

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

Present:

Town Manager: J. Ricker

Selectboard: Interim Chair: B. Clarke, A. Russell, A. Colford via zoom

Owner of Maine Pawn & Gun: Eric White, Director of Operations: Cassandra LaVertu

Owner of The Money Shop: Lee Shawley

Brenda Clarke, Debra Ricker, Maxine Pare via zoom

1. Call to Order

B. Clarke called meeting to order at 6:30pm.

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held February 15, 2023

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

b. Communications

1. Emails / personal contacts for committee members c/o County ARPA funding requests

Mr. Ricker has spoken with the various departments and committees and has the following people to participate:

Public Works, Jon Kosobud

Police Chief David Wintle

Fire Chief Jeff Chretien

Recreation Director Gene Crockett

Newport Development Corporation, Kim Donaldson

Planning Board/Budget/Comprehensive Committee, Rick Peck

They will be tasked with coming up with ideas to make a presentation to the Board. Their first meeting will be next week. The timeline for the funds is May.

c. Conceptual Drawings of Roundabout at Triangle

Mr. Ricker supplied MDOT drawings to the Board for the proposed roundabout. This still needs to go through a Public Hearing in Newport and out to bid. The tentative timeline is 2024.

4. Old business

a. Ambulance revenue data

Town Manager gave an update up \$157,863 as of 8 months in.

5. New business

- a. Pawn Brokers license for Eric L. White dba Maine Pawn and Gun Inc
to be located at 134 Main Street, Newport

B. Clarke made a motion to move Public Hearing to start after public access portion of meeting. Public Hearing opened at 6:32pm. He requested that the owner of Maine Pawn & Gun, Eric White speak to the nature of his business. Mr. White stated it will be a standard pawn shop which will sell firearms. He currently owns 4 other stores and has had no issues with any of them. A. Russell questioned the licenses required where he replied he needs be licensed by the State of Maine and Town and possess a Federal Firearms License.

Lee Shawley, owner of the Money Shop since 1993 offered concerns for her business stability. Currently, there are 2 pawn shops in close proximity and this would make 3 and given the current economic climate she stated pawn shops have been closing rapidly. After losing her husband recently, she's concerned her business would suffer after Maine Pawn & Gun opens since they will be much larger. She's hoping for a good working relationship with Mr. White in the future so they can both prosper. Mr. White replied that he is more than willing to work with her.

Motion made by A. Russell to approve Maine Pawn & Gun's license, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

Public Hearing closed at 6:35pm.

- b. New contract with Cost Recovery, re: Fire Department billing

Mr. Ricker noted that the main problem with this company is delayed payment. They can take as long as 5-6 months to reconcile their bill. Unfortunately there are no alternative companies to use. There are no Federal or State regulations as there is with medical billing. An option would be to add a clause in the contract to reimburse within a certain period. Another option is to obtain a software if it exists and do our own billing. Now that the Fire Department has a Deputy Chief, we have more administrative time which makes this a possibility. There is no time limit to sign this contract so B. Clarke asked that we get more information from the Fire Department and also consult the remaining Board members. It was agreed by all present members to table this item at this time.

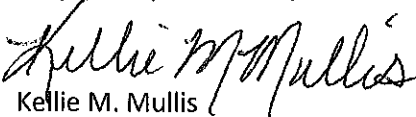
6. Warrant

Motion to approve the warrant by A. Russell, seconded by A. Colford, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by A. Russell, seconded by A. Colford, meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Clerk