

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Minutes for December 20, 2021
Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 820 4129 0439 Passcode: 406008
+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

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

SELECTMAN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul 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: Add Action Item: Review and Approve Short Term Bond for Road Bids (Rieseberg)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): December 6, 2021 - Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the minutes of the December 6, 2021 meeting were still being worked on. Chairman Kessler stated the Board would table the minutes of the December 6, 2021 BOS meeting to January 3, 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the December 20, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Chairman Kessler asked if Selectman Hooper had joined via zoom. He was told no.

OPEN FORUM: none.

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

Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler stated there was a new surge of coronavirus which is causing concerns of transmissibility. The hospitals are becoming crowded and the Town has initiated a mask policy in Town buildings. He encouraged everyone to be careful; the pandemic is not over yet. Stay safe.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Assessor's Opinion re: Spaulding (for full discussion, go to: www.nctv-nh.org). Mr. Spaulding, Sr. repeated a request to unmerge three lots he owned. Town Manager Rieseberg told the BOS that the information had gone to the Town assessor, who has reviewed the request. The Board and Mr. Spaulding, Sr. have copies of the assessor's opinion. The BOS had to decide whether to agree with the assessor's opinion or make a different decision.

Selectman Hooper joined the meeting via zoom at 7:02 pm.

There was a lengthy discussion on the requested lot restoration and previous deeds of the parcels. The Selectboard tabled the request. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. was asked to meet with the Town Assessor.

Community Center Update - Chairman Kessler reminded townspeople that the Town would be bringing the Community Center forward again on a Warrant Article. The Friends of Recreation will be actively promoting the need for a new Community Center. Selectman Kessler stated that the Friends of Rec would be meeting most Mondays at the Rec Center. Information on the Community Center is on the Town website: www.newportnh.gov. The Town has to raise \$3 million in grants and donations to go toward the project; \$4 million will come from taxes. Chairman Kessler gave additional information concerning the old and proposed Community Center, concluding by explaining the \$4 million Community Center Bond's importance as well as the \$1.9 million Bond for the Renovation of the Tech Center (school) at March 8, 2022 voting. There was a discussion on the Community Center among the Board, public and Town Manager Rieseberg.

ACTION ITEMS: Accept and Expend ARPA Grant for New Groundwater Supply & Others as Applicable
Town Manager Rieseberg listed the grants the Town has acquired in 2021.

After a brief explanation and discussion on the ARPA grant; Selectman Connell made a motion *to accept and expend the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant for a new groundwater supply and to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign any and all paperwork pertaining to it.* It was seconded by Selectman Teller. There was further discussion by the Board members. Chairman Kessler called for a roll call vote. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Review and Approve Short Term Bond for Road Bids - Finance Director Brown explained the Road Bond Bids and presented the Board with the different bid options provided to the Town. After a brief discussion, Selectman Connell made a motion *to accept the Sugar River Bank bid for a Road Bond at 0.95% for a total amount of \$13,601.35.* It was seconded by Selectman Teller. *The motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.*

APPOINTMENTS: none

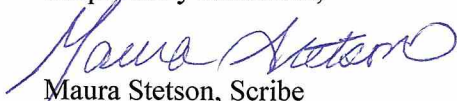
Chairman Kessler asked for a motion to go into non-public session for Pending Litigation. On a motion by Selectman Teller, seconded by Selectman Sayer; *the Board voted by roll call vote to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Pending Litigation at 7:57 pm. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

The Board exited nonpublic session at 9:08 p.m.

There was no action after non-public session.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for January 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: February 7, 2022