

Town of Newport, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of July 17, 2017
6:00 pm Regular Business Meeting and Public Hearings
Municipal Building

6:00 P.M.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; James Burroughs, Police Chief

POLICE CAM DEMONSTRATION: In Municipal Parking Lot (off Central Street).

6:30 P.M. (In Municipal Building)

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

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; Larry Wiggins, Director of Public Works

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Heath, Gail Proper, Jean Corliss, Jack Osgood, Bill and Joyce Walsh, Stefanee Currier, Arthur Demeis, Melvin and Geraldine Economou, Bruce and Kate Pariseau, Robert A Shackett, Ed Karr, Reginald Dodge, Jr.; Virginia Irwin, Newport Opera House Association (NOHA); Nancy Meyer, Opera House; Bert Spaulding, Sr.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kessler called the BOS Regular Business meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Chairman Kessler addressed the audience and viewing public and stated that the BOS meeting was a continuation of the meeting that began outside with a demonstration of the police department's new dash and body cams. He expressed the benefits of the cams for the policemen and townspeople. Chairman Kessler then gave a synopsis of the use of the police cams given by Police Chief Burroughs. If citizens had questions, they could contact Police Chief Burroughs or attend the open house that would be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 10A.M. to 2 P.M. and again from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Selectman Hooper then led the public in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: accepted as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Newport, New Hampshire will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 17, 2017 on the following:

Recommendation to accept and expend a donation of \$24,717.90 from the Newport Service Organization (NSO) towards the purchase of a LIFEPAK under the provisions of NHRSA 31:95b.

Chairman Kessler read the public notice into the record. He asked Maura Stetson, President of the Newport Service Organization (NSO) to explain the Life Pak 15. She complied. Chairman Kessler addressed those in attendance and asked if they had any comments on the gift by the NSO. Mr. Ed Karr addressed the Chair and Board members and stated that the Ladies of the NSO worked extremely hard. Everyone knows the history of the NSO. He stated that they have done a lot of good things for the community. This (Life Pak 15) was just another one. Chairman Kessler concurred and listed a few of the items purchased with their donations.

There being no further comments from the public, Chairman Kessler closed the public hearing.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (S): May 1, 2017; June 26, 2017

Minutes from meeting of May 1, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board approved the minutes of the May 1, 2017 BOS meeting with the following corrections:*

Page 1, under Agenda Review, typographical error: Pole should be Poll

Page 2, paragraph 5; under Chairman Kessler's communications, Sugar River Community College should be River Valley Community College

Page 3 paragraph 2; engineering borders should be splash boards

Page 4 paragraph 4; Action Item title: Pole Coverage should be Poll Coverage

Page 4 under NPS sentence, typographical error: second3d should be seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-1 (Connell abstained).

Minutes of June 26, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of June 26, 2017 with the following correction: Under SELECTMEN PRESENT add Todd Fratzel. 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 July 17, 2017. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM:

Mr. Reginald Dodge, Jr. addressed the BOS and stated he had grave concerns on the procedures that truckers were using on the Bald Mt. Road when trucking material from the sand pit. He described the results of having a loader working seven days a week, consequences of truck bodies swinging open and closed, open truck beds and the use of Jake brakes when travelling down the road his home was on. He also raised health concerns, air pollution and the degradation of the Town road by the endless use by large trucks. Mr. Dodge addressed the BOS members and asked, for clarification, if the area had been built with Federal grant funding for a building which was to be constructed by United Construction. He stated it had never been built and the land was serving only one company. He asked what the BOS, as the governing body for the Town of Newport, could do to improve his situation.

Chairman Kessler told Mr. Dodge that all he could do was ask Town Manager Rieseberg to look into the situation. Mr. Dodge asked the other Board members if they could think of a solution.

Board members asked the following questions:

1. Is using Reeds Mill Road a partial solution?
2. Is there a sand pit? Mr. Dodge said yes, and that there were scales there. There was a variety of sand and stone.

Chairman Kessler said they would have Town Manager Rieseberg talk to the owner of the pit, and find solutions to the problems that were occurring.

Mr. Ed Karr reminded the BOS that the creation of a potential noise pollution ordinance had been brought up more than once in recent years. He stated that maybe it was time for the BOS to look into a noise pollution/ decibel reading ordinance.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. stated that signs could be posted "No engine brake usage". Chairman Kessler stated that they would probably have to pass an ordinance for that. There was a general discussion on what could be done.

Chairman Kessler thanked Mr. Dodge for bringing this problem to the Board members attention.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Chairman and asked for an update on the auction of twenty four parcels of land in Newport. He asked where the Town stood with the process. Town Manager Rieseberg addressed Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and gave the dates and timeframe for the sale of the parcels in question.

Town Manager Rieseberg reviewed the process for Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and informed him that an email with the schedule would be sent to him.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Selectman Hooper congratulated the Sunapee and Newport Historical Societies on their collaboration in a fund raiser to raise money to purchase the Abbott Library for Sunapee's (SHS) use. He stated the Garden Tour was held over the weekend and went well.

Selectman Wilmot also congratulated the LAC on their Garden Tour, held Sunday July 16, 2017. He stated there had been eight beautiful gardens to view; two in Sunapee and six in Newport. It was great to see the amount of work that some of Newport's residents put into their homes and gardens. Kudos to the LAC.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that a Garden Club would be restarted in Newport over the summer and winter of 2017-2018.

Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler stated that in a follow-up to the May 1st minutes, he wanted to say that there would be three students going to the machine shop class in Claremont this coming year. Also, there were two Newport graduates that were currently employed at Sturm Ruger, Inc. as welders. He had sent memos to the Board and to the Town Manager about a company that was providing training in the manufacturing field. Chairman Kessler stated that Newport had to decide where it wanted to go with its economic development and also to pay attention to economic retention.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL:

First, Second, Third and Fourth St. Infrastructure Improvement: Project Peter Pitsas P.E. of Underwood Engineers, Inc.

Mr. Larry Wiggins introduced Mr. Peter Pitsas, P.E. of Underwood Engineers, Inc. who would make a presentation on the infrastructure and would answer any questions from the BOS, Town Manager and public in attendance. Mr. Pitsas addressed the Board members, audience present and viewing public. He gave a detailed account of the work planned by Underwood Engineers (see the PowerPoint presentation on town website: www.newportnh.gov). Mr. Pitsas reviewed the following:

- The streets in the project
- New water mains along all streets
- Replace sewers to current specs
- Expand drainage system
- New roadside swales, pipes and catch basins
- Reduce discharge points onto private property
- Necessary easements-temporary and permanent
- Detention basin
- Roadways
- Create turnarounds at end of roads
- Driveway and sidewalks
- Schedule of project
- Walk through with residents of neighborhoods
- Budget of project

Questions from the BOS members included:

Was there a cost estimate of the project if the scope of the work was increased to include the original areas? They were told monetary estimates were not available at the July 17, 2017 meeting.

There was a short discussion between the BOS, Mr. Pitsas and Mr. Wiggins about providing an estimate of the additional work not covered, and the possibility of having a Phase 1 and Phase 2 in order to prevent holding up the project.

Chairman Kessler addressed the public present and asked if they had any questions.

Mr. Ed Karr addressed the BOS and stated that the project was already overestimated, now the BOS wanted to add additional scope of work to it (the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Knoll Street Project). They had gone to the townspeople for a vote to have work done on their streets. The public had been kind and given them the money for the project. Mr. Karr did not want to go to the townspeople again and have them say no to the whole project. He addressed Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Pitsas and stated that they had done a good job alleviating the water problem in the neighborhoods (For the complete list of questions, answers and explanations of the project see the Vimeo presentation at: <https://vimeo.com/channels/newportnhselectmen>).

Chairman Kessler addressed Mr. Pitsas, thanked him for coming and for his presentation.

Chairman Kessler then stated he would be going out of order of the agenda to accommodate Mrs. Virginia Irwin from the Opera House.

ACTION ITEM:

Opera House-Virginia Irwin

Mrs. Virginia Irwin addressed the Board members and thanked the BOS for establishing new rental fees for the use of the Opera House by the Newport Opera House Association (NOHA). She requested permission for the Opera House to have control of scheduling the rental of the Opera House for functions. She stated how miscommunication between Town and Opera House had created problems. Mrs. Irwin introduced Ms. Nancy Meyers, the new Opera House (part time) office assistant. She stated that work hours and coverage would be divided between Ms. Meyers and Executive Director Amy Bailey; thus the Opera House would be open to patrons wishing to schedule rental of the building. Mrs. Irwin stated she had already spoken to the Town about “fixed dates” for the use of the Opera House (elections, etc.).

Mrs. Irwin gave a synopsis of upcoming events at the Opera House.

After a short discussion, Town Manager Rieseberg suggested a steering committee be formed to work out a lease agreement with the Opera House and discuss items under the Town’s control. The Board members concurred with Town Manager Rieseberg’s plan. Mrs. Irwin and Rieseberg would work together to solidify a plan for the fall. Mrs. Irwin would follow up at an October 2017 BOS meeting with their progress.

INFORMATIONAL:

Paving Update/Sidewalks

Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the BOS and stated the following would be done the summer of 2017: The regularly scheduled paving of Town roads, plus Cross Street, River Street and Canal Street. Sweeping and grinding would be done on July 24, 2017. Paving was tentatively scheduled to begin August 1, 2017.

A Sidewalk Improvement Project along School Street and Beech Street were currently out to bid for the summer of 2017. The 2017 sidewalk proposal was scheduled to be completed in time for the school reopening in Fall of 2017. It is hoped the Town will continue to fund regular sidewalk improvements in the future. A set of proposals will be worked up for the BOS to consider.

Mr. Wiggins and Town Manager Rieseberg had a short conversation on the installation of splashboards at the Gilman Pond Dam. There was no decision at this time.

County Parking Lot Update

Town Manager Rieseberg stated the project was on schedule. A question had been raised whether the Town would provide a car charging station in the parking lot. The Board discussed aspects of having one. Rieseberg stated that the Town could supply and bury empty conduits to one or two parking spaces at an estimated cost of a few hundred dollars. It would create areas that could become charging areas in the future. He asked the direction of the Board. Chairman Kessler said yes. There was a discussion on the use and cost of a car charger among the Board and Town Manager Rieseberg. Selectman Wilmot made the following motion: ***I move to authorize the Town Manager to cooperatively work with the County to install an empty conduit for the future purpose of the charging station in the County parking lot.*** It was seconded by Selectman Connell. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. ***The motion passed 3-2-0 (Fratzel and Hooper voted no).***

LED Project/Town Office

Town Manager Rieseberg explained that the Town street lights were being converted to LED lighting. 35 watt LED units were arriving the week of July 17-21 and would potentially be installed the week of July 24-28, 2017. The 25 watt LED units would arrive a week later and would potentially be installed in August 2017. The cost savings payback period would be six months. The annual savings would be approximately \$50,000.

Secondly, Town Manager Rieseberg wanted to inform the BOS that the Town Office building assessment had been done to switch over to LED lighting. Due to calendar year incentives the only other building that would be done this year was the Fire Station. After the completed conversion all Town workspace would have LED lighting.

In conjunction with the conversion, the Town has been in contact with solar array vendors. The goal is to make the Town of Newport energy positive (produce as much electrical power as it consumes). Town Manager Rieseberg did not have a firm payback time for this program.

Mr. Dodge asked if the school was also in this program. Town Manager Rieseberg stated no.

Shooting Range Progress Report

Town Manager Rieseberg stated the shooting range was in design. This phase and a projection of cost by companies would be completed within two weeks. He was hoping to get the superstructure completed by Fall 2017; it would tentatively be completed in Spring 2018.

ACTION ITEM:

Accept and expend a donation of \$24,717.90 from the NSO towards the purchase of a LIFEPAK under the provisions of NHRSA 31:95b.

A motion was made by Selectman Fratzel ***to accept and expend a donation of \$24,717.90 from the NSO towards the purchase of a Life Pak 15 under the provisions of NHRSA 31:95b.*** It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Accept and expend a donation of \$5,000.00 from Debra Cossingham to the Newport Fire/EMS under the provisions of NHRSA 31:95b.

A motion was made by Selectman Fratzel ***to accept and expend a donation of \$5,000.00 from Debra Cossingham to the Newport Fire/EMS Department under the provisions of NHRSA 31:95b.*** It was seconded by Selectman Hooper. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Selectman Fratzel requested that thank you notes be sent to the two parties from Town Manager Rieseberg's office.

Temporary Suspension of the Two Hour Parking Ordinance Due to Construction at County Parking Lot
After a short discussion on the relevance of temporarily suspending (during construction in the County parking lot) the two hour parking ordinance on Main Street, the following motion was made by Selectman Wilmot: ***I move to temporarily suspend the two hour parking ordinance on Main Street during the construction in the County parking lot; said suspension to end on August 21, 2017.*** It was seconded by Selectman Fratzel. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

The Board was asked if there was a two hour parking limit in the county parking lot as well as on Main Street. The Chair stated there was no time limit in the county parking lot.

Mr. Dodge addressed the BOS and told them there was a unanimous donor who would take care of any reconstruction or anything done on the Town Common if a carnival came to Town. There was a short discussion on this being done.

Veteran's Credit Request

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; ***the Board voted to grant the request of a \$500.00 Veterans Tax Credit to Mr. Peter A. Sartwell. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Request for Charitable Exemption

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted to deny the request by the Newport Loyal Order of Moose for a charitable tax exemption. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Real Estate at 8:27 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

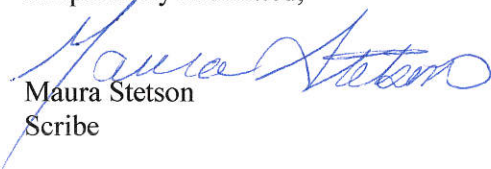
Present were Board members Jeffrey Kessler, William Wilmot, Barry Connell, Todd Fratzel and John Hooper. Also in attendance was Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted to exit NPS at 9:33 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:34 p.m.***

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: August 7, 2017