman Wilmot made a motion ***that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to our elected officials supporting education funding reform.***

Selectman Wilmot addressed Mrs. Hubert and asked if she had a suggested letter or bullet points that could be incorporated into the BOS letter.

Chairman Kessler listed the following three bullet points:

1. Rolling back the adequacy aid
2. Forming a commission to study long term funding
3. Additional aid for the bottom twenty towns

Selectman Wilmot's new motion read: Selectman Wilmot made a motion ***that the Board of Selectmen sends a letter to our elected officials supporting education funding reform to include the following three bullet points: Rolling back the adequacy aid, forming a commission to study long-term funding and distributing additional aid for the bottom twenty towns.*** It was seconded by Selectman Connell. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Chairman Kessler stated they could also write individual letters. Town Manager Rieseberg would let the Board members know when the letters were ready for signing. Selectman Connell asked about the petition. It was available for signing now. Chairman Kessler asked about Mrs. Hubert's group. She explained their current focus to the Board. The Board thanked Mrs. Hubert for attending the meeting.

Newport Opera House Exterior Renovations: Town Manager Rieseberg asked that the BOS take a brief recess to go into NPS to discuss part of the proposal, or it could be tabled. There was a short discussion on the agenda item. The agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS: Adoption and Approval of Operational Guidelines for the Board of Selectmen: After a short discussion, on a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***the Board voted to adopt the Operational Guidelines for the Board of Selectmen with the condition that the language for the Appendix 1 91-A (pages 1-11) is current and applies.*** ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Selectmen Appointments to Boards and Committees: The Selectmen volunteered for the following:

<u>Board/Committee</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Airport Advisory Committee	Wilmot
Budget Advisory Committee	Kessler
Budget Advisory Committee (alternate)	Connell
CIP	Fratzel
Community Center Committee	Fratzel and Connell
Conservation Commission	Connell
ECON	Hooper
EDC Advisory Board	Fratzel
Facility & Fields Advisory Committee	Wilmot and Hooper
Historic District/Heritage Commission	Hooper
“ (alternate)	Wilmot
Monuments & Memorials Committee	Wilmot
NCTV	Kessler
Planning Board	Hooper
Planning Board (alternate)	Connell
Recreation Advisory Council	Wilmot
Recreation Advisory Council (alternate)	Hooper
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (2)	Kessler and Wilmot
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	Kessler
ZBA (alternate)	Fratzel

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***the Board voted to accept the appointments for fiscal year 2019-2020. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

As requested, a letter will be sent to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) naming the two representatives (Kessler and Wilmot) appointed to the UVLSRPC for 2019-2020.

Proposed Alternative Financial Plan for Wastewater Treatment Plant(WWTP): Finance Director Brown addressed the Board and explained the financial obligations the Town now had for the WWTP. He gave the historical financial information to the BOS and what will currently be done, including the 30% forgiveness on the loan.

He explained that with the 30% forgiveness it would ease the rate increase this year to the sewer users. Finance Director Brown reviewed repayment rates of the loan, different scenarios of the loan project and the DES involvement in assisting with the loan repayment.

Chairman Kessler asked what was needed of the BOS. Finance Director Brown stated a motion to approve closing the current loan and repayment for 20 years.

There was a short discussion on making a motion. Selectman Wilmot asked if the Town was in a time crunch to get it taken care of. Finance Director Brown was asked if it could be done in two pieces; the first being to close the loan. He was asked if the BOS could get something in writing concerning the loan and loan forgiveness. Town Manager Rieseberg stated he would get additional verbiage to the BOS members on the loans

Selectman Fratzel suggested the following motion: *close out the current program as detailed on the second line on the WWTP Upgrade Project sheet and authorize you to set up the new loan as presented.*

There were additional questions from the BOS. Finance Director Brown answered all questions.

Selectman Fratzel made a motion *to close out the current loan program of 5.4 million dollars with \$2,000,000 of forgiveness and renegotiate that with a 3.52 million dollar loan with \$975,000 of forgiveness. The next segment being a \$3,416,667 loan with \$1,025,000 in loan forgiveness, the final segment loan being \$3,233,333 with \$323,333 in loan forgiveness. Prior to closing the loan to get written guarantees on the loan proposal.* It was seconded by Selectman Hooper. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Newport Opera House Exterior Renovations: Town Manager Rieseberg and the BOS discussed the bid from the Milestone Engineering & Construction, Inc. for work on the Opera House. The Board members were told by Town Manager Rieseberg the extent of the work proposed to be done and completed in the fall 2019. It is Phase 1 of the historic preservation project.

Bids were solicited of other companies, they were unable to commit due to other contracts they were under. It has not gone out to general bid due to the time sensitive nature of the project and because Milestone Engineering has an excellent reputation in restoring historic buildings.

Monies would be allocated from the Opera House Fund to pay for the renovations.

Selectman Wilmot made a motion *to authorize the Town Manager to enter into any agreements needed to make the renovations to the Opera House Phase One.* It was seconded by Selectman Fratzel. Finance Director Brown asked him to add *and to waive the bidding requirement and the purchasing guidelines.* The recording secretary requested that Selectman Wilmot name the Town Manager in his motion. The motion then read: Selectman Wilmot made a motion *to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to enter into agreements needed to make the renovations to the Opera House Phase One, to waive the bidding requirement and the purchasing guidelines and to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign all pertinent documents for the completion of the project.* It was seconded by Selectman Fratzel. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

There being no further business in the public meeting, on a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for June 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: June 3, 2019