

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Minutes of November 21, 2022 Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 840 4647 4338 Passcode: 102562
+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Herbert Tellor, Jr.; James Burroughs, Keith Sayer; *zoom:* Barry Connell, Vice Chairman (entered meeting at 7:10 pm)

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Dick Wentzell, Ben Nelson, County Commissioner; George Hebert, County Commissioner

NCTV: John Lunn, 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. (For full meeting, go to: www.nctv-nh.org).

AGENDA REVIEW: Add: Informational: Tax Rate and School Bus Garage Rent (Kessler)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): November 7, 2022 - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Burroughs; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2022 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Kessler abstained).*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the November 21, 2022 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Wentzell addressed the Board members and voiced his concerns on topics which he believed were the oversight of the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time. Selectman Burroughs congratulated Mr. Cody Foster on his graduation at the police academy. He welcomed him to the Newport PD. Selectman Sayer had nothing to share at this time. Chairman Kessler thanked everyone who came out to vote for the midterm elections on November 8, 2022. Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Update from Sullivan County Delegation (For full presentation, go to: www.nctv-nh.org) - County Commissioners Ben Nelson and George Hebert attended the BOS meeting and updated them and the public on the major projects being done to support municipalities in Sullivan County. They reviewed the: Nursing home renovation project, focusing on the scope, cost, construction schedule and funding stack (several large grants have benefited the County and kept the tax rate lower). When asked they explained what the improvements for the residents and staff would be.

Selectman Connell entered the meeting via zoom at 7:10 pm

Sullivan House County has 7 residents as of October 19, 2022. All are working. HUD Lead Paint Abatement Program: instead of being local programs, it has become a county wide program.

Commissioner Nelson encouraged people who know of old homes or apartments with possible lead paint to have the residents contact program manager Kate Kirkwood to sign up to have the lead paint removed (no charge). Discover Sugar River Region: Commissioners Hebert and Nelson gave an overview of what is involved with the program and that the county collaborates (partnership) with the UNH Cooperative Extension, Regional Economic Development and USDA Rural Development (grant funding). There will be more to come. Trails Project: UVLSRPC was hired to develop a comprehensive trail plan (\$25,000 ARPA funds). Mr. PJ Lovely is on the steering committee; to track their progress go to: www.sctrailssplan.com. The Natural Resources/Conservation District Programs are led by Mr. Lionel Chute. The Commissioners passed out brochures of all his programs. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Use grant funding to complete Economic Development projects. County Grant Writing Capability: Sullivan County has \$45,000 in fiscal year 2023 for grant writing services. It will be available to support all municipalities. (Contact county manager for more information) Adult Education Classes at local CTEs: Requests have come from the local industries and businesses. They have financially (grants) sponsored 4 adult classes: Welding, LNA, Plumbing and Heating. October 11th started a second Plumbing and Heating class. It had full occupancy. Community Development Block Grants: county sponsors CDBG requests on behalf of small municipalities. Chairman Kessler asked Commissioner Nelson to explain what the changes at the nursing home (with the renovations) will be. He complied with the request. (Go to: www.nctv-nh.org). The Board thanked the Commissioners for attending the meeting.

Community Center Update - The Town is continuing to raise money and obtain pledges. \$7.7 million is currently committed to the Community Center. The latest construction estimate is \$8.327 million. Newport is waiting for an answer on the \$1 million of Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) federal funds through the state. The Executive Councilor for Newport and governor have been informed of the importance of this funding for the Community Center.

- ❖ \$300,000 is needed next to develop bid documents.
- ❖ The timeline for the construction and bidding has been moved. Everything hinged on the federal budget passing and money being awarded to Senator Shaheen (4.78 million dollars)
- ❖ It would be nice to consider putting out bids in the winter; and going out for construction in 2023.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated the reality will be after the bidding process, it will be known in approximately February 2023.

Boards and Committees - Chairman Kessler addressed the Board and public and stated that Newport needed volunteer members to serve on its Land Use Boards and other boards and commissions in the Town. He explained that recently the Planning Board has not been able to meet because they have not had quorums. People have had to postpone construction projects due to this. Chairman Kessler asked that people inquire at the town managers office about being full time members or alternates on boards and listed the ones with vacancies:

Full Members Needed:

- ❖ Planning Board
- ❖ Zoning Board

Capital Improvements Program

Recreation Advisory Committee

Heritage Commission-meets as needed

Alternate Members Needed:

Airport Advisory Board

Conservation Commission

Planning Board

Zoning Board

Monuments and Memorials Committee-meets as needed

Tax Rate - Chairman Kessler stated the Town had received from the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) the tax rate for 2022 (tax bill for December 2022). Newport's tax rate will be \$20.90. It is \$7.16 Town/ \$1.95 County/ \$10.95 School/ \$.84 state education for a total of \$20.90. Continuing he said it was on the reassessment of the Town. Many will see tax bills increase because valuations of residents went up 80% /commercial properties went up 40-45%. The entire years increase

will be charged in the December 2022 bill. Tax Bills will go out 1st week of December and are due the 1st week of January (2023).

Bus Garage Rental (school) - Chairman Kessler addressed the Board and stated that he was looking at the cost/revenue of renting the two open bays with dirt floors in the Public Works complex. The rent had been set in 1998 at \$5,800/year. The price has never been adjusted. He calculated costs updated for 2022. It was the equivalent of \$10,600/year (\$10,591.11/yr.). In a brief discussion, BOS members asked if there was a breakdown in utility bills as well as the cost of providing bathroom facilities for the school employees. A suggestion of a higher, adjusted rent was made. It will be looked into.

ACTION ITEMS: Review, Accept & Approve Transportation Alternatives Program Project Agreement and to Authorize Town Manager as Signatory - Town Manager Rieseberg explained that the TAP grant was to provide money for alternative transportation. It is a long process and won't be happening for over two years (2028). In Newport it was earmarked for the sidewalk up Sunapee Street to just before the 'Ruger Mill'. It will include drainage and utility improvement. There will be a 20% local match needed. Selectman Tellor made a motion *to accept & approve a Transportation Alternatives Program Project Agreement and to authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign and execute any documents.* It was seconded by Selectman Burroughs. *The motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.*

There being no further business in the public meeting, On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Selectmen voted by roll call to enter into non-public session(NPS) pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a)Personnel at 7:50 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Present were Selectboard members Jeffrey Kessler, Keith Sayer, Herbert Tellor, Jr.; and Jim Burroughs. Barry Connell was in attendance via zoom. Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg was also in attendance in the BOS room.

On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Burroughs; the Board exited non-public session at 9:50 pm. The motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

No votes were made.

On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Burroughs; the Board voted by roll call vote to adjourn at 9:56 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for December 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: December 5, 2022