

**Town of Newport
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM – Municipal Building
Minutes of August 2, 2010**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel P. O'Neill, Town Manager; David Hoyt, Chief of Police; Wayne Conroy, Fire Chief; Julie Collins, Planning & Zoning Administrator; 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: Selectman Nichols added **SECOND BUSINESS:** **B. Committee Appointments** and **C. Park Bench Discussion.**

MINUTES: On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of July 19, 2010.*

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

Mr. Edmund Smith, 11 Syndicate Street, was present to discuss his frustration with his neighbor's junk yard. He said he has been complaining to the Town for over three years and felt nothing was being done to remedy the situation. Mr. Smith said that the DES came to look at the property and both Chief Conroy and Ms. Collins visited the site. Mr. Smith said he notified Selectman Maiola who also visited the property. He stated that on certain days he cannot open his windows or doors because the odors from that property come into his home. Mr. Smith presented the Board with photographs of the property he took over the course of this problem. He said the Thurber's have recently left the property and took junk vehicles with them, but there are still many car parts and 50-70 tires left in the yard. Mr. Smith stated that he pays his taxes and he wants ordinances enforced.

Mrs. Gail Smith, 11 Syndicate Street, was also present to express her frustration. She said that Chief Conroy has been there and had the dumpster, that was overflowing, immediately emptied. She said they have been told repeatedly that something would be done about the junk, but it has not and she asked the Board for help.

Ms. Annette Boutin, 14 Campus Street, identified herself as living across from the Thurber's property. She stated that she now has mice and stated that the Thurber's still

come back to the property on weekends to party, dump their trash, car parts, and squeal tires on the street.

Selectman Maiola said that if the Town has been active for the past two or three years, it did not show. She said the area looks so nice, except this duplex was horrendous. She said this has been going on too long and they needed to do something about it. Selectman Maiola said that there is probably gas and oil seeping into the soil because of all the vehicle parts there. Selectman Maiola also submitted photographs of the property. She also read the Notice of Violation that went to the Thurber's on May 5, 2010.

Chief Conroy said that the tires have become an issue but it was not an easy process and they had to give the landowner time to clean up these items.

Ms. Collins explained that after the first Notice of Violation in June of 2008, the owner's had come into full compliance. She said when it came out of compliance again, she had to start the process over. She said she has been working with the Thurber's and has had many conversations with them and made many visits to the property. Ms. Collins stated that DES emailed her after their recent visit and found nothing to substantiate a violation as far as oil and gasoline leaks. Ms. Collins said that since the recent May 5, 2010 Notice of Violation, the owner's have removed many items, although it is still not in compliance. She said she spoke with Mr. Thurber when their 30 days was up, and he asked for an additional 30 days, which she granted him. She said she thought it was in everyone's best interest to allow him the extra time, but he did not keep his word. Two weeks ago, Ms. Collins said, she contacted Town counsel to file a complaint with District Court. She added that as of last Friday, Attorney Waugh said he was working on the paperwork. She said they are close, but they have to follow legal guidelines to rectify these issues.

Chief Conroy said he was unaware that the dumpster had been filled up again and said he would take care of that issue right away.

There was no one else from the public who wished to address the Board at this time.

Selectman Rodeschin announced that there was an article in the newspaper on the award that Arnold Greenleaf received from the EPA as the 2009 Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

Selectman Kessler announced that Ella Casey and the Willey-Perra Program were looking for space. He added that there was a new face, Tony Maiola, in the information booth on the Common, who has some great stories of Newport.

Selectman Maiola announced that the Tammy Jackson Band would be performing this coming Sunday at the Concerts on the Common.

FIRST BUSINESS: Orion Group – Ms. Danielle Paranto, Director Granite Hill School and Mr. Craig Jewitt, Project Engineer, Bruno Associates, were present to discuss their opportunity to get a CDBG grant to build a recreational facility, which would need

authorization by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Jewitt described the proposed project which would accommodate the Orion House and Granite Hill School, and possibly, if done properly, the community to use for athletic events. He stated that the Orion Group would like to have this facility to serve meals and provide culinary arts curriculum. He said that Mr. Bissell's hope was, if they qualified for the grant, to pursue the use as a public facility. Mr. Jewitt said that they are a nonprofit group and have limited funds and would like to apply for this grant to study whether or not this project is approachable.

Selectman Kessler said this project came before the Zoning Board of Adjustment recently and a Variance was granted with conditions. He said neighbors had concerns about this project.

Ms. Collins said that this discussion was premature and cautioned the Board on making a decision tonight. She said this project still needs to go to the Planning Board and recommended that the Board wait to see if this project was approved by the Planning Board. She added that they still needed to apply for a Special Exception as well.

Town Manager O'Neill stated that one of the concerns was that the Recreation Center was working on a preliminary plan for an expansion and they did not want to jeopardize that project with another similar one.

Selectman Rodeschin said she felt it was premature and would not support this grant application at this time.

Chairman Irwin said that the Board would take this issue under advisement.

Out of Order of Agenda

Committee Appointments: Chairman Irwin asked the Board to consider the two applications for Town Committees.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to appoint Christina O'Brien as Alternate to the Planning Board for a term to expire May 2013.*

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maiola, *the Board voted unanimously to appoint Jacqueline Cote to the Heritage Commission.*

SECOND BUSINESS: Department Quarterly Updates – Chief David Hoyt – Chief Hoyt gave an update on the Police Department for the quarter, stressing the struggles with the minimal staffing.

Chief Wayne Conroy – Chief Conroy gave an update on the Fire Department, building inspections he has covered, emergency management, and Health Officer duties for the second quarter.

Chairman Irwin thanked both departments for their hard work.

Park Bench Discussion: Chairman Irwin, referring to a written request from P.J. Lovely for a granite bench at Meadow Park, suggested they waive the process of having a committee look at it since they know the details of this bench.

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *the Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of a granite bench at Meadow Park/Bates Field in the honor of the late John Coronis as presented in the Recreation Department request (copy attached).*

On a motion by Selectman Nichols, 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(c) Matters Which, If Discussed in Public, Would Likely Affect Adversely the Reputation of Any Person and (d) Real Estate at 8:21 p.m. with Paul Brown in attendance.*

A motion was made and passed unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session at 9:05 p.m.

There was no action taken during Non-Public Session.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for August 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Dufour
Recording Secretary