

Town of Newport Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2024@ 6:00PM

Present:

Town Manager, James Ricker

Deputy Clerk, Kathleen Kemp

Selectboard: Chair, Kate Rush, Vice Chair, Donna Berry, Bruce Clarke (arrived at 6:30 pm), Adam Russell, Andrew Colford

Guests:

David Ledew, State of Maine Property Tax Division, Retired

Travis Gould, Tax Assessor

Maxine Pare, Planning Board

1. Call to Order: K. Rush called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

a. **Pledge of allegiance**

2. Public Access: M. Pare noted that the Alewives were in the lake

3. Consent Agenda -

a. **Approval of minutes from meeting held May 8, 2024:** K. Rush motioned to approve the minutes, D. Berry so moved, A. Russell seconded, motion carried.

b. **Communications**

1. Grand Openings: The Town Manager reported that both events went very well.

a. **Crazy Sumo**

b. **Hamlin's Marine**

2. Service Contract ABM Mechanical Public Safety Building: TBD

3. MMA Safety Grant \$1,570.71: The Police Chief applied for and received this grant allowing for the purchase of safety devices for the Police Department.

4. Old Business

a. **2024 Town Meeting / Warrant:** The Town Reports are in. There are 350 copies available in the Town Office and for Town Meeting. The Audit Report is not included as the audit will take place in August.

5. New Business

a. **Textile Collection@ Transfer Station:** Apparel Impact, a container used for clothing collections, is now placed at the Transfer Station at no cost. It will save \$100/ton.

b. **Meeting with Travis Gould & Dave Ledew:** The guest speakers: David Ledew, State of Maine Property Tax Division, Retired, and Travis Gould, Newport Tax Assessor. Mr. Ledew explained the Towns' sales ratio and offered an alternative to increase it from 65% to 92%. Mr. Ledew was asked by the Board for his recommendation of alternatives, absent a complete reevaluation. He stated that there is little alternative, but to factor in a percentage increase across the board. After more discussion, no decision was made by the Board. The Town Manager and the Board thanked Mr. Ledew for his time and explanation.

Board:

- B. Clarke inquired about parking signs at the Ballpark. He suggested signage for “Public Parking” parking lot and “No Parking On This Side Of The Street.”
- The Town Manager announced that Consolidated Communications is running fiber everywhere that phone lines are located.
- D. Berry expressed concerns regarding the use of Town owned vehicles by off duty personnel.
- A. Colford inquired about the electronic sign. The Town Manager hopes to have it installed by Town Meeting. He also asked about the status of the metal roof on the Transfer Station.
- D. Berry stated that there has been substantial progress at Jason Erb’s Newport Metals.

6. Warrant: K. Rush motioned to approve the warrant, D. Berry so moved, A. Russell seconded, motion carried.

School Budget Warrant: K. Rush motioned to approve the warrant, D. Berry so moved, A. Colford seconded, motion carried.

7. Adjourn: K. Rush motioned to adjourn the meeting, D. Berry so moved, A. Russell seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kemp

Kathleen Kemp, Deputy Clerk

Next Meetings:

- **The next meeting is Wednesday, June 5th at 6:00 pm**
- **There will be no meeting on Wednesday, June 19th due to the Juneteenth Holiday**
- **The Board has decided to omit the July 3rd meeting**
- **There will be a meeting on July 17th at 6:00 pm**
- **There will be a meeting on August 21st at 6:00 pm**

