

**TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Board of Selectmen - Minutes for Meeting of April 19, 2021 6:30 pm**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773**  
**Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 871 2078 1041 Passcode: 243897**  
**+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)**

---

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman; Barry Connell, Herbert Tellor, Jr.; John Hooper, II

**SELECTMAN ABSENT:** none

**STAFF PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.

**NCTV:** John Lunn, Executive Director NCTV

**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: TABLE:** Pinnacle Sports, LLC Shooting League License

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S):** April 5, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:** On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted by roll call to approve the Consent Agenda of the April 19, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

**OPEN FORUM:** Mr. Paul Brown addressed the Board members and stated that he was representing the Newport Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber had neglected to inform the BOS that they would be holding a block party on July 9, 2021. Mr. Brown gave a short explanation of the history of the activity in Newport. He stated it was held in conjunction with the Newport Rec Center (town department). Mr. Brown stated they were also planning music and donkey bingo on the Town Common. He inquired about the need to get BOS approval since it was in conjunction with the Rec Center. *The Selectboard gave their approval and concurred there would be no fees for the use of the Common.*

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Selectman Tellor stated that during the Planning Board meeting there was a discussion on Warrant Article 4; Sheds. There were inquiries about if any information would be given to the general public at the polls. There was a general discussion on how to address Warrant Article 4. Selectman Hooper stated he had been approached by a towns person who said that the new lady in the Planning Office was awesome. Ms. Donovan had answered some questions he had; in less than 24 hours she had gotten him answers to others.

Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Fratzel asked Town Manager Rieseberg to explain to the public the 911 numbers for residences. Town Manager Rieseberg informed the Board and public that the Town had received a grant

which allows them to make the red and white 911 signage for residences (as seen around Town) free of charge to the Town and residents. He stated people could contact the fire station (603-863-1416) to have one made.

Chairman Kessler informed the Board and public that one Town Board, the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) was unable to meet recently because they did not have a quorum. The ZBA had a small number of volunteer members. He made a plea for townspeople to consider volunteering on the Town Board. Meetings were held the third Thursday of each month. He encouraged people to contact him or the Town office.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

When acknowledged, Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed Chairman Kessler and asked why burning permits in Newport were only available online. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. had been informed by the state that he did not have to get one online. Town Manager Rieseberg will ask Fire Chief Yannuzzi if it was a local decision.

Chairman Kessler stated that one and one half weeks ago Governor Sununu had come to Newport to present the Town with a check from the Community Finance Authority of New Hampshire for \$430,750 for work to be done in and in the back of the Opera House. Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney attended as well. After the ceremony, Town Manager Rieseberg gave them a tour of the renovations in the Opera House.

**INFORMATIONAL:** Project Update: Paving and other Infrastructure - Town Manager Rieseberg stated they had bids in for the paving work. Pike Industries has been awarded the contract to pave Breakneck Road, Barton Whitney Road and Blueberry Ridge Road. The work will be done by them if Warrant Article 5 passes at Town Meeting. The sidewalk reconstruction bids came in higher. The scope of work will need to be adjusted. There was a brief discussion on infrastructure work.

Corbin Covered Bridge (CCB) Roof - Town Manager Rieseberg again presented the proposal of reroofing the CCB with a steel roof at a cost of \$30,000. Its lifespan is projected to be 75-100 years. He again stated that Mr. Arnold Graton had been consulted, the Historical Society was in approval; they asked that they be allowed to choose the color. Chairman Kessler called for a vote on the proposal.

On a motion by Chairman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Tellow; ***the Board voted to replace the roof of the Corbin Covered Bridge by Arnold Graton using the metal roof he presented as accepted by the Historical Society.*** In discussion the gauge of the metal was asked. Selectman Fratzel asked several questions about the proposed roof and stated there were too many unknowns. He was against the proposal. Selectman Hooper also made statements about the proposed roof and stated he needed more information. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. ***The motion failed 2-3-0 (Hooper, Fratzel and Connell voted no).***

Selectman Fratzel reiterated there were many unknowns; he listed items the Board needed to know. The Selectboard had a responsibility to find the answers.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Acceptance, by the Town, from Sunny Acres LLC of Property on South Main Street known as Map 259 Lot 006 - Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board members and gave the history of the “net zero” solar energy goal in Newport. It is Newport’s goal to generate sufficient renewal solar energy from its own property to offset consumption of electrical power. This was initially going to be fully achieved on Town owned property located behind Newport’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) until permitting and line capacity made developing a large enough array at this location

impossible. The site behind the WWTP is now complete and operating at its full design/permitted capacity providing about 1/3 of the Town's electricity consumption.

In an effort to help facilitate Newport's overall goal of becoming a "net zero" town, Norwich Solar Technologies (NST) acquired land on Turkey Hill and has constructed additional solar array capacity on the lot, allowing the Town to supplement our current production. The Town will roughly generate the same amount of electrical power from renewable solar energy as it consumes when it is online (on municipally owned land). RSA 41:14-a requires that the proposed donation be reviewed and that comments be received from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. That has been done. Two Public Hearings are also required prior to the Selectboard's official acceptance of the donation of the property. This has been done. Included in the Board packets is a copy of the property card and statute for their review.

After general questions on the solar array and the agreement with Norwich Solar Technologies, Chairman Kessler asked for a motion on the acceptance of the land donation.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted to accept the property at Map 259 Lot 006 from Sunny Acres LLC. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Authorize withdrawal from Communications Capital Reserve - Town Manager Rieseberg explained his request to purchase communication equipment using money from the Communications Capital Reserve Fund. The items will be a "stand-alone" console repeater station to go with additional communication equipment that will be leased this year. The BOS has the authority to make withdrawals from the Communications Capital Reserve Fund. Some potential grants will assist to defray costs approved by the Selectboard. After general questions on the equipment, purchase and installation, Chairman Kessler asked for a motion.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board authorized a withdrawal up to a maximum of \$40,070 from the Communications Capital Reserve and applying any grants awarded to that. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Abatement Request - After general discussion on the abatement request from Mr. John Vivenzio, on a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; ***the Board voted to deny the request of abatement to Mr. John Vivenzio, 283 Unity Road. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Town Manager asked for a short NPS RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel. The employee in question did not need to be at the NPS; the employee would attend a future NPS.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell, ***the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel at 7:21 pm. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Present were Selectboard members Jeffrey Kessler, Todd Fratzel, Herbert Tellor, Jr.; John Hooper II and Barry Connell. Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg was also in attendance in the BOS Room.

***The Selectboard exited nonpublic session at 8:07 p.m.***

No action was taken.

***The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maura Stetson", written in a cursive style.

Maura Stetson, Scribe

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for May 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Approved on: May 3, 2021