

Newport Selectboard  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard Chair: Kate Rush, Vice Chair: Donna Berry, Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford  
Maxine Pare

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by K. Rush at 6:30pm

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

Maxine Pare addressed the Board to thank the town manager and Public Works for opening the dam to lower the water level. Mr. Ricker said they are still monitoring the dam to decide when to close it.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 12-14-22

Motion to approve minutes by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried. A. Colford questioned cable channel and Board agreed to revisit at budget time.

b. Communications

1. Dam / Water Regulation

As stated above, Manager and Public Works are continuing to monitor water level to determine when to close dam.

2. Update of propane contract

Mr. Ricker told Board that Robinson recently gave the Town a contract for 1.419/gallon where propane prices are reaching 2.76/gallon. This will hopefully offset the high electricity pricing. A. Russell asked that Mr. Ricker extend thanks to Robinson from the Board.

3. Kitchen rental funding

Town Manager noted he collected the first \$800 check for 80 hours of kitchen rental at the rec center. Currently there is one primary user and propane usage is minimal. There are also occasional functions held.

4. Ambulance Stair Chair

Mr. Ricker stated that existing chair does not have the weight capacity necessary for some of the rescue calls. They are looking to purchase a new ambulance stair chair with a 700 lb capacity and Mr. Ricker will be meeting with the County to possibly use the ARPA funds to pay the \$3000 needed. Also, Chief Chretien wanted to extend the invitation to the Board and their spouses for the Awards and Appreciation Dinner on January 23 at 5:30pm at the Newport Public Safety Building.

5. Sanitary District Appointment

Town Manager requested a motion to appoint Daniel Stevens to the Sanitary District for the remainder of the fiscal year. Motion by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, motion carried. Board signed appointment.

6. Penobscot County Monthly Highlights

Town Manager supplied a copy of Monthly Highlights to Board which showed where ARPA funds are going. He met with Andre Cushing 3 months ago and other funding was available only for certain areas. The Board discussed several ideas and identified the types of areas that would be acceptable for the available funding. No

decision was made. Mr. Ricker has another meeting with Mr. Cushing on 1/5 at 10:00 am and will clarify more details, and will ask Mr. Cushing to attend our meeting to be held on 01-18-23.

#### 4. Old Business

##### a. Update on Rec Center Infrastructure Funding

##### 1. Subcommittee to be formed

Mr. Ricker met with Gene Crocket who has 4-5 people in mind who have been active in this area. The Board is invited to attend the committee meetings.

##### b. Ambulance revenue

Town Manager updated the Board there is now \$115,260 in this account. He has reached out to the original ambulance committee to get feedback regarding the jurisdictional call situation. The lack of service in the area has put much stress on what ambulance service is available and every out of town call must be examined for urgency but a line has to be drawn at some point for our citizens. After 4 months of activity the ambulance has already logged 10,000 miles. Mr. Ricker said their first committee meeting will be next week. D. Berry requested information from Chief Chretien including run sheets with response time and rating scale for calls.

#### 5. New Business

##### a. Property- Workers Comp Insurance projections 2023

Per Mr. Ricker, due to an increase in fulltime firefighter personnel and claim exposure, premiums increased \$33,000-\$148,086. All other schedules of insurance increased by 13%.

##### b. Efficiency of Maine / Recreation Center

Manager explained that he contacted Efficiency Maine regarding Heat Pump installation assistance at the Recreation Center for towns less than 5,000 population.

##### c. Constellation Bills

Mr. Ricker noted the bills are up 70% and are in keeping with the actual cost per kilowatt and the current contract pricing.

Board requested Manager invite prospective members of the Sebasticook Water Regulation Committee Don Gross, Jimmy Seavey and Alan Whitaker to next Selectboard meeting.

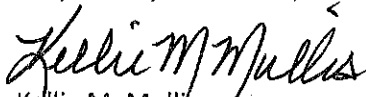
#### 6. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

#### 7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:46pm by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kellie M. Mullis

Municipal Clerk