

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen Minutes of August 1, 2022
Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access: Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 814 1284 1602 Passcode: 012317
+1 (253) 215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Hunter F. Rieseberg, Town Manager; Barry Hunter; Interim Police Chief

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Virginia Irwin, Christy Whipple, Riely Skarin Economic Development Coordinator Intern and Allison Brown

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: Move NPS to after Open Forum (Rieseberg)

Town Manager Rieseberg introduced Newport's Interim Police Chief Barry Hunter. Interim Police Chief Hunter is from Lempster, NH and brings a lifetime of experience (44 years) in law enforcement. He has agreed to be interim Police Chief in Newport for approximately two months. Police Chief Hunter was sworn in on Friday, but is in attendance to meet the Selectmen who were unable to attend the ceremony last week. The Board members thanked Interim Chief Hunter for attending the meeting.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): There was a brief discussion clarifying which meeting was the retreat and the regular meeting; and the attendees at each. A revision to the June 25 and the July 18 meetings votes were made.

June 25, 2022 (BOS Retreat) - Selectman Tellor made a motion *to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2022 BOS Retreat meeting as presented.* It was seconded by Selectman Burroughs. *The motion passed 4-0-1(Tellor abstained).*

July 18, 2022 - Selectman Connell made a motion *to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2022 BOS Retreat meeting as presented.* It was seconded by Selectman Sayer. *The motion passed 4-0-1 (Kessler abstained).*

CONSENT AGENDA: Selectman Tellor made a motion *to approve the Consent Agenda of the August 1, 2022 BOS meeting as presented.* It was seconded by Selectman Burroughs. Selectman Connell asked what LUCT stood for. Town Manager Rieseberg stated it was Land Use; coming out of land use. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: Virginia Irwin addressed the Board and asked that her road, Fletcher Road, be posted with speed limit signs and asked the protocol to have it posted. She stated the speeding on the road was excessive. There were people who would pay for the signage if that was a problem. In discussion with the

Selectboard, it was stated that the speed limit is 35 mph on Fletcher Road. Chairman Kessler stated that it was a Town road and the Town's responsibility to acquire and post the signs. The signs would not change the speed limit, only notify people of it. Selectman Burroughs explained the Police Department's equipment and procedure to do a traffic study of the road. It would provide information for any patrolling they might conduct on the road. Town Manager Rieseberg told Chairman Kessler that his office had received a similar complaint. He told the Board the steps he was taking; he expected the speed limit sign will be posted this week. There was a brief discussion among the Board members. Mrs. Irwin thanked the Board.

John Lunn, Executive Director of NCTV; addressed the Board and informed them NCTV made an agreement with the SAU and has moved to the top floor of Towle School. The move was necessary because of the renovation of the CTE. NCTV is staying very connected to the school televising sports, activities, functions, and school meetings. Mr. Lunn is in contact with the CTE in order to offer learning for students: internships, community service hours and an option to volunteer. Mr. Lunn gave a general overview of the schematics for the new studio space as well as emphasizing his desire to stay connected to the Town. Concluding, he stated he would be going to the Zoning Board in August for a variance for a sign. Mr. Lunn answered all Board members questions, including questions on wiring to the ball fields and a regional collaboration among area public access stations.

On a motion by Selectman Tellor, seconded by Selectman Sayer; ***the Board voted by roll call to enter into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 II (a) Employee; (c) Reputation (e) Litigation at 7:00 pm.*** In attendance were: Herbert Tellor, James Burroughs, Jeffrey Kessler, Keith Sayer and Barry Connell. Also in attendance were Hunter Rieseberg, Riely Skarin and Allison Brown. Ms. Skarin and Ms. Brown exited NPS at 7:40 pm. The Board members and Town Manager then discussed (c) Reputation & (e) Litigation.

The Board exited nonpublic Session at 8:12 pm. Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order and continued with agenda items as listed.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Tellor had nothing to share at this time. Selectman Burroughs stated the Block Party put on by the Chamber of Commerce was fantastic and well attended. He mentioned the parking issues on the Common side of Park Street. The Board and Town Manager Rieseberg explained the ongoing issue and ways they had discussed to mitigate the problem; one being to install curbing on the Common side of Park Street. Town Manager Rieseberg told the Board he would abide by any discussion they made; it would be done within a week of their decision. Selectman Connell had nothing to share at this time. Selectman Sayer had nothing to share at this time. Chairman Kessler suggested the idea of a 'Town of Newport' booth at the Apple Pie Crafts Fair for public outreach. He asked if Selectmen would be willing to man the booth throughout the day. Selectman Tellor asked Town Manager Rieseberg to explain the work that is again being done by the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) on Main Street. He complied with the request. Chairman Kessler then said the state has said it will pave over their work in the spring. Selectman Connell told the Board and public that WMUR-TV had had a "Best Grinder in NH" survey. Coronis Market ranked number 5 in their top 10. The history of Coronis Market and its ranking might be an article in a future Newport Times. Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Abatement Request-Bambi DeFilippis, Faith River Church, 231 North Main Street - Town Manager Rieseberg gave a quick statement on the problem encountered by the Faith River Church. Their bill came to approximately \$1800. A typical bill for them would be approximately \$178. Reverend DeFilippis is before the Board as the Water Commissioners. Reverend Bambi DeFilippis addressed them and explained her request of an abatement for the winter water/sewer bill at her small Faith River Church. She asked if there was a way the Town could help the church out. After she spoke,

the Board members explained they could not abate it due to precedence and potential future requests. After a brief discussion with the Board members and Town Manager Rieseberg it was decided that overdue charges would be waived and the Town would set up a payment plan to assist with the expensive bill. Selectman Connell made a motion *to waive fees and penalties and authorize a payment plan be set up (for the Faith River Church, 231 North Main Street)*. It was seconded by Selectman Tellor. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Proposed Tax PILOT Agreement-Norwich Solar Technologies - Town Manager Rieseberg addressed the Board members and Payments in lieu of Taxes and gave a brief history of Norwich Solar Technologies in Newport. He stated that the Town would be going into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) contract with Norwich Solar Technologies for the land on Sunapee Street in Guild and gave a general outline of its contents. Selectman Burroughs made a motion *that the Board authorizes Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to enter into negotiations with Norwich Solar Technologies for a PILOT program and to further authorize Town Manager Hunter F. Rieseberg to sign all documents associated with that*. It was seconded by Selectman Connell. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

ACTION ITEMS: Chairman Kessler said there was a request for an abatement of taxes in the amount of \$7,181 for the Episcopal Church at 2 Cedar Street. He stated the case was similar to the Richards Free Library's (was denied) in that they were late getting their abatement paperwork to the Town. The Library can appeal for an abatement later. Town Manager Rieseberg agreed and explained the procedure for reapplying for an abatement. There was a discussion among the Selectboard on the circumstances at the Episcopal Church. Selectman Connell moved *that they grant an abatement to the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany of NH, 2 Cedar Street, Newport, NH in the amount of \$7,181 (for taxes)*. It was seconded by Selectman Burroughs. *The motion passed 3-1-1 (Tellor no; Connell abstained).*

APPOINTMENTS: none

On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Tellor; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for August 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: August 15, 2022