

**Town of Newport
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM – Municipal Building
Minutes of April 5, 2010 - REVISED**

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Virginia Irwin, Chairman; 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: 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 Kessler, seconded by Selectman Rodeschin, *the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of March 15, 2010.*

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

Selectman Kessler announced that *Bye Bye Birdie* would be playing at the Opera House this coming weekend. Selectman Maiola announced that Lisa Pitkin's daughter, Brittany, would be one of the stars in that production.

Selectman Nichols reminded everyone that the deliberative session would be held Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the Newport Middle High School gym at 6:00 p.m.

Selectman Maiola announced the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce's Salute Breakfast would be held at the Newport Senior Center on May 19, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Reservations are required and obtainable at the Chamber Office. Selectman Maiola said that all ten Concerts on the Common are booked and she is now looking for sponsors.

FIRST BUSINESS: Article Review – Mr. Brown distributed the 2010 Annual Meeting Town Warrant. Town Manager O'Neill said that they have been working on Article 5 for the phosphorous removal project, since it was presented to them by the engineering firm. He added that Mr. Wiggins requested from the engineer a detailed breakdown of how they arrived at the \$5.3 million dollar figure for the mandated phosphorous removal and the \$2.3 million for the additional upgrades to the water treatment plant. Town Manager O'Neill said they took that information and reviewed it with the State and Rural

Development and found that the 30% contingency was a high percentage for this type of project. He said Mr. Wiggins recalculated these numbers and the State and Rural Development concurred that the new figures were more appropriate. He added that the engineer, AECOM, reluctantly agreed to the new calculations. Town Manager O'Neill said that, based on these new figures, they were recommending this article be reduced by \$500,000.00. He said the State agreed the other upgrades, although not mandatory, were important. He added that it was important to consider these figures when applying for the grant that could provide as much as 75% funding. He pointed out that the Board could consider removing the additional upgrades to further reduce the amount requested in Article 5. Mr. Wiggins added that Mr. Greenleaf was concerned about deleting the UV portion of the upgrade but agreed that doing a portion of the work now would be most beneficial. He pointed out that the upgrades would have to be done at some point and could be mandated in the future. Selectman Kessler pointed out that if these upgrades were put off, they would spend more and may not have a grant opportunity at that time as well.

Mr. Wiggins explained the upgrades and reviewed the figures he recalculated to reduce the amount of the warrant article. Mr. Wiggins said he would like to see the \$500,000.00 left on the article for the UV upgrade and the \$210,000.00 for the lagoon improvements. Selectman Kessler felt it was for the best interest of the Town to ask for the full amount so they did not have to spend more in the future to get these projects done.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Rodeschin, *the Board voted unanimously to recommend reducing Warrant Article 5 to a request of \$5,400,000.00, which would include the UV footprint upgrade of \$500,000.00 and the \$210,000.00 for the lagoon upgrade.*

Town Manager O'Neill moved on to discuss Article 6 regarding the Guild Sewer Lagoon closure. He said this item passed last year, but they did not move forward because of insufficient funding. He said that they have another chance at stimulus money to help fund this project with a match of capital reserve from the previous owner. Town Manager O'Neill said they are planning on interviewing firms later this month to determine what the costs would be but wanted the article on this year's warrant so they could be ready to apply for any available stimulus money. He said if the article passes they would be in good shape to move forward if stimulus money does become available. He added that the test wells have not shown levels of contamination that exceed DES limits but he hoped to be proactive.

Town Manager O'Neill and Mr. Brown read over the other articles on the warrant and the Selectmen discussed which articles they would bring forward at deliberative session.

Town Meeting Overview: Discussed above.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION 91-A:3 II (d) REAL ESTATE: On a motion by Selectman Rodeschin, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *a roll call vote was taken and passed*

unanimously to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Real Estate at 8:08 p.m.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session at 8:13 p.m.

There was no action taken during Non-Public Session.

ADJOURNMENT: *A motion was made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.*

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Dufour
Recording Secretary