

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Newport Town Office

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard:

Chair: Kate Rush, Vice Chair: Donna Berry, Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford

Attendees:

Chief Jeff Chretien, Maxine Pare, Andre Cushing, Debra Ricker

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by K. Rush at 6:30pm.

- a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

Attendee, Maxine Pare, addressed the Board to thank them for placing a trash receptacle on Grove St. Ms. Pare also voiced a complaint regarding lack of proper attire worn by the Selectboard at meetings where they are representatives of the people they serve. Chair, K. Rush, asked Ms. Pare to elaborate further where Ms. Pare replied Mr. Colford's attire at the meeting 2 weeks prior was inappropriate.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 1-4-23

Motion to approve minutes by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. Communications

1. County Commissioner Andre Cushing

Mr. Cushing spoke regarding policy of possible dissemination of ARPA funds. Penobscot County received 29.5 million in ARPA funds. Through a series of listening and feedback sessions they have determined priorities for some of the funds. There are 2 levels of grants. First is the Beneficiary Grant which is under \$50,000 and requires minimal reporting. Second is the Sub-Recipient Grant which is over \$50,000 and over and requires reporting by a fiscal agent identified by the entity. Mr. Ricker asked that Mr. Cushing clarify the definition of the fiscal agent. Mr. Cushing confirmed the fiscal agent is anyone who has experience handling ARPA funds over \$50,000. They are still accepting applications which are available on their website. K. Rush asked how much has been obligated at this time where as Mr. Cushing replied approximately \$10-11 million. Ms. Rush also asked if awarded are we eligible to apply for any more funds. Mr. Cushing stated that for example, if we were approved for a Beneficiary Grant, we would be eligible to apply for a Sub-Recipient Grant. Town Manager inquired whether ARPA funds can be used for the jail. Mr. Cushing stated the funds are not permitted to be used for the jail currently. Decisions are still being made by the subcommittee on existing Sub-Recipient applications. The Commissioner approves Beneficiary applications since they are more straightforward.

2. National Opioid Settlement

Andre Cushing explained that Penobscot County was one of the plaintiffs in the National Opioid Settlement and has received \$400,000 from the pharmaceutical companies and suppliers. They are expecting more money in the future and he could not elaborate on how the money will be expended but feels as though decisions will be made on a similar platform to the ARPA funds.

4. Old Business

a. Water Regulation Committee appointees

Donnie Gross
Jim Seavey
Allen Whitaker

Mr. Ricker stated he personally reached out to these 3 new applicants and they are very interested in being appointed and all other members need to be reappointed for another year. Motion to approve appointing 3 new members and reappointing existing 10 members for another year made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Ambulance run data

Town Manager supplied Board with report from Ambulance Committee Meeting which explained designation of calls using A,B,C,D,E,O system according to severity. According to Manager, synopsis of meeting is the Committee's recommendation to discontinue all A, B, O calls outside of Newport's jurisdiction as this is not an appropriate use of the service paid by Newport residents. Manager also stated he could send letters to the surrounding towns stating this to make them aware of the change. K. Rush suggested we make a motion to make the suggested above change for 1 month to collect 30 days of data and reconvene at the March 1st meeting. Motion to discontinue responding to A,B,O calls outside of jurisdiction (Newport & Palmyra), send notification letters to surrounding towns and reconvene on March 1st to analyze data by B. Clarke, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, motion carried.

5. New Business

a. Liquor license renewal, Cervezas Southwest Grill

Motion to approve liquor license made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Recommended Appointees for Recreation Grant Committee:

Gene Crockett
John Burgess
Adam Hawthorne
Lisa Roundy
Adam Russell
Ryan Parker

Gene reached out to all these people to be on the committee. Town Manager will give them guidance on what needs to be done on the building. He has already obtained quotes on the roof, heating, and siding. He confirmed there will be workshops held that the Board will be encouraged to attend. Motion to appoint 6 members above to the committee made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

c. Appointments for Alternate Code Enforcement Officers,

1. Jackie Robbins
2. James Ricker

Motion to appoint Jackie Robbins and James Ricker as Alternate Code Enforcement Officers made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

d. MMA Safety Incentive Program Resolve

Town Manager met with MMA reps on how to reduce Workers Compensation Insurance bill that was discussed at previous meeting. The Safety Incentive Program Resolve will help do that. If the Selectboard assures that the Town will create a safe working environment through training and implementing

written policies, it will reduce our cost by 10%. Also, if we have MDOL Safety Works come for a voluntary inspection our cost would be reduced by another 5%. Motion to sign Safety Incentive Program Resolve made by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

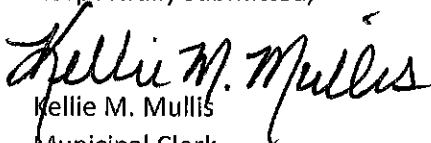
6. Warrant

Motion to approve the warrant by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:06pm made by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Clerk