

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of December 17, 2018 6:30 pm
Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Tobin Menard

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.

AGENDA REVIEW: Accepted as presented.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): Minutes of December 3, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2018 Board of Selectmen meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Hooper abstained).*

Non-Public Session Minutes of December 3, 2018: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the Board of Selectmen NPS minutes of December 3, 2018 as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Hooper abstained).*

CONSENT AGENDA: After commenting on the line item document of the 2018 Property Tax Warrant 2nd Bill (\$6,672,152.50), on a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of December 17, 2018 as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board and stated he has asked the BAC and the School Board to include the tax impact on their March 2019 ballot. He intends to write a petition asking that the School Board include on their ballot the tax impact of each Warrant Article (BOS did this at the 2018 Town Meeting). He asked all BOS members to consider signing the petition when it is prepared.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Connell complimented the Fire Department and Police Department for their actions at the recent fire at LaValley's. He praised them all for their hard work and quick response.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Wilmot wished the citizens of the community a Happy Holiday.

Selectman Hooper concurred with Selectman Connell. It was a tragic moment for LaValley's. The crews, staff and local people all came together. He watched the communication between the groups; they were professional.

A lot of inventory was saved because people put their lives “in harm’s way”. He thanked the firefighters very much.

Chairman Kessler stated that the fire department personnel on hand were more than the skeleton crew they usually have on staff due to fire fighters being in Newport or the area. In addition to thanking Newport fire, EMS and police department, Chairman Kessler wanted to thank the nine other communities that responded to the fire. The Appleseed Inn (Fenton Family) brought food for the 60+ firefighters and policemen on the scene. He therefore wanted to thank the Fenton family for all they did to support our emergency crews that day.

Chairman Kessler stated that the police department also had an emergency and were assisted by the EMS.

Chairman Kessler asked if it was appropriate to send a letter of thanks to all the departments that assisted Newport and to the Fenton family who fed the First Responders.

Selectman Wilnot made the following two motions:

1. *The Board of Selectmen send our heartfelt thanks to all emergency services for that weekend(of fire and criminal activity)*
2. *The Board of Selectmen send a separate letter thanking the Fenton family for their generous support and donation.*

They were seconded by Selectman Hooper. *The motions passed 5-0-0.*

Town Manager Rieseberg was asked to draw up the appropriate letters. Due to the holidays, the Board concurred that Chairman Kessler would sign the letters of thanks for the Board.

Town Manager Rieseberg informed the public that the Town Offices will be closed for the holiday on December 25 and December 26.

INFORMATIONAL: Review and Prioritize Town Manager’s Project List: Town Manager Rieseberg passed out the project list to the BOS and addressed the Board members, stating they could prioritize the list at the December 17, 2018 meeting or at a separate meeting. There was a short discussion on the listed items. Town Manager Rieseberg and the BOS answered questions from the public.

Subjects were:

- 1) CIP
- 2) Fee adjustments
- 3) Update Zoning Regulations
- 4) Removal of abandoned water tank
- 5) Opera House agreement

Community Center Fundraising Update: Town Manager Rieseberg told the BOS that \$100,000 has been raised thus far. Selectman Fratzel the Friends of Rec have taken on the fundraising aspect of the project. They will be hosting a Rally for Friends of Rec on Sunday, January 6, 2018 at the Rec Center. A pledge thermometer is being ordered for the Common. The Friends of the Rec are making plans for fundraising during Winter Carnival. They are trying to decide on various fundraising for the building.

The Community Center Committee will be meeting in the third floor of the Town Offices on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 6:30 pm. It will be a working meeting with the BreadLoaf company.

Chairman Kessler added that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) will be meeting in the Lou Thompson Room at the high school on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6 pm.

Update on Progress of First, Second, Third, Fourth and Knoll Streets Progress: Town Manager Rieseberg stated that conditions in the construction area have improved considerably with the cold weather. United Construction has done a good job of boxing things in and getting a good (road) surface for the winter. They are shutting down for the winter. When asked, Town Manager Rieseberg stated that to the best of his knowledge United Construction would be responsible for plowing and road maintenance this winter on the roads.

ACTION ITEMS: Amendment to Belknap Avenue Lease Agreement: Chairman Kessler stated this lease agreement had a revised date. It is for the land around the Rec Center. Town Manager Rieseberg stated that it is for the strip of land around the current Rec Center. The Town had a Warrant Article pass for the purchase of the land. Some legal complications have arisen with the sale; this amendment is to extend the agreement through June 30th of 2019.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board authorized Town Manager Rieseberg to sign the updated lease "first amendment to agreement between Parcel 71, LLC and the Town of Newport, New Hampshire dated February 12, 2012" and amended the 17th day of December, 2018. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

APPOINTMENTS: none


NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel at 7:03 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted unanimously to exit the non-public session at 7:44 p.m.*

No action was taken.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board adjourned at 7:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for January 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: January 7, 2019