

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Town Manager: J. Ricker

Selectboard: Chair: K. Rush, D. Berry, B. Clarke, G. Demos, A. Russell

Fire Chief J. Chretien, Paramedic S. Loureiro

1. Call to order

- a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access - None

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 02-02-22

Motion to approve minutes by G. Demos, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, motion carries.

- b. Communications

1. Notice of violation(s)

J. Ricker supplied emails of notices and other correspondence from the State regarding status of lake violations to quell the gossip about perpetrators not being charged. State has final approval. G. Demos asked about the process on making any modifications to the lake or lakefront whereas J. Ricker responded they would need a permit by rule to make an alteration during draw down. This would need approval from the State. These individuals did not complete this process prior to digging the trenches.

2. Request the use of posted roads by DOT.

DOT will be resurfacing 9 miles west of Hartley's on Rte. 2 to the Pooler Rd in Palmyra. MDOT requested approval of the use of the Newport's roads for construction vehicles. Manager pointed out that most of these roads are owned and maintained by the State. Motion on floor for this approval by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, unanimous.

4. Old business

- a. Awarding of the bid for 7 Adams Street

The 2 high bids were Robert Berg at \$30,000 and Harry Fleming at \$25,000 who were both present at meeting. J. Ricker stated that both parties would have the floor to make remarks and the board would make the final decision. Mr. Fleming expressed a personal interest in the property being a neighbor. He plans on rehabbing the property and renting it out. The previous tenants were challenging to the neighborhood so he would like to have more respectable tenants for the community's sake. After hearing this, Mr. Berg decided to withdraw his bid in the interest of the community. Motion on floor to award bid to Mr. Fleming with no additional charges by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carries.

b. Electrical usage handouts / discussion

J. Ricker provided spreadsheets and graphs showing a significant increase in rates especially at the Public Safety Building and The Cultural Center. He foresees being over by \$16,790 by June based on January's numbers. Mr. Ricker is meeting with an alternative energy supplier next week and will report findings. For three phase Newport pays \$.22 and this company is quoting numbers \$.11 so it's well worth the discussion. A. Russell questioned if other towns were going through the same thing to which Mr. Ricker answered he was unsure, but he knew the business community was.

c. Charter communications update

1. Noah's Landing
2. Murray Rd

Mr. Ricker has researched these 2 subdivisions and has learned that they are within the guidelines of 15 residences within a linear mile and should be hooked up. This refutes the claim by Charter that all of Newport is connected that fall within their guidelines.

He will be proceeding with Gilman Rd. and Shady Lane (per K. Rush's suggestion).

5. New business

a. Ambulance information

J. Ricker supplied the financial information that they have spent \$31,377 less than identified in October. What has been spent so far is follows:

Boundtree medical supplies everything inside the ambulance : \$17,888

Autotronics supplied ambulance: \$247,300

Stryker life pack: \$30,713

We are contracting COMSTAR to do our billing with a flat rate of 5% and they have an average of 78-81% collection rate with Medicare and Medicaid being their primary payers.

1. Vehicle orientation / review (Chief Chretien)

Chief Chretien presented the status of the ambulance and procedures of getting everything set up. He predicts it should be licensed a little over 30 days from now if no objections are raised once ad is placed in the Rolling Thunder.(set for publishing 2021.022) Newport fire /Northern Lights are still working on the pharmacy agreement to get the rig stocked with pharmaceuticals. Many pain staking hours were put into the safety, licensing and various other protocols. Chief Chretien recommended purchasing the Lucas device which is an automatic CPR machine which frees up a paramedic from giving compressions. Cost estimates were identified as \$11,000 and the use could be life- saving in the field. Mr. Ricker recommended the purchase of this machine which the board agreed.

b. SAFER Grant application

Chief Chretien submitted a grant application for \$1,119,968 for 3-year period for 4 paramedics. We should have the decision before Summer.

6. Warrant

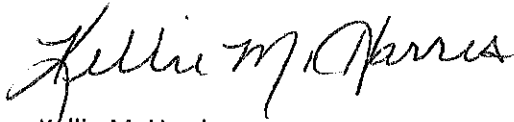
Motion to approve warrant for \$18,188 by G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke, unanimous.

Motion to approve warrant for \$639,815 by A. Russell, seconded by G. Demos, all in favor, motion carries.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by G Demos, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kellie M. Harris". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kellie M. Harris
Town Clerk