

Newport Selectboard  
Regular Meeting Agenda Minutes  
January 5, 2022 @ 6:30 PM  
Public Safety Building

**Note: This meeting was scheduled for remote access as well, however sound connections could not be made**

Meeting was chaired by co-chair Donna Berry, present: J. Ricker, K. Rush, B. Clarke, G. Demos,

1. Call to Order

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

None

3. Consent Agenda

a. approval of minutes from meeting held 12-15-21

Motion by G. Demos, second by B. Clarke, unanimous.

b. Communications (Manager updated the board on the following)

1. Ambulance licensing:

Reported that the application has been filed with Me EMS with a projected 30 to 90 approval process.

2. Banking fraud (Peoples United Bank)

Criminals had copied authentic accounts payable checks and processed them through the ACH process for a total of \$6,725. The bank has since repaid these checks to our accounts. Daily checks are occurring with every ACH check needing approval before cashing.

3. Health Insurance: 2% increase in the MMA Health Plan for 2022.

This increase was already budgeted throughout the budget process.

4. Authorization to x-fer moneys in the support agencies budget for bus trips for the elderly (1 in this budget).

Request to expend funds for one bus trip for the elderly from the local assistance budget line. In the past these trips were budgeted separately however due to the trips being canceled for the past three years the account was not budgeted this year. Manager further requested permission to expend funds from the part-time cemetery account for a part-time truck driver for plowing. Motion by B. Clarke and a second from G. Demos, unanimous.

Board acknowledged letters from Stacy Guerin, State Senator and a retirement letter from long time town counsel Ed Bearor from Rudman and Winchell.

A date and time of 01-11-22 @ 3:00 PM has been set for comments regarding the ARPA funds being received by Penobscot County in the amount of \$29,552,965. Meeting will be held at the Public Safety Building Meeting room.

Manager recognized Deanna Thompson, Treasurer /Tax Collector on her recent re-certification as a certified Treasurer by the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association. He further commented on the dedication and hard work in receiving this certification. Actual awards will be presented at the annual MMTCTA meeting in May.

#### 4. Old Business

- a. Engineer Selection for the Nonpoint Source Pollution control Project
  1. Ecological Instincts
  2. FB Environmental Associates

Board members discussed presentations by both Engineering firms and believed both were equally qualified. Brian Wilson and Scott Emery were also present, and both echoed the boards sentiments and shared their thoughts on timelines, experiences, familiarity with the area. At one point Brian stated that FB Environmental Associates had done work in Corinna. After much discussion however the Board chose Ecological Instincts, based on the belief the entire process would be more personal as the firm is smaller in size. Motion by B. Clark, second by G. Demos, unanimous to award the contract to Ecological Instincts.

#### 5. New Business

- a. Public Hearing, Junkyard license renewal c/o Jason Erb dba Newport Metals:

Manager explained that the renewal came in late this year as it was not filed in a timely fashion. Jason Erb stated he just forgot about this year being very busy. The CEO conducted an inspection last week of the facility and only found a few issues with proper fencing. Upon speaking with Jason however he was satisfied the problem would be corrected. Gus Demos asked if the Town notifies business's when the license expires and the manager called on Town Clerk Kellie Harris who stated she personally called the Erbs requesting their intent several times, with no response. At the conclusion of discussion, motion made by Bruce Clarke, second by Gus Demos, unanimous to approve.

**Due to the inability to connect remotely K. Harris and Kate Rush arrived at the meeting @ approx. 6:55**

- b. Foreclosure authorization: 69 High Street Map 017 Lot 030 Estate of John Wark  
outstanding tax liability of \$13,693, 2019,2020,2021

Mr. Ricker stated there are currently renters on the property. He wanted an authorization to put the property out to bid contingent on whether any eviction of tenants will be necessary. Motion by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, unanimous.

c. 1<sup>st</sup> review of the Remote Meeting Policy

Mr. Ricker provided copy of in depth policy to board and lengthy discussion followed. It was decided that the policy will be reviewed and approved at a future meeting, then set for Public Hearing.

d. Authorization to prepare the Breitweg / Newport deed (primitive launch on Durham Bridge Rd)

No motion necessary, Manager explained he just needed authorization to have deed drafted. This was voted at a previous town meeting and accepted. D. Berry questioned whether there were any adjoining neighbors which there are none.

Mr. Ricker discussed offering use of 7 acres of Newport property on Old County Rd to Boy/Girl Scouts for use of outings and activities. This would not be a formal lease, just to allow them use of the land. Motion by G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carries.

D. Berry brought up issue on shortening work weeks for departments. Town manager wanted to be as equitable as possible to amend work weeks for all departments. Board expressed concerns about the transfer Station decreasing hours on Saturday. Mr. Ricker stated that Saturday business slacks off considerably after 1-2pm. Closing at 1pm on Sat and staying open later during the week was discussed as a possible solution. Mr. Ricker stated he would send proposed schedules for all depts to board for review and decision will be made at next meeting.

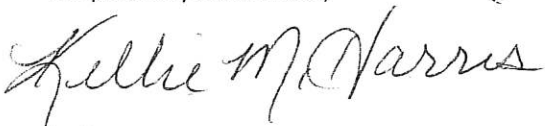
6. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant by B. Clarke, G. Demos seconded, unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kellie M. Harris  
Town Clerk