

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard:

Chair: Kate Rush, Vice Chair: Donna Berry, Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell

Brenda Clarke, Maxine Pare, Jason Erb

Absent: Andrew Colford

1. Call to order

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

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

M. Pare wanted the Board to be mindful of the rising height of Sebasticook Lake. Town Manager stated he was already aware of the situation and would take measures to resolve the issue.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 11-16-22

Motion to approve minutes by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Communications

1. X-fer of funds to CD from revenue accounts

2.78 % yield

Town Manager identified 4 separate accounts where the revenues would be deducted to yield 2.78% as follows:

Unemployment insurance: \$15,000

Cooks Cemetery: \$15,000

Industrial Park: \$10,000

Cemetery Investment: \$80,000

2. 2023 Penobscot County Budget

Town Manager was supplied with 1 budget book. If any Board member would like a copy, please tell him and one will be supplied. He touched on some points stating a 7.94 percentage of increase in their overall budget, based on increased State valuation for all towns and cities in Penobscot County. t. Nothing else really jumped out as out of the ordinary. Questions were raised about Newport's involvement and Mr. Ricker stated that this year Newport was not asked to participate in approving the budget as in the past.

3. Final Billing Mill Street Demo

The final billing was in line with bid @ \$16,100 and other costs which included tipping fees and transportation costs which brought the total to \$22,466. Everyone agreed the site looks great. Manager recommended placing a new electronic sign on site with additional parking spaces.

4. Safer Grant Status

Town Manger confirmed that Newport will not be receiving the Safer Grant. He said in other better news the ambulance account is now at \$84,458 and is continuing at a good return.

5. Approval to Sign Quit Clam Deed for Map 15, Lot 108 (prior redemption center)

Motion to approve to sign deed by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Old Business

1. Time / Warner Contract

Town Manager has been discussing the cable access channel and moving the NCC equipment to the town office with our rep, Shelley Winchenbach. Time Warner has stated we would need to enter a monthly contract to do so and cannot give us any costs at this time. It was also communicated that once this channel location is moved Time Warner can move the access channel to anywhere in their lineup. Currently this piece is the only thing preventing the completion of the contract and moving forward with the construction of the cable lines for Newport residents to obtain connectivity in all areas identified during these negotiations. Town Manager recommended to sign the contract with the local cable access channel as it currently installed. In the meantime, he identified other media options and exploring other technologies that would allow broadcasting from remote locations. At this juncture there is no real difference in additional costs as the town would have to buy additional recording and broadcasting equipment. The Board can revisit the cable channel later. Motion to approve signing the contract to facilitate immediate in underserved areas by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

5. New Business

a. Junkyard Permit Renewal: Jason Erb, Newport Metals

Motion to approve signing permit by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Fee Structure increase (Solid Waste)

Town Manager proposed raising fees from .050/lb. to .052/lb. as of 1/1/23 in response to new State of Maine surcharges. Motion to approve by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

c. Liquor License Renewal: Newport Entertainment Center

Motion to approve signing renewal by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Warrant

Motion to approve the warrant by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

A discussion ensued regarding our next meeting and a decision was made to suspend the meeting of 12-21-22 and reconvene at our normal meeting date of January 4, 2023.

7. Adjourn

K. Rush declared meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Clerk