

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
Newport Public Safety Building
September 15, 2021 @5:00 PM
Joint workshop and Public Hearing w/Planning Board @ 6:00 PM
Marijuana Ordinance Proposal

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

Not Present: K. Rush

1. Call to Order

a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Access-None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 09-01-21

Motion on the floor to approve the minutes by R. Davis, seconded by G. Demos, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

b. Communications

1. Grove Street Property

Still working with the attorney to clean up any liens on the property. The property needs to be taken down before winter and the manager will be reaching out to contractors to get this accomplished.

2. Mask Policy

Due to increased covid variant infections in the area, and for the safety of the employees and customers, a new policy has been enacted as of 09-14-21. Copy of the policy shall be attached to these minutes.

3. Annual Appointments

All appointments were approved at once. The Town Manager read all of the appointments to the board. Motion on the floor to appoint all that was read by R. Davis, seconded by G. Demos, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

4. Old Business

a. Loader update

The Town of Newport is anticipated to take delivery of a loader by the end of September, first of October.

5. New Business

a. Joint discussion w/Ambulance Committee

Unanimous discussion on purchasing an ambulance and outfitting it, as recommended by the Ambulance Committee. Chief Chretien commented how in the past ten years an area who had four separate services is now down to just one. G & H Ambulance was at the town for 10 Months and the partnership broke down due to billing issues. Northern Lights currently here but due to staffing issues our crews are covering the entire northern Lights area, not just Newport and Palmyra. Jeff Chretien talked about the cause and effect of these staffing decreases. It will take three to six months to start up an ambulance service. This would include the ambulance, licenses, stocking the ambulance, and staffing.

The Town Manager stated that the Town is better financially now using the special revenue accounts and the American Recover Money. The best time to do this is now with controls and policies in place.

(No action taken by the Selectboard , request for further funding breakdowns)

b. Review of Special Town Meeting Warrant

The Special Town Meeting Warrant was reviewed with Attorney John Hamer from Rudman & Winchell. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12th, 2021, at 6:00 PM. It will be held at the Newport Recreation Center. Motion to have Meeting by G. Demos, and seconded by R. Davis, no further discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

c. **Public Hearing with Planning Board @ 6:00 Pm regarding Marijuana Ordinance Proposal**

John Hamer Attorney from Rudman & Winchell was present to help with any legal changes that might need to be done. Route 7 is very restrictive as to what can be done within the commercial zone. A change was made to make it door to door (main entrance) 500' instead of property line to property line of 1000'. This would make it less restrictive. Motion on the floor to accept the changes by G. Phelps, seconded by D. Ferrell, no further discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

The selectboard will need to set up a fee schedule at a future meeting.

There will be no limit on the number of businesses with the ordinance. They just need to make sure they have the correct paperwork.

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 to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

8. Motion to reconvene meeting to appoint Richard Peck to the Planning Board by G. Demos, seconded by R. Davis, no discussion, all in favor, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Deanna M. Thompson in cursive script.

Deanna M. Thompson

Treasurer