

Newport Selectboard & Budget Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2022 @ 5:30 PM Budget Committee @ Selectboard  
6:30 PM Regular Selectboard meeting agenda

Present: Town Manager: J. Ricker

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

Present for Budget Committee workshop portion of meeting: Phil & Barbara Brown, George Phelps, Richard Peck, Maxine Pare

**1. Call to Order**

- a. Pledge of allegiance

**2. Budget Workshop Session:**

- a. Managers comments:

1. Wage /Benefits

Town Manager made note of the rising salary climate and how we need to remain competitive especially where the police department is concerned. Rates have climbed rapidly and will affect our budgets this year if we are to keep our work force intact. However, our benefits are still affordable and provide substantial coverage. Mr. Ricker also noted that Anthem plans to stop coverage at the end of the year on all Maine Health institutions including ME General Hospital and Maine Medical Center. Governor Mills has issued a statement to encourage both parties to resolve this issue.

- b. Budgets:

1. Selectboard
    2. Bad Debts
    3. Professional Services
    4. Planning Board
    5. Elections
    6. Board of Appeals
    7. Code Enforcement
    8. Info Technology
    9. Animal Control

Budget Members and Selectboard Members reviewed supplied department worksheets. After much discussion and some changes, the budget portion of the meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm. A continuation of department and salary discussion will be had at next meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. A 10 minute recess was taken until SB meeting at 6:30.

Regular Meeting Agenda reconvened at 06:30 PM

### **3. Public Access**

Maxine Pare brought up the need for trash cans at Grove St and Riverwalk and also full trash cans at the beach.

### **4. Consent Agenda**

#### **a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 03-17-22**

Motion to approve minutes by D. Berry, seconded by G. Demos. No discussion, motion carries.

#### **b. Communications**

##### **1. Status of Recreational Funding Opportunity**

No responses on Community Rebuilding grant yet.

Town Manager has been working on a new \$950,000 grant through Senator Collins Office for recreation. This which potentially complete fields, fences, bleachers, lighting and add an awning for the ice rink among other things. Mr. Ricker is quite optimistic about this grant.

##### **2. Resignations / Appointments**

Matt Chretien has resigned his last day being 4/7/2022. Amanda Pearl has taken his position and started 3/30/2022. She comes with a good work ethic and a great deal of experience.

##### **3. Library**

Town Manager commented on a great report on the Cultural Center showing an increase in patrons and compliments regarding Kaitlin. Mr. Ricker plans on increasing Kaitlin's hours from 32 to 40 hours due to other employees being out and also working toward returning to Saturday hours.

##### **4. DOT Online Public Hearing for Roundabout- last day to make comments.**

### **5. Old Business**

#### **a. Annual Audit Report**

Mr. Ricker supplied full audit report to all board members so all could review the findings together. All agreed that report was satisfactory.

#### **b. Auditing firms for 2021 / 2022**

Town Manager will be issuing an RFP and he will notify a prior bidder to give them an opportunity to make revisions. Mr. Ricker will submit RFP to board prior to sending out.

**6. New Business**

a. PFAS Investigations in Newport

A complaint was made by an individual to investigate PFAS in Newport. Mr. Ricker has limited details at this point but will keep everyone updated.

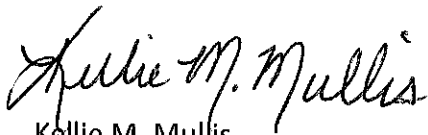
**7. Warrant**

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

**8. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by G. Demos, seconded by A. Russell, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kellie M. Mullis".

Kellie M. Mullis  
Town Clerk