



Office of the Board of Selectmen
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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 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 6:01PM. 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 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

No discussion.

4. Administration

4.1 Announcements

Treats For Troops

Chairman Marchand announced Town Hall will be holding Treat For Troops, donated candy from the public will be collected between October 25th-November 7th. The candy will then be shipped to service members.

5. Staff Reports

5.1 Tower Presentations

Trisha McCarthy, Emergency Management Director (EMD), stated that she has reached out to 4 different cellular tower companies. Three showed interested in presenting to the Selectboard. In which two of those companies responded and were to present tonight. However, Netcom was the only one in attendance, the others did not respond to inquiries. EMD McCarthy stated this concept is in the primary stage and the focus right now is just to gather information.

Alan Costello stated he was the owner of Netcom Wireless Facilities 2, Inc. and would be presenting on behalf of his company tonight. Costello stated he is a veteran of the business and

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

has conducted similar installs in likewise towns. He also introduced his colleague Jeff Pelletier, who handles the Public Safety Division.

Mr. Costello stated that he was aware that Newton was having an issue with lack of reception for Public Safety. He stated that he is familiar with this issue and had the same issue in a different town. Further, stating the installation of a tower can help with several problems including reception. Newton would have different options of service but would receive the top spot on the tower. The rest of the tower's availability would be leased to commercial companies, such as Verizon. He stated that the town would financially benefit from this partnership.

Selectman Burrill asked for a timeline from breaking ground to operational. Costello stated that although Covid has affected supply chain issues, with the Transfer Station being the most favorable location, roughly 90 days.

Selectman Simone asked about the longevity of the contract? Mr. Costello stated the proposed contract with the town would mirror his with the cellular companies being a 5 year lease at 4 terms, totaling 20 years back to back, in full a total of 40 years. The town would have preference on the length of contract.

Mr. Costello stated the town would receive a dollar value on commercial rent and an additional 3% escalator. If the area was sought after the carriers could possibly pay more. The terms could still be negotiated for revenue.

Costello proposed a 190 ft tower, which provides best service for public safety. He further stated Newton would benefit from having an additional tower in Newton Junction. If this were to move forward, Mr. Costello would help in setting up public which is a requirement for installation.

Selectman Burrill wanted to clarify that there is no tower being installed near the school at this time. The current proposal includes a single tower at the Transfer Station. The tower would be insured by an umbrella type insurance policy carried by Netcom.

(EMD) McCarthy asked if the town were to secure a grant to get a generator could it be used in conjunction with the tower to keep up operations during a power failure. Costello said this has been done before and it is capable.

5.2 ARPA, EOC, Conservation Updates

ARPA

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

EOC

EMD McCarthy stated the first of three Seabrook drills will be conducted tomorrow. The drills are graded, which reflects the amount of money received by the town.

Chairman Marchand asked the status of a previous discussion regarding ARPA funds being used to work on the Greenie playground parking lot. EMD McCarthy responded by stating \$37,000.00 of ARPA was designated for that project. She stated although it was late into the season to begin construction, tree trimming could possibly still be done.

EMD McCarthy stated that it was previously discussed that ARPA funds would be used to address the lack of parking at Greenie Park. Timber clearing would go a hundred feet to not interfere with the wetlands.

Selectman Burrill asked who would "own" this project and oversee the progression. EMD McCarthy stated she would work with EA Sparks.

Conservation

No update provided.

6. Approvals

6.1 Requisition 1071FD

Selectman Simone moved to approve requisition 1071FD in the amount of \$1,803.00 for replacement smoke fogger used in training. Fund to come from Fire Department 2023 budget line item number 4220303. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

6.2 Fire Department -Certification Change

Selectman Simone moved to increase Firefighter-EMT Kane's rate of pay from \$19.13 to \$22.13 effective October 26, 2023. This change is the result of the recent completion of course of study of National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Paramedic course. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to increase Firefighter-Medic Taylor Poussards rate of pay from \$19.85 to \$ 22.35 effective October 26, 2023. This change is the result of the recent completion of course of National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Paramedic course. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

6.4 Manifests

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$6,728.02 from the Cable Revolving Fund, account number 391293, to pay invoices from Hewlett-Packard Financial Services and RMON Networks. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve a withdrawal in the amount of \$1,527.38 from the Police Special Detail Checking to pay the invoice from Wex Bank. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone move to approve Vendor Manifest in the amount of \$54,335.01 with a pay date of October 10, 2023. Seconded Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve Vendor Manifest in the amount of \$526.00 with a pay date of October 17th, 2023. This is a reimbursement payment for items purchased for the Senior BBQ. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve payroll manifest in the amount of \$57,751.27 for pay period September 24th-October 7th, 2023, with a pay date of October 12, 2023. This manifest includes \$124.02 ARPA administrative costs. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

6.5 Minutes

Selectman Simone moved to approve and accept the public meeting minutes dated September 19th, 2023, as written. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve and accept the public meeting minutes dated October 3rd, 2023, as written. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Simone moved to approve and accept the nonpublic meeting minutes dated October 3rd, 2023, as written. Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

7. Action Items New/ Old Business

7.1 Veterans Day

ITA O'Mara stated that Veterans Day falls on a Saturday and Town Hall will be closed on Monday the 13th in observance. He then recommended the Transfer Station be closed on Saturday 11/11. The Selectboard agreed.

Chairman Marchand stated the Code of Ethics has been edited and will be posted.

Selectman Simone provided an update on the 275th Town Anniversary celebration which will be celebrated in conjunction with Newton's Old Home Days, September 13th-15th 2024. Selectman Simone has gathered information on what previous celebrations consisted of and is using that information to help in planning for the 275th.

Selectman Guide stated he is interested in putting a part-time position for a Recreation Coordinator on the ballot. There is a need for someone to overlook the fields, beach, and other related events.

Selectman Burrill stated Trunk-a-Treat is scheduled for Saturday, weather permitting.

Selectman Simone moved to enter non-public session under 91-A:11 (a) . Seconded by Selectman Guide. 5-0 with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Marchand declared the meeting adjourned at 6.56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Sparks

Robyn Sparks
Executive Administrative Assistant