

**Town of Newport  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting/Public Hearing  
6:00 PM – Municipal Building  
Minutes of February 1, 2010**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Daniel P. O'Neill, Town Manager; Wayne Conroy, Fire Chief; P.J. Lovely, Recreation Director; Paul Brown, Finance Director; David Hoyt, Chief of Police; Larry Wiggins, Public Works Director; Arnold Greenleaf, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Town Manager O'Neill suggested rearranging the order of the agenda until Chairman Irwin arrived. He also added **NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Legal Matters.**

**MINUTES:** On a motion by Selectman Rodeschin, seconded by Selectman Nichols, *the Board voted to accept the minutes of January 4, 2010. Selectman Maiola abstained. The motion passed 3-0-1.*

**SELECTMEN'S FORUM:** Vice Chairman Kessler opened the discussion to anyone from the public who wished to address the Board. There was no one present who wished to address the Board at this time.

Selectman Maiola thanked Dawn Ranney and Donna Mahair and everyone else for all their work organizing the *Dancing With The Stars* event this past weekend. She said that United Way collected over \$10,000.00 from this event. Selectman Maiola reminded everyone that the Winter Carnival would be taking place from February 10 – 14, 2010 and programs should be available by the end of the week. She also announced that the Chamber's *Annual Dinner* would be held at the Opera House on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

Mr. Lovely announced that the school deliberative session would be held on February 2, 2010 at the high school gym.

Selectman Rodeschin inquired about the Skijoring Event they had discussed at a previous meeting. Selectman Maiola said it would be taking place as planned. Selectman Rodeschin said that the legislative bill on the airport aeronautical fund would be a difficult one because the State is experiencing so much financial issues. She said she is not supporting the legislative bill being presented that would change the retirement for state employees. Town Manager O'Neill added that he has contacted all three Newport

Representatives and the Senator regarding this and stated that those he heard back from did not seem to support changing the retirement for existing employees.

Town Manager O'Neill said that the Pier and Wright's Covered Bridge bids were open last Friday and are now tabulated and submitted for State review and approval. He said the lowest qualified bidder was Wright Construction. Town Manager O'Neill said he would come back to the Board for approval to grant the project once NH DOT reviews the bids. Selectman Rodeschin clarified that there are no local tax dollars that are going to the covered bridge project.

Chief Conroy announced that New London Hospital recognized all those who took part in saving the life of a LaValley's employee in December. He said everyone who was involved was presented with the Certificate of Recognition, pins, and commendations from the State of New Hampshire.

Out of Order of Agenda

**FIRST BUSINESS: NCTV Board Appointment:** Town Manager O'Neill asked the Board to consider recommending Mr. Rick Watts to the NCTV Board.

After review of Mr. Watts' application, a motion was made by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *and passed unanimously to recommend the appointment of Rick Watts to the NCTV Board.*

Mr. Watts would be replacing Mr. Hoyt, who asked to step down. Town Manager O'Neill thanked Mr. Hoyt for his work on this Board.

**Rec Advisory Appointment – Ryan Hammond, Student Representative – One-year Term:** After review of Mr. Hammond's application, a motion was made by Selectman Rodeschin, seconded by Selectman Nichols, *and passed unanimously to appoint Ryan Hammond to the Rec Advisory Committee as Student Representative for a one-year term.*

**SECOND BUSINESS: Budget Review:** Town Manager O'Neill said that the Board asked him to come back with a budget that had little or no impact on the tax rate. He said the only way he was able to do that was by cutting positions. He said the budget before them reflects no capital reserve, no equipment requests, and project elimination or reduction. Town Manager O'Neill said the bottom line includes the 3% increases for both union and non-union employees. He asked the Board for further suggestions. Town Manager O'Neill stated that he was not in favor of the budget the Board had tonight because of the level of infrastructure work needed in the community and of emergency services and public works required. Selectman Kessler pointed out that the two big items this year negatively affecting the budget are the reduction in revenue sharing from the State and the large increase of health insurance costs.

Mr. Brown reviewed all the capital reserve items that were brought to zero or reduced on the requested budget.

\*Chairman Irwin joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Brown said the impact on the tax rate if they did not approve the 3% raise for both union and non-union employees, would be approximately .25, or .60 higher than the default budget. There was general discussion on getting the budget closer to the default figures.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *a roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously that at the next Board of Selectmen budget review session the Town Manager is directed to present additional alternative budget reductions which is to include the following:*

- 1. Program and project review: All Departments are to be reviewed again for programs and projects that can be delayed, eliminated, consolidated, contracted out, or in some fashion reduced in cost. Further, all services/programs that currently charge fees are to be reviewed and increases proposed where necessary.*
- 2. Raises: All forms of compensation for non-union personnel are to be budgeted at zero increase. Both the Public Works and Police Unions are to be requested to forgo their 3% annual contracted increase for the upcoming budget.*
- 3. Staffing levels: Includes reductions in hours, layoffs, overtime, consolidations and reduction in force through attrition and retirement. All Departments are to be reviewed and proposed at a minimal staffing level.*

Town Manager O'Neill said he would have his list of recommendations ready for next Monday's meeting at 6:00 p.m., showing the ramifications of implementing these suggestions and the financial impact. He added that any individual whose position would be up for consideration and review, he would notify them prior to it being discussed at a public meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Elm Street Speed Limit:** Chairman Irwin opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing making a portion of Elm Street Extension a *School Zone 20 mph between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at 7:16 p.m.*

Chief Hoyt had no comments to add and there was no one from the public who wished to speak on this matter.

Chairman Irwin closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *the Board voted unanimously to create a portion of Elm Street Extension as a School Zone 20 mph between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday year round.*

**FIRST BUSINESS: AECOM – Dennis Setzko:** Mr. Wiggins opened the presentation with a background of the federal mandate regarding phosphorous removal followed by the introduction of Mr. Dennis Setzko from AECOM Engineering Company. Mr. Wiggins said that copies of the engineering report are available at the Town Manager's office and at the library. Mr. Wiggins added that AECOM was selected by the Committee as the top ranked firm out of six. Mr. Wiggins also reported that he would be applying for a grant to cover up to 75% of the project.

Mr. Setzko distributed a handout of the slideshow he presented (copy attached), which described how phosphorous removal would take place at the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Setzko said they assembled a team of experts to identify what type of phosphorous removal would make sense for Newport. He said results from the pilot operations determined that the most cost effective process was filtration to lower the levels to the mandated .42. Mr. Setzko also discussed the affluent toxicity evaluation. He said that they average about one failure per year, which they looked at and they have a low impact resolution for. He said the existing plant processes are in very good operating condition, but the current UV disinfection does not meet DES standards. Mr. Setzko said that whatever the Board decides to go with, it could be upgraded in the future if necessary. Mr. Greenleaf stated that the cost to operate the wastewater treatment plant would increase because of the chemicals, electricity, and filters.

Mr. Brown discussed the financing alternatives for the project. He stated that Newport qualifies for up to a 75% grant and there is a loan program for the balance. Mr. Wiggins said they could apply now for the grant. Mr. Brown said he is asking for a decision from the Board of their recommendation to hand to the BAC at the public hearing on March 15, 2010. He said a decision needs to be made in time for the posting of the warrant.

Town Manager O'Neill asked Mr. Setzko for a brief slide presentation for deliberative session. Selectman Nichols suggested that they put together a presentation to air on NCTV and have an informational link on the website.

On a motion by Selectman Rodeschin, seconded by Selectman Nichols, *a roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Legal Matters, with Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Brown in attendance, at 8:14 p.m.*

A motion was made and passed unanimously *to come out of Non-Public Session at 8:35 p.m.*

There was no action taken during Non-Public Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** *A motion was made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.*

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for February 15, 2010.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Dufour  
Recording Secretary