

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2023 @ 06:30 PM

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard:

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

Attendees:

Police Chief David Wintle, Maxine Pare,

1. Call to Order

K. Rush called meeting to order at 6:30pm

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

Chief of Police David Wintle addressed the Board on updating the Mutual Aid Agreements with Pittsfield, Dexter and Penobscot County Sheriff's Department. The Chief supplied Board with existing agreements and updated agreements for the Board's consideration. Chief Wintle also requested the Board update the Approval of Statewide Arrest Powers and the authority of the Chief to appoint full time officers within the department only once they have completed the academy and become fully certified. K. Rush requested that the approval and signatures on both agreements be moved to the New Business portion of the meeting to which the rest of the Board agreed.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held February 1, 2023

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

b. Communications

1. RSU 19 Budget Meetings May 23

RSU 19 Public Vote & Municipal Election June 13

Town Meeting Date: June 17

Town Manager wanted Board to be aware of the above dates for this year.

4. Old Business

a. Identification of Selectboard /Budget Committee workshops

Managers recommends:

Town Manager wanted Board to be aware the upcoming schedule for the Board meetings that will coincide with the Budget meetings and workshops. Meeting dates and times have been amended as shown below after discussion with Board.

March 15, 5:30pm Budget Workshop, 6:30pm Regular Board Mtg

March 23, 5:30pm Budget Workshop

April 5, 5:30 pm Budget Workshop, 6:30pm Regular Board Mtg

April 19, 5:30 pm Budget Workshop, 6:30pm Regular Board Mtg

April 25, 5:30 pm Budget Committee final workshop

b. Amended Budget Committee Policy

Town Manager previously sent copies of amended policy to Board members for review. Motion to approve by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

c. Board appointments

Mr. Ricker noted that 4 appointments are needed for Budget Committee and was open to suggestions from Board. Motion to approve existing annual Budget Committee Members made by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, members approved and appointments signed by Board. Motion to approve annual appointments to committees that were read by Town Manager made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, members approved and appointments signed by Board.

d. Recommendations ARPA

Town Manager brought suggestions from Newport Development Corporation such as an electronic sign and a stairway to the Riverwalk. Other suggestions included stage completion, parking on Durham Bridge Rd which needs a DEP permit, Grove St parking and the ongoing Rec Center renovations and surrounding fields. Board agreed to schedule a workshop and invite various committee members and residents to attend to offer up diverse opinions. Town Manager suggested advertising the workshop to reach the residents. Committee attendees should include NDC, NCC, Rec Committee and Public Works.

e. Old Bangor Rd property, Map 002, Lot 050, 2.5 acres

This property is currently owned by the Town of Newport. Lyle Peirce has expressed interest in purchasing the property as he owns the rest of the original Thibeault farm property across the street. This property was put out to bid in 2019 with a starting bid of \$1057 with no offers. Town Manager said the Town could sell to Mr. Peirce for the bid amount of \$1057 at this time or put the property back up for bid. B. Clarke noted that the real estate market has changed considerably since that time so putting the property back out to bid would be the best option in his opinion where D. Berry agreed. Remaining Board members thought this was the best option. Property will be put back up for bid.

5. New business

Motion to approve updated Police Department Mutual Aid Agreements with Pittsfield, Dexter and Penobscot County Sheriff's Department made by D. Berry seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried. Proper paperwork will be supplied and signed at later date. Motion to move forward with the Approval of Statewide Arrest Powers and authorization of Chief Wintle to appoint eligible officers made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried. Approval signed by all Board members and Town Manager.

6. Warrant

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

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, meeting adjourned 7:26pm.

8. Additional comments for the good of the group:

K. Rush wanted to show her gratitude for the Fire Department and Police Department for all their hard work put into the Awards dinner.

A. Colford asked how the ambulance calls were going. J. Ricker noted that after speaking with the head of dispatch no other problems have arisen and the other communities have shown mostly a complacent attitude.

J. Ricker wanted to bring to the Board's attention that he and Chief Wintle have been asked to help alleviate the traffic issue at the school during the parent pick up time. They spent a considerable amount of time there today observing the issue and will keep the Board posted on any developments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellie M. Mullis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "K".

Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Clerk