

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Minutes for Meeting of May 17, 2021 6:30 pm
Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 814 4996 3647 Passcode: 233146
+1 (929) 205-6099 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Hunter F. Rieseberg, Town Manager;

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Rolling Thunder members: Chris Barrell, Jim Campbell, Bill Dufour, President; Debi Dufour, Dale Russell, Gayle Barrows, Chris Whalen, Jan Whalen, Ernie Lord, Mary Jo Lord, Skip Rollins, Joanne Dufour. Additional members from the community were: Jennifer Opalinski, Director Sugar River Valley Technical Center (SRVTC) *via zoom:* Brenda Burns

NCTV: John Lunn, Executive Director NCTV

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

BOARD ORGANIZATION: Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the Board of Selectmen would be electing officers for the upcoming year and asked for a nomination for the position of Chairman. Selectman Connell made a motion *to elect Selectman Jeffrey Kessler to the position of Chairman*. It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. There were no other nominations. Town Manager Rieseberg called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Kessler abstained).*

Chairman Kessler took over the meeting.

Chairman Kessler asked for a nomination for the position of Vice Chairman. Selectman Connell made a motion *to elect Selectman Hooper to the position of Vice Chairman*. It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. There were no other nominations. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Hooper abstained).*

AGENDA REVIEW: ADD: Announcement on National Law Enforcement Week (Kessler), ADD: Proclamation for EMS personnel (Kessler), ADD: Sugar River Valley Technical Center: Renovation Update (Kessler)

POW/MIA CHAIR OF HONOR DEDICATION: Rolling Thunder® New Hampshire Chapter 2 – President Bill Dufour read aloud from a prepared statement. He explained the history and purpose of the Rolling Thunder Organization to the Board of Selectmen (for detailed information on the organization and its mission statement go to: www.rollingthunder2nh.org and for the national website, go to: www.rollingthunder1.com). Chapter 2 of the NH Rolling Thunder organization gifted a POW/MIA ‘Chair of Honor’ to the Town of Newport. It will be placed in the first floor hallway for all visitors to see. On the seat of the chair a message stating its purpose is printed: “You Are Not Forgotten.” After the

gifting, the Rolling Thunder members held a private installation ceremony for the Chair of Honor in the Newport Town Office building.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK - Chairman Kessler read aloud a statement belatedly announcing National Law Enforcement Week; May 9-15. He also informed the viewing audience that Peace Officers Memorial Day was May 15, 2021.

PROCLAMATION: EMS WEEK - Chairman Kessler read aloud a proclamation recognizing May 16-21, 2021 as EMS Week. He stated that the Newport EMS provides vital medical assistance to the citizens of Newport twenty four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7).

SUGAR RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER (SRVTC) RENOVATION UPDATE - Ms. Jennifer Opalinski, Director of the SRVTC; addressed the Selectboard and thanked them for the opportunity to speak and give them an update on the progress of the CTE renovation plans. She had a PowerPoint presentation and hard copy for the Board members to view (For the full PowerPoint presentation go to: www.nctv-nh.org CTE Renovation Discussion and for discussion with Board members go to: www.nctv-nh.org BOS May 17, 2021). Ms. Opalinski explained the work the architects have done, the work the Renovation Advisory Committee (RAC) has done, the CTE courses of study and how they have expanded in size and popularity at the high school complex. Ms. Opalinski concluded with the timeline and deadline for the CTE renovation project. She then answered all questions from the Selectboard members.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): May 3, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

NPS May 3, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the nonpublic session minutes of the May 3, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 17, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Ms. Brenda Burns, Executive Director of the Sullivan County Nutrition Services (SCNS) addressed the Board and informed them that Ms. Linda Smith will be receiving the 2021 Older Adult Volunteer Award, formally known as the Joseph D. Vaughn Award. It is awarded annually by the State Area Committee on Aging. Ms. Burns stated that Ms. Smith is an exemplary volunteer and gave a synopsis of her volunteer work at the South Main Street Senior Center in Newport. Ms. Burns stated Ms. Smith will be recognized by the Governor at a zoom ceremony. The ceremony will be broadcast live (thanks to Mr. Lunn) via zoom and will also be shown on NCTV. Ms. Burns listed past recipients of the award from Newport. When asked, Ms. Burns informed the Board that there will be a write-up concerning the award sent out by email and it will be posted on Facebook. When asked about the outlook of physically opening the Senior Center, Ms. Burns explained the stringent state regulations they followed due to a state contract for Meals on Wheels. Therefore, they currently have “Grab and Go” dinners (noon) for mobile individuals and traditional Meals on Wheels delivered to homebound individuals. She listed the activities they had been able to conduct with the Covid restrictions and listed others that patrons are anxious to be able to participate in soon (example: Bingo). The staff at the Senior Center is planning for the next steps toward reopening; they are thinking “outside the box”. Chairman Kessler thanked Ms. Burns for attending the meeting and for the update on the Senior Center.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Hooper stated that people have inquired about the installation of sidewalks from North Main Street to the companies on Sunapee Street. It is currently dangerous for those that walk to work. He was informed that Executive Counselor Kenney has been approached about acquiring Covid money for Newport. Sidewalks would be one item on the list to use it for. The Town is also investing money to refurbish the rail trail (walking trail) located on South Main Street to the Ruger property.

Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Sayer had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler:

- ❖ Thanked the 420 people who voted at Town Meeting.
- ❖ All Warrant Articles passed.
- ❖ He stated that less than 10% of the voters in Newport participated.
- ❖ He hoped more people participated in the next election.
- ❖ He also informed the Board and viewing public that the Vaccination Site in Newport was now doing walk-in business.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Summer Projects and Schedule - Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board and stated that all Warrant Articles had been approved by the voters. He listed the many projects to be done in 2021 and their tentative schedules. Town Manager Rieseberg answered all questions from the Board members.

ACTION ITEMS: Real Estate Tax Exemption Request – Mt. View Animal Shelter, Inc.; Dick Wentzell - After a discussion among Board members and Town Manager Rieseberg, on a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted to deny the tax exemption request of Mountain View Animal Shelter, Inc. by Mr. Dick Wentzell due to insufficient documentation. The motion passed 5-0-0.*** Mr. Dick Wentzell has the option to take his request to the NH Supreme Court.

Adoption and Approval of Operational Guidelines for the Board of Selectmen - After a short discussion, on a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Tellor; ***the Board voted to adopt and approve the Operational Guidelines for the Board of Selectmen. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Selectmen Appointments to Boards and Committees - Selectman Sayer explained that he worked nights and would not be able to represent the BOS at night meetings. The Selectmen were appointed to the following:

<u>Board/Committee</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Airport Advisory Committee	Tellor
Budget Advisory Committee	Kessler
Budget Advisory Committee (Alternate)	Connell
CIP	Sayer and Connell
Community Center Committee	<i>There was no appointment at this time</i>
Conservation Commission	Tellor
ECON	Hooper
EDC Advisory Board	<i>There is not an active EDC Board at this time</i>
Facility & Fields Advisory Committee	Tellor

" (Alternate)	Sayer
Garden Club	Hunter**
Historic District/Heritage Commission	Hooper
" (Alternate)	Tellor
Monuments & Memorials Committee	Tellor
" (Alternate)	Hooper
NCTV	Kessler/Connell/Sayer
Planning Board	Tellor
Planning Board (Alternate)	Hooper
Recreation Advisory Council	Tellor
" (Alternate)	Connell
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (2)	Kessler and Tellor
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	Kessler
ZBA (Alternate)	Connell

**Town Manager Rieseberg

When asked, Selectman Hooper explained that EDC meant Economic Development Coordinator.

As requested, a letter will be sent to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) naming the two representatives (Kessler and Tellor) appointed to the UVLSRPC for 2021-2022.

Chairman Kessler addressed Selectman Sayer and suggested that as a new Board member he might visit each department, get a tour, meet the department heads (Police, Fire and Public Works) and ask any questions he might have of them. Town Manager Rieseberg stated Selectman Sayer had an open invitation to meet with him for updates on projects being done in Newport.

On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Tellor; the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for June 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: June 21, 2021