

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Newport Town Office Meeting room

Present: Town Manager, James Ricker

Selectboard:

Chair: Kate Rush, Vice Chair: Donna Berry

Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of allegiance
- b. Annual election of officers

Motion on floor by D. Berry to nominate Kate Rush as Chairperson, seconded by A. Russell. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion on floor by K. Rush to nominate Donna Berry as Vice Chairperson, seconded by B. Clarke. All in favor, motion carries.

2. Public Access

A. Colford brought up adding a "comments" section to end of regular agenda for Board to give everyone a chance to add to the meeting if desired. Chairperson noted that comments are usually brought up by board members throughout the meeting but will take his recommendation into consideration after seeing how this meeting transpires.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 6-15-22

Motion to approve minutes by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell. No discussion, motion carries.

- b. Communications

1. Auditor contract completed

Town Manager stated audit to start 8/9 and majority will be conducted at the Town Office.

2. Ambulance update

Town Manager confirmed the ambulance should be operational by the week of 8/14 with Northern Light leaving at that time. We have hired 2 F/T paramedics, one who was already on staff has now and a second coming on as soon as he completes his notice with current employer. Also 5 per diem paramedics have been hired. A. Colford questioned ambulance funding and upcoming grants etc. Mr Ricker answered by confirming the ambulance budget has paid for funding and Town received \$173,000 more in federal funds and the Board has not voted on how to spend it yet.

3. Cleaning protocols

Town Manager said the cost will go up to stay in line with cleaning protocols. NCC has 140-150 people including children going through a day. He now has 3 contracted cleaners to take care of the Town Office, Public Safety and NCC. Also, he received a quote to redo all the floors for \$11,000 which was unacceptably too high. He will continue to pursue other contractors for pricing and will update the Board.

4. Appointments to Comprehensive Planning Board Committee

Town Manager read off new members to Selectboard to accept appointments for committee members. Motion on floor to accept appointments by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell. All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Old Business:

a. Year end financials

Town Manager stated we closed out year with an unexpended amount of \$94,232.05. Our real estate tax collection rate was an impressive 97%.

b. Security System at the Recreation Center

Mr. Ricker would like to table this since he is still waiting to hear from the federal level of possible capital funding.

5. New Business

a. Fee Schedule review

1. MSW / Brush

Town Manager suggested we raise the brush price from .003 to .005 on both resident and NR due to increase in contractor fees. This would not affect small loads from residents but would only concern large truck or trailer loads. Motion on floor to approve increase by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Colford. All in favor. Motion carries.

b. Waste Management Contract (time sensitive)

Board was supplied copies of contract to review. Town Manager recommended approving the 5 year contract despite reservations on the long term due to the lack of other options at this time. However we can cancel at any time with 20 day notice which pleased the Board. Motion on floor to approve by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke. All in favor. Motion carries.

c. Charter Communications Contract

Board was supplied copies of contract to review. Discussion was had regarding 10 year term as well as type of cable to be used and specific areas that Charter will or will not cover. Town Manager agreed to go back to Charter to discuss these issues among others prior to presenting to Board again.

A. Colford brought up the need for a Public Access Channel for the town. K. Rush noted that further staffing will be necessary to maintain such an endeavor so they will need to explore further.

d. New Victualers License: Newport Diner, owned by Debbie Six, Jeff Parkins, Newport

Motion on floor to approve by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell. All in favor, motion carries.

6. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke. All in favor. Motion carries.

Additional comments were made by Board:

D. Berry- questioned status of Safer grant but no word yet. Possibly August. She also stated that she is appreciative of Mr. Ricker and what he's done for the town for so many years. She submitted application for him for Town Manager of the Year through MMA for this year.

K. Rush- wanted update on activities at the Riverwalk. Town Manager noted the festival is on 8/6 and we received our largest donation for the festival from the Electrical Workers Union of \$2500. Also, NCC has had programs for children which has been well received. The stage is done and has hosted bands with much success. On 8/18 the Katahdin Valley Boys, who have a large following, will be performing. The next Farmers Market will be 7/28 at the Elm St Rec Center. Public Works has done a nice job sprucing things up at the Riverwalk ; for example they put down gravel to reinforce the road to increase safety.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Town Clerk