

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Meeting of April 6, 2020 6:30 pm
Public Hearing and Regular Business Meeting
Municipal Building, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773
Remote Access:
Zoom.com - Meeting ID: 823 260 564 Password: 007518
+1 (253)215-8782 US (audio only, long-distance fees may apply)

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: none

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: *BOS Room:* Bert Spaulding, Sr.
Via Zoom Connection: Virginia Irwin, Newport Town Moderator

NCTV: John Lunn

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kessler called the meeting of the BOS to order at 6:44 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kessler read aloud a prepared statement (Appendix 1) 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.

AGENDA REVIEW: The agenda was accepted as presented.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S): March 16, 2020: On a motion by Selectman Connell, seconded by Selectman Hooper; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

NPS March 16, 2020: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes of the March 16, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

March 30, 2020: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to table the minutes of the March 30, 2020 BOS meeting. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; *the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda of the April 6, 2020 BOS meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

OPEN FORUM: None

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Fratzel had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Wilmot had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Connell stated he has been quarantined for twenty days. He had nothing to share at this time.

Selectman Hooper had nothing to share at this time

Chairman Kessler had nothing to share at this time.

Town Manager Rieseberg had nothing to share at this time.

INFORMATIONAL: Deliberative Session: Moderator Virginia Irwin: Town Moderator Virginia Irwin thanked Mr. John Lunn of NCTV and the Town for making the Zoom access meeting possible. She read aloud from a prepared statement (Appendix 2) explaining the postponement of the Deliberative Session 2020 and the Town Voting Date 2020 pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order #16. The statement will be posted on the Town website. She stated that she would be reaffirming the proposed dates every 72 hours as required by State law. State law requires that the moderator announce the proposed dates every two weeks. Townspeople will see updates in locations every two weeks.

Mr. John Lunn addressed Chairman Kessler and asked what the postponement of the meeting and voting would do to the budget process and the Town's next year's budget. Town ballot voting would tentatively be held on July 14, 2020; the Town fiscal year begins on July 1, 2020.

Chairman Kessler stated that the worst case scenario would be that the Town begins the fiscal year with a Default Budget. The Town would continue with the budget that they have. Any projects in the new proposed budget would not be started until a passing vote from the townspeople on the proposed Operating Budget. He said it would be like a continuing resolution (of budget finances).

Selectman Wilmot will continue to serve as Selectman until the 2020 Town voting. He agreed to serve as Town Selectman.

Potential Changes to the Common: The Board members were asked their opinion on making changes to the Town Common to allow for parking of Food Trucks on the Common along Park Street. Town employees would make three gravel or paved) parking spots along Park Street. It would require digging up and changing the appearance of the historic Common. No trees would be removed. After a general discussion, the topic was tabled. The consensus of the Board is to not make the change at this time.

ACTION ITEMS: Perambulation of Town Boundaries: After a short discussion on walking the Town boundaries; on a motion by Selectman Hooper, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; ***the Board appointed Mr. Peter J. Lovely to perambulate the Town boundaries. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

APPOINTMENTS: none

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 (d) Real Estate at 7:12 p.m. The motion passed 5-0-0.***


Present were Selectboard members Jeffrey Kessler, John Hooper, Bill Wilmot, Barry Connell and Todd Fratzel. Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg was also in attendance.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell; the Board exited NPS at 9:00 pm.

No action was taken.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Connell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson , Scribe

Appendix 1: Announcement of Meeting held pursuant to Emergency Order #12

Appendix 2: 2020.06.04 DS Postponement

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for April 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Approved on: May 4, 2020