



**Office of the Board of Selectmen
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**NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022
TIME: 5:30PM**

**LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD and
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Zoom Conference phone number 929-205-6099

Meeting ID 818 7979 5674

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81879795674>

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Melvin called the meeting to order at 5:37pm. In attendance were Selectmen, Lawrence B. Foote; Chairman, Charles R. Melvin Sr.; Vice-Chairman, Kathryn Michaels, Matthew A. Burrill, Edvin Crnolic, Town Administrator Nancy J. Wrigley, and Selectmen's Secretary Diane M. Morin. The non-public session was audio taped. The public meeting was videotaped. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin. The non-public session minutes were transcribed and typed by Town Administrator Wrigley.

Selectman Kathryn Michaels joined the meeting via Zoom. As per RSA 91-A:2, III: where attendance in person is not "reasonably practical" Selectman Kate Michaels is participating via zoom due to a health issue. Selectman Michaels stated that there were no other persons in the room with her.

Selectman Lawrence Foote joined the meeting via Zoom due to a work conflict. Selectman Foote stated that there were no other persons in the room with him.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Reputation

Selectman Melvin moved to go into non-public session at 5:38pm under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) – Reputation. Seconded by Selectman Burrill. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

Selectman Crnolic moved to close the non-public session at 6:15pm. Seconded by Selectman Burrill. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

II. Scheduled Business

A. Seal non-public minutes

Selectman Burrill moved that the Board just came out of a non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) and that they keep all matters discussed confidential until in the opinion of the majority of the Board the circumstances no longer apply. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

B. Safety Complex

a. Paving update – Road Agent

Former Construction Manager (CM) Mike Pivero addressed the Board. He stated that there is a site plan that has details the Board can refer to. The site plan shows where paving can be done. He stated that the Alteration of Terrain permit does not allow for paving the back of the fire station. This needs to remain a

permeable area for proper drainage. Should the Board choose to pave the area, an amendment to the permit would be needed. He does not recommend doing this.

Selectman Burrill stated that the Board is looking for a ballpark figure on the cost to pave around the police station. CM Pivero stated that the area around the police station is a complete re-work.

Selectman Burrill asked that CM Pivero work with Secretary Morin to come up with a request for proposal (RFP) for the site work that needs to be completed. CM Pivero suggested highlighting the area of work that needs to be done as part of the RFP and provide that to companies that bid on the job. CM Pivero and Secretary Morin will work on a draft RFP.

b. Water quality issues

Secretary Morin stated that the representative from Epping Well was invited to be here. She will reach out to Advanced Radon and Water Treatment (ARM) for the next meeting which is February 1st to have a representative attend the meeting.

CM Pivero asked if the water issues were a life safety issue. Secretary Morin stated that the level of arsenic is above State levels. The hardness of the water is causing pitting on the vehicles. CM Pivero stated that the station was not built to be a wash station. He suggested a cleaning system on one spigot that could be used. Selectman Melvin stated that the hardness is damaging the appliances and staining the sinks and toilets.

CM Pivero stated that the police station has been using the same system so why suddenly is it an issue. Selectman Melvin stated that the fire station has all new equipment, and it is ruining them. Selectman Burrill stated that the Board is still looking for information. Selectman Melvin stated that the Board is asking for the representatives from the water treatment companies to attend a meeting to help the Board decide what is needed.

Selectman Michaels re-joined the meeting at 6:25pm.

CM Pivero stated that the previous owner of the police station lived there and used the same system for several years without any issues. He is still recommending that a filter spigot be utilized.

Secretary Morin stated that the water pressure at the fire station is too low. The other issue is the smell which is terrible.

The Board would like to have both companies at the next meeting.

Mrs. Trisha McCarthy offered another possible solution to remove the arsenic from the water. She worked with a company that installed a "Iselect" arsenic removal system at a new home.

C. EOC Update – Representative from Molekule to speak on molecular filter system

Emergency Deputy Director (EMDD) Trisha McCarthy stated that the representative from Molekule was not able to make the meeting because it was a company holiday.

She reviewed the current number of cases in Newton and the total number since the beginning of the pandemic for both the Town and School District.

She asked that if anyone tests positive for COVID, that they contact the EOC. They will keep all correspondence confidential. They will do contact tracing if the person is not up to it.

She is proposing a committee of the following members, Chief Jewett, Chief Alcaindinho, Joe Simone, Peter Gagnon or Jack Kozec, Charles Melvin and herself, be formed to address the uses for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that the Town received. She provided some examples of how the funds could be spent on specific needs such as a freezer for the food pantry. She explained the funds

are for first responders. The people on the proposed committee will be able to reach out to other department heads on what their needs may be.

Selectman Michaels asked about the Town Hall employees. EMDD McCarthy stated that they would not qualify for stipends because they are not first responders and are able to work remotely. However, the funds could help offset costs needed to work remotely.

She went on to say, that the committee would present to the Board their recommendations once they verify the costs would be covered under the ARPA grant.

The Board agreed with forming the committee and the recommendations for members.

D. Trustees – Fund balances

Secretary Morin stated that the Board, at the last meeting, asked what the balance was from the \$300,000 that was placed into the Town Building Capital Reserve Fund. She stated that the balance is \$84,106.00.

E. Town Buildings –

a. FS -- Quote for fire station apparatus bay lighting

Selectman Burrill moved to accept the quote from Kingston Electric in the amount of \$650.00 for repairs to the apparatus bay sensor lights at the Fire Station. The funds to come from the Town Building Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

b. FS – Heater for sprinkler room needed

CM Pivero stated that he has not received a quote for the heater. The temporary solution is working for now.

c. Town Buildings -- Quotes for cleaning service

Secretary Morin stated that there are 2 quotes for cleaning services. These services would be performed at the Town Hall, Gale Library, and Police Station once a week. She stated that difference between the two quotes is \$40 with Forsythe being the more expensive. Both can provide a certificate of insurance. She stated that Riley is already working at the police and fire stations taking care of the floors. Therefore, no background check would be needed.

Selectman Burrill stated that this would be a temporary solution.

Selectman Burrill moved to engage Irving Riley for 4 weeks to clean the Town Hall, Gale Library, and Police Station for cleaning services. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye. Melvin abstained because Mr. Riley is a relative.

F. Letter in support of lowering the abatement interest rate

Selectman Crnolic moved to sign the letter in support to the Senate Ways and Means Committee for lowering the abatement interest rate. Seconded by Selectman Burrill. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

G. 2022 – Audit engagement letter

Selectman Crnolic moved to authorize the Vice-Chairman to sign the 2022 Vachon, Clukay & Company audit engagement letter. Seconded by Selectman Burrill. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

Selectman Burrill moved to recess the public meeting at 6:57pm until after the Public Hearing. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

Selectman Burrill moved to reopen the public meeting at 8:06pm. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

III. Other Business

A. Manifest

Selectman Michaels moved to sign vendor manifest dated January 17, 2022, in the amount of \$101,287.57. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

Selectman Melvin moved to sign Police Special Details Revolving Fund vendor manifest dated January 17, 2022, in the amount of \$1,399.87. Seconded by Selectman Michaels. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

Selectman Melvin moved to sign payroll manifest pay period January 2 – 15, 2022, with a pay date of January 20, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

B. Veteran Tax Credit

Selectman Melvin moved to sign Veteran Tax Credit beginning tax year 2023 for tax map 4-5-14-5. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

C. Appointments

Selectman Burrill moved to sign Deputy Forest Fire Warden appointments to the following: Peter Janeliunas, Robert Heusser, Robert Zalenski, John E. Kane JR., Sean Kane, and Scott Dole per recommendation from Chief Alcainho. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

Selectman Burrill announced the following new Forest Wardens can issue burn permits only: Justin Kane, Bryan Kane, Brandon Merrill, and Patrick Casey.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Selectmen's non-public and public meeting minutes dated January 4, 2022

Selectman Burrill moved to accept the non-public and public meeting minutes dated January 4, 2022, as written. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

V. Announcements

EMDD McCarthy stated that the vaccine clinic that was held on January 16th was well run and thanked those that participate. She announced that there will be another clinic in 4 weeks.

Selectman Burrill asked the Board if he could sell the signs that were produced in partnership with the Newton Republican and Democratic parties "Newton is Neighborly" at the Transfer Station. The amount charged would be to cover the cost of producing the signs. The Board had no objections.

Selectman Burrill stated that there is a limited number of employees at the Transfer Station and should there be an outbreak at the station, it would have to be closed.

Selectman Burrill moved to require masks be worn by staff and visitors at the Transfer Station beginning January 20, 2022, until further notice. Seconded by Selectman Crnolic. Foote – aye, Melvin – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – aye, Crnolic – aye.

EMDD McCarthy recommended that the electronic sign board be moved to the Transfer Station informing residents of the mask requirement.

Mr. Simone asked who is going to police this? Selectman Burrill stated it is a plead to residents to help keep the station open.

Mr. Simone suggested the sign be moved along route 108 or the Fire Station to get better exposure.

VI. Adjourn

Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 8:20pm. Seconded by Selectman Michaels.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary