

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for Meeting of January 21, 2019 6:30 pm

Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building

15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul Brown, Finance Director; James Burroughs, Chief of Police; David McCrillis, Assistant Fire Chief; Liz Emerson, Zoning Administrator; Cody Morrison, Town Economic Development Coordinator; Judd Newcomb, Credere Associates, LLC

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Bert Spaulding, Sr.

NCTV: Louis Cassorla, John Lunn

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Chairman Wilmot called the regular meeting of the BOS to order at 6:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of New Town Economic Development Coordinator: Mr. Cody Morrison introduced himself to the Board members as the newly hired Town Economic Development_Coordinator. He gave a synopsis of his plans for the Town of Newport.

AGENDA REVIEW: Add Non-Meeting for contract negotiations

PUBLIC HEARING: The Town of Newport will be conducting a Public Hearing meeting on Monday, January 21, 2019 at 6:30 PM to gather comments on the draft Brownfields Cleanup Grant application being submitted to the federal EPA for the cleanup of the former Ambargis Mill Site, Newport, NH. The draft grant application is available for public review and comment in the Planning & Zoning Office, Town of Newport, 15 Sunapee Street Newport, NH. The draft grant application will be available for public comment from January 21, 2019 through January 28, 2019. An electronic version of the draft document can also be emailed to any interested party. Please contact Liz Emerson, Zoning Administrator, at 603-863-8010 or lemerson@newportnh.gov to receive a copy or to submit formal comments on the draft documents.

Acting Chairman Wilmot read the public hearing notice into the record. Town Manager Rieseberg acknowledged Ms. Liz Emerson and asked her to give an overview of the Brownfields Grant.

Ms. Emerson gave a synopsis of the Brownfields Cleanup Grant to the Board members present. She explained that the grant was awarded to towns to clean up areas in disarray. She explained the Ambargis Mill Site, its location and what made it a good location for the use of a Brownfields Grant.

Continuing, Ms. Emerson stated the Town was applying for a \$500,000 grant for the cleanup of the mill site. She listed the reasons the amount sought was so much. Referring to a packet the BOS members had, she stated there was a 20% cost share by the Town (did not need to be in cash), all application papers needed to be sent in by January 17, 2019 to New Jersey Institute of Technology's TAB program for review.

Ms. Emerson introduced Mr. Judd Newcomb of Credere Associates, LLC who had been helping her with the Brownfields grant application. She hoped that his company would be a top contender in the QEP phase of the project.

Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board and explained a bit further about what a Brownfields grant could accomplish for the Town of Newport.

Acting Chairman Wilmot asked Town Manager Rieseberg to explain for the general public what the nature of the contamination was at the Ambargis site. Mr. Newcomb stated that the prior owner ran a fuel blending site (he collected different types of fuel which he mixed and sold). PCBs and petroleum contaminated the site. The EPA and DES had already come to the site and cleaned it up but it still has additional contamination such as low level metals which creates an ingestion and runoff issue for the Sugar River. The major danger to the public is the building site itself; open foundations, lead, metals and asbestos. Mr. Newcomb explained the process needed to be undertaken to clean up the site so it can be used by the Town for another purpose.

Acting Chairman Wilmot asked if there were questions from the public. There being none, Acting Chairman Wilmot closed the public hearing.

Town Manager Rieseberg addressed Acting Chair Wilmot and asked for a BOS motion to formally support the Brownfields Cleanup Grant.

Acting Chair Wilmot entertained a motion by the Board.

Selectman Hooper asked how the Town came up with the \$500,000 figure for the grant. Ms. Emerson stated that that was the amount that Brownfields had as an amount to request. The \$500,000 would cover the cost of the amount of work cited in the BOS copy of the application packet. Mr. Newcomb addressed Selectman Hooper and stated that the Town could apply up to \$500,000. It was an appropriate amount of money for the amount of work needed to be done (he listed several items) and the in kind money by the Town (he explained ways for the Town to use in kind materials and labor instead of paying \$100,000).

Selectman Connell moved *to support the Town of Newport application for the Brownfields Cleanup Grant*. Selectman Hooper seconded the motion. *The motion passed 3-0-0.*

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): Minutes of January 7, 2019: Due to the absence of a voting quorum from the January 7, 2019 meeting the minutes were tabled.

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of January 21, 2019 as presented. The motion passed 3-0-0.*

There was a short explanation on two line items on the Consent Agenda (Assessing Officials Response Form).

OPEN FORUM: Mr. John Lunn, Executive Director of NCTV, informed the Board that after six months of work, the BOS meeting broadcast was officially on live television and live streaming. He asked the BOS if NCTV could put a sandwich board sign on the Common to advertise upcoming events on NCTV. Town Manager Rieseberg requested that he coordinate that through Sylvia McElreavy (Buildings and Grounds Department).

Mr. Lunn explained he wanted to make sure he didn't need Board approval to have a sandwich board on the Common. There was a short discussion on a NCTV sign on the Common and Mr. Lunn's plans for NCTV's new streaming and broadcasts.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. told the Board and Town Manager that in the past the Town had applied and received many CDBG grants. He asked if there were currently any grants the Town was applying for. Town Manager Rieseberg and Mr. Spaulding, Sr. held a discussion on applications of grants and leases with the Town.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. informed the Board and viewing public of the proposed \$5.55/1000 school tax increase. The school Deliberative Session will be held February 2, 2019 at the school gym at 9 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Hooper complimented all who worked on the skating rink for its wonderful condition. It has brought many families out to skate.

Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Acting Chairman Wilmot thanked the Public Works Department (PWD) for the wonderful job they have done during this difficult weekend's storm.

Town Manager Rieseberg wanted to mark the last day of work for Mr. Ken Dennis. He has retired from the Town after thirty years of dedicated service. We will miss him.

INFORMATIONAL: Yard Sale Permits – Liz Emerson, Zoning Administrator: Ms. Emerson explained the current issuance of yard sale permits from her office. She requested that the Town change their policy to the following: a Town-wide yard sale. There will be a \$10 fee for having a home listed on a map as having a yard sale. Ms. Emerson further explained her plan for a Town-wide yard sale to the Board members.

There was a general discussion between the Board members and Ms. Emerson. Acting Chair Wilmot stated, for clarification, that it would not change the Ordinance, only provide people the chance to be included in a Town wide sale. Ms. Emerson agreed with his statement.

Acting Chairman Wilmot asked if the BOS needed to take action, or if Ms. Emerson just needed an okay from the Board. Town Manager Rieseberg stated a motion would be welcome. On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board accepted the proposal by Zoning Administrator Liz Emerson, of a Town wide yard sale. The motion passed 3-0-0.***

The proposed date of the yard sale is July 6, 2019.

Outstanding Efforts – Newport Emergency Services: Acting Chairman Wilmot stated he had asked to have this agenda item at the meeting. Recently there have been several emergencies in which Newport's first responders had to provide assistance. Acting Chair Wilmot wanted to thank all first responders and DPW workers who have answered the many calls. He inquired if Town Manager Rieseberg could write a letter of thanks to the departments thanking them for their service. It will be signed by the Chairman of the BOS (Jeffrey Kessler).

Selectman Connell addressed all present and stated that one important thing was that all our responders work together. That cooperation adds to the exceptional work that our crews and first responders do. He thanked Police Chief Burroughs and Assistant Fire Chief McCrillis and their crews for all their hard work.

ACTION ITEMS: Acting Chairman Wilmot read the first Action Item: *Vote to accept and expend an \$8,400.00 donation from the Newport Service Organization (NSO) for AEMT Training, under NH RSA 31:95-b.*

Because there wasn't anyone at the meeting representing the NSO, Acting Chairman Wilmot asked Finance Director Brown to speak to the action item.

Finance Director Brown addressed the Board and stated he wanted to thank the NSO for the \$8,400 for AEMT classes. The NSO paid for eight EMT tuitions. The Town used training funds for the other expenses in the class.

Acting Chairman Wilmot addressed Finance Director Brown and asked him to give a “snapshot” of how the NSO raises its money and what they do with it.

Finance Director Brown stated that the NSO earns their money through the sale of clothing at the Newport Thrift Shoppe at the Newport Shopping Plaza. They are open daily and have donated thousands of dollars to the Town and other entities; their focus is on health/health related items.

Finance Director Brown stated for historical information that the Newport Service Organization is an offshoot of the old (Newport) Hospital Auxiliary. After the hospital closed they reorganized as the Newport Service Organization. Finance Director Brown then listed some of the storefronts on Main Street the Thrift Shoppe previously housed. They are currently located in the Newport Shopping Plaza.

Acting Chairman Wilmot asked Finance Director Brown if individuals could become members of the NSO. Finance Director Brown stated they were always looking for members and accepted monetary donations to go toward their mission statement.

Town Manager Rieseberg addressed those present and stated that it was a rare thing to see an organization such as the Newport Service Organization. They are truly a gem of the community and have been able to fill the gap and allow the Town to buy some really critical pieces of equipment. Town Manager Rieseberg listed several items purchased through donations and grants from the NSO; including providing funds for two ambulances that are actively being used. Concluding, Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the Ladies of the NSO were truly a remarkable group of people and he couldn't say enough good about them.

Acting Chairman Wilmot concurred, stating it's what makes Newport Newport.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Acting Chairman Wilmot; ***the Board voted to accept and expend the \$8,400.00 donation from the Newport Service Organization for AEMT Training. The motion passed 3-0-0.***

Acting Chairman Wilmot read Action Item Two: *Vote to accept and expend a \$9,450.00 donation from the Newport Service Organization for Matching Funds for USDA Stretcher Grant, under NH RSA 31:95-b.*

Town Manager Rieseberg stated that this action item was similar to the first, a donation from the NSO. The \$9,450 are matching funds that qualify the Town for a USDA grant for a stretcher. Again, the Ladies of the NSO have come to the rescue and filled the (financial) gap. It was extraordinary generosity by the NSO.

Acting Chairman Wilmot asked if the stretcher went in the back of the ambulance. Town Manager Rieseberg concurred with his statement.

Acting Chairman Wilmot addressed Assistant Fire Chief McCrillis and asked him to explain the stretcher. Assistant Fire Chief McCrillis explained that it was a new Stryker hydraulic stretcher with a battery pack for power. It rises to the height of the ambulance, locks in and will roll into the back of the ambulance. When using this type of stretcher the EMTs do not have to physically lift patients from the ground into the ambulance. It is safer for the EMTs and the patients, as well.

Continuing, Assistant Chief McCrillis stated the amount of money for the matching fund is approximately half the cost of the stretcher. The NSO graciously stepped in and donated the money. Assistant Fire Chief McCrillis told the Board members that the Newport Service Organization has given the ambulance/EMTs “tons of money”

throughout the years. The Thrift Shoppe is staffed totally by volunteers. As others have said at the meeting, they have supported the ambulances and EMTs throughout the years with (he believed) hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Concluding, Assistant Fire Chief McCrillis explained the AEMT course for the Board. He stated it would bring many Newport EMTs to the Immediate (Advanced) level. They would be able to provide advanced treatment capabilities to their patients in breathing treatments, and fluid and drug administration through intravenous, intraosseous and intramuscular methods.

Town Manager Rieseberg gave additional information on the virtues of the Stryker hydraulic stretcher.

Acting Chairman Wilmot asked for a motion to accept the matching grant funds from the Newport Service Organization.

On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted to accept and expend a \$9,450.00 donation from the Newport Service Organization for Matching Funds for USDA Stretcher Grant. The motion passed 3-0-0.***

Selectman Connell asked that the Town send a thank you letter to the NSO for their generosity. The Board members concurred with Selectman Connell.

APPOINTMENTS: Health Officer – David McCrillis, 3- Year Term Ending in 2022: Town Manager Rieseberg stated that the appointment at the January 21, 2019 was for Mr. David McCrillis as Health Officer.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board voted to appoint Mr. David McCrillis to the position of Health Officer for the Town of Newport for a three year term ending in 2022. The motion passed 3-0-0.***

On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. The motion passed 3-0-0.***

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for February 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: February 4, 2019