

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for Meeting of May 7, 2018 - **REVISED**

6:30 pm Regular Business Meeting

Municipal Building

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

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Lisselle Dufort, Town Clerk; Paul Brown, Finance Director

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Lucy Wells, Christy Whipple and Bert Spaulding, Sr.

NCTV: Louis Cassorla, videographer

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

AGENDA REVIEW: TABLE TO FUTURE MEETING: Newport Fire Department Mutual Aid Response Protocols (by Rieseberg)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): Minutes of April 16, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

NPS Minutes of April 16, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the non-public session (NPS) minutes of the April 16, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0*

Minutes of April 23, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2018 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-2 (Fratzel and Connell abstained).*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of May 7, 2018 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Chairman Kessler moved the action item to accommodate the individual in attendance.

ACTION ITEM: Newport Montessori School, Christy Whipple-Waiver of Fees for Use of the Opera House - Mrs. Whipple addressed the BOS and asked if they would waive the \$700.00 rental fee for the Montessori School to hold their school's annual Winter Concert. The Montessori School does not charge a fee for admission, do not use the bar and are only in the Opera House for about one hour. The Opera House is already set up for the T'was festival so there is no set up. They have been using the Opera House at no charge for 9 years. She told the BOS that the Town had held a security deposit from the Montessori School for years and not needed to use it. The school has 81 students that perform and 350 people (family and friends) that attend. The school has 12 children whose parents are law enforcement officers; there has been no need to hire police protection. After giving a few more facts, Mrs. Whipple stated that the school would like to continue using the Opera House. She asked for questions from the Board.

Chairman Kessler asked for the date of the performance. He was told December 7, 2018 (snow date December 14th).

The Chair asked for questions from the Board.

Selectman Hooper asked what the Board had done in the past. Mrs. Whipple stated that there had been no fee. She had been told that this year she would need to appeal to the BOS.

Selectman Wilmot asked, for clarification, if the Opera House was already set up for the concert. There was a discussion with Mrs. Whipple about the potential setting up.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted to waive the fee for the Montessori School's Winter Concert.***

Selectman Hooper addressed the Board and asked if they would be willing to add: "if set up and take down was required, there would be a fee for that". There was a discussion among the Board, Finance Director Brown and Mrs. Whipple on this amendment to the motion as well as potential groups that would be petitioning the Board in the future.

Selectman Wilmot stated he would keep his motion as initially presented. Selectman Connell stated he would also keep his second as initially presented.

Chairman Kessler called for a vote. ***The motion passed 4-0-1 (Fratzel abstained).***

Selectman Connell addressed the Chair and stated the Board had spent a lot of time creating the new fee schedule. He gave his opinion as to the merits of it. Chairman Kessler stated that now that people have to petition the BOS for a waiver of fees, the BOS gets an idea of who the groups are and what the Opera House is being used for. The BOS could reconsider the fee structure.

OPEN FORUM: Mrs. Lucy Wells stated that:

1. Several weeks ago she had found she could signup to have agendas and other documents sent to her via email. She had signed up and has only received one agenda from the Town offices. She did not receive another.
2. In response to Town Manager Rieseberg's statement at an earlier meeting that her road (Chandlers Mill Road) would be graded, she stated that Chandlers Mill Road has been graded satisfactorily by the Newport Highway Department.
3. She complimented the effort to clean up the roads in Town.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. read aloud parts of Chairman Kessler's letter to the editor from the Argus Champion newspaper, his own letter to the editor as well as Mr. Nichol's (past Selectman) letter that had been published in the Argus Champion. He then gave his views regarding the content of the three letters.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. read aloud RSA 37:6 and RSA 37:3. He passed out a copy of the RSAs to the Chairman. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. concluded by stating his concerns on various topics.

Mrs. Wells asked the Chair and Board the following questions:

1. When they won an election to the BOS or any other Board, were they offered to attend State run workshops to learn their responsibilities and the laws they needed to understand? She was told yes.
2. She reiterated the availability of workshops and their necessity for each elected official.

3. Mrs. Wells stated there is a learning curve; there was a learning curve for each of the currently sitting Board members.
4. Many times people run for public office because they have a grievance about something. She was speaking of other experiences she has witnessed.
5. Mrs. Wells stated it was difficult to serve in public office and explained.
6. Mrs. Wells stated that through cable television and the internet people had the opportunity to view the proceedings of the Boards.
7. She also reminded the Selectmen that not one BOS member had gone to talk at a REVITE meeting to introduce a new Board member.

Mrs. Wells stated that everyone has a right to run for office in this community. Mrs. Wells said she did not speak for candidate Cindy Conroy or candidate Fratzel. She spoke from experience and she reminded the Selectmen that their alignment was with the citizenry. Her main interest in an election is that people run (for office) and people go out and vote.

Concluding, Mrs. Wells voiced her pride in the citizens and businesses of Newport. She stated they will support the BOS through any personnel change in the future. They will also stand up if they feel the BOS is unjustly managing their tax dollars.

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

Selectman Fratzel stated Clean-Up Day was a success. It was impressive how many volunteers showed up (160 people) and how much trash was picked up (30 yards+). He wanted to thank Mr. PJ Lovely and all the volunteers.

Selectman Hooper concurred with Selectman Fratzel. Saturday night the Montessori School did their Bid for Kids. It was well attended. Saturday, May 12, 2018 is the Sunshine Town Social in the Opera House at 5 p.m. The Library Arts Center (LAC) and Newport Opera House Association (NOHA) do a great job putting it on.

Selectman Wilmot echoed Selectmen Fratzel and Hooper's statements of the Clean-Up Day success. He congratulated the Newport Middle High School (NMHS) on their Expo. It was an awesome opportunity to see what the school was doing.

Chairman Kessler stated he had gone to the Expo as well and met an individual involved with IMPACT; a program funded by NH Vocational rehabilitation services. He explained the fiscal services it provided. He stated he would have more information on it at a future BOS meeting.

Mrs. Wells stated she understood what Chairman Kessler was talking about. She described similar experiences she had had with grant programs.

INFORMATIONAL: Top Dog Contest drawing – Town Clerk - Mrs. Liselle Dufort addressed the BOS and public, explained the Annual Top Dog Contest started four years ago and how dog registration revenue had increased since it began. She stated that there were currently 1,500 dogs in Newport; if an owner had not already registered their dog this year they had a grace period until June 1, 2018 before a fine would be imposed.

Addressing the Selectmen, she asked that they pick the three winners: the drawing order was: Top Dog, second and third place. Selectman Wilmot drew the Top Dog from "the hat". She was:

Top Dog: Ginger, owner Carol Hammond. Ginger will receive the #1 dog tag and have her photo mounted in the Town Office.

Selectman Hooper drew: Second place: Kona, owner Holly Avery. Kona will receive the #2 dog tag.

Selectman Fratzel drew: Third place: Cody, owner Lisa Harris. Cody will receive the #3 dog tag.

Mrs. Dufort said that the winners would be notified and dog tags and gifts (donated by various veterinarians and stores) presented to them. Chairman Kessler asked that she and Town Manager Rieseberg put together a press release with dog and owner names as well as the stores and vets that had provided prizes for the winners.

Review of Town Warrant - Chairman Kessler stated he had planned to go over the Warrant Articles that would be on the May 8, 2018 ballots. Instead of reviewing the Warrant Articles aloud, he stated that the Warrant Articles are online on the Town website. A sample ballot could be found on the Town Clerk's page of the website and Town Facebook page.

He encouraged people to go out and vote. The polls would be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Opera House. Mrs. Wells asked Chairman Kessler if voter registration would be available at the polls. He believed yes. Chairman Kessler also encouraged people to take photo identification.

Board of Selectmen/School District Joint Meeting - Chairman Kessler stated that the School District has been requesting a meeting. He suggested a meeting after the Town Meeting voting; around the beginning of June 2018. Chairman Kessler asked Town Manager Rieseberg to contact the School District about holding a meeting and get back to the BOS concerning potential meeting dates in June 2018.

Clean Up Day: Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the Selectmen had covered the subject in Communications. It was the 1st Clean-Up Day and 160 people had come out. It showed the passion people had for their Town. He thanked everyone who organized and volunteered. The Selectmen commented that a local newspaper was covering it.

ACTION ITEMS: Appoint Selectmen Pro Tem for May 8, 2018 Voting: After a short discussion concerning having a pro temp in addition to Mr. Larry Cote, on a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted to appoint Mr. Larry Cote and Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. as Selectmen Pro Tem during the May 8, 2018 voting. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Review and Approval of Contract Proposal for the Phosphorous Removal Project: After a short discussion of the agenda item; on a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign the proposed contract with Fuss & O'Neill. The contract is dated March 16, 2018; and to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign on behalf of the Newport Board of Selectmen. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

APPOINTMENTS: none.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM: Newport Teachers Association (NTA) Opera House Rental Contract - Chairman Kessler made a motion ***to recognize the Newport Teachers Association as a part of the School District.*** It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. It was amended to add that their rental fee for the Honors Banquet be waived and defer to the Police Chief the need for an officer. Selectman Wilmot seconded the amended motion.

The new motion read: Chairman Kessler made a motion ***to recognize the Newport Teachers Association as a part of the School District and added that their rental fee for the Honors Banquet be waived. The BOS deferred to the Police Chief for the need for an officer.*** It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into non-public session (NPS) pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II, (c) Reputation of Another at 8:10 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Finance Director Brown was asked to attend the Non-Public Session.

See NPS information

The Board voted unanimously to exit Non-Public Session at 8:30 p.m.

There was no action taken during Non-Public Session.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:31p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, May 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: May 21, 2018