

**Town of Newport
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM – Municipal Building
Minutes of January 4, 2010 - REVISED**

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Virginia Irwin, Chairman; Jeffrey Kessler, Vice Chairman; Beverly Rodeschin, Gary Nichols.

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel P. O'Neill, Town Manager; Paul Brown, Finance Director.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: Town Manager O'Neill added **SECOND BUSINESS:** a. **Budget Calendar.** Chairman Irwin added **NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person.**

MINUTES: On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Nichols, *the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of December 21, 2009.*

SELECTMEN'S FORUM: There was no one from the public who wished to address the Board at this time.

Selectman Rodeschin announced that legislature would be meeting again for the second year of the biennium in Concord, on Wednesday. She said that Ways and Means would be meeting on Thursday to discuss the airport bill, which she was hoping for success with. Selectman Rodeschin wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Selectman Kessler announced that the Budget Advisory Committee would be meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010 and Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Vocational Center. Selectman Kessler commended the Highway Department for keeping the roads in good shape during the recent snowfall. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Selectman Nichols also commended the Highway Department for keeping the roads clear. He also asked that manholes on Sunapee Street be put on the spring list for being leveled. Selectman Nichols reminded everyone to vote on January 12, 2010 at the Opera House from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., for the State Representative vacancy. Selectman Nichols expressed his regrets and condolences for the recent loss of Newport citizen, Mike Patten.

Chairman Irwin asked why part of Corbin Bridge Road was maintained by the State and the rest by the Town. After some discussion, Mr. Brown said he thought it was because a portion of that road was declared a Scenic State Highway because of the covered bridge and the pines. Chairman Irwin announced that the Conservation Commission would be meeting on January 5, 2010 and invited everyone to attend.

FIRST BUSINESS: Elderly Exemption – Paul Brown: Mr. Brown distributed a spreadsheet showing the Newport's Elderly Tax Exemption guidelines compared to other local communities (copy attached). After review and discussion, the Board asked Mr. Brown to furnish them with further information, so they could make a decision whether to adjust the guidelines. Mr. Brown will get detailed information from Kaara Gonyo and bring it back to the Board. Mr. Brown stated that a public hearing would need to be held by March 15, 2010 if the Board decided to adjust the guidelines for this exemption.

Solar/Wind Exemption – Paul Brown: Mr. Brown updated the Board on the status of the committee to discuss this exemption. He said he is still trying to reach a potential member and hoped the committee would meet prior to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Brown said a question arose regarding the use of wood products qualifying for this exemption. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that wood products would not be included in this exemption. Mr. Brown added that a public hearing would need to be held on this topic by the March 15, 2010 deadline.

Rec Advisory Appointment – Becky Merrow, Full Member for 3 Years – After review of the application, a motion was made by Selectman Kessler and seconded by Selectman Nichols, *to appoint Becky Merrow to the Rec Advisory Committee for a term to expire May 2012. The motion carried unanimously.*

SECOND BUSINESS: Budget Calendar – Paul Brown: Mr. Brown distributed a calendar for February 2010 with proposed budget discussion meetings. Selectman Kessler asked Mr. Brown to be sure that the BAC was aware of the meetings as well. After some discussion, the Board decided that they would start budget discussions at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular Board of Selectmen meetings in February. Town Manager O'Neill asked the Board for direction for when he is working on the budget. There was general discussion on ways to cut back on some expenses.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Rodeschin, *a roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, at 7:50 p.m.*

A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session at 7:55 p.m.

No action was taken during Non-Public Session.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for January 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Dufour
Recording Secretary