

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87167864408?pwd=RFVwSEg2YVNBZzZvU29haDJzNEZkQT09>

January 6, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

Present: K. Rush, D. Berry, R. Davis, 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 December 9, 2020

Motion to accept minutes, Moved by K. Rush, seconded by D. Berry, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

b. Communications

1. Rec center heating systems

It took 6 hours to fix the heating system. There is still a break in the kitchen that needs to be fixed. Furnace # 3 is currently down with a cracked fire box, however the other two have been repaired /cleaned and operating fine.

2. Public Skating Rink

The town has not put in the skating rink at the old elementary school. The high school put one in in the last few weeks. The question to the board was do we put ours in or promote the high school ice rink. It was put forth that transportation for families would be easier at the old elementary school. The town is running on a skeleton crew and the recommendation by the town manager would be to put ours on hold. The Board concurred.

3. EV Charging Stations

Grants are available from Efficiency of Maine. Gilman Electric has them as low as \$1600 for a single stall and \$5000 for a dual stall. Warranties for the Charge points are the same. Several places for the install were thrown out there, such as Plaza, Hannaford, and the Chamber of Commerce. The Town will commence with grant application as soon as all criteria is identified.

4. LED streetlight update

All the documents are signed, just waiting on the lights. All this was accomplished on January 28, 2020. We are already starting to see a decrease in streetlight billing.

4. Old Business

a. Solar Farm update

Both permits were issued last week. No issues so far.

b. IP lot conveyance

1. Survey cost

Two lot in the Industrial Park were sold to Roundy's for \$20,000. Construction will start in the spring.

c. Elementary School Sale update

A \$5000 deposit was put down today on the old elementary school. They are hoping to close at the end of the month. The Electrical School is not property tax exempt according to our assessor. This purchase and sale do impose the same lending requirements on the town that banks must adhere to. The loan after this year will be \$30,000 per year for the next four years. Survey cost are running around \$3000 to \$3200. These costs were presented by Brian P. Taylor, Plisga & Day Land Surveyor.

5. New Business

a. Permission to harvest hardwood on Cemetery Road

The current market value for the harvest would gross approximately \$31000 from the stumpage value by the end of the project. This number is up from \$20000 from October of 2019. These numbers were presented to the Town by Robert R. Nelson, Maine Licensed Forester of Corinna, Maine. There is no guarantee all the timber can be harvested due to the lack of ground freeze. Board unanimous on harvesting.

b. Personnel Updates

Manager reported that another public works employee has resigned, and the position was offered back to a prior employee and he accepted. There will be an increase in pay of \$2.85/hour for the actual equipment operators / drivers. The town manager wants to bring back a 5th person for the crew. The Public works budget will probably go over by \$20,000 for the rest of the year to get back to where the staffing issues were five years ago. Manager also commented that he had conducted a salary comparisons for like positions and learned that our crew was receiving less pay for like positions and tenure both in the public and private sectors. He also commented that he was confident there would be remaining funds in the overall budget to offset any overages in Public Works.

Motion on the floor to go over the budget by K. Rush, seconded by B. Clarke, no further discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

c. TIF update: Re Vic Firth

Four-year plan from the existing Progress Park South has now been accelerated that the renovations at the Progress Park location will be completed in August of this year. Vic Firth will be completely out of the High Street property by the August date. Vic Firth is looking for a credit enhancement agreement thru our TIF program. The Town Manager explained a quick synopsis to the Board regarding TIF's. Total (possible) CEA could amount to \$60,000 but exact numbers will not be known until after the renovations are complete. Board agreed to meet and discuss TIF options with Vic Firth.

d. General Assistance Ordinance Update

The update for 2020-2021 year needs to be adopted by the board. Motion on the floor K. Rush, seconded by D. Berry, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

e. Quit Claim Deed, Jeffrey Killam Jr.

Motion on the floor by K. Rush to accept the quit claim deed to J. Killam, seconded by D. Berry, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

6. Warrant

Motion on the floor by B. Clarke to accept the warrant, seconded by D. Berry, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Motion on the floor by K. Rush to adjourn, seconded by D. Berry, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deanna M. Thompson

Treasurer