



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

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

TIME: 6:00PM

**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>

1. Call to Order

Chairman Marchand called the meeting to order at 6:03pm Selectmen in attendance were Chairman Robert Marchand Jr., Vice-Chairman Michael Connolly, Matthew Burrill, Daniel Guide, and Joseph Simone. Also in attendance were Interim Town Administrator (ITA) James O'Mara and Selectmen's Executive Assistant (EA) Robyn Sparks. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by EA Sparks.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen's Input

No Discussion

4. Administration

4.1 Winter Parking Ban-Wilders Grove

Alicia Geilen, 78 Wilders Grove rd., is concerned with vehicles parking on the road/causeway. She stated vehicles trying to access the water constantly park in the travel lane of Wilders Grove rd., even though No Parking signs are installed on one side of the street. In addition, there is a winter parking ban which is not enforced by the police. She is asking for no parking on the causeway and police to enforce the existing parking ban.

Trisha Mcarthy, Emergency Management Director (EMD), stated she supports the no parking ban, due to the narrowness of the road.

Rich Kane, Interim Police Chief (IPC), does not object to the no parking signs. He suggested changing the ordinance to include allowing the DPW and Police authority to declare a snow emergency, which would prevent parking. He then suggested shortening the winter ban from December 1-April 1, which aligns with the snow season.

Selectboard Discussion ensued around crafting a parking ordinance.

Please check subsequent minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes

Jack Kozec of Amesbury RD, asked for clarification on the location of area.

Diane Morin of Juniper Lane stated that this change would not be able to take place without a legislative body. The Selectboard agreed, then stated parking signs could still be installed.

Selectman Simone moved to instruct the Highway Department to post no parking signs on both sides of the bridge and include the area where both cisterns are located. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

5. Approvals

5.1 Fire Department Requisition 1078

Selectman Simone moved to approve requisition 1078 FD in the amount of \$3,315.00 to Firematic Supply Company to a replace non-working cut off saw blade, per state bid. Funds to come from Fire Department 2024 budget line-item number 4220303. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

5.2 Fighter Certification Rate Increase X4

Selectman Simone moved to increase Lieutenant Robert Watson's rate of pay from \$23.87 to \$24.75 effective next pay period. This change is the result of the recent completion of requirements for New Hampshire's Fire Standards and Training Commission, Fire Officer II NFPA 1021 2020. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to increase Lieutenant Justin Kane's rate of pay from \$24.95 to \$25.80 effective next pay period. This change is the result of the recent completion of requirements for New Hampshire's Fire Standards and Training Commission, Fire Officer II NFPA 1021 2020. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to increase Lieutenant Sean Kane's rate of pay from \$24.95 to \$25.80 effective next pay period. This change is the result of the recent completion of requirements for New Hampshire's Fire Standards and Training Commission, Fire Officer II NFPA 1021 2020. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to increase Lieutenant Peter Janeliunas's rate of pay from \$24.95 to \$25.80 effective next pay period. This change is the result of the recent completion of requirements for New Hampshire's Fire Standards and Training Commission, Fire Officer II NFPA 1021 2020. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

5.3 Probationary Fireman Hiring

Nolan Ash stated that he is interested in getting the Selectboard's approval to transition from scene support member to a probationary firefighter.

Selectman Simone moved to hire Nolan Ash as a Probationary Firefighter and increase his rate of pay from \$11.70 to \$13.57, upon meeting the requirements of a physical. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

5.4 Mattress Pricing-Transfer Station

Jack Kozec, Assistant Manager Transfer Station (AMTS), stated that they have obtained better pricing on mattresses, \$45.00 from formerly \$75.00 each. He proposed the following rates for residents \$60.00, previously listed at \$80.00 and for non-residents \$80.00 from \$100.00. He stated that the work related to a collecting mattress requires moving multiple pieces to different areas within the transfer station.

Selectboard discussion ensued around charging fees for residents beyond the vendor cost. The Selectboard does not support the increase proposed.

EMD McCarthy, stated that it takes two employees to move a mattress at \$13.00 hourly, she supported charging an additional \$6.80. to the vendor's cost.

Selectman Guide moved to set the mattress price for residents at \$50.00 and \$80.00 for non-residents. Seconded by Selectman Simone. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Marchand stated the Transfer Station is inundated with mattresses from out of town. He suggested using proper protection when handling the mattresses.

5.5 Voucher Program-Transfer Station

AMTS Kozec stated the following changes to the Voucher Program have been made. The paper vouchers will not be mailed this year, allowing additional savings in postage and printing. The resident will come down with materials and will be allowed disposal once the residency is verified by the attendant. He stated that the program has been operating without complaints or any issues.

New residents would have to verify the address with Town Hall in order to participate.

EMD McCarthy suggested having new residents bring supporting documentation of residency. Selectboard would like to review the process in October.

Diane Morin of Juniper Lane stated new residents would have a sticker for the dump on their car once registered with the town.

ITA O'Mara stated that AMTS Kozec is also logging the cash value of the materials received from the voucher program. This will produce an idea of the cost of revenue.

ITA O'Mara said that ICP Kane, has offered to re write the ordinance for next year.

Chairman Marchand apologized for any confusion regarding the voucher program on behalf of the Selectboard.

5.6 Manifests

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$71,740.45 from the Police Special Detail Account, with a pay date of February 14, 2024, to pay an invoice to Wex Bank for fuel purchases in the amount of \$1,417.02 and an invoice MHQ, Inc, in the amount of \$70,323.43. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$2,350.00 from the Ambulance Revolving Account, to pay an invoice to Bound Tree Medical with a pay date of February 14, 2024. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve payroll manifest in the amount of \$64,388.63 for pay period -January 28 -February 10, 2024, with a pay date of February 15, 2024. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$6,004.02 from the Cable Revolving Fund, to pay an invoice to Hewlett-Packard Financial Services, in the amount of \$240.02 and an invoice to RMON Networks in the amount of \$5,764.00, with a pay date of February 14, 2024. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve Vendor Manifest in the amount of \$57,447.68 with a pay date of February 14, 2024. Payments include \$26,469.06 to G. Mello Disposal and \$8,149.77 to Municipal Resources, Inc. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

6. Action Items New/Old Business

6.1 EOC Update

EMD McCarthy, stated that New Hampshire Governor approved the December 17-21st storm as a national disaster. She is now working on receiving funds for 3 storms in total. She along with the Road Agent will have in person meetings to view the road damage.

McCarthy stated that she received the news from a trusted mechanic that the car gifted to the EOC will no longer be drivable at the end of March. The car is not safe to drive.

Conservation

Secretary McCarthy announced Earth Day is April 22nd, in which they will be planting a garden. Volunteers are welcome.

Chairman Marchand asked Secretary to check out a leaning tree on private property in the right of way. She agreed.

EMD McCarthy, reminded the public COVID is still present, please stay home if you are sick.

Recruitment Update

Chairman Marchand read a prepared letter regarding the open positions within the town. The Finance Director position is still in the process of seeking applicants via Municipal Resources INC, (MRI). There have been multiple hires that were not successful in the last year. Chairman Marchand then acknowledged the hiring of a Police Chief, stating interviews led to a potential hire that rejected the offer. The MRI consultant in the position has been able to grow the department in the meantime. The position is now accepting applications via MRI.

The Selectboard reminded everyone these efforts can be supported by voting on March 12th. Also, if you have any of these required skill sets, please apply.

Selectman Burrill moved to adjourn at 6:59PM. Seconded by Selectman Simone.5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Sparks

Robyn Sparks
Executive Administrative Assistant