

**Town of Newport
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
6:00 PM – Municipal Building
Minutes of February 15, 2010**

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

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

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES: On a motion by Selectman Rodeschin, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of February 1, 2010.*

*Selectman Nichols joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

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 expressed her disappointment to all the newspaper for not covering the recent Winter Carnival events and other Newport news.

Selectman Rodeschin asked about the money received from the State. Mr. Brown stated that it was FEMA money for the 2008 floods and they would be holding a public hearing to accept and expend unanticipated revenues to be applied for the engineering of the Oak Street Bridge. He added that this money was a reimbursement for a portion of the cost of those floods.

Vice Chairman Kessler congratulated those who received awards at the Chamber's Annual Dinner.

FIRST BUSINESS: Covered Bridge Project – Authorize Town Manager's Signature – Town Manager O'Neill said that at a recent meeting, the Board received copies of the bids for the covered bridge project. He said he is waiting to get the approval from the State, which he expected to be within the next two weeks. He said he would like to get the Board's authorization to sign on their behalf if the authorization comes through to award the project.

On a motion by Selectman Rodeschin, seconded by Selectman Nichols, *the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign documentation on their behalf to award the construction contracts on the Pier and Wright Covered Bridge project.*

SECOND BUSINESS: Budget Work Session – Vice Chairman Kessler said they had asked the Town Manager and Department Heads to come back with a budget closer to the default budget.

Mr. Brown distributed a sheet entitled *Detail of 2010 Default Budget*. He explained how he came to \$9.22 for the default budget. He said the budget that is proposed this evening is .02 below the default budget. Mr. Brown reviewed the revenue figures.

Mr. Brown then reviewed the cuts made to the budget to get to a tax rate of \$9.20. He said the number reflected zero salary increases for union and non-union employees and reviewed the position reductions and eliminations. Mr. Brown said the Water and Sewer budget changes were made with overtime cuts as well as zero pay increases. He said that they would be coming to this Board on March 1 to discuss water and sewer rates at a public hearing. Mr. Brown said that the airport fund had no changes. There was general discussion on the phosphorous removal project and having one warrant article for the whole project. Mr. Brown said it was up to this Board to decide if they wanted one article or separate articles for each phase of work. Selectman Kessler expressed his concern for having to apply for separate grants if they do the articles in phases.

There was general discussion on the well project article. Town Manager O'Neill said it was important for this project go forward so they can be sure to have an adequate supply for future needs of Newport. Mr. Wiggins suggested an evaluation be made of the whole Town to determine where the well should be placed.

Mr. Brown said he would like to get approval to pass the proposed budget on to the BAC for tomorrow night.

On a motion by Selectman Rodeschin, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to pass the proposed budget, as presented this evening, on to the Budget Advisory Committee.*

Mr. Brown said he would be asking for final approval on the budget at the March 15, 2010 meeting. Vice Chairman Kessler said he would ask the BAC to have any comments or recommendations by the March 1, 2010 Board of Selectmen meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.*

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for March 1, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Dufour
Recording Secretary