

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

Present:

James Ricker, Town Manager; Kate Rush, Selectboard Chair; Donna Berry, Vice Chair; Bruce Clarke; Adam Russell; Andrew Colford

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access; None

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held October 5, 2022.
 1. Motion on the floor to approve minutes moved by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

b. Communications

1. Drawdown status

- a. Lake level is the same as it was last year at this time, if not lower, however, high algae levels are still present, increasing to .030 since last meeting; it was noted that at this time of the year, with water levels where they are, the algae should be decreasing, not increasing.
- b. As a follow up to the previous meeting, Town Manager updates that DEP been unsuccessful in its request for consent agreements for the parties responsible for the dredging complaint. The only time that reconstruction could occur is during drawdown, but due to lake levels it is not believed that this will occur; the remaining option is superior court. Information was relayed from the DEP regarding Permit by Rule, and the recommendation that the town creates a local ordinance to keep track of work done within the Shoreland Zone.

2. Mill Street update

- a. The Town Manager gave an update on the property on Mill Street that the town obtained through foreclosure. Clark's LLC, winning bid, is estimated to complete demolition the 2nd-3rd week in November and is working directly with Bolster to remove debris. It is estimated to take 3 days to complete. We were able to recover heating fuel from the building, which was split between the Town Office and Recreation Building.

3. Transfer Station

- a. As a follow up to the previous meeting, the Town Manager looked at possibility of Resale Building at the Transfer Station. The best placement would be in front of the current office but would require the removal of an old septic tank as well as removing and rebuilding an old building. There is also the possibility of placing a removable shed. DEP has grant funds available for facilities to support recycling, so either option may be possible. Board agrees to continue with this project and see workups of possibilities for demolition and new construction as well as a removable shed.

4. Comp Plan Committee update

- a. There have been three meetings of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Introduction and History have been worked through and are actively finishing the Population and Recreation chapters. The October meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts and the committee will meet again Monday, November 28th at 5pm in the Town Office Meeting Room.

5. Recreation Center Funding Update

- a. Town Manager gave an update on the Congressional Directed Spending Request for which the town applied. Per Senator Collin's office, the funding for the Grant is currently attached to a bill in Washington, so it is "wait and see" if there are any funds available for the grant.

6. State Valuation Increase

- a. Town Manager reported on the State Valuation, which we recently received. The Town of Newport is valuated at 359 million, which is a 52 million dollar increase from last year, the highest increase in at least 30 years. This means that property evaluations for residents will increase for the next tax year, with mil rates decreasing so that residents do not see a substantial increase in their tax bill, similarly to the current tax year.

4. Old Business

a. Ambulance update

- 1. Responses and response area; Chief Chretien was at the meeting to review the status of the ambulance.

8/14/2022-10/1/2022	Transports	Total Calls
In Coverage Area (Newport and 1/3 Palmyra)	84	136
Outside of Coverage Area	41	60
Total	125	196

2. Billing to date; So far, for ambulance services, we have billed insurance companies a total of \$83,668. Of that, they have agreed to pay \$54,766. We have actually received \$14,354, which leaves an outstanding balance of \$40,412. Town Manager and Chief Chretien both agreed that these figures are very promising, and higher than anticipated. Should billing remain on the same trajectory, we could expect \$328,000-444,000. Due to the nature of insurance billing, we may not see a true picture of what revenue will look like for another month or so. It was agreed that this would remain an ongoing agenda item, revisiting again late December to mid-January. In addition, the board would like to see data around response times.

5. New Business

- a. Victualers License request; Hanbakes obo Hannah Russell

Owner Hannah Russell was present at the meeting. She will be taking orders for baked goods and soups on a weekly basis and will have pick-up and delivery options. She is currently taking orders through Facebook and via hanbakes2021@gmail.com. Motion on the floor to approve Victualers License moved by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

6. Warrant

- a. Town Manager noted that R. A. Paradis bill was for sand, and bill for Roundy was the planned paving on Old County and Fernald roads. Motion on the floor to approve the warrant moved by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, no additional discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Selectboard Notes:

K. Rush stated that should funds be available; the board should look into lighting at the basketball court at the Rec Center. She also noted that she appreciated the Cultural Center report that was given to the board.

Motion on the floor to adjourn moved by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda R. Pearl, Deputy Clerk