

# **TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## **Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes for Meeting of April 29, 2019 6:00 pm**

**Public Hearings and Special Meeting, Municipal Building**

**15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773**

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

**SELECTMEN ABSENT:** Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Cody Morrison, Economic Development Coordinator

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bert Spaulding, Sr.

**GUEST PRESENT:** None

**NCTV:** John Lunn

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman Fratzel called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:23 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Conduct Public Hearings and to solicit public comment on a proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA), and related planning documents. Up to \$500,000 annually is available to communities or counties on a competitive basis for housing and public facilities, \$500,000 for economic development and up to \$500,000 for emergency activities. All CDBG funds must benefit low and moderate income persons. Up to \$12,000 is available for feasibility study grants. The proposal to be heard includes:

- A proposed CDBG grant application for up to \$12,000 in CDBG Feasibility funds for the Workforce Childcare Center Project.
- Adoption of the Town of Newport Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan for the project.
- Re-Adoption of the Town of Newport Housing and Community Development Plan.

**AGENDA:** Morrison stated that a handout is available detailing the Town of Newport's Housing and Community Development Plan, Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan for the project, and a summary of the project. On grant submission: Cody Morrison explained that the purpose of these public hearings required for CDBG funding is to solicit the view of citizens on community development; furnish the citizens with information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities which may be undertaken under the Community Development Act. The proposal to be considered by the Board of Selectmen is a CDBG Feasibility Study for up to \$12,000 for the Workforce Childcare Center Project. The funds less administration will be used by the Town to hire a consultant to study the feasibility of locating a workforce childcare facility in Newport.

Adoption of the Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan for this project: Cody Morrison explained that if any displacement takes place as a result of this project, the Uniform Relocation Act must be followed, which requires that any displaced household or business in a project using any federal funds must be found comparable housing in a comparable neighborhood at a comparable price. There will be no displacement as a result of this project. Under the certification section of the application, the Town will certify that the Residential Anti-displacement & Relocation (RARA) plan is in place, and in the event that it is discovered that this specific project does displace persons or households, a displacement implementation plan must be submitted to CDFA prior to obligating or expending funds.

Town of Newport Housing and Community Development Plan: Cody Morrison explained Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing and re-adopting the Town of Newport Housing and Community Development Plan. The Housing and Community Development Plan must be reviewed and readopted every three years.

Vice Chairman Fratzel stated that the last time these documents were adopted was 2015 and that they were adopted for the Senior Center project.

Vice Chairman Fratzel then opened the hearing for public comment.

**Public comment:** Bert Spaulding asked for clarification of language on the Housing and Community Development Plan. Spaulding sought an explanation on the phrase “Assist in the development of additional age restricted housing units” Spaulding asked for the definition of “age restricted”. Spaulding asked if the words “economically disadvantaged, frail, and/or frail seniors” applied to all generations. Morrison explained that the term “age restricted” is generally a reference to senior housing. Spaulding followed by stating that it would appear to him that it would apply to seniors – (economically) disadvantaged or frail. Morrison confirmed that the language applies to seniors in those two situations. Spaulding concluded by stating that it is essential senior housing.

Workforce Daycare: Spaulding asked if the purpose was to study the feasibility of doing it and offering off-shift childcare.

Morrison stated that the purpose of the feasibility is to determine the need of off-shift childcare. Morrison stated that it is an issue that has been identified by local businesses. The feasibility study will determine that level of need and see if something like that is possible in this town.

Spaulding stated that he wonders about that because current childcare centers have waiting lists and that there is a shortage.

Vice Chairman Fratzel states that the issue is available with certain shifts being available in certain time slots. Some companies feel that they can’t fill slots because people qualify for the job but can’t find childcare for the shift hours.

Spaulding asked if that was meaning early or late.

Vice Chairman Fratzel said both.

Selectman Hooper said that typically childcare for someone who works early or late day care, “where is the daycare for that” whether you work at Ruger or you’re a nurse that works 2<sup>nd</sup> shift at DHMC (Dartmouth Hitchcock) and you happen to live here in town.

Spaulding asks if this feasibility study would be how to fulfill that absence.

Rieseberg stated that he thinks the intent would be to have somebody that works in the industry who's well versed in how childcare works, evaluate our demographics and to at least theoretically evaluate how childcare would work in our town and report on how it would work, what would it look like, how many customers are likely, and what are the associated costs. It is our intent to take that profile of daycare and take it to the public and have a vendor take it. It is certainly not the towns intent to provide those services directly.

Vice Chairman Fratzel said that the aim is to see what it looks like and figure out what the numbers would be and see if we can help out.

Morrison stated that if it were to be found that there was a need and a feasible path forward for the project, it would bring local employers on a level playing field for recruiting works to relocating into the area. Communities in Hillsborough and Rockingham County have more similar services available but Sullivan County has fewer services available for off-shift childcare. He said that it would help local companies maintain a competitive advantage when fulfilling their staffing needs.

Vice Chairman Fratzel asked if there was any additional comment.

Selectman Hooper stated that it is a great idea and thanked Morrison for listening to businesses and being responsive to their needs.

Morrison stated that the next procedure for the hearing is to vote on the three hearings after hearing public comment.

On a motion by Selectman Hooper; to support submission of a CDBG Feasibility Study application for up to \$12,000 to support the Workforce Childcare Center project; and, to authorize the Town Manager to sign, submit and execute any documents that may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG application and contract. Motion was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. ***The Board voted unanimously.***

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot to adopt the Adoption of the Town of Newport Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan for the project. Seconded by Selectman Connell. ***The Board voted unanimously.***

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot for the Re-Adoption of the Town of Newport Housing and Community Development Plan as presented. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Fratzel. ***The Board voted unanimously.***

Vice Chairman Fratzel asked if there was any other business, hearing none.

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Wilmot. Seconded by Vice Chairman Fratzel; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:39p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Cody Morrison

Scribe

