

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of June 1, 2020 6:30 pm
Public Hearing and Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 879 5162 1071 Password: 298444
+1 (253)215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.

NCTV: John Lunn

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kessler called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:33 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kessler read aloud a prepared statement explaining that due to the coronavirus the BOS was holding their meeting pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order #12. Individuals were allowed to participate in person at the BOS room, via telephone or via Zoom. He explained that all voting would be done by roll call vote as outlined in Emergency Order #12.

Chairman Kessler did a roll call attendance. Selectboard members Connell, Fratzel, Wilmot and Kessler were in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW: Was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Board off Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH regarding the acceptance and expenditure of the unanticipated grant revenues of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Chairman Kessler read aloud the public notice and list of twenty grants as well as their dollar amounts. He gave a brief synopsis of each grant.

1. A Northern Border Regional Commission grant to fund the construction of a new water intake system to replace the current system constructed in 1895. \$354,183
2. A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Community Development Finance Authority to replace the 40-year old emergency generator at the Riverbend Wastewater Pump Station in Guild. \$125,925
3. A NH DES Local Source Water Protection Grant to erect a gate at the Pollards Mill pump house. \$3,350
4. A CDBG for Economic Development to fund a study to determine the need for off-shift childcare. \$12,000
5. A Capital Regional Development Council grant to fund a study to determine the need for off-shift childcare. \$5,000
6. A Land and Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant to fund Opera House renovations. \$87,750
7. A New Hampshire Department of Historical Resources and National Park Service grant to fund the creation of interactive panels for the Pier and Wright Railroad Covered Bridges. \$6,500

8. A New Hampshire Preservation Alliance grant for funding 50% of a Condition Assessment of the Newport Opera House. \$4,500
9. A NH Emergency Management Preparedness Grant for emergency management equipment. \$82,453.73
10. A USDA Grant to fund rescue/fire equipment. \$24,893
11. A NH Attorney General's Office Pass-Through Grant from the Federal Byrne-Jag grant to fund the position of Drug Task Force Officer. \$60,000
12. A Homeland Security – NH Department of Safety to fund the position of Intelligence Liaison Officer. \$30,000
13. A NH Highway Safety Grant to fund DWI/Highway Enforcement. \$10,084.94
14. A NH Bureau of Aeronautics for the Newport Municipal Airport for 80% of the cost of a HLA Snowpush. \$2,500
15. A NH State Library Moose Plate Grant to conserve and digitize war documents from 1812 – 1907. \$9,335
16. An Oleonda Jameson Trust grant to fund the creation of a Tot Lot. \$15,000
17. An FAA grant for the Newport Municipal Airport. \$30,000
18. A CDBG for the study of public transportation feasibility study for bus service through Newport. \$12,000
19. A NHDES Source Water Protection plan for Gilman Pond. \$17,200
20. A USDA Community Facilities Grant for ambulance replacement. \$50,000

Selectman Hooper dialed into the meeting at this time (6:52 p.m.)

Also discussed was:

- ❖ Cares Act Provider Relief Fund \$14,128.26
- ❖ Covid 19 hazard stipend to EMTs \$82,545.55
- ❖ Coronavirus Relief Fund (payments to local governments) \$153,174.00

(It was explained this was a reimbursement of Covid-19 expenditures by State of NH)

- ❖ Newport Community Fund money \$12,500.00
- ❖ Newport Charitable Trust Grant \$20,000.00

The meeting was opened to the public. After receiving a hard copy of the grants and their amounts, Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. reviewed each proposed grant with Chairman Kessler, Finance Director Brown and Town Manager Rieseberg. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated the last five items were not on the posted list. There was a discussion on the list.

There being no further questions or comments, Chairman Kessler closed the Public Hearing. The Board concurred to vote at this time on whether to accept the twenty grants. (**ACTION ITEM** was taken out of order).

Selectman Fratzel a motion: *to accept the unanticipated revenues for the 2019-2020 fiscal year as discussed in the public hearings; items 1-20 on the document dated May 15, 2020, also three items in an email dated May 29, 2020 and two additional items Town Manager Rieseberg mentioned from the Newport Community Fund and Newport Charitable Trust. Also, to authorize Town Manager Rieseberg to sign any and all documents related to these grants.* The motion was seconded by Selectman Connell. Chairman Kessler called for a roll call vote. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Town Manager Rieseberg thanked staff in all departments for their hard work finding and acquiring the above grants.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): May 18, 2020: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

NPS May 18, 2020: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the NPS minutes of the May 18, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the Consent Agenda of the June 1, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board members and gave his opinion on the current state of affairs, personal freedoms and the role of government in this time of pandemic and suffering.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated he has asked for documentation from the Town of Newport.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Hooper was in transit from work. He addressed Chairman Kessler and asked that he read aloud the letter from Mr. Ed Karr concerning the ZBA Case #1090 which was heard on May 21, 2020. Chairman Kessler agreed to his request. Selectman Hooper also stated that people had informed him they were happy to have a date and plan for the Town Deliberative Session.

Selectman Wilmot stated Chairman Kessler had correspondence from the Richard Free Library about Ms. Vicki Carl's retirement.

Selectman Connell had also heard positive comments about holding the Town Deliberative Session. He also voiced his concerns about the characterizations of First Responders in the news. He wanted to say that he supported them.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler read aloud:

- A letter of protest from Mr. Ed Karr with his concerns on ZBA Case #1090.
Chairman Kessler explained the case, the ZBA's concerns, and the fact that the public will be able to go to or contact the Planning Board. He thanked Mr. Karr for his letter.
- A letter from the Board of Selectmen thanking Vicki Carl for her years of service to the Town and congratulating her on her retirement.
- A press release on Vicki Carl's 37 years of service to the Town, the library and its patrons.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Update/Review of Process for Deliberative Session: Town Manager Rieseberg gave a statement of the rules and regulations that would be followed for the Deliberative Session on June 9, 2020.

- Location: Town Common, with tent and social distancing
- Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. NCTV will have outdoor lighting if needed
- Audio/video broadcast: NCTV
- No touching microphones. They will be wiped down and sanitized at the meeting if they are.
- Several containers of hand sanitizer will be available throughout the tent and area
- Continuously posting how the Deliberative Session will be held

The Ruger Company donated face masks and face shields.

APPOINTMENTS: none

Chairman Kessler announced to the viewing public that the High School will do a modified graduation at the school football field on June 10, 2020 at 6 p.m. Chairman Kessler congratulated all the graduating seniors.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell, *the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II (d) Real Estate and RSA 91-A:3II(e) Litigation at 8:03 pm. The motion passed 4-0-0. (Selectman Hooper had left meeting).*

Present were Selectboard members Jeffrey Kessler and Todd Fratzel and Barry Connell in the BOS Room. Present via Zoom was Bill Wilmot. Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg was also in attendance in the BOS Room.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board exited NPS at 9:32 pm.*

No action was taken.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:33 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for June 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: July 6, 2020