

**TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes for Meeting of December 16, 2019 6:30 pm**  
**Public Hearing and Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building**  
**15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773**

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**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; William Wilmot, Jr; Barry Connell, John Hooper II

**SELECTMAN ABSENT:** Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; P.J. Lovely, Director of Recreation Department, Becky Merrow, Rec staff

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Tobin Menard, Christy Whipple, Ben Nelson, County Commissioner; Mary Bourque, Sullivan County Facilities and Operation Director; Ted Purdy, County Health Care Administrator; John Dale, Project Architect, Bread Loaf Corporation; Fred Bellucci, VIP of Estimating and Purchasing, Bread Loaf Corporation

**NCTV:** John Lunn

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

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Add under INFORMATIONAL: Solar Array update

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S):** November 4, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Wilmot abstained).*

NPS November 4, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes of the November 4, 2019 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Wilmot abstained).*

December 2, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Chairman Kessler; *the Board of Selectmen minutes of December 2, 2019 were tabled to a future meeting. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

NPS December 2, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board of Selectmen NPS minutes of November 4, 2019 were tabled to a future meeting. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:** December 16, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of December 16, 2019 as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

**OPEN FORUM:** none

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Selectman Wilmot wished all residents a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

Selectman Hooper concurred with Selectman Wilmot and reminded people that the Gallery of Gifts was open at the Library Arts Center.

Selectman Connell concurred with Selectmen Wilmot and Hooper wishing all happy holidays and a Merry Christmas.

Chairman Kessler concurred with the Selectmen and also said that the T'was the Night before Christmas and chili cook off was held December 14. He listed the winners of the cook off and their category.

#### **INFORMATIONAL:**

Agenda items were taken out of order.

Sullivan County Health Care Renovation Project Presentation: Ms. Mary Bourque, Sullivan County Facilities and Operation Director; Mr. Ted Purdy, County Health Care Administrator along with Mr. Ben Nelson, County Commissioner gave a PowerPoint presentation of the upcoming Sullivan County Health Care Renovation Project to the Board of Selectmen, public in attendance and the TV viewing audience. They explained the financial reasons they would be able to undertake the extensive renovations without increasing the county tax rate, the financial costs of construction, the improvements to the buildings and rooms by bringing everything up to code, incorporating the newest regulations in home health care, as well as making the residence user friendly. Another goal of the construction was the reorganization of the facility to make it more efficient for staff and residents alike. For the whole presentation and audience participation, go to [www.nctv.org](http://www.nctv.org) town meetings, BOS 12.16.2019.

The County Health Care Representatives thanked the Board for their time.

Bread Loaf Presentation: Mr. John Dale, Project Architect, and Mr. Fred Bellucci, VIP of Estimating and Purchasing, Bread Loaf Corporation; gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board of Selectmen, public in attendance and the TV viewing audience on the cost to upgrade and renovate the existing Rec Center as opposed to building a new Community Center.

They explained through their PowerPoint presentation what would be done to renovate the existing Rec Center to make it ADA compliant, bring it up to code and to use the same footprint that it currently has. The total project cost was projected at \$2,903,900. For the complete presentation with selectmen and audience participation, go to [www.nctv.org](http://www.nctv.org) town meetings, BOS 12.16.2019.

The Board thanked Mr. John Dale and Mr. Fred Bellucci for their time.

Proposed Budget Progress/Calendar: Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board and gave them the proposed 2020 budget calendar. He said that it meets all statutory requirements. Continuing, he said that the Board of Selectmen would receive the proposed budget by January 31 (pursuant to NH RSA). The calendar indicated the meeting dates they would work on the budget in February 2020 and March 2020.

Town Manager Rieseberg was asked if the calendar took into consideration snow days. He stated yes.

The last date scheduled for a budget hearing was on March 16, 2020.

Finance Director Brown stated that the date of the Deliberative Session was flexible. It is tentatively scheduled on April 7. April 17<sup>th</sup> is the final day to hold the Deliberative Session. He also stated there would be a "Bond Hearing night" on Monday, March 16 at the Board of Selectmen meeting. Finance Director Brown then reviewed the other Budget and Town function dates in the calendar.

Selectman Hooper asked the Chair if the Board would be meeting on January 20, 2020; Martin Luther King Day (it is listed as a scheduled meeting). He was told yes.

Refugee Resettlement: Town Manager Rieseberg stated the BOS has received an invitation from Governor Sununu for the Town of Newport to participate in the resettlement program for refugees. The Town has to indicate whether or not we will participate in the program. The deadline is December 20, 2019.

When acknowledged, Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated it was a good idea.

Selectman Wilmot made a motion *to tell Governor Sununu that Newport will accept refugees in accordance with Presidential Executive Order 13888*. It was seconded by Selectman Connell. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Opera House LCHIP Grant: Town Manager Rieseberg stated he wanted to update the Board about the Town of Newport receiving a Local Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Grant in the sum of \$87,750 to assist the Town in its ongoing efforts to renovate the Opera House.

The focus renovation in 2018 was a new roof on the Opera House

The focus renovations in 2019 were on the exterior of the building.

- Painted the exterior trim work
- Refurbished the clock and clock face
- The Opera House tower

The focus renovations in 2020 will be:

- ❖ Replacement of the flooring in the building.
- ❖ The main room stairways
- ❖ Potentially the stage area
- ❖ Small carpentry and lighting

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that there are two-three more years of projects necessary.

Selectman Wilmot asked if there had been thoughts of fundraising, selling parts of the floor? Town Manager Rieseberg thought it was a good idea.

Selectman Kessler asked about illuminating the clock face again. There was a general discussion on the clock, its bell, clock face and illuminating the clock.

Selectman Kessler concluded by confirming that the Town received a substantial amount of LCHIP funds.

2019/2020 Town Office Holiday Schedule: The Town of Newport 2019/2020 Town Office Holiday Schedule was distributed to the BOS. Chairman Kessler read aloud from the calendar schedule that the Town Office will be closed on December 25, 2019 and 26, 2019. The Town Office will be closed January 1, 2020 and will be open on January 2, 2020. Chairman Kessler reiterated that the Town Offices will be open on January 20, 2020 Martin Luther King Day.

Update on Solar Array: Selectman Hooper stated that this subject had come up at the last Planning Board meeting. He had asked Town Manager Rieseberg to put it on the agenda.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated there was a false start on the solar effort. The Town found out that Eversource's system (in Newport) would not tolerate the amount of power we had originally planned to generate on the site adjacent to the WWTP. That site has been downsized to a 250 kilowatt site. Work has begun on that. He listed the work completed and the next steps that would be done at the site. It will be completed and online in January 2020.

In the spring work will begin on a site in the southern section of Town. He explained the solar project goal to the BOS members. The Town's solar project is in good shape, although a little behind schedule. He reiterated the glitch came with the inability of Eversource's system to accept the amount of power Newport would generate through solar energy without a costly update to their system. When asked about the school, Town Manager Rieseberg said the contractor was working separately with the school system.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Newport Recreation Department and Newport School District Wrestling Meet-Waiver of Opera House Rental Fees: After a short discussion, Selectman Connell made a motion *to waive the Opera House rental fees for the Newport Recreation Department and Newport School District Wrestling Meet on February 5, 2020.* It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel and RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Real Estate at 8:45 p.m. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Present were Selectboard members Jeffrey Kessler, William Wilmot, John Hooper and Barry Connell. Also in attendance was Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg.

The Board exited the non-public session at 9:38 p.m.

No action was taken.

*The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:38 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for January 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

Approved on: January 6, 2020