

**Town of Newport, NH**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting/Public Hearings**  
**7:00 PM – Municipal Building**  
**Minutes of March 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; Paul Brown, Finance Director; Larry Wiggins, Public Works Director.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**MINUTES:** On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of February 15, 2010.*

**SELECTMEN'S FORUM:** Chairman Irwin opened the discussion to anyone from the public who wished to address the Board.

Mr. Richard King was present and wanted to discuss water and sewer rates going on the tax rate. He said he did not agree that this should happen. Chairman Irwin said they would just be discussing the rates increases at this time.

Mr. Peter Franklin, a Newport resident, said he was present to discuss the boundary issues he has been having with his property. He stated that he has not yet received an answer from Cartographics on how they calculated the acreage of his property. Mr. Brown said he would be providing Mr. Franklin an overlay map by the end of this week. He said he has told Mr. Franklin that Cartographics uses the dimensions they have, enter them into a computer, and get the acreage results. Town Manager O'Neill asked Mr. Franklin if he was looking for the physical geometric calculation that Cartographics uses to which Mr. Franklin responded "yes". He added that he has asked how they determined the acreage for his property and came up with three different answers. Town Manager O'Neill said that all Mr. Franklin's abutters had surveys done over the years and Cartographics used this documentation to help determine their information for the new maps. After further discussion, all Board Members agreed that Mr. Franklin would need to get his property surveyed as well. Mr. Franklin said all his abutters have had theirs done so all his lines have been established and doing another survey would not change the values of his lines. He added that he is not disputing the numbers; he just wants to know how it was determined. Mr. Franklin said he would like to know "what the data you put into the computer is". Town Manager O'Neill stated that the Town is trying to

use its best and accurate information so everyone can be assessed accurately and they do the best they can in favor of the landowner. He said if a landowner is in dispute, it is up to them to show the Town where they are wrong. Town Manager O'Neill asked Mr. Brown to email Cartographics with Mr. Franklin's questions and have Mr. Franklin review the email to be sure it addresses all of his questions. Chairman Irwin asked Mr. Brown to copy the Board Members on that email as well.

Mr. Brown said that the Solar and Wind Property Tax Exemption Committee would have a recommendation for the Board on March 15, 2010 for a warrant article.

Chairman Irwin reminded everyone that school voting would be held on March 9, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Opera House. Absentee ballots could be obtained from the SAU on Depot Street.

Selectman Maiola said she was very proud of the Olympic Team. She announced that there would be a "Business Before Hours" hosted by Communities United for Substance Abuse Prevention at the Sugar River Bank Community Room on March 4, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Selectman Kessler announced that the BAC has rescheduled their meeting for Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. to finalize the school budget and would then move on to the Town budget.

Chairman Irwin announced that the two candidates for superintendent of schools would be in the community on March 3, 2010 and March 8, 2010 at the Lou Thompson Room at 6:30 p.m. to make a brief presentation.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: Water and Sewer Rates:** Chairman Irwin opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing the proposed water and sewer rate increases at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Brown distributed a spreadsheet with the proposed increase for water and sewer rates dated March 1, 2010 (copy attached). Mr. Brown stated that they determined they would need a 40% increase to stabilize funds and fund future projects. He continued by explaining some options shown on the spreadsheet including the phosphorous removal project for October 2012 compliance. There was general discussion about the phosphorous removal project and the well project.

There was no one present from the public who wished to comment on this issue.

Chairman Irwin closed the Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Selectman Kessler, and seconded by Chairman Irwin, *to increase the water rate as presented by 10% a year for the next four years effective with the next reading cycle. Selectman Rodeschin was in favor; Selectman Nichols and Selectman Maiola were opposed. The motion passed 3-2.*

There was general discussion on taking a closer look to try to reduce water and sewer costs.

On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Rodeschin, *the Board voted to increase sewer rates for the next four years at 25% the first year and 10% for the next three years effective with the next reading cycle. Chairman Irwin, Selectman Nichols, and Selectman Maiola were opposed. The motion failed 2-3.*

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to increase the sewer rates for one year at 25% effective with the next reading cycle.*

Chairman Irwin said they need to have a discussion often regarding this topic. She said she wanted comparisons done with other communities to see how they distribute these charges. Town Manager O'Neill said that if any resident had questions about water usage, they should feel free to call Amy Spreadbury to schedule a flow check.

**Unanticipated Revenues:** Chairman Irwin opened the Public Hearing regarding the acceptance and expenditure of up to \$192,800 of unanticipated State of New Hampshire Bridge Aid revenues and \$8,354 of unanticipated State Emergency Management revenues under NH RSA 31:95-b for the Oak Street Iron Bridge Project at 8:36 p.m.

Mr. Brown distributed a worksheet dated March 1, 2010 showing the unanticipated revenues and how it would apply to the Oak Street Bridge Project.

There was no one from the public who wished to comment on this issue. Chairman Irwin closed the Public Hearing at 8:39 p.m.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to accept and expend the unanticipated revenues as presented and dedicate it to the Oak Street Bridge Project.*

**FIRST BUSINESS: Dorr Lagoon Project** – Town Manager O'Neill reminded the Board that last year they were preparing a warrant article for the lagoon closures but were not in a position to apply for funds from the American Recovery Act. He said he has been working on this project since and said the previous owners were still willing to match what the Town put in, and that the State said they would be on top of the list if the American Recovery Act was passed for 2010. Town Manager O'Neill said that over the next few months, he would like to proceed with the selection of an engineering firm to do testing of the lagoons so they would be better informed to go forward. He said they would like to try again to get a reasonable estimate and apply for the State funds. He said they are currently not under any order to close the lagoons and are monitoring the wells around it and would like to be proactive and put an article on the warrant.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager and Department Heads to prepare an article for the closing of the Dorr Lagoons.*

**SECOND BUSINESS: Schedule Public Hearing for Articles** – Mr. Brown said the Public Hearing on the budget would be March 15, 2010 with Public Hearings on the bond articles, elderly exemption law change, and wind and solar exemptions. He stated that March 9, 2010 is the final day to present articles for the May Town Meeting.

Town Manager O'Neill said that in regards to Mr. King's comments about the sharing of water and sewer rates on the tax rate, he did not want the public confused and think that this item would be discussed at this year's Town Meeting. Chairman Irwin stated that over the next year, they would be discussing this and would probably have something for the 2011 Town Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.*

**The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for March 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Dufour  
Recording Secretary