

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of October 15, 2018 6:30 pm
Regular Business Meeting and Public Hearing
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

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

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Cornish, Bob Dearborn, Larry Eaton and Judy Wilson representing the new Newport Senior Center; Shelley Hadfield, CDBG Grant Administrator and Bert Spaulding, Sr.

NCTV: Louis Cassorla

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.

PUBLIC HEARING: *The Town of Newport will hold a public hearing on October 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Newport Town Hall, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH to advise citizens of the progress of the CDBG projects for the Newport Senior Center Renovations. The project is funded with Community Development Block Grants from the NH Community Development Finance Authority and with a supporting grant from USDA Rural Development. The Town is required to conduct at least one public hearing during the implementation phase of each CDBG project. Anyone wishing to submit written comments prior to the hearing should address them to the Town Manager, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773.*

Chairman Kessler read the public hearing notice into the record. He asked Town Manager Rieseberg if any written comments had been submitted. He was told none had been submitted.

Ms. Shelley Hadfield CDBG Grant Administrator; addressed the Board and stated that the Senior Center Project is essentially complete. She gave an overview of the renovations and listed improvements, new construction that had been done and additional costs of the project.

Ms. Hadfield stated that with the renovations and additional space in the Senior Center the Town could use it as an emergency shelter.

Mr. Larry Eaton, President of the Newport Senior Center, thanked the Board for their help and support during the renovations. He informed them that Open House for the new Senior Center would be from 3pm-6pm on Friday, October 19, 2018. He invited Town Manager Rieseberg and the Board members to the ribbon cutting ceremony which would be held at 3pm.

Chairman Kessler stated he had been given a tour of the renovated downstairs in September. It was very impressive.

Ms. Hadfield informed the Chair that the Board of the Senior Center was now working on the upstairs. There would be new carpeting, furniture and other improvements. The Senior Center has USDA grant funding to help with the costs of these improvements.

There were no further public comments.

Chairman Kessler closed the public hearing.

AGENDA REVIEW: Accepted as presented.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): Minutes of October 1, 2018: - On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2018 Board of Selectmen meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

CONSENT AGENDA: none

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board and told them of the work of state representatives in our district.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Wilmot informed the Board that a guest from out-of-town saw the Homecoming Parade and was very impressed. His guest also visited the Sarah Josepha Hale Park and the Sarah Josepha Hale award ceremony (Mr. Nathaniel Gilbert recipient) and was also very impressed with them. Selectman Wilmot congratulated the library, Hale Award judges and award committee and all who put on the award ceremony.

Selectman Hooper congratulated the Recreation Department's girl 5th and 6th grade traveling soccer team on winning a tournament in Warner, NH. He praised the wonderful job the staff and volunteers are doing.

Selectman Connell addressed the Board and informed them that the Community Center Committee is actively working with BreadLoaf. The company and committee have had many discussions on the inner parts of the building and also of keeping the Little League baseball field. The company was going to do soil test pits this or next week. When asked, Selectman Connell listed the members of the Community Center Committee and stated that meetings were held Tuesday nights.

Chairman Kessler reminded all that voting will be November 6, 2018 at the Opera House from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that:

1. The Town personnel were getting the Town and equipment ready for winter.
2. The Coon Brook Bridge is coming along.
3. The First, Second, Third, Fourth and Knoll Street project is coming along.
4. The Solar Array project is moving forward.
5. The Town is completing the inside LED lighting project with the municipal court.

INFORMATIONAL: Election Day Coverage November 6, 2018 - There was a discussion among board members on the need of Selectmen Pro Tem.

On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board appointed Mr. Larry Cote and Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. as Selectmen Pro Tem for the November 6, 2018 voting. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

ACTION ITEMS: Authorization to Accept Proposed Settlement RE: Town of Newport versus AECOM, et al - Town Manager Rieseberg briefly explained the litigation against the architectural firm. Using the minutes of the

Selectmen's telephone meeting and email poll of October 5, 2018 explained the proposed settlement relating to litigation between the Town of Newport and AECOM (Architect, Engineering, Construction, Operations and Management).

Selectman Wilmot moved *to vote to ratify the emergency meeting of the Board on October 5, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. and to act on and approve the proposed and recommended settlement document(s) in the case of the Town of Newport versus AECOM, et al, and to authorize the Town's attorney Rhian Cull to sign said documents on behalf of the Town.* It was seconded by Selectman Connell. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed the BOS and asked that the suit be explained in layman's terms for the viewing public.

Town Manager Rieseberg explained reimbursement payments that would be given to the Town.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed Town Manager Rieseberg and stated for clarification that the suit was concerning the phosphorous treatment plant that did not work. He was told yes.

There was a general discussion by Town Manager Rieseberg, the BOS, Finance Director Brown and Mr. Spaulding, Sr. on the costs of the litigation and construction. Plans for future construction would be presented to the Board in the near future, with potential plans to go before Town Meeting 2019.

Discussion-Fund Balance: Chairman Kessler asked Finance Director Brown to explain the current fund balance. Finance Director Brown reviewed the two financial sheets he had handed out to the BOS (one on encumbered funds and one on estimated tax rate as of October 15, 2018).

There was a lengthy discussion on the fund balance, encumbrances and tax rate between some of the Board members, Finance Director Brown and Mr. Spaulding, Sr.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board and Finance Director Brown. He stated the encumbrances listed were as of June 30, 2018. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. went through the itemized encumbrances and asked Finance Director Brown for the October 15, 2018 numbers. Finance Director Brown complied.

They then discussed other financial items and tax rate impacts as of October 15, 2018.

Chairman Kessler addressed Finance Director Brown and stated they did not have current numbers to go by to vote. Selectman Wilmot asked what the time crunch was. Finance Director Brown stated he would need to have the numbers by October 24, 2018.

Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board and stated they needed to decide how much of the fund balance they wanted to keep as an unassigned fund balance.

Chairman Kessler asked the Board for a continuance on its discussion on the fund balance at a special BOS meeting to be held Monday, October 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm. with new numbers in order to make an informed decision.

Selectman Wilmot moved *to consider the matter of the fund balance at a BOS meeting to be held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm.* Selectman Connell seconded the motion. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

APPOINTMENTS: none

Selectman Hooper addressed the BOS and Finance Director Brown and stated at a recent Planning Board meeting a question regarding the Town tax maps and errors found in them had been brought up. Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr., Planning Board member, stated he had raised the subject. BOS members, Finance Director Brown, Town Manager Rieseberg and Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. discussed the current Town tax maps. Town Manager Rieseberg will look into having the maps updated.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel at 8:33 p.m. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

The Board exited the non-public session at 9:03 p.m.

No action was taken.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: November 5, 2018

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.