

Town of Newport  
Selectboard Minutes  
June 21,2023 @ 6:30 PM

In attendance: Jim Ricker, Town Manager; Kate Rush, Chair; Donna Berry, Vice Chair; Bruce Clarke

Excused: Adam Russell, Andrew Colford

Other: Jackie Robbins, *Town of Newport Tax Assessor*; Mike Elliot, *Eastern Maine Development Corporation*; Kendra Jo Gindle, *Maine Connectivity Authority*; Deb Ricker, Maxine Pare

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Election of Officers

Chair: B. Clarke nominated Kate Rush. Nomination seconded by D. Berry. All in favor.

Vice Chair: K. Rush nominated Donna Berry. Nomination seconded by B. Clarke. All in favor.

2. Public Access

Maxine Pare thanked the Town Manager and town staff for opening the gate at the lake.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held June 7, 2023.

Motion to approve minutes moved by D. Berry, seconded by B Clarke.  
All in favor.

- b. Communications

1. Town Meeting

- a. Moderator Compensation

Town Manager notified the board that there is a request in this warrant for \$200.00 to compensate James Thorne, Moderator for the Town Meeting. No action needed by board.

- b. Bathrooms at Boat Launch and Grove Street Ball Field

Town Manager notified the board that he has been working with the State of Maine on taking down the bathroom facilities at the North Street Boat

Launch. The bathrooms continue to be destroyed, even with continued efforts to keep people out of them. The bathrooms are on lease from the State of Maine, so they must be involved in the process. Town Manager also noted that he would like to take down the concessions/bathroom facility at the Grove Street Ball Field for similar vandalism reasons. K. Rush requested that Town Manager reach out to selectperson Adam Russell due to his involvement with the Recreation Department.

#### 4. Old Business

##### a. Firetruck delivery date

Town Manager updated board that the new fire truck will be here in 3-4 weeks. Truck will have all equipment installed and lettering will be completed, all as part of the cost of the truck.

#### 5. New business

##### a. Presentation by EMDC & attendees re: Broadband Planning Grant

Mike Elliot with Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) and Kendra Jo Gindle with Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) gave a comprehensive presentation on the Get Ready grant and its components, which has been awarded in the amount of \$10,000 to EMDC for use in Newport. The purpose of the grant is to ready the community through informational sessions with community members, internet service providers and other stakeholders to prepare Newport for possible broadband expansion. The Get Ready Grant funds the resources and tools and EMDC's role would be to facilitate discussions, connect services and manage/report on the grant. At the request of the Selectboard, Grindle also went into additional detail of the process post-Get Ready grant. Motion made to partner with EMDC to execute the Get Ready grant moved by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke. All in favor.

##### b. Presentation by the manager & tax accessor

Jacki Robbins, Tax Assessor for the Town of Newport, presented with the Town Manager on the process of tax commitment, using the Tax Rate Calculation Form. J. Robbins explained the process of determining town assessment as well as variables such as County Tax, Education Appropriation, State Revenue Sharing, Homestead & BETE Reimbursements, all of which determine the local property tax rate. The role of the County's assessment for Newport was also discussed and how that may influence assessment values and the mil rate. Some clarifying questions were asked and Selectboard thanked J. Robbins for the helpful presentation on the tax calculation process.

#### 6. Warrant

Motion to approve Warrant made by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke. No discussion by Selectboard. All in favor.

## 7. Adjourn

B. Clarke inquired of the process to pass an ordinance eliminating personal firework use in specific zoning districts, specifically MRI. Discussion was had on the process, other potential zoning areas: MRII and Village, and current state law around fireworks and noise ordinance. Selectboard in agreement to continue this conversation at a future meeting as an agenda item.

D. Berry suggested a conversation with the Selectboard about changing the meeting time from 6:30pm to 6:00pm.

K. Rush thanked the Town Manager and staff for a smooth town meeting and budget process.

Motion to adjourn moved by D. Berry at 8:13pm. Seconded by B. Clarke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda R. Pearl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda R. Pearl, Deputy Clerk