

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Minutes of October 4, 2021 6:30 pm
Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 868 6568 2339 Passcode: 244395
+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

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

SELECTMAN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul Brown, Finance Director

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Dick Wentzell, Ann Jasper, Bruce Jasper, Esq. ECON Executive Council Vice President; George (Terry) Dorr, ECON Executive Council; Kate Luppold, ECON Executive Council

PUBLIC PRESENT: Bill Hutwelker, Senior Advisor SVN Masiello Group; Jack Franks, Avanru Development Group

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: Table the minutes of the BOS retreat to the October 18, 2021 meeting (Kessler)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): September 20, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Teller; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

NPS September 20, 2021 - On a motion by Selectman Teller, seconded by Selectman Sayer; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes of the September 20, 2021 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

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

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Dick Wentzell addressed the Board members and spoke on dog licensure and the responsibilities of the Town. He asked what Town fund gets the money collected for dog licenses. He also addressed the budget as it pertained to the Buildings and Grounds Department as well as the attrition in that department; it currently had only one employee. Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. spoke on the flaw in the system as it pertained to dog licensure. He also spoke on the first amendment right and its necessity in all areas of the community.

Selectman Hooper joined the BOS meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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

Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Connell told the Selectmen and Town Manager he had heard complaints on the paving work done on Sunapee Street, Unity Road and Main Street. Addressing the viewing public, he emphasized the paving had been done by NH DOT and not the Town of Newport.

Selectman Hooper spoke on the fireworks held at the airport. It was well attended. As a sponsor and Selectman, he had heard mixed reviews.

Chairman Kessler had nothing to share at this time.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Newport Ash Landfill-ECON, Bruce Jasper (for full discussion on Action Items go to: www.nctv-nh.org) - Chairman Kessler stated that for the last few years Newport has been paying for the maintenance and monitoring of the wells at the Ash Landfill. The Town had neglected to charge ECON for the work for several years. ECON owed the Town \$172,000 for five years of work. Chairman Kessler and Mr. Jasper discussed the history of the closing of the ash landfill, the costs incurred, the numerous towns involved as well as the original (trust fund) and current payment arrangement with the NH DES. Mr. Jasper explained to the Board members what ECON-(Economic Corporation of Newport) was, citing its mission statement and its goals for the Town of Newport. There was a general discussion between the Board and Mr. Jasper of historical payments and proposed steps to acquire the \$172,000 from the state to pay the Town of Newport. It was agreed by both the ECON representatives and the BOS that ECON will pay \$172,000 to the Town of Newport by June 30, 2022 (the end of the Town's fiscal year). A Memorandum of Understanding will be drawn up between the Town of Newport and ECON with date and amount to be specified. Addressing the ECON board members in attendance, Chairman Kessler thanked them and Mrs. Jansen for attending the meeting.

Avanru Development Group; Jack Franks-Presentation on Proposed Development of Property Located on North Main Street, Map 218 Lot 004 - Mr. Bill Hutwelker addressed the Board members and thanked them for allowing him and Mr. Franks to be on the agenda. Chairman Kessler addressed both men and explained that four members of the BOS were on Boards they would have to go before (full members and their alternates). He requested that they not say anything that would prejudice any of the Board representatives. Mr. Hutwelker and Mr. Franks spoke in very broad terms about ideas they are considering on North Main Street lot (Route 10 North). Chairman Kessler thanked them for attending the meeting.

Updated Community Center Costs - Chairman Kessler gave updated construction costs for a new Community Center: \$6,975,000 Chairman Kessler said there will be a meeting on October 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the BOS Room to discuss a long-term plan to go for a tentative Bond in 2023. He stated that realistically the committee and Town should add \$500,000 to the costs provided by BreadLoaf. Selectman Hooper concurred with his statement. Chairman Kessler stated the Community Center Committee had also been given an updated cost for the Renovation of the current Rec Center. It was \$3,129,200. After a lengthy discussion on the proposed Community Center, Chairman Kessler asked for a consensus of the Board. After additional discussion on the Selectmen's points and opinions as well as briefly bringing up the Town CIP; the Board moved on.

Year-End Fund Balance - Finance Director Brown addressed the BOS and gave an analysis of the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2021. He answered all questions from the Board. Board members signed documentation concerning the Fund Balance. When asked, he stated the proposed tax rate was currently at \$12.02.

ACTION ITEMS: Adoption of Updated Personnel Plan - After a general discussion on the consolidation of the Personnel Plan and the removal of the Cyber policy, on a motion by Selectman

Hooper, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to adopt the Town of Newport Personnel Plan as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Adoption of Incident Response Plan & Computer Uses Policy - After a brief discussion, on a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted to adopt the Incident Response Plan & Computer Uses Policy as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

APPOINTMENTS: none

On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Sayer, *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for October 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: October 18, 2021