

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen - Minutes for Meeting of November 16, 2020 6:30 pm
Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 840 8083 1962 Passcode: 516369
+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

SELECTMEN PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Herbert Tellor, Jr; Barry Connell
Via Zoom: Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman

SELECTMAN ABSENT: John Hooper, II

STAFF PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Jenna Darling, Vice Chairman School Board

NCTV: John Lunn

Due to the fact that a Selectman was attending virtually, all votes were done by roll call.

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

AGENDA REVIEW: move INFORMATIONAL School District Update-Jenna Darling to before the minutes (Kessler)

School District Update-Jenna Darling, Vice Chair of the Newport School Board

Ms. Darling congratulated the Newport football team on their victory. She then informed the Board about:

1. Winter Sports
 - a. Basketball games will start later-January 12
 - b. Indoor track-none
 - c. Nordic Skiing- possible
 - d. Wrestling-on hold
2. Covid -19 in School - As of the morning of November 16, 2020 there are four active cases in the school. The students may continue with remote learning until after the Thanksgiving holiday, depending upon the matrix. All students in Newport are doing remote learning, meals and delivery will start again for students; the same as in March 2020. Ms. Darling answered all Covid-19 school response questions that the BOS members had.
3. Budget Hearings - The school board held budget workshops on Saturday, November 14th and Sunday, November 15th. The goal of the Board is to have level expenditures.
 - a. There is an increase of fixed costs: \$726,959
 - b. Have a \$1,300,000 decrease in funding from the state (had estimated decrease of \$1,000,000)
 - c. Town of Goshen gave one year notice of terminating their tuition students (end FY 2020-2021). \$500,000 loss of revenue
 - d. \$1,700,000-\$1,800,000 (total) loss in revenue

Ms. Darling explained the results of the lost revenue to the students: 50% fewer class choices, larger class sizes and bare bone staff. The school board has focused on how to increase revenue to the school district.

Currently, there will be a \$3.90/1000 for school tax if nothing changes. Ms. Darling answered all budgetary questions from the BOS and Mr. Spaulding, Sr.

There was a discussion among Selectmen, Ms. Darling, Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and Mr. Lunn concerning all aspects of the education finances, needs assessment and CTE planning for 75%/25% grant funding. When asked, Ms. Darling stated that all school board meetings are televised. Mr. Lunn explained that some are prerecorded, some are live on Facebook and people can go to NCTV website to view them as well.

Selectman Connell stated that the problem was a town and state problem, not just a school problem. The students needed an adequate education not an inadequate education. We all have to solve it.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): November 2, 2020 - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted by roll call to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1(Connell abstained).*

NPS November 2, 2020 - On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted by roll call to approve the minutes of the non-public session of the November 2, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted by roll call to approve the Consent Agenda of the November 16, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: none

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Fratzel thanked the police department and fire department for coming out to greet the football team when they returned to Newport Saturday after their championship win. He also thanked the community members for going out and supporting the team when they returned to Newport.

Selectman Tellor thanked the coaches, players and the townspeople. It was good to see the community spirit.

Selectman Connell congratulated the football team on their championship and to thank the coaches and parents for their hard work.

Chairman Kessler thanked the public who voted in the General Election, the poll workers and election officials who participated in the election process. He also congratulated the Newport football team on their winning season.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Bar Harbor Bank Land Donation - Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the BOS and stated pursuant to NH RSA 41:14-a he had met with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board and asked for comments and (nonbinding) recommendations to the BOS in accepting the gift of land and Depot Building from the Bar Harbor Bank. The commission and board recommendations were in the BOS packets. Town Manager Rieseberg stated the next step will be to hold two public hearings. They have been scheduled for: December 7, 2020 and December 21, 2020.

Budget Advisory Committee Agreement - Chairman Kessler stated that the next step in the process to adopt the agreement will be to send the copy of the agreement to the school board to adopt or propose

changes and return it to the Selectboard. There was a discussion on the revisions of the agreement between the Board and Ms. Darling. The Selectboard will address the agreement again at the December 7, 2020 meeting. Town Manager Rieseberg told the Board that Mr. David Hoyt and Mr. Wilmot, Jr. will be appointed to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC).

ACTION ITEMS: Appointment-Recreation Advisory Council-Nia Leonard, Full Member - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted by roll call to appoint Ms. Nia Leonard as a full member to the Recreation Advisory Council with a term to expire in June 2022. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Appointment-Recreation Advisory Council-Richard Hammond, Alternate Member - On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted by roll call to appoint Mr. Richard Hammond as an alternate member to the Recreation Advisory Council with a term to expire in June 2023. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Nellie Solar LLC Non-Disclosure Agreement - Town Manager Rieseberg explained that Nellie Solar LLC has approached the Town for a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement. The Town asked to see their financial information; thus the company has asked that the Town sign a non-disclosure agreement for the whole Selectboard and other pertinent members to sign. On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted by roll call to agree to sign the Non-Disclosure Agreement between the Town officials and Nellie Solar, LLC. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

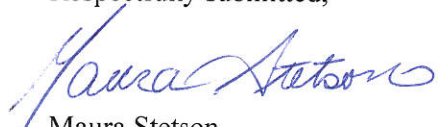
On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(e) Litigation at 7:52 pm. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

The Selectboard exited nonpublic session at 8:47 p.m.

No action was taken.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for December 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: December 21, 2020