



**Office of the Board of Selectmen**  
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**NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**DATE: TUESDAY, January 9, 2018**

**TIME: 5:30PM**

**LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Burrill called the meeting to order at 5:31pm. In attendance were Selectmen, Matthew A. Burrill, Chairman, Lisa L. Gonyer, Vice-Chairman, Robert S. Donovan Jr., Lawrence B. Foote, James L. Doggett; Nancy J. Wrigley, Town Administrator and Diane M. Morin, Selectmen's Secretary. The public meeting was audio and video taped; the public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Diane M. Morin.

**II. Scheduled Business**

**A. New Fire/Rescue Station --Tabled**

**B. 2018 Town Default and Operation Budget review**

Town Administrator Wrigley stated that Bookkeeper Hughes and herself met with the Department Heads for the Police and Highway to adjust the salary line item and the bottom line of their budget. Both budgets remained at level funding.

Road Agent Pivero reviewed the changes made to the 2018 proposed Highway Department budget. The salary line item was increased and the paving line item was decreased which made for a level funded budget.

Police Department 2018 proposed budget was adjusted to reflect salary increases. Funds were allocated to the Facility Expense line item and the Other Expenses line item. These changes did not increase the department's 2018 proposed budget figure.

Chairman Burrill stated that the proposed 2018 Town Operating budget is less than the proposed 2018 Town Default budget. The variance is \$34,223.00.

**C. 2018 Warrant Article review**

Town Administrator Wrigley reviewed opinions received on the warrant articles from Town Counsel and New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) Legal Services. Chairman Burrill, upon advice from Town Counsel, recommends to remove Warrant Article 13 and 14 from the 2018 Town Warrant. Article 8 would be a policy change to allow the Board of Selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings or both with certain stipulations set forth in Article 8. Article 13 is specific to selling the old Fire Station once the Fire Department has moved into the new Fire/Rescue Station. Article 14 is specific to selling 2 Amesbury Road which was taken for Tax Deed for non-payment of property

taxes. Chairman Burrill stated that Town Counsel informed the Board that 2 Amesbury Road cannot be sold for 3 years from the executed tax deed date.

Bookkeeper Hughes addressed the Board about Article 5 and 6. She spoke with NHMA Legal Services for the correct wording of the article. NHMA confirmed that the specific wording in both articles is needed to explain the intent of each and where the monies from the fees collected would be kept. And that the funds would be allowed to accumulate from year to year and is not part of the Town's General fund balance. NHMA also recommends that a definition be added to the articles to help voters make an informed decision.

Chairman Burrill suggested a voter's guide should be made available to help explain the warrant articles.

Selectman Gonyer suggested Article 17 be changed from "dispose of" to "deliver" and "at the Transfer Station" to "to the Transfer Station".

Town Administrator Wrigley stated that the Town Clerk has the petition article 18 and is verifying that there are at least 25 legal registered votes that signed the petition.

Chairman Burrill stated he spoke with the Recreation Commission Chairman, Steve St. Cyr, about the amount needed to pay for life guards at the Town Beach. A representative from the Recreation Commission will explain how they arrived at \$12,000.00 to pay for the life guards at the Budget Public Hearing.

Fire Chief Alcaldinho reviewed a proposed warrant article to assess fees for false fire alarms at commercial properties. The fees will be used to offset the Fire Department's expenses when called out to commercial properties for false alarms due to the owner not properly maintaining the fire alarm system. After the 4<sup>th</sup> offense in a calendar year, a fire watch would be put in place and the owner would need to pay for the firefighters' salary, equipment and other expenses while the fire watch is needed. Commercial properties as defined by the Town, would be the only ones affected by this proposed warrant article.

Town Administrator Wrigley asked Chief Alcaldinho if this article is already covered by the State of New Hampshire's Fire Code to allow the Fire Department to charge penalty fees? Selectman Foote stated that the Fire Codes only allow the Fire Department to enact life safety codes and that it is up to the Board of Selectmen to enforce a penalty fee. Upon further discussion the Board recommends not to include the warrant article but to peruse adding a Town Policy.

#### **D. Fire Department – New truck update**

Chief Alcaldinho informed the Board that the new truck has not been ordered and that the dealer will not place the order until there are at least 5 vehicles due to the specific color requested. Chief Alcaldinho has spoken with another dealer who will order the

truck without the restriction of a minimum number of vehicles. Chairman Burrill signed the purchase order. The cost of the vehicle was \$500.00 less.

**E. 2018 Standard Mileage rates – Tabled**

**F. Job Posting – Review Ad Transfer Station MGR – Tabled**

III. Other Business, Sign Manifests, Requisitions, Abatements, Tax Credits, Correspondence and Appointments

➤ Other

Mr. Robert Zalenski addressed the Board concerning the Fire Station building on West Main Street that the Town leases from the Newton Junction Baptist Church. He reported that there is a problem with the heating system and the building itself. The owners are looking to the Town to assist with the repairs. Town Administrator Wrigley informed the Board that the Church charges the Town \$1.00 per year to use the building. Chairman Burrill asked if Mr. Zalenski has any quotes. At this time there are no quotes for repairs needed. Town Administrator Wrigley reminded the Board that the Town does not own the property. Mr. Zalenski will work with the Church to get quotes for the needed repairs to present to the Board at a later meeting.

The Board will be meeting on January 15, 2018 beginning at 6:00pm which is prior to the Public Hearings.

➤ Manifest

**Selectman Doggett moved to sign the payroll manifest for pay period 12/24/2017 – 01/06/2018 with a pay date of 01/11/2018. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous vote.**

IV. Adjourn

**Selectman Doggett moved to adjourn at 6:25pm. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin  
Board of Selectmen Secretary