

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 20, 2022 Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 861 1424 1700 Passcode: 136334
+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

SELECTMEN PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Barry Connell, Vice Chairman; Herbert Tellor, Jr.; Keith Sayer, James Burroughs

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Hunter F. Rieseberg, Town Manager; Steve Yannuzzi, Fire Chief/Health Officer; Christina Donovan, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Paul Brown, Finance Director

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Robert Sherman, Theresa Sherman, Jenna Sherman, John Lunn

NCTV: Alex Zander, 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: accepted as presented.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): June 6, 2022 - Selectman Connell made a motion *to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022 BOS meeting as presented.* It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. After a brief discussion, a vote was called. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Sayer; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the June 20, 2022 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Mr. John Lunn addressed the Board with a question for Mr. Spaulding, Sr. He wanted to know if Mr. Spaulding, Sr. believed that hounding Ms. Patrice Glancey and Superintendent Minnihan out of office was a positive step in moving the (Newport) school forward. Mr. Lunn believed Mr. Spaulding, Sr. owed the Town an answer for his action. There was a discussion among the Board members as to the appropriateness of the question at the BOS meeting. Selectman Connell addressed Mr. Lunn and asked if he was asking Mr. Spaulding, Sr. as a school board member or as a public citizen. Mr. Lunn stated either one.

Robert Sherman, Theresa Sherman, and Jenna Sherman landowners of 4 Columbus Circle and 43 Summer Street respectively were in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Sherman addressed the Board of Selectmen concerning an issue with an existing sewer line. They purchased 4 Columbus Circle and installed a line to the street. They are having trouble getting the sewer to the sewer main due to a collapsed line. They (Shermans) have had the line scoped. The Town came and looked at it. The Shermans would like the Town to take responsibility for the sewer line on the Town road (Columbus Circle is a Town road). The sewer line from Columbus Circle to Summer Street is compromised and they would like some communications. Ms. Jenna Sherman addressed the Board and stated she owned 43

Summer Street. She said that her sewer line ties in with the 4 Columbus Circle line, thus she is directly affected by the restriction in the Town sewer line. Mr. Sherman has gone up through the ladder (of Town government) starting with the Water and Sewer Department. Mrs. Sherman has spoken to the Town Manager. Undertaking the infrastructure of a sewer line is financially impractical. After further explanation by Mr. Sherman, Town Manager Rieseberg said he will research the problem and contact the Shermans. Everything will be documented concerning the answer he gives them.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board members and answered Mr. Lunn's question concerning the recent resignations by Newport School District Administrator Ms. Patrice Glancey and Superintendent Brendan Minnihan; yes. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. then spoke concerning his behavior over the years at Board meetings as well as his thoughts on education in Newport. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak at their meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time. Selectman Connell told the Board of the enthusiasm of people using Newport's disc golf course located behind the high school. Players have told him that it is one of the best courses in the area and attracts many people. Selectman Sayer had nothing to share at this time. Selectman Burroughs had nothing to share at this time. Chairman Kessler stated that:

❖ Saturday, June 18, 2022 the Mural Festival sponsored by the LAC was held on the Common. When the painted panels are complete, they will be remounted on the Johnson Block on the side wall of the Newport Fitness Center.

❖ The Newport Chamber Brewfest was on Saturday, June 18, 2021 from 10 AM to 4 PM on the Common. It was well attended.

❖ On Saturday, June 25, 2022 the Newport Chamber of Commerce will host a car show on the grass strip of Parlin Field airport.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Enforcement Update (Yannuzzi and Donovan) - Fire Chief Yannuzzi gave the BOS an update on his work as Health Officer for the Town of Newport. He reviewed the protocol he is required to follow and provided the Board members with a hard copy containing a synopsis of the cases, procedures and outcomes from the fiscal year. Fire Chief Yannuzzi answered all Board questions. Ms. Donovan, Planning and Zoning Administrator explained the ordinances she is responsible to uphold and also gave a synopsis of her work from the fiscal year. Ms. Donovan explained that many complaints also involve Health or Fire Codes, thus she works closely with Fire Chief Yannuzzi on cases. She provided the Board members with a hard copy of her cases and the procedure she is required to follow when addressing complaints. She answered all questions from the public and Board members.

Conservation Commission Activities - Selectman Connell stated the Commission is a very active group who are anxious to do the work designated to Conservation Commissions in NH (RSA 36-A:1). The group consisted of Linda Dennis, Don Schagen, Larry Schissel, Guenter Hubert and Selectman Connell. He informed the Board of some of their current and projected work:

1. Review and update the Conservation Commission parts of the Master Plan
2. Develop list of priorities for the Commission based on the Master Plan
3. Have a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) created for Newport
 - a. Request a dollar amount from BOS to pay for a basic NRI to be done: \$8-12,000
 - b. What needs to be included in the NRI (will be a part of the Master Plan)
 - c. Find company to do the NRI
 - d. Build on the established NRI in Phases
4. Group will meet with an environmental officer at the Town forest boardwalk (behind the school) for the purpose of identifying invasive species there, to find out how to abate them

5. Ask for an annual line item (in the Town budget) for the Conservation Commission to accomplish the priorities set by the Commission

Questions from the Board: Don't they have their own funds? The money from timber sale of the blowdown is for the purchase of conservation easements or land only. Will the Town forest have a timber harvest again? Is there a Town Forester? When does the Conservation Commission meet? What does the Commission plan for Arbor Day? Selectman Tellor asked if the Town had received a letter of resignation from the Town Forester. Town Manager Rieseberg said there were trail signs they had gotten through a grant. The Town would like the Conservation Commissioners to help install them. Ms. Donovan explained how the NRI they were pursuing was one of the main building blocks of a town with infrastructure like Newport. She was directed to discuss an initial donation from the Planning and Zoning Department to the Conservation Commission (earmarked for an NRI) with Finance Director Brown. All Board questions were answered by Selectman Connell or Ms. Donovan.

Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Letter of Support - After a discussion in which Town Manager Rieseberg explained the sizable grant the Town had been awarded, Selectman Tellor made a motion *to accept the requirements within and sign the letter of intent dated June 20, 2022 to be submitted to Andrea C. Ansevin-Allen, US Department of Agriculture RD pertaining to the Newport, NH – Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovation Project.* It was seconded by Selectman Burroughs. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Board of Selectmen Retreat - Chairman Kessler informed the public of the Board's agenda for their retreat on June 25, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It included:

1. Town CIP
2. Priorities for the upcoming year(s)
3. Staff development, retention and salaries
4. Community Center
5. Town Finance update
6. Water and Sewer Rates

ACTION ITEMS: State Aid Grants-Certification of Authorized Representative - After a brief explanation, Selectman Connell made a motion *to authorize the (Newport) Town Manager to sign all documents related to State Aid Grants awarded to Newport, NH. This motion will serve as a blanket authorization for the (Newport) Town Manager to sign any documents related to any state aid grants awarded to Newport in the future.* It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

APPOINTMENTS: Annual Appoints to Boards & Committees - The Selectboard reappointed the following individuals to Town Boards, Commissions and Committees:
On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Burroughs; *the Board reappointed Mr. Harold Yanofsky and Mr. John Merriman as full members to the Airport Advisory Board for three years with a term to expire June 30, 2025.* Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board reappointed Mrs. Jacqueline Cote as a full member to the Heritage Commission for three years with a term to expire June 30, 2025.* Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board reappointed Mr. Kenneth Merrow as a full member to the Planning Board for three years with a term to expire June 30, 2025.* Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

On a motion by Selectman Teller, seconded by Selectman Burroughs; ***the Board reappointed Ms. Nia Leonard and Ms. Agatha Barreca as full members to the Rec Advisory Council for three years with a term to expire June 30, 2025.*** Chairman Kessler called for a vote. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Conservation Commission Resignation-Kenneth Dennis - On a motion by Selectman Teller, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board accepted with regret the resignation of Kenneth Dennis from the Conservation Commission.*** ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Planning Board Resignation-David Kibbey - On a motion by Selectman Burroughs, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board accepted with regret the resignation of David Kibbey from the Planning Board.*** ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

A letter of thanks for their service to Newport will be mailed to each of them.

Chairman Kessler read aloud the list of vacancies on each Town Board and Commission. He encouraged interested individuals to contact the Town office.

There being no further business in the public meeting, on a motion by Selectman Teller, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, 2(L) Legal Communication and RSA 91-A:3II(e)Litigation at 8:27 pm.*** ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Present were Selectboard members Jeffrey Kessler, Keith Sayer, Herbert Teller, Jr.; James Burroughs and Barry Connell. Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg was also in attendance.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Teller, ***the Selectboard exited nonpublic session at 9:19 p.m.*** ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

No votes or decisions were made.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Teller; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for July 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: July 18, 2022