

Newport Selectboard  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
07-19-23 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard:

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

Attendees: Debra Ricker, Maxine Pare, Gene Crockett

1. Call to Order

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

a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Access

M. Pare thanked town for opening the gate at the lake. D. Ricker talked about Riverwalk Raffle, tickets are 1/\$5 or 5/\$20 and are for a whale watch, 1 night stay in Boothbay Harbor.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes 6-21-23

Motion to approve minutes by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, minutes approved.

4. Communications

a. Tax Stabilization

Town Manager noted there was a \$47,403 reduction in taxes. Most likely this will be the only year since the State will be revising the tax stabilization program to possibly include reduction in income tax or an increase in the Homestead. Taxes also had a 25% increase and the new mill rate is 16.3. A. Colford noted that if the town increased its ISO rating (we are currently at 5), it may result in savings for tax payers. Town Manager agreed to look into it further.

b. Revision to Land Use Ordinance

Town Manager received a letter from the DECD stating the Land Use ordinance needs to be revised to include the new law for Multiple Housing on single lots. The DECD is willing to pay for any legal fees or fees for rewriting the ordinance. Once this is complete it will need to be approved at a town meeting.

5. Old business

a. Discussion of meeting hours

Discussion was had to change the meetings to 6:00pm and the Board agreed with this. Motion to start meetings going forward at 6:00pm, by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Fireworks Ordinance Discussion

Town Manager stated the Town does not currently have an ordinance and we defer to State Law. Discussion was had to propose a change limiting the use of fireworks in overpopulated areas due to fire safety concerns. Board members agreed they should have a committee consisting of a mix of views to discuss and make a decision. Town Manager will draft a list of committee members for next meeting.

c. Ambulance services (vehicle)

Account is now at \$250,222. The discussion will be postponed until the next meeting when Fire Chief can attend.

6. New Business

- a. Off-premise Catering Permit c/o Newport Entertainment Center for the Riverwalk Festival August 5, 2023

Motion to approve permit by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, permit approved.

- b. Off-Premise Catering Permit c/o Jeffs Catering at the Grove August 5, 3 to 11 PM

Motion to approve permit by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, permit approved.

- c. Anglers Restaurant, annual liquor license renewal

Motion to approve license by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, license approved.

- d. Off-premise Catering Permit c/o Millenium Weddings for annual Alumni Reunion at Rec Center

Motion to approve permit by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, permit approved.

- e. Newport Recreation, equipment request

Gene Crockett discussed challenges with maintaining the fields when relying on other departments' equipment. The amount of work necessary warrants the rec dept having their own tractor and small shed to store it. A proposal of purchasing a Kyoti with a shed from Hillview Minibarns was presented:

Kyoti: \$18,900.00

Shed: \$ 7950.00

A. Russell noted that we have been lucky to have had volunteers to assist with maintenance in the past but many of them have kids aging out of the program. We cannot rely on volunteers in the future so having equipment like this is essential.

Motion to approve purchase of Kyoti and shed with above quote to be taken out of Rec Acct made by A. Colford, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

- f. Signage

Town Manager will speak with Jim Miller to see if he can update the Ballpark sign and Ridge Rd Cemetery sign which are faded.

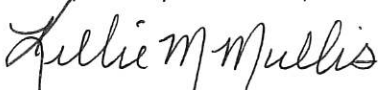
7. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant made by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, warrant approved.

8. Adjourn

Motion made by D. Berry to adjourn, seconded by A. Russell, meeting adjourned at 7:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kellie M. Mullis

Town Clerk