

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
Via ZOOM
October 6, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

James Ricker is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Selectboard Meeting
Time: Oct 6, 2021, 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88633389544?pwd=TGc0WjJoNVd6ejhKZ3c1T2s4OXFuQT09>

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Present: B. Clarke, K. Rush, G. Demos, D. Berry

Not Present: R. Davis

1. Call to Order

a. Pledge of allegiance waived

2. Public Access - None

3. Consent Agenda

4. Communications

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 9-15-21

Motion on the floor to accept the minutes by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

b. Communications

1. Special Town Meeting reminder

The Special Town Meeting is being held on Tuesday, October 12th, 2021 at 6 pm. Andre Cushing will be moderator if elected off the floor. Hard copies of the warrant will be available in the Town Office and posted on the Town of Newport's website.

2. Traffic Light

The traffic light totally went out. The only place that fixes the lights is out of the Lewiston/Auburn area. This is the second time in two years with a cost of \$3200.00 each time. The camera at the light has been out for a while, with no immediate funds to repair, estimated @ \$3,000 plus.

3. Police Chief

The police chief will be in Danforth Supermarket on Saturday, October 9th, 2021, for a major food drive from 10 am to 3 pm. (update: canceled due to Covid concerns)

5. Old Business

a. Update on the 2021 Paving Program

The paving is going very slow. The pavers are expected to be back on Tuesday. DOT has a deadline (SOP) of October 20th, 2021. The basketball court is done at the recreation center and Transfer Road is done. The sidewalks on Water Street are 2/3 done. There is a \$200.00 per day penalty if the work is done after September 15th, 2021.

b. Newport Jr. High building condition / possible remedy

There is a lot of mildew in the old junior high. A.E. Robinson came in and a new system is needed. The mold will continue to grow if nothing is done. The recreation center is storing tables and chairs. They will need to be moved immediately. Board commented as to the overall value with a general consensus being it very well could be demolished in the future.

1. Second recreation field estimates

The second field to be used for soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey. The bid from R. A. Paradis came in at \$198,825. This price is 4 times the first field

cost which is simply nothing that can be done. Manager and the rec director will revisit for possible alternatives.

2. Outdoor basketball court / parking lot

The outdoor basketball court and parking lot are paved. completed.

c. Status of new loader

The loader is in Bangor. Needs work to get it ready with different size buckets. Should be here at the end of next week.

d. Ambulance equipment pricing information

Our personnel are covering large areas with the 24-hour coverage by Northern Lights. Our crew is running all calls as the drivers. (This is a 6-town area coverage). Our personnel are getting burnt out. Our fire department doesn't answer to Northern Lights. The town is recommending going back to our rescue and serve our people. Northern lights are losing personnel which has also increased the need for Fire personnel. . The town will need to give Northern Lights a 45-day notice to cease the contract. The Town Manager would like permission from the board to give notice. Motion on the floor by G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous. Manager encouraged to do this with the understanding of all criteria.

5. New Business

b. Liquor license renewal, Cervezas Southwest Grill

No issues or problems with Cervezas. Motion on the floor let the Town Manager authorize and sign the license on behalf of the board by G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke. All In favor, unanimous.

6. New Business

a. Request to place granite to bid

Motion on the floor to place the granite out for bid by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, some discussion to measure it and sell it by the foot, all in favor, unanimous.

b. Request to place 38 Grove out to bid for demo and removal

According to Town Meeting this property will be taken down for safety reasons. The attorney has not come back with any liens on the property. Motion on the floor to demo and remove it by G. Demos, seconded by D. Berry, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

7. Warrant

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

8. Four-day workweek for the Town Office and possibly other Town Departments.

The town manager brought this to the board. This would be a morale booster and recognize service. The town manager wants the board to think about it and bring back any thoughts on this.

8. Adjourn

Motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deanna M. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Deanna M. Thompson

Treasurer