



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

DATE: Tuesday, October 3, 2023

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 6:05PM. Selectmen in attendance were Chairman Robert Marchand Jr., Matthew Burrill, Daniel Guide, and Joseph Simone. Vice-Chairman Michael Connolly had an excused absence from the meeting. Also in attendance were Interim Town Administrator (ITA) James O'Mara, and Selectmen's Executive Assistant (EA) Robyn Sparks. The non-public meeting was scheduled for after the public session and the minutes were typed and transcribed by ITA James O'Mara. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by EA Sparks.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen's Input

Jim O'Keefe of Meadowview Drive addressed the Board. He stated that the cul-de-sac is in need of being re-paved due to deterioration. He is asking when the road will be paved.

Chairman Marchand stated that the Road Agent has a list of roads that need to be paved. Another issue is lack of funding for road work.

The resident asked if the highway budget was increased. Chairman Marchand stated that the voters rejected the proposed budget and now the Town is on the default budget set in 2022.

The resident asked if there were any funds available from other departments. Chairman Marchand stated that there are no funds available. He reiterated that we are on a default budget.

Road Agent (RA) Pivero addressed the Board. He stated that it was equally frustrating for him as well. Without the needed funds, the priority is for main roads to be repaired first. He hopes that voters will approve the proposed 2024 budget so that more roads can be repaired.

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

RA Pivero updated the Board on the 2023 paving projects: Wentworth and Gale Village roads have been re-paved, but there is still more work to be done on both roads to complete the projects. He is hoping that the weather holds off before any snow flies, if not, the budget will be depleted.

ITA O'Mara asked RA Pivero if he has considered placing a warrant article asking voters to approve a road bond. RA Pivero will need to confer with the Town Engineer to re-evaluate the roads in town. He would suggest a road bond in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 be requested. The funds would then be used to schedule road work over an extended period of time,(for example 8 years). He emphasized that even with that amount of funds, we would never be completely caught up but would be much better off.

Selectman Guide asked what the amount of the Highway Block Grant was. RA Pivero stated \$81,000 and that it fluctuates each year.

Selectman Guide suggested that if the road bond passes, the Town could possibly use the Highway Block Grant funds to purchase equipment. RA Pivero agreed that the funds could be used to purchase equipment. RA Pivero recommends that pavement preservation of existing roads be funded through the budget.

RA Pivero reminded residents that the Town does not own any highway equipment. He would recommend the Town look to purchase a 1-ton truck with a plow.

Mrs. Trisha McCarthy addressed the Board. She wanted to remind all the residents that the town's expenses have risen just as the residents' expenses have.

RA Pivero stated that there are no contingency funds for severe storms within the budget. He asked if there was a way to absorb the cost another way.

4. Administration

4.1 Announcements

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Chairman Marchand announced that the Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on October 28th from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Transfer Station.

ITA O'Mara stated that he wanted to add the information that the Town is allowed to setup a contingency fund provided the voters approved it. The fund cannot exceed 10% of the operating budget. If approved, the money would be set aside and cannot be expended without having a public hearing.

ITA O'Mara stated that the Town hosted a blood drive and collected 28 pints.

ITA O'Mara announced that the Town Hall Offices will be closed on Monday October 9th in observance of Columbus Day. The Town Clerk/ Tax Collector's office will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, October 12th and 13th. The Selectmen's office will be staffed Thursday, October 12th, 2023, from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Ambulance Repair

ITA O'Mara stated that he received a quote to repair the ambulance for \$21,485.00 which was less than the previous quote of \$27,000.00. He executed the work order for the lower cost and is now being worked on to be repaired.

4.2 Police Vehicle Update

ITA O'Mara stated that Chief Jewett has provided an update on the purchase of a 2023 F-150, the vehicle delivery should be by end of year.

ITA O'Mara stated that at the last Selectboard meeting the Trinity-EMS contract was approved and Chairman Marchand signed the contract. ITA O'Mara then handed out the contract for the Selectboard to sign.

4.3 Resignation of Police Officer

Chairman Marchand moved to accept the resignation of Brandon Addonizio with regret and to be safe in his new role of protecting life and property for another community. Seconded by Selectman Simone. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

4.4 Hiring of Animal Control Officer

Chairman Marchand stated Chief Jewett has a recommendation to fill the Animal Control Officer position in town. Mr. Thomas Wilson-Frascone is currently providing these services to Freemont and Hampstead.

Chairman Marchand moved to appoint Mr. Thomas Wilson-Fascone to the position of Animal Control Officer effective upon completion of all hiring requirements as Chief Jewett deem appropriate. Seconded by Selectman Simone. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

4.5 Hiring of Permit Clerk

ITA O'Mara Stated that he along with EA Sparks, and the Deputy Building Inspector conducted an interview last week of the only candidate to apply for the position. As stated earlier she seems competent and has related experience and skills. He supports the hire.

Selectman Simone moved to appoint Jamie Noone to the position of permit clerk in the building department 12-16 hours a week at an hourly rate of \$18.70 an hour which is a grade 6 step 20 on the approved town pay matrix subject to all town policies regarding recruitment and hiring. Seconded by Selectman Burrill. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

5. Staff Reports

5.1 ARPA, EOC, Conservation Updates ARPA

Emergency Management Director (EMD) McCarthy stated the ARPA work group has not met since the last Selectboard meeting. No new information is available.

EOC

EMD McCarthy stated COVID is still present and increasing in numbers in schools, which has resulted in remote learning.

EMD McCarthy stated that a storm effecting Rockingham county during July 9th 17th did not qualify to be evaluated for funding via Homeland Security. This has since been appealed and being reevaluated.

EMD McCarthy stated FEMA is operating under (A)-which would be Debris Removal and (B) which is Emergency Protective Measures. She will try to fit our needs into these categories.

EMD McCarthy stated she had 17 participants for the Seabrook Drills. The first drill is October 18th. More drills will be conducted, and she will provide details as dates get closer. One of the drills will include a mock drill with an active vehicle spill.

EMD McCarthy is working on a grant for damaged roads, culverts, and swales. Damage needs to be presented with demand. She will be working with Road Agent Pivero.

Conservation

A local reascent is working with Conversation Commission on signage for the trails on Busch Farm.

6. Approvals

6.1 Halloween Hours

Selectman Burrill stated residents have favored keeping Trick -A-Treating on Halloween night via a poll hosted by the Recreation Commission. Surrounding towns have chosen to do Trick-A-Treat hours from 5PM-8PM. The Selectboard agreed upon the hours.

Selectman Burrill announced Trunk-A-Treat on the 21st from 4:30PM-6:30PM, behind the Memorial School.

6.2 Intent to Cut TAX Map 06-11-2-2 (39 Whittier ST)

Selectman Guide moved to acknowledge and accept the notice of intent to cut for map & lot number 06-11-2-2. Seconded by Selectman Burrill. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Conservation Secretary McCarthy stated she spoke with the Assessor, and that the property has been adjusted in current use and has to be taken out of current use before cutting is done.

6.3 Donations from the Recreation Commission

Selectman Burrill moved to authorize the Recreation Commission to donate \$1,396.00 to the Newton Food Pantry and \$1,000.00 to End 68 Hours of Hunger. The funds to come from the Recreation Revolving Account consistent with the recreation's commission

recommendation. Seconded by Selectman Simone. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

6.4 Manifests

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$300.00 from the Recreation Revolving Account dated September 26th ,2023, to pay for an invoice for a senior outing to Royal Tours. Seconded by Selectman Guide. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$8,493.49 from the Cable Revolving Fund, account number 391293, to pay invoices to Civic Plus LLC, Hewlett-Packard Financial Services and RMON Networks. Seconded by Selectman Guide. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Selectman Simone moved to approve the vendor manifest in the amount of \$96,253.34 dated September 21, 2023, for payment to the New Hampshire Retirement System. Seconded by Selectman Burrill. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$72,032.43 from the Police Special Detail Account dated September 26,2023, for a partial payment to MHQ for the purchase of a new police vehicle. Seconded by Selectman Guide. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Selectman Simone moved to approve Vendor Manifest in the amount of \$3,308.75 with a pay date of September 26, 2023. Seconded by Selectman Guide. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Selectman Simone moved to approve Vendor Manifest in the amount of \$1,329,635.47 with a pay date of September 26, 2023. Payments include \$1,219,805.00 to Sanborn Regional High School. Seconded by Selectman Guide. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Selectman Simone moved to approve payroll manifest in the amount of \$72,783.15 for pay period September 10th - September 23Rd, 2023, with a pay date of September 28 ,2023. This manifest includes \$62.01 ARPA administrative costs. Seconded by Selectman Guide. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

6.5 Minutes

Selectman Simone moved to approve and accept the public meeting minutes dated September 5th , 2023, as written. Seconded by Selectman Guide. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

7. Action Items New/ Old Business

7.1 275th Anniversary

Selectman Simone stated he is hosting the 1st meeting tomorrow night @ Town Hall 6PM. All Boards should send a representative and the meeting is open to the public.

7.2 Veterans Day

Selectman Burrill stated that there will be a celebration and the food element is being explored. All Veterans are invited to join. Veterans Day is being observed on Friday.

EMD McCarthy wanted to make Selectman Simone aware of meeting being held tomorrow night, in order to avoid a conflict.

Selectman Burrill moved to enter non-public session under 91-A:3 II 3. Seconded by Selectman Simone. Marchand-aye, Burrill-aye, Guide-aye, Simone-aye.

Chairman Marchand declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Sparks

Robyn Sparks
Executive Administrative Assistant