

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Board of Selectmen Minutes of May 16, 2022 Regular Business Meeting - **REVISED**

Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773

Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 897 3255 0216 Passcode: 399901

+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

SELECTMEN PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Barry Connell, Vice Chairman; Keith Sayer, Herbert Tellor, Jr; James Burroughs

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Brent Wilmot, Police Chief; Paul J. Brown, Finance Director and Acting Town Manager *via zoom:* Hunter F. Rieseberg, Town Manager

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Morris, Tim Beard and Bert Spaulding, Sr.

NCTV: John Lunn, Executive Director NCTV

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Town Manager Brown called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD ORGANIZATION: Acting Town Manager Brown stated that the Board of Selectmen would be electing officers for the upcoming year and asked for a nomination for the position of Chairman. Selectman Connell made a motion *to elect Selectman Jeffrey Kessler to the position of Chairman*. It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. There were no other nominations. Acting Town Manager Brown called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Kessler abstained).*

Chairman Kessler took over the meeting.

Chairman Kessler asked for a nomination for the position of Vice Chairman. Selectman Tellor made a motion *to elect Selectman Barry Connell to the position of Vice Chairman*. It was seconded by Selectman Sayer. There were no other nominations. Chairman Kessler called for a vote. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Connell abstained).*

AGENDA REVIEW: ADD: Proclamations to the agenda (Kessler)

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK: Selectman Burroughs read aloud a proclamation recognizing National Law Enforcement Week; May 15-22. He stated that the Newport Police Department provides critical role to the citizens of Newport twenty four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7). The Selectboard thanked Police Chief Wilmot for his department's hard work and presented him a copy of the Proclamation to post at the Police Department. Police Chief Wilmot thanked the Board for their kind words.

PROCLAMATION: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) WEEK: Selectman Connell read aloud the proclamation recognizing May 15-22, 2022 as EMS Week. He stated that the Newport EMS provides vital medical assistance to the citizens of Newport twenty four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7). The Board thanked the Newport EMS for their service.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): May 2, 2022 - On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the revised minutes of the May 2, 2022 BOS meeting. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Burroughs abstained).*

NPS May 2, 2022 - On a motion by Selectman Tellow, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the nonpublic session minutes of the May 2, 2022 BOS meeting as revised. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Burroughs abstained).*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellow; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 16, 2022 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board and voiced complaints about the school superintendent, school board meeting and policies, district and his view of Freedom of Speech. Mr. Tim Beard addressed the Board and stated that although there was an agenda item concerning Maple Street, he wanted to emphasize the need to fill in the streets' potholes. He explained the gravity of the situation. He also informed the Board of Mr. Morris and him running the Sunshine 5K. They had raised donations for a school snack program. He wanted to thank Police Chief Wilmot for matching their donations for the cause. Mr. Beard stated that Chief Wilmot was involved in many Town activities that went unnoticed; he thanked him for his dedication to Newport. When asked how much money they had raised, Mr. Beard said \$910, all of which would be going toward the Richards School Snack Program. There was no one on zoom who wanted to speak during Open Forum.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Tellow thanked the voters in Town for coming out to vote on May 10, 2022. Selectman Burroughs also thanked the voters in Town for coming out to vote on May 10, 2022. He thanked them for their support in electing him as a Selectman. He looked forward to serving Newport again. Selectman Sayer thanked Mr. Jay Lucas for coming to Newport on May 10, 2022 to campaign for the Community Center. Selectman Connell thanked the voters in Town for coming out to vote on May 10, 2022. He also thanked the women who worked the polls. It was one of the best run elections he's ever seen. They always work very hard at every election. He wanted to thank everyone responsible for putting together the Newport Times. In his opinion it is an outstanding magazine. Chairman Kessler - Stated he had attended the last school board meeting and was impressed with Ms. Patrice Glancey's very detailed and informative presentation on the Richards school's academic plan; he was disappointed at the low attendance; Said four students were attending St. Paul's School (SPS) Advanced Studies Program; one Newport senior received a Gates Scholarship (out of 39,000 applicants/300 awarded) which will pay for 4 years of tuition (\$30,000-\$50,000 annually); thanked the 1,298 people who voted at Town Meeting. Acting Town Manager Brown informed the Board members that the Town had applied for four congressional directed spending requests; last year they had been awarded three such grants; have submitted 10-11 grants for water/sewer infrastructure grants; Wednesday May 18, 2022 the Chamber of Commerce will be having their annual presentation of: Business of the Year (Coronis Market), Non Profit of the Year (Jake Maxfield Connection) and Citizen of the Year (Tim Spanos) and recognizing four students. The Town will be represented by some of the Selectmen. They did not receive a Brownsfield grant again this year. The Town is appealing the decision.

INFORMATIONAL: Maple Street Paving - Chairman Kessler stated that last week a contract had been awarded to Pike Industries. Beginning in two weeks they will fill in the potholes and pave (overlay the road) from South Main Street up to Bradford Road from curb to curb. Work will be weather dependent. Acting Town Manager Brown stated that in speaking with the Public Works Director, if the Town can get some "hot patch" from a plant they plan to do some of the potholes.

Community Center - Chairman Kessler stated that the Bond vote on the ballot did not get 50% approval. It might have brought a lot of the people out to vote. It sent the Town a message as to the public opinion. The BOS needs to reassess the Town's direction. He believed the BOS needed a public forum (not BOS meeting) to have people give their thoughts to benefit the community. Some people thought the proposed Center was too big for what Newport can afford. Chairman Kessler gave his thoughts on the subject. He then polled the Selectboard for their input: Selectman Burroughs told the Board the last large building

project was the renovated Police Station. It began with a big idea (standalone building combined with Fire Department-a safety services building) which failed at Town Meeting; a remodeled structure that met the needs of the department (passed). It might be the direction to go. He didn't know if the Board wanted to discuss it at the retreat this year; to find the direction that the Town should be going. Selectman Tellor said that he believed there will need to be a meeting to get a feel of what the Town wants. Renovate an old building? Do they want a rec center? He heard a lot of comments that people feel the Town does not need a rec center. The BOS needs a feel of the direction that the townspeople want to go and work in that direction. Selectman Connell said the fact that the Town has not gotten 50% of the vote is an issue. The Town needs to reassess the project. A portion of the population is not buying what is being sold. The BOS has to find other alternatives; he suggested redesigning or a private developer(s). He spoke positively for a Community Center; he did not believe the Town should drop it. Selectman Sayer said it was getting the word out for some sense of what our citizens want. Do we need a rec center? He believed in a meeting with the public to get an idea of what they want. Shutting it down is not an option. People have to take the time to get involved in their community. Chairman Kessler stated that discussing it at a BOS retreat is a good idea. They could set one in June. The Rec Center would be a major discussion at the BOS retreat. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. gave a historical perspective on the Police Station renovation. Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board and stated that BreadLoaf Co. was still on retainer by the Town for the project. They would be able to moderate some public forums for the Town. There was a brief discussion on the million and a half dollar donation/grants proposed for the project. Mr. Beard discussed the misinformation on social media. He asked that the BOS keep going forward.

ACTION ITEMS: Adoption and Approval of Operational Guidelines for the Board of Selectmen
 After a short discussion, on a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Sayer; *the Board voted to accept and approve the Operational Guidelines for the Board of Selectmen as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Selectmen Appointments to Boards and Committees - The Selectmen were appointed to the following:

<u>Board/Committee</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
Airport Advisory Committee	Tellor
Budget Advisory Committee	Kessler
Budget Advisory Committee (Alternate)	Connell
CIP	Burroughs
CIP (Alternate)	Sayer
Community Center Committee	<i>There was no appointment at this time</i>
Conservation Commission	Connell
ECON	Burroughs
EDC Advisory Board	<i>Is inactive at this time</i>
Facility & Fields Advisory Committee	Tellor
“ (Alternate)	Sayer
Garden Club	Hunter**
Historic District/Heritage Commission	Burroughs
“ (Alternate)	Tellor
Monuments & Memorials Committee	Tellor
“ (Alternate)	Burroughs
Recreation Advisory Council	Tellor
“ (Alternate)	Connell
NCTV	Sayer
NCTV (Alternate)	Kessler
Planning Board	Burroughs
Planning Board (Alternate)	Tellor
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (2)	Kessler and Connell

Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Kessler
ZBA (Alternate) Tellor

****Town Manager Rieseberg**

When asked, Town Manager Rieseberg explained that EDC meant Economic Development Coordinator and explained the original concept of the Board. As requested, a letter will be sent to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) naming the two representatives (Kessler and Connell) appointed to the UVLSRPC for 2022-2023.

Property Tax Exemptions - Acting Town Manager Brown addressed the Board and stated that the Richards Free Library were late in filing their state 501(c)3 for tax exemption. They were five days late. They have asked for consideration of accepting their application in arrears. Chairman Kessler clarified that if the BOS did not accept their delinquent request for tax exemption, the library would have to pay taxes. Acting Town Manager Brown agreed with his statement. Chairman Kessler stated that in the past a situation like this went to court. There had been one nonprofit entity was delinquent and the BOS had denied their request. The Board members discussed:

- 1) the library received a lot of their budget from the Town
- 2) the many delinquencies by the Richards Free Library in 2022:
 - i) they had been late with their budget
 - ii) they had tried to get a revised budget through
 - iii) they are delinquent again

They need to hear the BOS and get things done on time. The Selectboard did not want to set a bad precedent. Town Manager Rieseberg stated that for precedent he suggested the Board vote no to accepting the delinquent exemption and to have them consider requesting an abatement. When Acting Town Manager Brown was asked what the library's timeframe would be for an abatement, he stated March 1, 2023. At that time (March 1, 2023) the BOS would need to vote on whether to accept the library abatement. It was a consistency (with other entities) and would keep the Town out of legal hassles. On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; ***the Board voted not to accept the Richards Free Library property tax exemption. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

NEPBA (New England Police Benevolent Association) Contract - Chairman Kessler stated that the four-year contract (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025) between the Town and Police Union members had been approved at Town Meeting. Selectman Burroughs made a motion ***to accept and approve the contract between the Town of Newport and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Local 221 Police Union as presented.*** It was seconded by Selectman Connell. ***The motion passed 5-0-0.***

BOS Retreat - Chairman Kessler asked the Board if they would like to decide on a date for the BOS Retreat. There was a brief discussion on the month and day Selectmen could attend as well as additional topics to discuss. The Board members decided to set a date at the June 6, 2022 BOS meeting.

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Sayer; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for June 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: June 6, 2022

Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Kessler
ZBA (Alternate) Teller

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