

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Newport Town Office

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard:

Chair: Kate Rush, Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford, Absent: Donna Berry

1. Call to Order

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

- a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

None

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 09-21-22

Motion to approve minutes by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. Communications

1. Sand /Salt summary

Board was supplied with detailed listing of figures which summarized:

Sand spent \$35,815, Salt spent \$18,018. Salt came in over budget and sand came in under budget.

2. Police/ACO employment prospects update

Town Manager updated Board that no applications have been received so money will need to be used from overtime account to cover lapse in coverage.

4. Old Business

- a. Water testing

Town Manager noted readings continue to be around .024- still at bloom levels and flushing is working well.

- b. Status update of dredging complaint

Mr. Ricker and Al Tempesta will be meeting at the site tomorrow with 4 DEP reps and Attorney General to discuss next steps to restoring area. The 2 responsible parties have been unresponsive to Town and DEP. Attorney General has stated that these parties can be sued for expenses such as fines and restoration to the lake and surrounding area. Mr. Ricker will have updates on how to finalize this situation at next Board meeting.

- c. Bid summary, 2 Mill Street

Board was supplied with copies of bids from Clark's, LLC for \$16,100 and RA Paradis & Son, Inc for \$31,750. Bid awarded to Clark's, LLC. Mr. Ricker is hopeful that building will be gone within next 3 weeks. Area is to be used for town parking and possibly an electrical sign for the Town of Newport.

5. New Business

a. Audit presentation

Mindy Cyr from Maine Municipal Audit Services, PA was at meeting to give presentation of the Town of Newport Independent Auditors' Report and Financial Statements. Board Members were all supplied with comprehensive reports. Ms. Cyr went through report fielding questions from the Board stating that the Town was in stable financial condition. The Board was pleased with the presentation, layout, and the findings of the report.

b. Fee Structure update pertaining to Solid Waste

Mr. Ricker supplied the Board with a copy of a letter from BDS Waste Disposal, Inc stating significant increases in tire disposal. Town Manager asked Board for permission to increase Transfer Station fees for Resident and Non-Resident tire disposal fees. A. Russell asked for confirmation that fee schedules were posted to website and K. Rush wanted to ensure that any fee increases were posted to website under notices. B. Clarke made motion to approve increase in fees, seconded by A. Russell. Fee schedules will be posted to website as well as notice of increased fees will be posted under notices.

c. Recommendations on Tax Acquired Map 018, Lot 046

Town Manager elaborated this is a small non-buildable property located on Water St. valued at \$4,200, with back taxes for 4 years total \$550. Board would like Mr. Ricker to reach out to abutters to see if there is any interest in purchasing the lot and go from there.

d. Ambulance update: deferred until full Board is present

6. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant by A. Colford, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Additional Comments

- Town Clerk circulated information on ballot drop boxes that are coming from State of Maine Elections as requested by Board in previous meeting.
- A. Colford brought forth an idea for the Transfer Station to start an area where citizens could leave reusable items that other citizens may be interested in to pick up. Town Manager noted that the lack of space and manpower necessary to maintain the space could be problematic. Mr. Ricker agreed to speak with the staff at the Transfer Station regarding this potential program and get back to the Board with the feedback.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 by A. Russell, seconded by B. Clarke, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Clerk