



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

DATE: Monday, January 16, 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>

I. Call to Order

Chairman Burrill called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. In attendance were Selectmen Matthew A. Burrill, Chairman, Robert Marchand Jr, Vice-Chairman, Charles R. Melvin Sr., and Selectmen's Secretary Diane M. Morin. The public meeting was videotaped. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin.

Selectman Lawrence Foote and Michael Connolly were not present.

Selectman Michael Connolly attended the meeting via Zoom and stated that there was no one else in the room with him.

II. Scheduled Business

I. ARPA/EOC update

Acting Emergency Management Director (AEMD) Trisha McCarthy addressed the Board. She stated that the workgroup meetings have slowed down. The group is working on multiple requests for funding from various departments and commissions. The funds would come from the ARPA Funds that the Federal Government provided. Once they have decided which requests meet the qualifications for usage of ARPA Funds, they will make their recommendations to the Board. She provided an example which is the purchase of portable lighting that can be used at Town events or emergencies situations. She also mentioned that the group is working on providing a construction trailer for the Transfer Station.

She stated that she received a reduced quote from Guilfoil Public Relations that she will forward to the Board for their review.

The ARPA workgroup received a request from the Library to use ARPA funds for a new heating system.

She stated that NH Department of Environmental Services approved the design and construction for the septic system at the Transfer Station.

She reminded everyone that COVID has not gone away. There have been 20 new cases in Town. Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

There are test kits available from the EOC.

Homeland Security has asked all the towns in the county to provide them with the cost the towns absorb during the December 23 & 24, 2022 storm. If the amount is sufficient, they will ask for the President to

declare the county a disaster zone. This will allow the towns to recoup some of the costs associated with the storm.

Chairman Burrill asked if the heating system in the library would be covered under the ARPA Funds. AEMD McCarthy stated that once she receives a quote, she will confirm if it can be covered by the ARPA Funds.

Chairman Burrill stated that for the public relations item, he would be more interested in a quote to update the Town's websites. He is not in favor of paying a monthly fee to have a person on standby for public relations. AEMD McCarthy stated that the current host provider might be able to assist in updating the websites for less money.

Selectman Marchand asked if the library furnace is working. AEMD McCarthy stated that it is.

II. Goodwin Road signage

Secretary Morin stated that this is to provide a street sign for the new private road that was requested by E-911. This would be a one-time item and that the property owners would be responsible for the signage after the initial sign is in place.

Mr. Clark Sawyer of 126A North Main Street addressed the Board. He asked if they will now have 2 addresses, one in Newton and one in East Kingston. Secretary Morin stated that the new address will be in East Kingston.

Mr. Sawyer asked what the implications to mortgages and deeds would be. Selectman Melvin stated that they will need to inform the mortgage company of the change of address. That would also go for banks, credit card and any other institute they have. Secretary Morin read from the letter that she sent to owners informing them of the address change. The letter stated that they do not need to do anything with their deeds until the property is sold or transferred.

Mrs. McCarthy stated that deeds do not usually have legal addresses but rather a book, page, map, block and lot on it.

III. Other Business

A. Open Session

Mr. Joe Simone of Quaker Street asked the Board for an update on filling the current vacancies. He asked how much the Town is paying MRI and where the funds are coming from. What is the status on Mr. Lawrence Foote situation.

Chairman Burrill addressed the question of vacancies and the status of filling them. He stated that they are working with MRI to get qualified candidates to fill the Bookkeeper position. There are not a lot of qualified candidates at this time.

For the BOS Secretary position, there are several resumes that are being reviewed. Interviews will be scheduled as soon as possible.

He stated that the currently Town Administrator has requested time off for health reasons. The Board has engaged Mr. Jim O'Mara, from MRI, to be the interim Town Administrator. Mr. O'Mara introduced himself.

Selectman Marchand stated that the funds are coming from the salaries of the unfilled positions.

Mr. Simone asked what the cost is from MRI. The Board responded that they did not have the figures in front of them.

Chairman Burrill stated that this is not the position the Board would want to be in and that attrition is being fought by employers all over. Stop gap measures are being taken for the open positions. The Board is looking for qualified people to fill these positions.

The Board had no comments on Mr. Foote's situation.

Mrs. McCarthy informed the Board that one of the owners of Hidden Acres passed away. The Stewardship Committee is assisting the owner with preserving the farm.

Mr. Levin of Marcoux Road addressed the Board about his concerns that his road is not being maintained during storms. He stated that there was a major accident that required police and fire response. He asked why this neighborhood is not being maintained by the Road Agent.

The Board asked Mr. Levin to provide details via email.

B. Manifest

Selectman Melvin moved to sign vendor manifest dated January 16, 2023, in the amount of \$71,059.83 of which \$5,390.55 comes from ARPA funds for Molekule air purifiers for the Town Hall and Library. Seconded by Selectman Marchand. Burrill – aye, Melvin – aye, Marchand – aye, Connolly – aye.

Selectman Melvin moved to sign Cable Revolving Fund vendor manifest dated January 16, 2023, in the amount of \$561.57. Seconded by Selectman Marchand. Burrill – aye, Melvin – aye, Marchand – aye, Connolly – aye.

Selectman Melvin moved to sign Police Special Details Revolving Fund vendor manifest dated January 16, 2023, in the amount of \$3,173.51. Seconded by Selectman Marchand. Burrill – aye, Melvin – aye, Marchand – aye, Connolly – aye.

Selectman Melvin moved to sign Uniform Fire Watch Revolving Fund vendor manifest dated January 16, 2023, in the amount of \$233.00. Seconded by Selectman Marchand. Burrill – aye, Melvin – aye, Marchand – aye, Connolly – aye.

III. Approval of Minutes

Selectman Melvin moved to accept the non-public and public meeting minutes dated January 3 and 13, 2023 as written. Seconded by Selectman Marchand. Burrill – aye, Melvin – aye, Marchand – aye, Connolly – aye.

Chairman Burrill announced that the DOT will be holding a public hearing to take public input on the proposed design of the intersection known as Rows Corner on January 19, 2023, beginning at 6:00pm in the Town Hall.

IV. Adjourn

Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 6:43pm. Seconded by Selectman Marchand.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary