

**Newport Selectboard  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
January 17, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

**Present:**

**Town Manager:** James Ricker

**Deputy Clerk:** Kathleen Kemp

**Selectboard:** Vice Chair: Donna Berry, Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford

**Absent:** Chair, Kate Rush

**Attendees:**

Maxine Pare, Planning Board

Travis Gould, Tax Assessor

1. **Call to order:** D. Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
  - a. **Pledge of allegiance**

2. **Public Access:** None

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of minutes from meeting held 01.03.24:** D. Berry motioned to approve the minutes, so moved by A. Russell, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. **Communications**

1. **Heat pumps:** Arrived, installed, and in working order. Cages are being made by the Public Works Department and will be installed as soon as completed.
    2. **Sign:** Jim Miller will be providing sample Town Office signs for review as well as the Fire Department and Public Works truck lettering.
    3. **New Assessor:** Travis Gould met with the Board for his appointment to the position of Tax Assessor. D. Berry motioned to approve the appointment, so moved by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried. We are truly fortunate to have Travis as he comes to us with a great deal of experience and already has brought innovative ideas, such as Google Earth. He presently works in Dexter, Vinalhaven, Newburg, and Palmyra as CEO. Travis will be in the Newport Town Office on Tuesday's from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Travis also works with our CEO, Al Tempesta, in Dexter on Wednesday's.
    4. **Public Works Truck:** The Manager apprised the Board of the lease purchase with Androscoggin Bank in the amount of \$46,377 to pay for the plow and attachments on the 2023 Chevy. The 2014 Ford was sold for \$32,000 which reduced the total bill of \$78,377 to \$46,377 which will be paid in two payments commencing Jan 2025.

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Truck lettering:** As stated above in Communications 3.b.2.

- b. **Generator Vendors:** The Board was informed of the two generator issues, the first at Public Works, the second at Public Safety. Public Works will require approximately \$1,400 in repairs, while the total cost is not yet known on the Public Safety unit. Two different vendors are servicing the units: Milo Generator and CMD Power Systems. The Manager will keep the Board updated on progress.
- c. **Newport Metals status:** Manager and CEO will make a site visit on Thursday.
- d. **Electronic Sign Status:** D. Berry inquired about the sign status. The Manager discussed order status and Spring installation.

## 5. New Business

- a. **Liquor License renewal Cervezas Southwest Grill:** D. Berry made motion to approve, so moved by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.
- b. **Eastern Maine Planning Commission:** The Manager informed the Board of his recent membership to the Eastern Maine Planning Commission. Being a member allows for access to available grants.
- c. **Manager Vacation:** The Manager informed the Board of his vacation plans for the month of March (3/4-3/28). Protocols will be in place for the Town Office, Departments Heads, receiving information, attending meetings, and any other necessary needs.
- d. **Ambulance Rate Increase:** A. Russell inquired if the new rates had gone into effect and if there was any evidence of increase. The Manager explained that it would take at least 30 days to show results.
- e. **State of Maine EMS Grant Monies:** A. Colford inquired if the Town has taken advantage of available State EMS Monies. The manager stated the grant is still pending.

6. **Warrant:** D. Berry made motion to approve, so moved by A. Colford, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

7. **Adjourn:** D. Berry made motion to adjourn, so moved by A. Russell, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen Kemp*

Kathleen Kemp, Deputy Clerk

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2023.