

Town of Newport
Selectboard Meeting
August 18, 2021 @t 6:30 PM
Newport Public Safety Building

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

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Access

- a. Election of New Chairperson/Vice Chairperson

R. Davis stepped down as chair and made a motion to name K. Rush as the new chairperson, seconded by D. Berry, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

Motion on the floor to name D. Berry as Vice-Chair by R. Davis, seconded by B. Clarke, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 07-21-21

Motion on the floor to accept the minutes by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

- b. Communications

1. 2021 Paving Program & update

Extension was given to Roundy Paving till September 15, 2021. There is a wait for manhole riser rings.

2. Grant State of Maine for flashing lights in front of NCC.

The Town of Newport was selected for these new devices that will be here in the spring. Public Works will be picking these up these devices when they are available.

3. Stage at Riverwalk

There is a donation of \$1200.00 for the labor on the stage. The next step will be the roof truss system. At this moment there is a \$5000.00 donation leaving \$2539.00 to be taken out of the Municipal Building Replacement Special Revenue Account. Motion on the floor by R. Davis to take the money out of that account, seconded by G. Demos, some discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

4. State Shot Mandates for Fire/EMS in Public Safety Building

Without the Covid Shot EMS Cannot work out of the Public Safety Building, but Fire personnel can. The Town Manager will keep the Board advised on future information as it becomes available.

5. Drawdown Committee

There is a meeting on Monday, August 23rd, at 4 pm. Swimmers Itch has become a problem this year. Information regarding swimmer's itch has been posted on the town's website. This information is also posted on board in the town office. Lake is experiencing a sporadic bloom currently.

6. Albert Tempesta Code Enforcement Officer

Al broke his wrist and shoulder due to a fall over the guardrail on route 7. Al was removing a sign (craft business sign) that was not permitted there. Expected to make a full recovery , out for at least two weeks.

7. Electrical Union School at the old Elementary School

The school is 75% ready to open. They are waiting for their furniture to be delivered and change the sign at the end of the driveway entrance. Board members will be briefed if they care to do a walk thru.

4. Old Business

a. Annual Festival

The festival was a successful with several vendors selling out of their products. Everyone wishes to return next year. The festival committee will start to meet after the first of the year. Attendance at the festival was up this year. The town manager wanted to thank the committee and all its volunteers that make this event possible. Our funding account started @ 6,700 and now has 6,200 despite the fact there was no town wide solicitation for the event. This was due to raffles and 4- \$500.00 gifts received.

b. A.R.P.A. Update:

1. Board Direction
2. Funding: 30-day extension
3. Credentials

The Town of Newport will be receiving \$337,000 in two equal check amounts. The federal government has delayed the issuance of the money by 30 days which should be around the first week in September. More guidelines will be issued for the use of the money. The mindset of the town manager is to use the money for projects that will benefit our community today and well into the future. He will be consulting with the towns attorney more specific guidance and make handbooks available for all the board members that detail how the monies are to be spent for non-entitlement communities.

M. Pare (School Nurse) would like to set up training for the board (regarding the current heroin problems and the use of Narcan. She will update them by furnishing a video presentation to the manager who will forward to all board members.

c. Round-a-bout update

Robbie Moulton from the state denies that there is any construction funding in the works and verified engineering funds only. The situation continues to worsen as traffic congestion now occurs from Thursday through the weekend. The town manager will keep the board abreast of all updates.

d. Planning/Selectboard minutes from Joint Public Hearing Review

K. Rush was present in the zoom meeting, but her name was not in the minutes. The minutes will be updated. At the future meetings a fee structure will need to be addressed. The Board of Selectmen will set up a Special Town Meeting to be held in the near future.

5. New Business

a. Informational Signage

More signage is necessary at public entities. (i.e. Town Office, Boat Launch, Courthouse, etc.) This would require signage developed by the Town of Newport, not the standard MDOT signs. The signs would be expensive running with a very rough estimate of \$16,000.00. Kate commented as to this may be a great use of the NRPA funding.

b. Setting a date & Warrant Articles for special Town Meeting

The exact date is hard to come up with due to the complexities of one of the articles regarding the marijuana ordinance. The Town Manager is hoping for a September date due to deadlines and identified the following articles:

1. Building on Main that may be demolished.
2. 38 Grove Street Building that needs to be demolished.
3. Vehicles that are needed for the Public Works Department:

1. Loader
2. Pickup

The Town Manager wants to move on these vehicles by addressing a possible lease option and pay off after the special town meeting if permission is granted. He will further update the Board at our next meeting.

6. Warrant

Motion on the floor to accept the warrant by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Motion the floor to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, all in favor, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna M. Thompson

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Treasurer