

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Town Office Meeting Room

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker

Selectboard: Chair: Donna Berry, Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell,

Andrew Colford joined via zoom at 6:21pm

Absent: Kate Rush

Attendees: Debra Ricker, Maxine Pare, Alan Campbell, Peggy & James Seavey

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by D. Berry at 6:00pm

- a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access

None

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 08-16-23

Motion to approve minutes made by A. Russell, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. Communications

1. 2023 Paving

Town Manager stated he has spoken with Roundy about paving that was originally due to be completed 8/24/23. Due to inclement weather throughout the month of June they will be starting milling on 9/7 and complete everything by 9/19. D. Berry noted that the original bid contained penalties of \$500 per day past completion date of 8/24 to which Town Manager replied that most paving companies were delayed due to the ongoing rain conditions. D. Berry asked whether they can implement smaller fees and possibly have Roundy come to the next meeting. Board agreed that as long as they start on time 9/7, it is not necessary for them to attend the next meeting. Town Manager agreed to notify Board when they actually commence paving. Town Manager noted the town may still be over budget and recommended that if they cut Grogan Ave to stay within budget. After discussion over alternative roads to cut, a motion was made by B. Clarke to cut Grogan Ave to stay within budget. Motion was seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Old Business

- a. Fire Truck /Ambulance update

Town Manager stated that for the year of 8/2022 to 8/2023 the balance is \$296,526. The Board was supplied with an in depth handout which stated number of transactions, nature of transactions and locations of each. Town Manager stated that we should receive the new fire truck by the end of next week. The lease interest rate has not changed even though there has been a delay and now the rates are 2 points higher. The spare ambulance will hopefully be here in October. Old Town needs to receive their new ambulance before they can release the spare ambulance to us.

5. New Business

a. Electronic Sign

Town Manager stated that 6 other towns got ARPA funds at \$15,000 to put toward electronic signs. Our original ARPA request did not include a sign. Many towns already have these and they are remotely programmable. Town Manager has received preliminary quotes from Bangor Neon and Moosehead Signs for a 2 sided sign with a range of \$26,000-\$35,000. It is recommended that we get a width of 75" with the pixels at 6-8mm. Location is to be where Foster's building was on Main Street before the bridge. A. Campbell from the Newport Development Corporation stated that this will be more informative for our residents and more efficient than the street signs. We can advertise upcoming meetings, closings and requests for volunteers for various projects. Town Manager stated that we still have \$135,00 left in existing ARPA funds after purchase of the first and second ambulances. He requests to put out an RFP for the sign. Motion to put out RFP and use ARPA funds to purchase an electronic sign made by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Recommendations in reference to the 2023 Drawdown

Town Manager supplied Board with minutes from prior Water Regulation Committee Meeting 8/22/23. Committee voted unanimously to start drawdown on 9/11. M. Pare noted the lake has already lost 3.5 ft of visibility and it is down from 3m to 2m where 2m is the benchmark for starting the drawdown. Motion to accept Water Regulation Committee's recommendation to start drawdown on 9/11 made by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

c. Off premise liquor License c/o Sagamore Hill Lounge @ The Grove 9-16-23

D. Berry asked if the Grove had campers at these events would they need permits for that. Town Manager agreed to look into this. He noted that if they have permanent sites they will need a license and waste water location. Motion to approve liquor license made by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.

d. Annual Certificates of Appointments

Town Manager supplied Board with complete printout of appointees and boards. Motion to accept and sign Annual Certificates of Appointments made by B. Clarke, seconded by A. Colford, motion carried.

e. Railroad crossings.

Town Manager noted that the new owner of the railroad will be upgrading all railroad crossings in conjunction with our Public Works Dept.

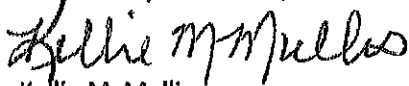
6. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant made by A. Russell, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by A. Russell, seconded by B. Clarke, meeting adjourned at 6:51pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Kellie M. Mullis

Town Clerk