

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2023 –
Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Meeting ID: 854 2731 8449 Passcode: 816569
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85427318449?pwd=dTVlK2k0QTdnUkdzdVdnZmt4amxXZz09>
+1 (253) 215 8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees apply)

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Kessler, Barry J. Connell, Keith M. Sayer, James C. Burroughs, and via ZOOM Jeffrey S. North

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter F. Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director

COMMUNITY PRESENT: Steven Morris, Donna Magoon, Douglas Ring, Karen Arleo, Bert Spaulding, Sr., Kurt Minich, Ed Karr

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

BOARD ORGANIZATION: Town Manager Rieseberg opened nominations for Chairman to the Board of Selectmen. There were no other nominations. On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Burroughs, *the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to nominate Selectman Connell as Chairman to the Board of Selectmen.*

Chairman Connell then opened nominations for the Vice Chairman to the Board of Selectmen. On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Sayer, *the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to nominate Selectman Burroughs as Vice Chairman to the Board of Selectmen.* There were no other nominations.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): February 2, 2023 Budget Review Minutes – On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Burroughs, *the Board voted by roll call to accept the minutes of February 2, 2023, 3-0-2; Selectman Sayer and Selectman North abstained.*

May 1, 2023 Minutes – On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Burroughs, *the Board voted by roll call vote to table the minutes of May 1, 2023 until the recording secretary reviewed for omissions in the minutes and corrections. The motion passed 4-0-1; Selectman North abstained.*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Sayer, *the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to accept the consent agenda.*

INFORMATIONAL: Bill Hutwelder – Project Status Avanru Development Group, Ltd – Mr. Chad Brandon, P.E. stated he was representing Mr. Jack Franks from Avanru Development. He introduced the project attorney, J.P. Harris, Sheehan & Finney. Mr. Brandon said they were present to give an update on the 42 unit project and the 96 unit project and to get some feed back from the Board of Selectmen. He spoke on staying within budget for this workforce housing project, specifically discussing a hardship for the water and sewer connections fees, for which his client did not account for. He stated that he could not find the information on the Town's website as well as no reasoning for the high fees. Mr. Brandon also stated that the Town of Newport fees were not similar to other communities, which were much lower. He added that there were several RSA's for workforce housing to help make these projects successful. He was hoping to be able to work with the Town to address these high fees because it would be hard to make this project go forward. He proposed that the Board consider assessing the fees to more in line with normal fees around \$15,000 for the water and sewer connection, which they would be able to carry the project forward. RSA 149 I 18, states that

the Board can access different fees. There were questions and answers between the Board and the representatives for these two projects. Chairman Kessler pointed out that the Board had already abated about 1/3 of the fees at a previous meeting. Mr. Spaulding expressed his concern for the lack of research done by the project on all project expenses. After further general discussion, on a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Sayer, ***the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote, to take the proposal presented under further advisement and to do further research on the information provided.***

Shawn Grissom Tax Deeding; 73 Old Goshen Road – Mr. Grissom, resident of 73 Old Goshen Road was present to get reconsideration for the purchase of the 73 Old Goshen Road property. Continuing, Mr. Grissom said he was requesting the reconsider for two reasons; to confirm that the Board received and was fully aware of the email which stated his unique situation for his request; and to discuss a letter he just handed out to the Board which stated that he was not allowed to have any further right to the property unless he purchased it. Mr. Grissom said he was willing to pay the full amount of back taxes with interest (\$34,766.83) to purchase the property. He was hoping the Board would reconsider their previous decision to not sell the property as a direct sale. Chairman Connell pointed out that they would be selling it for public bid. Mr. Grissom said that he and his family have lived there for seven years; and unfortunately, the previously owner passed away before he could purchase it from him. There was general discussion about ways to put conditions on the bidding process. On a motion by Selectman North, seconded by Selectman Kessler, ***the Board voted by roll call vote to sell the tax deeded land and buildings located at 73 Old Goshen Road, Newport, NH; Map 245, Lot 052 via a sealed public bid with the reserve minimum bid equaling no less than the tax, interest, and fees associated with the Town's acquisition of the property at \$34,766.83, with the provision that the present tenant would have first refusal with proof of the ability to finance the purchase. The motion passed 4-1-0; Selectman Sayer voted no.*** Mr. Ring asked that the bid be open with the Board of Selectmen present. The Board agreed to do that. The Board of Selectmen extended the current tenant's ability to remain on the property to 30 days from receiving the bids.

Parking on the Common – After some discussion about the status of parking on the common, on a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Kessler, ***the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to remove the "no parking" language on the Common Rental Form and to address this topic at a later time.***

School Bus Storage DPW Garage – Selectman Kessler started the discussion with a history of the rental of the garage by the school district going back to the 1980's through the current situation. Chairman Connell recommended that prior to the School Board's meeting of June 8, 2023 that both Boards meet prior to that to come to some resolution.

ACTION ITEMS: Acceptance of ARPA Grant for Dorr Lagoons of \$100,000.00 and Authorize the Town Manager to Sign All Related Documents – On a motion by Selectman Sayer, seconded by Selectman Kessler, ***the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to accept the ARPA Grant for the Dorr Lagoons of \$100,000.00 and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.***

Acceptance of Drinking Water/Ground Water Trust Fund Grant/Loan and Authorize the Town Manager to Sign All Related Documents - On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Sayer, ***the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to accept the Drinking Water/Ground Water Trust Fund Grant/Loan and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.***

Review and Acceptance of Grants – Town Manager Rieseberg pointed out that there is one error on the list of grants they received; page 3, #112 donation from Ruger is listed incorrectly and should be \$50,000.00; subtotal changes to \$3,695,201; grand total changes to \$25,556,115.

Selectmen Appointments to Boards & Committees – The following appointments were made by the Selectmen for their representation on Boards and Committees through May Town Meeting of 2024:

Airport Advisory Committee: Jeffrey North; **Budget Advisory Committee:** Jeffrey Kessler, Barry Connell, Alternate; **CIP:** James Burroughs, Keith Sayer, Alternate; **Community Center Committee:** Jeffrey North; **Conservation Commission:** Barry Connell; **ECON:** James Burroughs; **Facility & Fields Advisory Committee:** Jeffrey North, Keith Sayer, Alternate; **Heritage Commission & Monuments & Memorials Committee:** James Burroughs, Jeffrey North, Alternate; **NCTV:** Jeffrey Kessler, Keith Sayer, Alternate; **Planning Board:** Jeffrey North, James Burroughs, Alternate; **Recreation Advisory Council:** James Burroughs, Barry Connell, Alternate; **UVLSRPC:** Jeffrey Kessler, Barry Connell; **Zoning Board of Adjustment:** Jeffrey Kessler, James Burroughs, Alternate

OPEN FORUM -Karen Arleo was present to discuss the sidewalk by Richards School on School Street are in horrible shape. She asked that something be done about the sidewalks and people parking along the street.

Mr. Douglas Ring said there is a large pothole on Park Avenue/North Main Street corner. He continued by discussing a situation on Cross Street/Sunapee Street. A tenant had done some landscaping that was torn down by the highway department during the winter. Town Manager Rieseberg has invited the resident to meet with him at any time to discuss.

Selectman North thanked Herb Tellor for serving on the Board of Selectmen for the work he did.

COMMUNICATIONS: Board of Selectmen - Selectman Burroughs also thanked Mr. Tellor for his service to the Town. He said he received a letter from a resident on Chandlers Mill Road thanking the Fire Department for their work at a recent fire on his property. Selectman Kessler thanked everyone who came out and voted recently. He, too, thanked Mr. Tellor for his work as Selectman. Selectman Sayer thanked the voters, as well. Selectman North said he was impressed with everyone who stayed involved in the Town. Chairman Connell thanked all voters and Mr. Tellor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Real Estate – On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Sayer, *the Board voted by roll call vote to go into Non-Public Session at 8:50 p.m. Selectman North's ZOOM connection was lost. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Chairman Connell, *the Board voted by roll call vote to exit Non-Public Session at 9:25 p.m.*

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A, II (c) Reputation - On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Chairman Connell, *the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into Non-Public Session at 9:25 p.m.*

On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Chairman Connell, *the Board voted unanimously to exit Non-Public Session at 9:52 p.m.*

On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *the Board voted unanimously to affirm their previous position relative to offering 33% reduced water and sewer permit fees for eligible housing projects whose units are approved and for which the Town is successful in receiving Municipal Per Unit Housing grant awards.*

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, Selectman Sayer, **the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn at 9:53 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,


Joanne Dufour, Recording Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for **June 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**