

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of April 17, 2017
6:30 pm Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Jeff Kessler, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman; William Wilmot, Jr; John Hooper II, David Hoyt

STAFF PRESENT: Paul J. Brown, Acting Town Manager; Larry Wiggins, Director of Newport Public Works Department; Julie Magnuson, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Rick Kloeppe, co-manager of Parlin Field Airport

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Bert Spaulding, Jr.; Bert Spaulding, Sr.

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

AGENDA REVIEW: Add two ACTION ITEMS: Conveyance of Town Property (by Brown) and Warrant Articles (by Brown)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (S): March 14, 2017 Non-Public Session #1; March 20, 2017 Non-Public Session #1; April 3, 2017; April 3, 2017 Non-Public Session #1; April 3, 2017 Non-Public Session #2

Minutes from Non-Public Session (NPS) #1 of March 14, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to table the minutes of NPS #1. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Minutes from Non-Public Session (NPS) #1 of March 20, 2017:

Chairman Kessler addressed the Board of Selectmen and stated that at the March 20, 2017 BOS meeting they had held a non-meeting after the regular meeting; not a NPS. There were no NPS minutes to approve.

Minutes from meeting of April 3, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Minutes from Non-Public Session (NPS) #1 of April 3, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes from NPS #1 of April 3, 2017 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Minutes from Non-Public Session (NPS) #2 of April 3, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Hoyt, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the minutes from NPS #2 of April 3, 2017 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda for April 17, 2017. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: none

COMMUNICATIONS:

Selectman Hoyt had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Wilmot had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Hooper had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler had nothing to share at this time.

Acting Town Manager Brown addressed the Board and viewing public and stated that on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 from 7:30 am-12 noon there would be helicopter flyovers. Eversource would be checking the electrical lines in Newport and Sunapee. If there were any questions or concerns people should contact the Town Manager's office for a contact telephone number for the company.

INFORMATIONAL:

Comcast Cares Day, Saturday, April 22, 2017

Chairman Kessler addressed the Board and viewing public and stated that Comcast Cares Day was to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017. He read aloud a letter sent from Melissa Pierce of Comcast concerning the collaboration between Comcast and the Jake Maxfield Connection. He encouraged citizens to volunteer their time. Event details given were:

Event: Comcast Cares Day
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017
Time: 8:00 am-2:00 pm
Location: Newport Middle/High School
245 North Main Street
Newport, NH

Acting Town Manager Brown listed the projects that would be done on April 22. Among the projects listed was the potential placement of a sign at the park at the north end of the airport runway. It would state: "Newport Volunteer Park, by Newporters for Newporters". He stated that Comcast was hoping to get Town authorization at the April 17, 2017 meeting to put up the sign.

Ms. Magnuson addressed the Board asked that they talk about the size and location of the sign before proceeding with approval. When asked, Ms. Magnuson stated she had not been made aware of the potential sign. Acting Town Manager Brown stated that it would potentially be similar to the size and design of the Hasevlat Park sign.

There was a short discussion on another proposed sign in the area that had been approved by the BOS. Chairman Kessler asked what the procedure would be if the BOS did not authorize the Comcast group to put up the sign. Acting Town Manager Brown stated one possibility would be that they would put up the sign posts and install the sign at a later date.

Chairman Kessler made a motion *to allow them (Comcast) to put their sign on their posts*. It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot.

Chairman Kessler repeated his motion to permit the Comcast and Jake Maxfield Connection people to put their sign up between or onto the posts that get put into the ground for it. Ms. Magnuson stated that the BOS might want to add: "subject to future approval by the Board of Selectmen". It could be given once

the size and location was given to the Town. Chairman Kessler agreed to the addition. Selectman Wilmot agreed to the addition as the seconder. The motion then read:

On a motion by Chairman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***the Board voted to permit the Comcast and Jake Maxfield Connection people to put their sign up between or onto signposts that get put into the ground for it; subject to future approval by the Board of Selectmen. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Lot Merging-Julie Magnuson

Acting Town Manager Brown addressed the BOS and stated that Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. was before them to ask that the original six lots that he owned, some of which had been involuntary merged, be unmerged pursuant to state law.

Ms. Magnuson answered questions and added information as requested by the BOS.

Chairman Kessler acknowledged Mr. Spaulding, Sr. Mr. Spaulding gave historical information on his original six lots and stated that some had been merged in 2009 without his consent. He gave a detailed account of past correspondence with the Town of Newport concerning his property. He requested that his lots be unmerged by the Board of Selectmen.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***The Board voted to revert the Spaulding lots back to the original six lots that existed prior to the Town of Newport's involuntary merger.***

Chairman Kessler called for discussion.

Selectman Hooper asked if the Town had anything that showed there were six lots to begin with and not five. He was told only in the deeds.

Selectman Fratzel addressed Ms. Magnuson and asked if she had any information that would show that Mr. Spaulding merged the lots voluntarily. She indicated no.

Acting Town Manager Brown asked, for the mapping people, what the six lots were and where the lot lines were. If the unmerging was approved by the BOS, original surveys needed to go to the mappers.

Ms. Magnuson stated that the deeds should go to the mappers to verify each of the lots. The BOS agreed with her suggestion.

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

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Membership

There was a discussion among the BOS members concerning the number of members necessary for the CIP committee. The Planning Board has asked to change the requirement from seven members to five members due to lack of appointees. Ms. Magnuson addressed the BOS and stated that she had called the Municipal Association and asked about the reduction of members on the CIP. After researching, she felt the Newport BOS could change the number of CIP members in Newport. The Planning Board had requested it, but it had not been authorized by the BOS. There was further discussion on the purview of the Planning Board.

Selectman Hoyt gave historical information concerning the number of members of the CIP. He stated the problems in getting the required number of members. The question before the BOS was whether to reduce the number of members to five (5) or maintain seven (7). His opinion was to continue with seven members. He explained his reasoning; but also stated it would be the (entire) Board's decision.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. was acknowledged. He stated his reasons for the request to change the number of CIP members to five.

Selectman Fratzel concurred with Selectman Hoyt on keeping the number of CIP members at seven. After a short discussion Chairman Kessler stated the BOS would keep the number of CIP committee members at seven.

Gilman Pond Update

Mr. Larry Wiggins addressed the Board and stated that Gilman Pond was currently flowing over the dam. The DES lists Newport and most of Sullivan County in a severe drought situation. They have sent out information and stated that our areas should remain cautious and continue with mandatory restrictions on water.

Mr. Wiggins continued, saying as a public service announcement (PSA) he was informing the public that the Town would be flushing the fire hydrants in the next few weeks. The hydrants had not been flushed in the fall due to the severe drought and the Town is obligated by the DES to flush them once a year.

He requested that the mandatory restrictions remain in place until after the flushing and the Water Department could take stock of the water in Gilman Pond. The BOS and Mr. Wiggins continued discussion on the drought, hydrant flushing, the Pollards Mills well and the height of the dam.

Dirt Roads/Mud Season Update

Mr. Wiggins addressed the BOS and stated that due to the drought and previous year's work (by the Town Highway Department) on the Town's dirt roads there have been very few problems with mud. There was a short discussion on Newport's dirt roads by Chairman Kessler and Mr. Wiggins.

ACTION ITEM:

Proclamation: Town of Killingworth, Connecticut

Selectman Hooper explained that Newport's "sister community" was celebrating its 350th anniversary. The Newport Historical Society had written a Proclamation for the Town of Killingworth for their sesquicentennial anniversary. It was supported by the Town Manager, would be signed by the Board of Selectmen and delivered to the Town of Killingworth by the Newport Historical Society. Selectman Hooper then read aloud the Proclamation in honor of the Town of Killingworth.

Chairman Kessler *called for a vote of acceptance of the Proclamation. It passed unanimously.* Selectman Hooper addressed the Chair, stating the BOS members and Town Manager would all sign the official Proclamation and return it to the Newport Historical Society.

APPOINTMENT(S): Russell A. Fowler: Capital Improvements Program

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board appointed Mr. Russell (Rusty) Fowler (as a citizen at large member) to the CIP (Capital Improvements Program) Committee. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

There was a discussion on the length of the term for the CIP committee members. The BOS determined that the term would last until June of 2018.

After a discussion on the appointment of the other CIP committee members, on a motion by Chairman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board officially appointed: David Hoyt BOS representative; Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Planning Board representative; Virginia Irwin, school board representative; Seth Wilner, BAC representative; Josh Stevens, citizen-at-large representative and*

Russell Fowler, citizen-at-large representative as members of the CIP Committee with a term to last until June of 2018. The motion passed 5-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS, con't:

Conveyance of Town (Tax-Deeded) Property

The agenda item: "Conveyance of Town (Tax Deeded) Property" was tabled to the May 1, 2017 meeting.

Warrant Articles for Selectmen's approval

Acting Town Manager Brown addressed the BOS and stated that at the Deliberative Session Warrant Article 7 requesting \$550,000 had been amended to \$720,000. The question before the Board was whether or not they wanted to continue recommending the Warrant Article.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$550,000) Dollars for costs related to the engineering, land acquisition and construction of the Coon Brook Road Bridge....(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee.)

Amended to:

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Twenty Thousand (\$720,000) Dollars for costs related to the engineering, land acquisition and construction of the Coon Brook Road Bridge....

Chairman Kessler called for a motion and vote on the BOS recommendation. On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted to continue to recommend Warrant Article 7. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Acting Town Manager Brown addressed the BOS and stated that Petition Warrant Article 17 had not been recommended by the BOS at \$1,500. At the Deliberative Session the Petition Warrant Article 17 requesting \$1,500 had been changed to \$1.00.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500) dollars for Christmas decorations (lights, etc.). (By Petition).

Amended to:

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One (\$1.00) dollar for Christmas decorations (lights, etc.). (By Petition).

Acting Town Manager Brown needed the BOS to recommend or not recommend this amended article. Originally the BOS had not recommended Warrant Article 17. After a short discussion among the Board members Chairman Kessler asked for a motion to not recommend the one dollar (\$1.00). On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted to not recommend Petition Warrant Article 17. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Airport Advisory Board (AAB) Resolution

Selectman Wilnot explained that at the March 21, 2017 AAB meeting a resolution had been drafted. The AAB requested that the BOS sign the Resolution. He read aloud the Resolution (Attachment 1) to the BOS members. The resolution thanked Mr. Bob Davis, owner of one of the hangers at Parlin Field, for providing the use of his hanger to the Town of Newport's (recreation) wrestling team. On a motion by Selectman Hoyt, seconded by Selectman Wilnot; ***the Board voted to endorse the AAB Resolution. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Selectman Fratzel requested that Town Manager Rieseberg send Mr. Bob Davis a thank you note.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call to enter into non-public session(NPS) pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel at 7:58 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 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: May 1, 2017