

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Town Manager: J. Ricker

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

1. Call to order

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 02-16-22

Motion to approve minutes by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, no discussion, motion carries.

b. Communications

1. Update Watershed Committee

J. Ricker had first zoom meeting today with Jen Jespersion regarding guidelines, cost analysis, 2 year/12 year outlook and alternatives. The meeting went well and he extended invitations to everyone to attend the next meeting.

2. Town value

The Town Manager noted that the town value has increased since 2019 to over \$55 million dollars. He stated we can adjust the value to the mill for the taxpayer but cannot adjust additional value per year for funding RSU19 and Penobscot County.

3. Harry Fleming requested an extension to 3/16 to close on 7 Adams St due to problems with movement of funds. Mr. Ricker has confidence that Mr. Fleming will fulfill his obligation by this date. Motion to approve extension by G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke, no discussion, motion carries.

4. MDOT has \$5 million "Village" project funds available related to rebuilding downtown areas. Mr. Ricker says this can assist with our budget on making certain improvements. This would be a great opportunity for Newport if we were awarded the funds. Restrictions apply such as use on State or State Aid Roads.

5. The board wanted an update on the traffic circle where Mr. Ricker said this is slated for 2023-24 construction to cost 4.8 million dollars.

4. Old Business - None

5. New Business

a. Bid opening for 38 Grove Street and 69 High Street

38 GROVE ST BID: Ethan Curry has asked to retract his bid for 38 Grove St. He was the only bid for this property. Motion on floor to approve retraction by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carries.

69 HIGH ST: Bob Berg submitted a bid for 69 High St after the approved time. Selectboard rejected this based on that fact. Motion on floor B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, unanimous, motion carries. The remaining bids were opened. See attached bid tab. A lengthy letter was submitted with the Wark/Anderson bid to which Mr. Ricker will circulate to the board. Mr. Wark and Ms. Anderson were the only bidders present for the opening. It was agreed that a decision would be made at the next board meeting on 3/16/2022.

b. 2022/2023 Budget Process

1. Board priorities

Town Manager noted he gave all the dept heads budget worksheets. Solid Waste & PD have not identified major capital equipment needs. Fire Department are considering a request for a new truck and Public Works will need a new Ford 1ton and pickup. There was extensive discussion on ideas for replacing equipment efficiently. Mr. Ricker asked the board to present him with any ideas, questions or priorities they may have on the upcoming budget. He will also bring the budget schedules to the next board meeting so everyone can attend if they choose.

Also, it was announced that annual town meeting to be held THIRD Sat in June. 6/18 to accommodate holding Municipal Election same day as State Election 6/14 as well as RSU Budget Referendum.

2. Titan Energy meeting tomorrow- Mr. Ricker noted that the original offer was retracted due to the events in Ukraine. The new offer is for 8 months. Mr. Ricker wants permission to have the flexibility to sign the contract for 3 phases included up to 12.5/kw. Motion by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, all in favor, motion carries.

c. 2022 Riverwalk Festival Off-premise liquor license obo Newport Entertainment Center- This is for Greg Lovely who will donate all labor/supplies for a Beer and Wine Tent for the Riverwalk Festival Aug 6, 11am-4pm. Also, any money made will be donated back to the town. Motion on floor to approve license by G. Demo, seconded by B. Clarke, no discussion, unanimous, motions carries.

6. Warrant

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

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Kellie M. Harris
Town Clerk

2022 Tax-Acquired Property Bid Opening Tab

March 2, 2022 6:44 p.m.

Bids were received for the following:

69 High Street Map 017 Lot 030 Minimum Bid \$ 14,000.00

Bids received from:

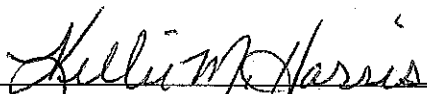
1	Geoffrey Clarke	288 Grove St. Newport, ME	\$140,000	Deposit Received
2	Greg Lovely	PO Box 36 Newport, ME	\$ 35,250	Deposit Received
3	Jason Wark & Crystal Anderson (current residents)	69 High St. Newport, ME	\$ 15,000	Deposit Received

Robert Berg also submitted a bid after the approved time period. The Selectboard opted to reject this bid and deposit was returned to Mr. Berg on 3/3/2022.

Bids were opened by James Ricker Sr, Town Manager and recorded by Kellie M. Harris, Town Clerk.

Bid details are attached.

Attest, a true copy.

Before me: 
Kellie M. Harris, Municipal Clerk

2022 Tax-Acquired Property Bid Opening Tab

March 2, 2022 6:44 p.m.

Bids were received for the following:

38 Grove Street Map 018 Lot 092 Minimum Bid \$ 20,000.00

Bids received from:

1 Ethan Curry 7 Lake Ave \$22,150 DEPOSIT RECEIVED
 Newport


Ethan Curry retracted his bid to which the Selectboard approved. Deposit was returned to Mr. Curry 3/3/2022

Bids were opened by James Ricker Sr, Town Manager and recorded by Kellie M. Harris, Town Clerk.

Bid details are attached.

Attest, a true copy.

Before me:



Kellie M. Harris, Municipal Clerk