

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2023 @6:30 PM

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard:

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

Attendees:

Chief Jeff Chretien, Debra Ricker, Maxine Pare,

1. Call to Order

K. Rush called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held January 18, 2023

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

b. Communications

1. Maine Town and City, electronic or in paper

Town Manager asked Board their preference on how they would like to receive this publication and all agreed to receive via email to save costs and resources.

2. CDS Funding

Town Manager stated funding will not be available for another 2-3 months but we will need an environmental assessment first. He would like to prepare an RFP. Motion to prepare an RFP for an engineer to complete environmental study made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

3. Brothers Newport LLC Adult Use Cannabis Retail Store

Town Manager noted Brothers Newport LLC is the 3rd retail cannabis store to be approved and licensed by the Planning Board in Newport. Next month the Planning Board is looking at Gram's Five and Dime pending inspection and another application was received for the space next to Bear's One Stop.

4. MDOT Overlay Projects

Mr. Ricker said Rte 2 at Carter St to Herman/Bangor line (22 miles) will be done as well as Rte 7 North to Condon Rd (1.28 miles).

5. Approval of off premise liquor license for Millennium Weddings, Inc Bovin Development for Casey Lander Benefit

Motion to approve off premise liquor license for above by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Old Business

a. Police / Fire Staffing

Town Manager stated the Police Dept has had success with hiring competent personnel and now have 1 new part time and 2 new full time officers. The Fire Dept has had 1 resignation which has created an

opportunity to promote within. Mr. Ricker and Chief Chretien recommend to the Board that a new position of Deputy Chief be created within the department. The position will have a higher rate of pay and encompass more responsibilities and this individual will manage operations in Chief Chretien's absence. This individual is highly qualified for this position which was shown by Town Manager as he noted all of his certifications and accomplishments to the Board. This is a much-needed position for the department and for Chief Chretien especially since the addition of the ambulance. No motion necessary as this is more of a reconfiguration of finances and Town Manager just wanted Board to be aware of these changes.

K. Rush asked Town Manager to elaborate on the reaction to Newport scaling back on response to surrounding town's ambulance calls. Mr. Ricker noted it has been negative at times including with dispatch. Chief Chretien and Mr. Ricker have been talking with anyone who need clarification and it seems to be alleviating confusion. Mr. Ricker plans on meeting with Chris Lavoie at Penobscot County Dispatch to clarify any confusion with them.

5. New business

a. 2023 Budget Committee Nominees

Discussion was had about the budget process and setting the meeting dates, electing a chairperson and amending the policy that was set in 2010. Mr. Ricker will get more information together for next meeting to discuss further.

6. Warrant

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

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Clerk