

Newport Selectboard  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2021 @ 6:30 PM  
Newport Public Safety Building

Present: K. Rush, B. Clarke, R. Davis, D. Berry

Not Present: G. Demos

1. Call to Order

a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Access-None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held March 3, 2021

Motion on the floor by K. Rush, seconded by D. Berry, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

b. Communications

1. Covid Protocol Updates

The departments can interact with the other departments, but masks must be worn with the public per CDC.

a. Ambulance Service

SVH New CDC guidelines changed. Power struggle with different people between the hospital EMS and the Town. The supervisor knew nothing about the struggle. All involved are back under the original agreement. From January 2020 there has been 996 calls and 369 were out of the town's jurisdiction. This represents 40 percent. Jeff Chretien Fire Chief talked on the issue. The possible solution to this issue is having the town purchasing a used ambulance with EMT with basic level paramedics.

The Town Manager wanted to get the boards blessing to start putting together the numbers and data for the ambulance. Then bring back the proposals to the board at a future meeting. Although there was no formal vote taken, they agreed.

2. Police Department Staffing

Police Chief David Wintle talked on the issues at hand. Loss of personnel for personal issues. The town is losing 3 police officers in just a couple of weeks.

The town has hired 2 officers. We will be reimbursed for an officer that is freshly out of the academy.

3. American recovery act (ARRA)

The town of Newport will be receiving approx. \$330,000 under this act. Money to be distributed to the State within 60 days of signing into law and then from the State to the towns within 30 days. The state has no standing on how the funds are to be spent, entirely a municipal decision based on guidelines to be established by the Federal Government. Some possible uses will be for the recreation center and the Newport Cultural Center, because of the loss of revenue over the past 2 years. This will be both challenging and an excellent opportunity for the community. Manager recommended this process simply be adopted by the Selectboard.

4. Riverwalk Festival for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, in August. The committee will need to start raising money.

5. Annual Cleanup will be held this year. (To be announced).

6. Nomination Papers for open positions are available now.

4. Old Business

a. Gravel cost on Camp Benson/Maplewood

After town meeting an overlay will be needed on Camp Benson in the amount of \$22,696.00. We have already expended \$8032.89 on these two roads. (Nason Rd. needs additional \$1725 and Prilay Rd. needs \$2100) during this budget cycle that will overdraft available money.

b. Website

The website is really coming along. The Town Manager has been doing all the updates. The town is looking for feedback.

c. Streetlights

There have been no conversations with CMP (Waiting for spring).

5. New Business

a. Copier replacement

After the Microsoft 10 updates were fixed, the Town Office does not need a new copier at this time. We will be budgeting for one during this budget cycle however due to our current model being 12 years old.

b. MDOT RR Crossing(s) repair

Manager identified the three crossing's to be repaired by MDOT and the RR this spring, Elm Street, Spring Street, and Eastville Rd. Although the town will probably be paving the old Bangor rd. this summer there are no plans to rebuild this crossing. The Town will simply have to cease paving on the east and west side of the crossing. MDOT was informed of the need but there has been no response.

c. 2021 Budget Process

There will meetings with all the department heads next week. Meetings will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> 5:30 p.m. The board will need to appoint Budget committee members by April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Budget Committee Meeting will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Town Report. The department heads and committees will need their report in by April 20<sup>th</sup> to the Town Clerk.

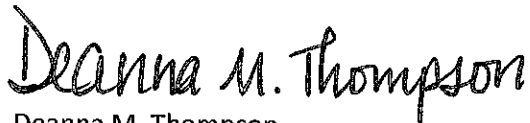
6. Warrant

Motion on the floor to accept the warrant by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, some discussions, all in favor, unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Motion on the floor to adjourn, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Deanna M. Thompson  
Treasurer/Tax Collector