

**Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

Present:

Town Manager: Jim Ricker

Deputy Clerk: Kathleen Kemp

Selectboard: Chair: Kate Rush, **Vice Chair:** Donna Berry, Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, and Andrew Colford via Zoom

Attendees: Maxine Pare, **Planning Board** and Rhobe Moulton, **MDOT** via Zoom

1. Call to Order: K. Rush 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 02-07-24: K. Rush requested a motion to accept the minutes, so moved by D. Berry, and seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Communications

1. Signage update: Miller Signs provided a picture of a sample sign, similar to previous sign, two-sided, cost \$564, Public Works will install. The Board agreed to the sign, the Manager will proceed.

4. Old Business

a. Recreation Center Grant update: The Grant requirements have been completed, reviewed, and approved. The Grant has now been sent to the next level of reviewers. The Manager will update as information is made available.

b. Tax Assessing (update): The Manager and Tax Assessor have made several attempts to contact Mr. Dave Ledew to meet with the Board, but have made no progress to date. The Manager hopes to have Mr. Ledew at the April 3rd Board meeting. Mr. Ledew has recently formed his own company to review evaluations. A blanket evaluation will be needed to bring the Town to 92%. The Manager informed the Board that appealing the state's assessment can be lengthy and expensive.

5. New Business

a. MDOT Meeting held (02-13-24): Meeting held at the Town Office to discuss the impending roundabout.

b. ZOOM connection with MDOT Official Rhobe Moulton: MDOT Representative, Rhobe Moulton, joined the meeting via Zoom to answer any additional questions from the prior meeting on 02.13.24. There were several questions and concerns regarding sidewalks, pedestrian traffic, and business access during the construction detours. Ms. Moulton will bring the inquiries to her Team for response. Also, the Contractor(s) will work with the Town for solutions and to facilitate a smooth transition.

b. March meeting date (s): The Manager has asked the Board that there only be one meeting in March on the 20th. The Board agreed to the request. The Manager will attend by Zoom. The Deputy Clerk and Board will attend in person as usual.

1. Admin protocol: The Manager will be meeting with the Town Staff and Department Heads to discuss protocol. Any personnel issues will be addressed by the Manager. Signatures will be done by stamp, K. Rush offered to provide signatures as needed.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates for Selectboard/Budget Meetings:

April 3 Dual Meeting: 5:00-6:00 pm Budget and 6:00-7:00 pm Selectboard (Guest: Mr. Dave Ledew - TBD)

April 10 Budget Meeting: 5:00-7:00 pm

April 17 Dual Meeting: 5:00-6:00 pm Budget and 6:00-7:00 pm Selectboard

May 1 Budget Meeting: 5:00-7:00 pm

May 8 Selectboard Meeting: 6:00-7:00 pm

May 22 Selectboard Meeting: 6:00-7:00 pm

3. Maxine Pare, Lake Association information: Maxine discussed legislation being proposed to give investigative and lien authority for land use violations on the Lake. The Manager explained that he would be constructing a warrant article for the 2024 Town Meeting that would require property owners on the Lake to contact the Town of Newport for the permitting process. Board member, A. Colford, wanted Lake owners to weigh in on any proposed ordinance.

4. Newport Metals update: D. Berry commented on the property improvements and that a good effort has been made. The Manager has seen it as well and agreed.

5. ICMA Retirement Program: The Manager explained that some unplanned changes may occur, affecting three employees. The Manager will discuss with the Town attorney.

6. Warrant: K. Rush made a motion to accept the warrant, so moved by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Adjourn: K. Rush made a motion to accept the warrant, so moved by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.