

**TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes for Meeting of September 14, 2020 6:30 pm**  
**Public Hearing and Regular Business Meeting**  
**Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773**  
**Remote Access:**  
**Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 854 5632 6832 Password: 613062**  
**+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)**

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**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman; Barry Connell, Herbert Tellor, Jr.; John Hooper II

**SELECTMEN ABSENT:** none

**STAFF PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; Todd Cartier, Director of Public Works; Tom Lambert, Newport Water and Sewer Superintendent; Cody Morrison, Economic Development Coordinator *Via Zoom:* none

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** *BOS Room:* Kathy Hubert, Peter Franklin and Bert Spaulding, Sr.; *Via Zoom:* Malory Tetreault, Virginia Irwin

**NCTV:** John Lunn

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kessler called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:34 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW: MOVE ACTION ITEMS:** 1. Discussion on Proposed Easement for the Expansion of the Town of Newport's Water Supply. The property is located at 32 Callum Road, Unity, NH. 2. Review and Discussion of Sand Hill Temporary Bridge Proposal **TO AFTER CONSENT AGENDA** (Fratzel); **ADD TO INFORMATIONAL:** Economic Update by Cody Morrison, Economic Development Coordinator (Kessler)

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S):** August 17, 2020 - On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

September 2, 2020 - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

*Selectman Hooper joined the Board of Selectman meeting in the BOS Room at 6:36 p.m.*

NPS September 2, 2020 - On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the non-public session minutes of the September 2, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:** On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the August 17, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

**ACTION ITEMS:** Discussion on Proposed Easement for the Expansion of the Town of Newport's Water Supply. The property is located at 32 Callum Road, Unity, NH. - Public Works Director, Todd Cartier, explained to the BOS that it was the expansion for the easement at Gilman Pond and the water intake. Town Manager Rieseberg addressed Chairman Kessler and asked to give the history of the project.

- 1) Project began due to the water shortage experienced a few summers ago
- 2) All Newport water coming from one supply (Gilman Pond)
- 3) The intake was only several feet from the surface; limiting the volume of water Newport could use
- 4) Applied for Capstone Program with the University of New Hampshire (UNH)
  - a) Senior Engineering students evaluated the water source and how to access more of the water
  - b) Used their information for a grant to design and implement new intake. It will allow four times (quadruple) the amount of water used from Gilman Pond
- 5) The project has been designed and bid out for construction. Construction of a new intake will occur soon.

Town Manager Rieseberg stated it was discovered that a new easement was necessary. Mr. Todd Cartier said that the easement has been expanded and they had a preconstruction meeting with the contractors. They were ready to start work on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. There is an estimated forty five (45) days to complete the construction.

When asked, Town Manager Rieseberg stated there was no action necessary from the Board. Mr. Cartier and he wanted to inform the Board members of the status of the project. It will be done at no cost to the local taxpayer. Selectman Fratzel stated, for clarification, that the easement in question is a revised one, not a new one. Town Manager Rieseberg agreed with Selectman Fratzel. There was general discussion on the project and new easement.

With the Board's approval, the Town will now look into a second source of water; that from a North Newport location.

Review and Discussion of Sand Hill Temporary Bridge Proposal - Town Manager Rieseberg addressed Chairman Kessler and asked to give the history of the project.

1. The State of New Hampshire (NH) directed Newport to close Sand Hill bridge due to severe deterioration of the superstructure.
2. State gave option of creating a one lane bridge-it was not conducive to trucking.
3. One business on street has worked with local company to create a temporary route (for trucks). There has been discussion on putting in a temporary bridge in place of the current bridge. Town estimates it could be built within the next two months.
4. The cost estimates are (depending how long temporary bridge is in service):
  - ❖ \$12,000 for engineering of the project
  - ❖ \$50,000 to \$75,000 to build. Bridge will get the Town through the spring 2021. Town is uncertain when they could replace the bridge.
  - ❖ \$10,000 to deliver the bridge.
  - ❖ \$10,000 to remove the bridge.

There will be an ongoing cost for the rental of the temporary bridge.

- ❖ \$3,000/month for the use (rental) of the bridge.

The Town is authorized for the replacement of the Sand Hill bridge through the design phase; it was not anticipated for complete replacement (construction) now. Town Manager Rieseberg explained Town Meeting voting on payment of construction costs, the fact that the Sand Hill bridge was on the state's list for 80/20 funding and they will apply the funding to the temporary bridge. The Selectboard, Town

Manager Rieseberg and Mr. Cartier discussed aspects of the existing bridge and temporary bridge as well as the cost of replacing the Sand Hill bridge. Town Manager Rieseberg stated it had come before the BOS because it was an unbudgeted expense (the 20% match). Chairman Kessler asked if a motion from the Board was needed. Town Manager Rieseberg said yes, to memorialize that the Town would expend some money that was unanticipated. For clarification, Selectman Hooper asked if the voters at Town Meeting approved monies for engineering and final design of a new Sand Hill bridge. He asked if the BOS needed to do anything statutorily to enter into a contract for a temporary bridge. Town Manager Rieseberg stated no. He reiterated the costs that would be incurred.

The Selectboard concurred it was emergency and safety funding. After a general discussion on the project, Selectman Fratzel made a motion *to authorize Town Manager Rieseberg to sign the Change Order: One with Kleinfelder to incorporate temporary Bridge Assistance into their current bridge contract, to move forward with a temporary bridge for Sand Hill Road and to authorize Town Manager Rieseberg to sign all necessary documents.* It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

**OPEN FORUM:** Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. gave his resignation from the Newport Planning Board to the Board of Selectmen. It will be effective September 16, 2020. (Chairman Kessler added the resignation to the agenda Action Items)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time

Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Hooper:

- ❖ Congratulated everyone for their hard work organizing the fireworks (by the NH Pyrotechnic Association) held at Parlin Field on Saturday, September 12, 2020.
- ❖ Stated the Rec Center's fall sports teams are looking for coaches. Call the Rec if interested.

Chairman Kessler:

- Thanked everyone who voted (1,107 Newport voters or 25%) at the Primary Election. He stated the General Election will be held on November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 7 am to 7 pm at Towle Gym.
- Informed the public that the Oak Street Bridge will be closed starting Monday, September 21 to replace the bridge deck. Signs will inform travelers of detours (via Pine Street or Corbin Road).

Town Manager Rieseberg Informed the Board and viewers of:

1. The completion of the Tot Lot on the corner of Maple and Laurel Streets (4-6 weeks)
2. The completed sidewalk repair on Laurel and Maple Streets
3. Sidewalk repair work on Main Street
4. Crosswalks and crosswalk signage
5. The completion of the annual road paving
6. Repair of bridge deck on Oak Street
7. Work on the Old Courthouse being done
  - a. Trim painted
8. Work on the Opera House:
  - a. Exterior washing
  - b. Repointing of the bricks
  - c. Drainage improvements

- d. Flooring
- e. Carpeting throughout building

Mrs. Kathy Hubert addressed Town Manager Rieseberg and stated that during the Newport Arts Congress flood lights had been installed in the ground which had lit the Opera House at night. She didn't know if the fixtures were still there and if they were, would they be fixed and relit at night. Town Manager Rieseberg stated they would. They were tentatively scheduled for the end of the month/ by Thanksgiving.

Chairman Kessler also informed the Town Manager Rieseberg of potholes on Laurel Street and its sidewalk he would like fixed. Town Manager Rieseberg stated he would pass on the information.

**INFORMATIONAL: NCTV Management Agreement** - Chairman Kessler stated he and Selectman Connell had had meetings with NCTV. He had drafts of the agreement for the Selectboard to review. He asked that they contact him or Selectman Connell with comments or concerns with the agreement. Chairman Kessler said that the Board wanted to work with NCTV to ensure that their customers were getting the programs they need and that NCTV has resources to do the outreach they are doing with the school and the community.

Selectman Connell said that he thought it was a good discussion (with NCTV). The Town and NCTV are moving and expanding. The Town wants to support NCTV. He appreciates the input from the board members and the agreement shows that the Town reps listened. Mrs. Hubert agreed and thanked Selectman Connell. There was a short discussion on the NCTV vision. Chairman Kessler again asked for comments to be sent to him, Selectman Connell, Mrs. Hubert or Mr. Franklin.

Mr. John Lunn, Executive Director NCTV addressed the BOS and asked permission to take the electrical wires and run them through the ceiling (aesthetics and safety). Chairman Kessler stated he would have to contact Town Manager Rieseberg concerning that. Mr. Lunn also informed them that the BOS meeting (channel 10) and the Sullivan County Delegation meeting (channel 8) were being broadcast simultaneously.

**Economic Update by Cody Morrison, Economic Development Coordinator** - Mr. Morrison listed the grant projects that he has been a part of while in Newport:

- Gilman Pond intake project- \$354,000 grant
- Riverbend Wastewater Pump Station Emergency Generator (complete)
- Fencing replacement around pump station
- Transportation Grant: connecting the Upper Valley with Sullivan County (public bus route)
- Off shift Childcare Program-the study is posted online
- New Economic Strategic Plan-worked with ECON; hired firm to produce document on Newport's economy and an implementation plan for growth

School:

- School to Work Program. Checklist of necessary skills needed for the workforce
- ECON to get transportation funds for the students

Effect of pandemic on Newport:

- Housing boom
- Three new businesses
- Many job openings

Chairman Kessler asked about housing in Newport for businesses. Mr. Morrison stated that workforce housing will allow the business owners places for their employees. Chairman Kessler asked for the definition of CEDS. Mr. Morrison said that it stood for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). It is another tool to get grant money. One grant program is earmarked for infrastructure with a

\$30,000,000 award ceiling. Without CEDS, Newport misses out on federal grant money that is available to other areas. The county and other areas have picked it up. Mr. Morrison said if Newport became a part of CEDS, it would give them one more tool for grant money.

Selectman Connell thanked Mr. Morrison for his work in Newport and wished him luck at his new job.

Selectman Fratzel wished Mr. Morrison good luck at his new job.

Selectman Tellor wished Mr. Morrison good luck at his new job.

Selectman Hooper thanked Mr. Morrison and wished him luck at his new job.

Chairman Kessler thanked Mr. Morrison and wished him luck at his new job.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Resignation of Bert Spaulding, Sr. from the Planning Board - On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; ***the Board accepted with regret the resignation of Bert Spaulding, Sr. from the Newport Planning Board. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper, ***the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(e) Litigation at 7:30 pm. The motion passed 5-0-0.*** Chairman Kessler stated Mrs. Virginia Irwin was joining the NPS.

***The Board exited NPS at 8:13 pm.***

The Selectboard went into a non-meeting with the Town's attorney at 8:13 pm and adjourned the non-meeting at 8:48 pm.

***The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:48 pm.***

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

Approved on: October 5, 2020

**The meeting of the Board of Selectmen scheduled for September 21, 2020 has been CANCELLED.**

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for October 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**