

**Newport Selectboard  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2024 @ 6:00 PM  
w/ZOOM link**

**Present:**

**Town Manager, Jim Ricker via Zoom**

**Deputy Clerk, Kathleen Kemp**

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

**Absent: K. Rush, Chair**

**Attendees: Maxine Pare, Planning Board**

1. **Call to Order:** D. Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

a. **Pledge of allegiance**

2. **Public Access:** M. Pare asked if the dam gate could be closed a little bit. D. Berry explained that it has been closed by 3 feet today and is monitored daily by the Public Works Director. The Town Manager further explained that the Public Works Director is monitoring daily due to all of the rain and that the gate fluctuates several times per week.

3. **Consent Agenda**

a. **Approval of minutes from meeting held 2-21-24:** D. Berry motioned to accept the minutes, B. Clarke so moved, Adam R. seconded, motion carried.

b. **Communications**

1. **Ambulance update:** Town Manager provided update. The second ambulance is fully stocked and licensed by the State. D. Berry asked if there was extra staffing and overtime, the Town Manager said no.
2. **Roundabout update:** Town Manager stated that he had spoken with the Maine DOT Rep. They have established a MOU for the project stating that the Town is responsible for the median in the middle of the Roundabout. The Town Manager stated that if we need to maintain he requested to participate in the meetings regarding what will go in the median. The DOT Rep agreed.
3. **Casella Waste (Pinetree-Evergreen):** The Town Manager received reports that the bathrooms at the Rec Center are flooding again due to an old code issue of a trap that is three feet underground. The U-Tube needs to be replaced. To replace the system will cost approximately \$4000.00 and will take place on Thursday, 03/21/24.

4. **Rec Center Heat Pump Covers:** D. Berry mentioned the new Heat Pump Covers at the Rec Center. The Town Manager stated that the Public Works Team created and installed them. The Town Manager and A. Russell said that they look great!

5. **Tax Bill Dates:** D. Berry asked if the Tax Bills could be due on Thursday's since the Town Office is closed on Friday's.

#### 4. Old Business

a. **Update on electronic sign:** Bangor Neon will be in receipt of the sign approximately 04/11/24. They are looking to install at the end of April/first of May. The Town Manager explained that the location will need to be prepared by the Public Works Department. The old foundation may be an issue.

b. **Budget update**

1. **Fund balance report:** The Town Manager is working on the budget. There is almost \$2m in the checkbook, \$423k+ in ambulance account, \$916k+ in revenue, for a total of \$3m+ total funds. The Town Manager will be closely monitoring the balances.

#### 5. New Business

a. **Local / Federal Elections update:** The openings have been posted online and in the Rolling Thunder. The Town Office has only had one request for papers to date. B. Clarke stated that he will not be running for another term. The Board requested that the ad be placed again in the Rolling Thunder. The Town Manager asked that the Clerk re-run the ad.

1. **Local nomination papers must be received by April 11, 2024**

**Selectboard: 2**

**RSU 19 Directors: 2**

**Sanitary: 2**

**Water: 1**

b. **Town Manager Thank You:** The Town Manager recognized all of the Town's Teams for their due diligence during his absence. He commended all staff for a job well done.

6. **Warrant:** D. Berry motioned to approve the warrant, A. Russell so moved, B. Clarke seconded, motion carried.

7. **Adjourn:** D. Berry motioned to adjourn, B. Clarke so moved, A. Russell seconded, motion carried.

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**Addendum:**

**New Business:**

**New CMP Power Lines requiring Selectboard signatures.** D. Berry made a motion to sign, so moved by A. Colford, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.