



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

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 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 6:06pm. Selectmen in attendance were Chairman Robert Marchand Jr., Daniel Guide, Joseph Simone, and Anthony Aiello. Also, in attendance were Town Administrator (TA) James O'Mara and sitting in for EA Sparks was Diane Morin. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Ms. Morin. The non-public session minutes were transcribed and typed by TA O'Mara.

Excused this evening were Vice-Chairman Michael Connolly and Selectmen's Executive Assistant (EA) Robyn Sparks.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen's Input

Mr. Wayne Butler of 33 Maple Ave addressed the Board about his concerns with the location of the proposed cell tower. He is one of the abutters where the proposed right of way is located. He stated that at a previous meeting, the acreage that was stated was incorrect. He asked what the revenue received from the lease would be used for.

Chairman Marchand stated that the vendors who presented their proposal for a cell tower informed the Board that the right of way would not affect either abutting properties. The maintenance road to the tower would be built and maintained by the vendor. The tower would be 135' in height. The Town would have the top half of the tower for emergency communications equipment. The funds received from the lease have not been assigned to any use at this time due to the unknown amount that would be received.

Mr. Butler asked if the Town had looked at other properties for the tower location.

Emergency Management Director (EMD) Trisha McCarthy stated that the vendors looked at several different sites and both determined that the site on Maple Ave was the best location. She stated that the vendor will be at the next Board meeting.

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

Mr. Butler asked if once the tower is built on the location, will it become private property? EMD McCarthy stated that the Town will still own the property and that he would have access to the property except for the area around the tower.

Ms. Julia Fitzgerald of 37 Maple Ave addressed the Board. She asked if the Town knows the exact location of the proposed tower and if the Town looked at other sites for the tower.

Chairman Marchand stated that the best location was on Maple Ave. This location would help with the communication dead spots in that area.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that a better location would be in the industrial park in East Kingston, NH. She also stated the Newton Junction area would be covered by the tower in Plaistow, NH. She stated that Kingston, NH is looking at the possibility of installing a tower on Hunt Road.

Chairman Marchand stated that the vendors did due diligent and determined that the best location was on Maple Ave.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if cell towers are allowed on conservation land. EMD McCarthy stated that they are.

Ms. Fitzgerald expressed concerns that Maple Ave is a scenic byway, and that the maintenance road entrance might require trees to be cut.

Chairman Marchand stated that the entrance would be a simple road maintained by the vendor.

Ms. Fitzgerald expressed concerns about possible health issues from the tower. She read a portion of an article that claimed that prolonged exposure to cell towers could be detrimental to adults and children.

4. Administration

4.1 Reorganization

Selectman Simone nominated Selectman Guide to be the Chairman of the Board. Seconded by Selectman Aiello with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Guide assumed the Chairman's duties.

Selectman Marchand nominated Selectman Simone to be the Vice-Chairman of the Board. Seconded by Selectman Aiello with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone nominated Selectman Marchand to be the Ex-Officio to the Planning Board. Seconded by Selectman Aiello with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Marchand nominated Selectman Simone to be the Ex-Officio to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Selectman Aiello with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone nominated Selectman Aiello to be the Ex-Officio to the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Selectman Marchand with a unanimous vote.

4.2 Discussion of 2024 Warrant Articles

TA O'Mara reviewed the results of the March 12, 2024 Town Meeting. He stated that the only article that was not passed by the voters was Article 4, the Road Bond. It lost by 4 votes. Because of these results, he feels the voters expressed confidence in how the Town is being run.

The Board agreed with TA O'Mara's conclusion that the Town voters felt the Town was headed in the right direction.

Selectman Simone stated that the Town still needs to improve communications with the residents.

The Board thanked all the those that worked at the polls and to the voters for approving most of the warrant articles. They also thanked Ms. Morin for her work on the voter's guide and TA O'Mara's work on the warrant articles and budget.

The Town is looking for a Supervisor of the Checklist and volunteers for other various boards, committees, and commissions.

4.3 EMS Plan

TA O'Mara is recommending to the Board that a plan be developed and presented to the Board for the implementation of EMS services at the Fire/Rescue Station.

Fire Chief Alcaldinho addressed the Board and informed the Board that he has met with the former project manager, an electrician, and the fire alarm contractor on what needs to be done for the station to operate 7/24. He is also meeting with the radio vendor to set up "soft wake" which allows control over what is being broadcast on the radios. He is waiting for a quote from the former project manager to install sheetrock in 3 rooms. He is estimated the cost to be \$750 for the electrician and the radio. Once he has all the quotes he will present them to the Board for approval.

He will have 2 more individuals interested in joining the department. If they are hired the number of paramedics will be 11.

He still needs to fine tune the details in order to begin the 7/24 EMS service.

Selectman Marchand emphasized that no work should be done until approved by the Board. This will ensure that all members of the Board have the same information.

Chairman Guide asked if there was any update on the new ambulance. Chief Alcaldinho stated that the vendor is still looking at the end of 2024 or the beginning of 2025 for delivery.

TA O'Mara asked Chief Alcainho to put on paper what he has done and will be doing. He reminded Chief Alcainho that any changes to the project will require a "Change Order" form to be submitted to the Board for approval.

5. Approvals

5.1 Gale Library – Release of Operating Expenses

TA O'Mara stated that the library trustees requested \$35,800 be released to them for running the Gale Library.

Selectman Aiello moved to release monies in the amount of \$35,800 to the library trustees for some of the library's operating expenses. Seconded by Selectman Simone with a unanimous vote.

5.2 Manifests

Selectman Aiello moved to approve payroll manifest in the amount of \$56,871.64 for pay period February 25 – March 9, 2024 with a pay date of March 14, 2024. Payroll includes \$0.00 in ARPA costs. Seconded by Selectman Marchand with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Aiello moved to approve Vendor Manifest in the amount of \$55,565.35 with a pay date of March 12, 2024. Payment includes \$4,755.31 to the Health Trust and \$32,500.00 to Trinity Pridestar EMS. Seconded by Selectman Simone with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Aiello moved to approve withdrawal in the amount of \$5,302.00 from the Cable Revolving Fund to pay an invoice to RMON Networks with a pay date of March 12, 2024. Seconded by Selectman Simone with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Aiello moved to approve a withdrawal from the Police Special Details Account in the amount \$1,113.69 made payable to Wex Bank for fuel services with a pay date of March 12, 2024. Seconded by Selectman Simone with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Aiello moved to approve a withdrawal from the Uniformed Fire Watch Account in the amount of \$107.00 for an invoice to East Coast Emergency Outfitters with a pay date of March 12, 2024. Seconded by Selectman Simone with a unanimous vote.

6. Action Items New/Old Business

EMD McCarthy addressed the Board. There will be Seabrook drill on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 beginning at 6:00pm at the Fire/Rescue Station.

She updated the Board on the disaster relief funding from FEMA from the storm back in July of 2023. For the issue at the intersection of Pond and Webster streets, FEMA is advising her to file for an aquatic resource mitigation grant which she has begun the process.

She informed the Board that there may be some staff cuts at Seabrook Station. She will update the Board as more information is available.

She informed the Board that a grant is available for a mobile sign.

There will be a live training burn on Saturday, March 23, 2024 on Thornell Road. The road will be closed except for local traffic. She will do an alert on Saturday morning.

Selectman Marchand announced that the Transfer Station will be closed March 31, 2024 in observance of Easter.

Selectman Simone moved to appoint the following individuals to the Municipal Assessment Committee established for the purpose of having both the Newton Town Hall located at 2 Town Hall Road, Newton, NH, and Gale Library located at 16 South Main Street, Newton, NH, assess with respect to the overall structure as it relates to future needs to the Town of Newton, NH. The Committee shall report its findings to the Board of Selectmen no later than June 7, 2024. Trisha McCarthy, Mike Pivero, Jim Ryan, John Silva, and Joe Simone. Seconded by Selectman Marchand with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone announced that there will be a pancake breakfast on March 30, 2024 and will be sponsored by Just Church.

Selectman Simone informed the Board that plans are moving forward with the 275th anniversary. As part of the 275th anniversary fund raising, an appraisal event was held on March 16 at the Town Hall and was well attended.

TA O'Mara explained that State law allows the Board to sign manifests without holding a meeting. The Board then memorializes the signing at their next meeting.

Due to illness the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Selectmen's Offices will be closed on March 20, 2024.

The Board discussed setting goals. Members will send their ideas to EA Sparks.

Selectman Simone moved to enter nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) & (b) at 6:46pm. Seconded by Selectman Marchand. Guide – yea, Simone – yea, Marchand – yea, Aiello – yea.

The public meeting ended at 7:46PM

Respectfully submitted,
Diane M. Morin