

**Town of Newport, New Hampshire**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes for Meeting of October 16, 2017**  
**6:30 pm Regular Business Meeting**  
**Municipal Building**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; Heath Marsden and Rick Kloepel Co-managers, Airport

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Kibbey, Bert Spaulding, Sr., John Lunn

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kessler called the regular meeting of the BOS to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Eliminate INFORMATIONAL Skateboard Park Plan (by Hooper); Add non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation (by Fratzel)

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (S):** October 2, 2017

Minutes of October 2, 2017:

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2017 meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Wilmot abstained).*

**CONSENT AGENDA:** On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of October 2, 2017 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

**OPEN FORUM:**

Chairman Kessler addressed resident Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. and stated he was an advocate of Open Forum and unlimited speech. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. had made a very strong case to consider time limits on Open Forum speeches (with his excessively long oration). Mr. Spaulding, Sr. almost had the Chair swayed (to install a time limit).

Mr. John Lunn addressed the Board with a PSA. There would be an event, "Signs of Kindness" on the Town Common (bandstand end) on Tuesday, October 18, 2017 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. It would be a non-violent event in response to the current happenings in the country and our area. Mr. Lunn explained the activities that would go on at the event: creating signs, live music and refreshments and three speakers. All were welcome to attend.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated he disagreed with Chairman Kessler's view on time limits during Open Forum and explained his stance.

Chairman Kessler asked Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. if he had had a meeting with Town Manager Rieseberg concerning taxes and the properties in question. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Chair and stated that he had recently met with Town Manager Rieseberg and taken a virtual tour of the properties in question. He informed the BOS that Town Manager Rieseberg had been very helpful and accommodating.

Town Manager Rieseberg concurred that it had been a good meeting (the afternoon of Friday October 13, 2017). The Town had yet to receive a response from Avitar.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. also complained to the BOS about the noise and traffic on the Rails to Trails.

Concluding, Mr. Spaulding, Sr. asked if the tax assessment work by Avitar was done through a contract signed by Chairman Kessler. Chairman Kessler stated he had signed at the direction of the entire BOS.

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From BOS minutes of October 6, 2016:

Revaluation Contract

At the September 19, 2016 meeting the BOS approved contracting with Avitar Associates for the 2017 revaluation, but did not authorize anyone to sign the contract. On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel, ***the Board authorized Chairman Jeff Kessler to sign the contract. The motion passed 4-0-1(Kessler abstained).***

Chairman Kessler signed the contract at the meeting and gave it to Acting Town Manager Burroughs.

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Mr. Spaulding, Sr. read aloud part of the contract with Avitar. He stated he had not gotten information from an Avitar Representative as is stated in the contract.

Resident Mr. David Kibbey addressed the Board members and again expressed his disappointment, frustration and the lack of communication he had had with Avitar representatives after his recent reassessment. He stated that the reassessment was not done correctly and the follow-up interviews were not handled correctly either. Mr. Kibbey reiterated his concerns from the October 2, 2017 BOS meeting. He stated that although he was going out of state, he would return to Newport when there was a meeting scheduled with Avitar. For the full discussion go to: <https://vimeo.com/channels/newportnhselectmen>

Chairman Kessler stated that Avitar needed to explain themselves. Town Manager Rieseberg was working on it.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed Chairman Kessler and asked if there would be public participation permitted during other items on the October 16, 2017 Agenda; namely under the Informational: Reval/Tax Assessment Update. Chairman Kessler stated yes.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Selectman Wilmot congratulated the Library Arts Center (LAC) on their successful event at the Davis hanger celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He also congratulated the Newport Area Association of Churches (NAAC) for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorating the Bill Hoyt Community Care Center (food pantry). He wanted to thank all the staff and volunteers that kept the food pantry alive.

Selectman Hooper had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler informed the public of:

- Town flushing of fire hydrants would be Monday, October 23, 2017 through Friday, October 27, 2017.
- Town Department of Public Works would be picking up bagged leaves on Monday, October 23, 2017; October 30, 2017 and November 6, 2017 and November 13, 2017.

Chairman Kessler addressed Town Manager Rieseberg and requested that all notices be located on the same webpage for easy access. Rieseberg would address the request.

Chairman Kessler stated that he would have to look into it, but for some websites receiving federal money there was a mandate that they needed to meet ADA requirements by the end of January 2018. He did not know if it applied to the Town of Newport.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

**PRESENTATION:**Norwich Technologies

Don McCormick, Manager and Joel Stettenhiem, CEO Norwich Solar Technologies addressed the BOS and stated they had returned to the BOS with fact finding information. They had been asked to see if the proposed solar array grid could also include all electricity used in the Newport school system and the town library. Mr. McCormick showed a photograph indicating an increased solar array system. The arrays would be situated in the proposed field as before as well as mounted on top of a school roof. There were general questions by the Board members. Mr. McCormick stated that the proposal would need the Town, school and library permission and agreement. He reiterated that the contract proposal would need to go to the Newport voters at Town Meeting 2018.

Mr. Rick Kloepel, co-manager of the local airport, asked if Mr. McCormick had received his email concerning potential hazards with locating the arrays off of Newport's runway 36. Mr. McCormick and Mr. Kloepel held a short discussion; Mr. McCormick would attend the Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Airport Advisory Board (AAB) meeting to discuss the solar technology with the Board, interested pilots and public.

**INFORMATIONAL:**CIP Update

Selectman Hooper reviewed the yearlong plan that the current CIP committee had formulated. There was discussion among the Board members as to the matrix used and the need to have a far reaching CIP. Selectman Hooper and Finance Director Brown stated that due to the late formation of the committee only a "snapshot" of 2018 items needed and approved had been presented to the BOS.

Selectman Hooper stated that some items might not have been approved because the departments did not give adequate information on questionnaires submitted by the CIP committee.

Selectman Fratzel and Chairman Kessler asked that a more detailed list be comprised, with a 20 year plan.

Lil' Red Baron Future Plan

At the September 19, 2017 AAB meeting the group discussed what to do with the Lil' Red Baron building. After lengthy discussion, on a vote of 8-1-0 (Marsden dissenting), the AAB voted to advise the BOS to remove the building and to retain the land for airport uses or a new restaurant. There was a general discussion among the BOS members and airport staff. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. commented on the building and its septic system.

Reval/Tax Assessment Update

There was a discussion between the BOS, Town Manager and Finance Director concerning the Revaluation and Tax Assessment; the upcoming tax rate and the county tax rate.

**ACTION ITEM:**Fund Balance-2017 Encumbrances

Finance Director Brown reviewed with the Board the list of encumbrances as of June 30, 2017. There was a lengthy discussion among the Board members, Finance Director Brown and Town Manager Rieseberg on the list of encumbrance items. Town Manager Rieseberg and Finance Director Brown explained several line items to the Board as well as the justification of many line items. Town Manager Rieseberg reminded the BOS members that the items on the list had been considered high priorities of the Board. For the entire discussion, go to: <https://vimeo.com/channels/newportnhselectmen>.

Each BOS member weighed in with their views on the new list.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. expressed his opinion on the items to remain on the encumbered list.

There was a discussion about the elimination of the \$44,000 for Emergency Management Equipment from the list. It was also explained to Board members that the equipment would be used by these emergency services: Police and Fire.

There was discussion between Board members, Finance Director Brown, Town Manager Rieseberg and Mr. Spaulding, Sr. concerning the list of encumbrances, after which there were further changes made to the list of 2017 Encumbrances.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Selectboard authorized the Town Manager to spend unexpended funds from the encumbered balance in the following amounts:*

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Manager's computer replacement | \$1,500.00                |
| Fire Dispatching System        | \$25,000.00               |
| Emergency notification system  | \$5,000.00                |
| RecDesk software               | \$5,000.00                |
| PWG roof                       | \$200,000.00              |
| Sidewalk engineering           | \$10,000.00               |
| Consulting-Rec Center Study    | \$25,000.00               |
| HR Training                    | <u>\$1,500.00</u>         |
|                                | <b>Total \$273,000.00</b> |

*The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Selectman Fratzel asked Town Manager Rieseberg for a revised list of the approved 2017 encumbrances. A list would be distributed to all the Selectmen.

#### Selectboard Representative-School's Strategic Plan

A Selectman representative for the School's Strategic Plan Committee was needed. The next meeting would be held in the Lou Thompson Room on October 19, 2017 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm. Selectman Connell volunteered to represent the Town, Selectman Fratzel seconded the motion. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

#### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Pending Litigation; RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Real Estate and RSA 91-A:3, II Reputation of Another at 9:17 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

See NPS minutes for information.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:23 p.m.*

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Maura Stetson  
Scribe

Approved on: November 6, 2017