

**Newport Selectboard  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2022 @ 6:30PM**

Present: Chair: K. Rush, Vice Chair: D. Berry, B. Clarke, G. Demos, A. Russell

1. Call to Order

a. Welcome our new Board Member

The board welcomed Adam Russell which included introductions with a brief background of each board member.

b. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access - None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 01-05-22

Motion on floor to approve minutes by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, motion carries.

b. Communications

K. Rush brought up concern over COVID spikes in the area and asked that J. Ricker confirm what policy the town is following. The town manager confirmed that the fire dept is adhering to the EMS board policy and the town is following the CDC guidelines. Masking is also in place when conducting any business with the public or when staff cannot maintain a 6- foot distance.

J. Ricker provide a copy of the Ecological Instincts contract and agenda to the board for review. He noted that Jennifer was to start as early as next week and he needed a motion to sign the contract to start the project. Motion by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, motion carries.

J. Ricker requested that the Selectboard meeting slated for Feb 16 be moved to Feb 23 due to scheduling conflicts. The board agreed to this change.

J. Ricker informed the board of a possible shortage of sand before the end of the winter season. A purchase of an additional amount may be necessary.

J. Ricker informed the board that he met with Hamlin Marine. They discussed intentions of boat storage and construction of a marina on the new site. This will take incremental steps due to environmental concerns such as asbestos and removal of buildings. The Hamlin family seems to always have a good public/private relationship in all the towns they conduct business which makes the future sound very promising.

#### 4. Old Business

##### a. Review of the Remote Meeting Participation Policy

Board members were supplied with final copy of Remote Meeting Participation Policy for approval. Mr. Ricker confirmed that he has reviewed several other towns, MMA and State documents and this policy meets all legal thresholds. He requested motion to accept as written and have public hearing on February 2 to enact. Motion by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, unanimous.

##### b. Staff Scheduling

More discussion was had regarding the work schedule for Solid Waste, Public Works, and Town Office. Public Works and Town Office hours were agreed upon. Mr. Ricker had a proposal for Solid Waste to be open 1 hour later every Friday for each employee to accumulate comp time. This would allow each of them to eventually take each 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday afternoon off. This would be on a trial period and would be revisited at budget time in a few months. Mr. Ricker asked for a motion to approve schedule with the flexibility to revisit the Solid Waste hours before making them permanent. The new hours for all departments will be advertised in the Rolling Thunder and posted on the website, becoming effective February 1. Motion by G. Demos, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, motion carries.

#### 5. New Business

##### a. Quit Claim Deed:

Michael Lancaster - Map/Lot 015-136-ON \$621.01

Motion to approve quit claim deed by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, unanimous.

##### b. Transfer Station Fees

J. Ricker recommended raising fees from \$0.40 to \$0.50 per pound which would not affect most taxpayers. At the current rate, the Town is actually losing money. The largest affects will be on commercial contractors and any individuals bringing in weighable product. Motion to approve by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carries.

##### c. Recreation Center Kitchen Rental

J. Ricker brought forth for information only, that he wanted to enter into a contract with 2 women to rent the Rec Center kitchen for \$20 per hour. They are home farmers who need a commercial kitchen for approximately 2-3 hours a week to further their pie business. This would not affect other activities at the center and Mr. Ricker has confirmed that they are certified with liability insurance. There will be a written kitchen rental contract to be signed by all parties once all inspections are completed.

##### d. Off Premise Liquor License for Sarah Peavey, Millennium Weddings, Bovine Development; Kasey Memorial Dance, Feb 2 @ 8pm

Motion to approve by G. Demos, seconded by D. Berry, unanimous.

Mr. Ricker encouraged putting the recently demolished Grove St. property out to bid with a minimum \$20,000 which would cover the demolition costs as well as the removal of debris. Motion by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carries.

Mr. Ricker brought forth an informational note that money may be needed from the Community Support Account. There are two individuals refusing to request GA and they currently have no plumbing. Mental Health workers are involved in the situation. Mr. Ricker will keep the board informed of the situation.

Mr. Ricker informed the board the fire truck is receiving repair at T&W for \$12,000. Mr. Ricker has researched this with several places and confirmed prices have quadrupled and would be similar elsewhere. This is for informational only.

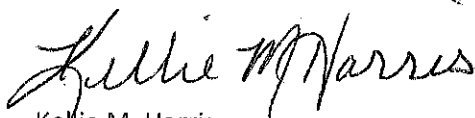
6. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by D. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellie M. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kellie M. Harris  
Town Clerk