

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for Meeting of May 6, 2019 6:30 pm
Regular Business Meeting, Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: Barry Connell

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director; Tony Timbrell, Director of Public Works; Todd Cartier, Water/Sewer Superintendent; Liselle Dufort, Town Clerk

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Herb Tellow, Linda Wadensten, Rhonda Callum-King; Jackie Cote, Lisa Ferrigno, Dick Wentzell and Bert Spaulding, Sr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Nall, P.E. NHDES; Peter Pitsas, P.E. Underwood Engineers; Margaret Blank, P.E. Underwood Engineers

NCTV: Louis Cassorla

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kessler called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: Add Proclamation before Town Report (Kessler).

PROCLAMATION FOR TOWN CLERK: Chairman Kessler read aloud a Proclamation for National Town Clerk Week, May 5-11, 2019. The Board thanked Town Clerk Dufort for all she does.

DEDICATION OF THE TOWN REPORT: Chairman Kessler announced that the 2018 Town Report is dedicated to William B. Ruger, Jr. and also in Memoriam to Oliver Lorenzo Zullo. There were no members of either family in attendance at the BOS meeting. Copies will be available to the public at the Town Library and Town Office. It will also be put online.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): Minutes of April 15, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the BOS minutes of the April 15, 2019 meeting with the following addition: Page 4, under Review of Warrant Articles, Warrant Article 3 add, "Keeping of Hens". Chairman Kessler explained the Article was an amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Newport Zoning Ordinance.* Chairman Kessler called for a vote on the amended minutes. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

NPS Minutes of April 15, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the BOS NPS minutes of the April 15, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Minutes of April 29, 2019: On a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted to approve the BOS minutes of the April 29, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Kessler abstained).*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of May 6, 2019 as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Jackie Cote addressed the BOS members and stated that it has come to her attention that there is a lot of dog manure on the turf runway. She asked if the Board could have signs put up to deter this to continue. They addressed posting signage about the Newport dog ordinance as was on the Common.

Dick Wentzell addressed the Board with concerns on the Town Assessor, George Hildum. His concerns included assessing amounts, timesheets, payment and overseeing of Mr. Hildum's position. He asked that the BOS look into these items and to bid out the Town Assessor job. Chairman Kessler thanked Mr. Wentzell. The Town Manager would look into it.

Linda Wadensten addressed the Board and read aloud a prepared statement. It included her surprise of the intense criticism of her position as Chair of the Newport School Board that was vocalized at a BOS meeting after she had become a candidate for a Selectboard seat. Chairman Kessler and Selectman Fratzel had invited her to the BOS meeting to refute the statements made. Referring to the Board of Selectmen Operational Guideline Handbook she succinctly refuted items that had been stated. Concluding, she stated that she hoped the BOS would not let the Open Forum be a vehicle for disgruntled citizens to attack members of other Boards.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. read aloud a prepared statement to the BOS and criticized Linda Wadensten, candidate running for a Selectman's position in 2019. He criticized many things that have happened in the school system, school board as well as her character while Ms. Wadensten has been the Chair of the School Board.

Chairman Kessler addressed Mr. Spaulding, Sr. and said the following.

1. Chairman Kessler stated that he (Mr. Spaulding, Sr.) stated that the school budget scared the voters. The voters passed it.
2. Leadership. The School Board and Board of Selectmen are lay boards. They both depend on professionals that are hired to make sure items are done and in the proper timeframe.
3. Free Speech, the 1st Amendment. The BOS felt they needed to hear from the community. There is no state law requiring hearing from the public at meetings. Individual Boards make their own decision as to having public input or to have a time limit during public participation.

Ms. Wadensten said she was not going to get into a debate (at the BOS meeting). She asked that the voters look into the facts for themselves. She thanked Chairman Kessler.

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. refuted Chairman Kessler's three statements (above).

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Wilmot congratulated the community on their outstanding efforts at the Clean Up Day. He invited people to attend the airport Open House May 18, 2019. Among events will be a pancake breakfast, Young Eagle flights and fireworks in the evening.

Selectman Hooper stated the Montessori School had their "Bid for Kids" at the Opera House. It was well attended. He concurred with Selectman Wilmot that the Clean Up Day was good. Kathy Hubert's workshop on April 30, 2019 at the Newport High School was good; very constructive. He also went to the Open House "Expo" at the High School. Selectman Hooper stated there were some excellent teachers at the school. He gave his opinion of the state of affairs at the school.

Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Chairman Kessler read aloud a letter sent from Mrs. Kathy Hubert on the educational funding bills to school districts in NH currently in the NH Legislature. He reminded people that on May 14, 2019 8 am to 7 pm voting

on Town Warrant Articles, two Selectboard positions and one Trustee of the Trust Fund position would be held. He reminded people to bring their photo identification; voters could register on May 14th at the polls.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Water Assessment Management Report-Peter Pitsas, P.E., Underwood Engineers: Mr. Tony Timbrell introduced Peter Pitsas, P.E. and Margaret Blank, P.E. of Underwood Engineers. He explained their role assisting Newport with the Water Asset Management Program, what it will entail and how they will be assisting Newport.

Town Manager Rieseberg told the Board that they would hear the first (water) of three reports Underwood Engineers will be doing. The second report will be an analysis of the Waste Water System. The third will be a Storm Water System analysis. The goal was to have a comprehensive CIP in place by the end of the summer 2019.

Mr. Pitsas addressed the BOS and stated they would hear “Asset Management” a lot; it will become a part of all grant applications associated with DPW projects.

Mr. Pitsas introduced Ms. Sharon Nall, P.E. of the NHDES. She was at the meeting to answer any questions the Board had.

Ms. Margaret Blank explained the Town of Newport engaged Underwood Engineers to develop an asset management program (AMP) for its water supply, storage and distribution system. The project has been funded by a \$20,000 SRF grant. The Town will contribute a \$20,000 match.

She then gave a power point presentation which encompassed:

- Asset Inventory and Condition Assessment
- Level of Service (LOS)
- Criticality
- Minimum Life Cycle Cost (Practices)
- Long-Term Funding Strategy (Budget)
- Implementation and Communication Plan
- Recommendations and next Steps

Ms. Nall commended Newport for taking the steps to be in the asset management program. She said that goals for the Town of Newport should be “SMART” specific, m measurable, attainable, r realistic and timely. They should be what is important to the BOS and what is important to their customers. NHDES asked that they develop a vision statement.

There was a discussion between Ms. Nall, Underwood representatives and Tony Timbrell about paperwork to be drafted and prioritizing projects in Newport.

Agenda Items were taken out of order.

ACTION ITEMS: Opera House Fee Waiver- Newport Middle and High Schools (NMHS) Request for Waiver of Opera House Fees for May 21, 2019 Honors Banquet: Ms. Lisa Ferrigno addressed the BOS and explained the current NMHS Honors Banquet and who is recognized. She requested the use of the Opera House with a waiver of the rental fee. They would pay the custodian fee.

A motion was made by Selectman Fratzel *to approve the waiver of Opera House fees for the May 21, 2019 Honors Banquet.* It was seconded by Selectman Wilmot. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Ms. Ferrigno thanked the Board. She asked if a representative of the Newport Teachers Association would need to annually attend a BOS meeting to ask for a waiver. She was told yes.

Top Dog Contest: Town Clerk Dufort addressed the BOS and stated they needed to pick the Top Dog for 2019. Town Clerk Dufort explained the contest to the BOS and viewing public and listed the names of places that donated prizes to the 3 winners. The three winners were drawn by Selectmen. Winners were:

1. Mia owned by Mary Poulos
2. Nica owned by Nick Heacock
3. Fenway owned by Wayne Rossiter and Tammy Trembley

Chairman Kessler thanked the sponsors for the prizes they had donated. He was told by Town Clerk Dufort that May was a grace month for registering dogs. Also, if a dog is spayed, neutered or dies, the Town Clerk will only know if notified by the owner; therefore please inform the Clerk's Office of any changes.

INFORMATIONAL: Warrant Article Review: Chairman Kessler read aloud the Warrant Articles at the meeting. He reminded people that May 14, 2019 is voting day in Newport.

Warrant Article 1. Will be to elect two Selectmen for a three year term (four people are running).

Warrant Article 2. Elect a trustee of trust funds (one candidate is running).

Warrant Article 3. Keeping of Hens. Chairman Kessler explained the Article was an amendment as proposed by the Planning Board for the Newport Zoning Ordinance.

Warrant Article 4. Chairman Kessler explained the Article, the fundraising and the Bond for Article 4. He stated that the Article needed 60% of voters to vote in favor for it to pass. The first year tax impact will be \$.72.

Warrant Article 5. Chairman Kessler explained the Bond Article, the reason for it and potential fines if not passed.

Warrant Article 6. Chairman Kessler read aloud the Operating Budget Article.

Chairman Kessler read aloud the final Warrant Articles; Warrant Article 7; Warrant Article 8; Warrant Article 9; Warrant Article 10; Warrant Article 11; Warrant Article 12 - 3/5ths majority vote required; Warrant Article 13; Warrant Article 14.

Community Center Funding Update: Selectman Fratzel stated 1.76 million dollars has been raised (760,000 by the Town). Chairman Kessler said that the Town goal was 3 million dollars. Nothing will be done (construction) until the Town has raised 3 million dollars. Selectman Fratzel stated that pledges were coming in, things were going well.

Report on Clean Up Day: Town Manager Rieseberg gave some statistics on the Clean Up Day.

- ❖ The Town of Newport, Jake Maxfield Connection and Comcast Cares combined their efforts.
- ❖ Filled 500 bags of trash
- ❖ 132 volunteers
- ❖ 25.5 miles of road was addressed
- ❖ 300 feet of fence was rebuilt at the high school
- ❖ Rebuilt the visitors bleacher fence at the high school

Buildings and Grounds were still picking up the blue collection bags.

Chairman Kessler thanked Comcast and Comcast Cares for supporting the community.

ACTION ITEMS: Appointment of Selectmen Pro Tem and Schedule of Selectmen Coverage for May 14, 2019: Chairman Kessler stated there had been two citizens who had volunteered to be Selectmen Pro Tem. Mr. Larry Cote and Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. were the candidates. Two Selectmen were candidates for reelection and would not be able to cover the polls on May 14, 2019.

A motion was made by Selectman Wilmot *to appoint Mr. Larry Cote and Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. as Selectmen Pro Tem for May 14, 2019 voting.* The motion was seconded by Selectman Fratzel. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Selectman Wilmot stated he would be able to cover the polls from 8 am to 12 noon and from 4 pm to 7 pm. Selectman Hooper was asked to create a spreadsheet for the Board and Town Clerk showing coverage by Selectmen and Selectmen Pro Tem.

Main Street Sidewalk Improvement Plan: Town Manager Rieseberg told the BOS that the annual sidewalk project for the summer of 2019 would be on Main Street from the Police Department to Village Pizza and north of the Sugar River Bank (SRB) to the gas station (Oak Street intersection) as well as Park Street.

The question is how the sidewalk should be done. North of SRB will have granite curbs and black top surfaces. Near Village Pizza the replacement will be a granite curb and concrete surface, keeping with the pattern on Main Street. Did the BOS want to use a traditional gray concrete surface or the same cobblestone pattern as Main Street and stain the concrete? There was a \$6500 difference between the two (\$6500 more to apply the stamp and stain). The stained will match the rest of the Main Street cobblestone. Both totals would be on budget.

There was a discussion between the Board members and Town Manager Rieseberg on the two choices of finishes. *It was the concurrence of the BOS that the replaced curbing and sidewalks would be a granite curb and a plain concrete surface.*

Mr. Louis Cassorla addressed the Board and stated that the curbing in front of the Village Pizza was very high. Selectman Fratzel stated that was the bridge (State), not the Town curbing. Mr. Cassorla asked if the Town had any control (to lower the curbing to standard height). He was told no. The new curbing that was the Town's responsibility would be 7" or less.

Review of Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Sullivan County Regarding the Opera House: The BOS members reviewed the revised Memorandum between the County and the Town. It was the result of a meeting between Town Manager Rieseberg, Selectman Connell and County representatives. Questions and concerns under goals (in the Memorandum) were the following: Number one, Number two, Number three, Number four, Number five, Number twelve.

Additional items were discussed, including the elevator. Town Manager Rieseberg would meet with the County representatives again to discuss the Memorandum and concerns that the Selectmen have expressed.

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 (e) Litigation and RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation at 9:04 pm. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

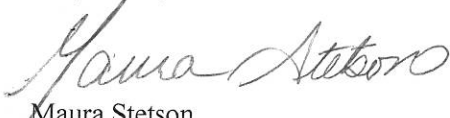
Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg was asked to attend the NPS.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted unanimously to exit the non-public session at 10:04 p.m.*

No action was taken.

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:04 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for May 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: May 13, 2019