



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

DATE: MONDAY, January 14, 2019

TIME: 6:00PM

LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairman Donovan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. In attendance were Selectmen, Robert S. Donovan Jr., Chairman, Lisa L. Gonyer, Vice-Chairman, Lawrence B. Foote, James L. Doggett, Matthew A. Burrill, Nancy J. Wrigley, Town Administrator and Diane M. Morin, Selectmen's Secretary. The public meeting was audio and video taped; the public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Diane M. Morin.

II. Approval of Minutes

Selectmen's non-public and public meeting minutes dated January 2, 2019

Selectman Doggett moved to accept the non-public and public meeting minutes dated January 2, 2019 as written. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

Selectmen's public meeting minutes dated January 8, 2019

Selectman Doggett moved to accept the public meeting minutes dated January 8, 2019 as written. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

III. Scheduled Business

A. Fire/Rescue Station – Sprinkler system update

Mr. Jeff Murphy from SFC Engineering addressed the Board with an update of the Fire/Rescue Station sprinkler system. Mr. Murphy has been in contact with Fire Chief Alcaldinho and Construction Manager Pivero to get a better understanding of where in the design process we are. A review of current system has been completed and is appropriate for the building. There will need to be some re-work when the system is connected to the fire pump.

Mr. Murphy has received the original design documentation for the fire pump that Plaistow has offered the Town. Mr. Murphy has contacted R. T. Stearns to evaluate the fire pump to see if it can be used in for the sprinkler system. In Mr. Murphy's opinion, the fire pump is 3-times the size of what is needed and is a gravity feed pump. To re-use the fire pump a shelter would need to be built 12' below the grade. Mr. Murphy believes the cost of construction will outweigh the value of the fire pump. The fire pump is about 40-50 years and has no warranty with it. Mr. Murphy would like the Board's

opinion on whether to pursue evaluating the fire pump. The Board agreed to do a preliminary evaluation of the fire pump.

Mr. Murphy reviewed what needs to be done at the site. A 500-gallon minute fire pump and a 22,000.00 tank are needed. The current cistern holds 13,000.00 and there may be an option to sister a new tank. The fire pump recommended is run by a diesel motor. A pump house would be needed that has heat, power, ventilation and room for the equipment. A trench for the water line from the pump house to the building will need to be dug.

Mr. Murphy would like to know if the Board will be proceeding with installation using the same contractor or will the Board go out to bid. Mr. Murphy's recommendation would be to stay with the current contractor to avoid possible re-design issues. The Board discussed using the options and would like to proceed using the current contractor. The funds for the sprinkler system would come from the bond. Selectman Burrill stated that the project is still under budget.

The Board requested that Mr. Murphy provide an update on February 19, 2019 via email or in person.

B. Resident Steve Cushing concerns

a. Filling in wetlands at the intersection of Chase Road and Pond Street

Mr. Cushing addressed the Board. He wanted to make the Board aware that since the paving, which was done in the Fall of 2018, there may be issues with how the base layer may erode into the wetlands at the intersection of Chase Road and Pond Street. Chairman Donovan will contact Road Agent Pivero to see if there is an issue. The Board will have a response by February 5, 2019.

Selectman Gonyer would like the Conservation Commission to do a site walk.

b. Debris and brush blocking Town property at Old Lower Road and Whittier Street

Mr. Cushing stated that the issue has been resolved. Ms. Molly Wilson, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, addressed the Board. Ms. Wilson stated that the Conservation Commission did a site walk on January 6, 2019 and did find evidence of yard waste on the trail owned by the Town. Notices were sent to the offending abutters with a timeline to clear the debris from the trail.

C. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Fire/Rescue Station

Fire Chief Alcadinho stated that the Fire Department is ready to hold an open house at the new station. They would like to hold the event the first weekend in March 2019. Selectman Burrill stated that he does not feel it is needed as the department has been open for business. He would like to see a dedication ceremony once the memorial wall is ready. Chief Alcadinho stated that they are still working on the memorial wall.

Selectman Gonyer disagreed and would like to see some sort of ceremony to officially open the fire station without spending money on the event. Chairman Donovan, Selectman Doggett and Foote agreed with Selectman Gonyer.

The Board will plan to hold an open house on March 3, 2019 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm with the ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:00pm. The snow date will be March 10, 2019.

Chief Alcadinho announced that the Fire Department will be hosting a free blood pressure clinic within the next few weeks. They are also planning to go to Packer Meadows and hold a blood pressure clinic there.

Selectman Burrill asked both the Police and Fire Chief's should there be a snow storm where would people park? Chief Alcadinho stated that the parking lot should be cleared.

D. Standard mileage reimbursement rate increase

Town Administrator Wrigley informed the Board that the IRS standard mileage rate for 2019 is \$.58 per mile which is up from 2018 rate of \$.54 per mile.

Selectman Doggett moved to set the standard mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.58 per mile. Seconded for discussion by Selectman Foote.

Selectman Gonyer stated that even though the IRS is allowing \$0.58 per mile it does not mean the Town needs to follow suit. Selectman Gonyer stated, whereas gas prices have gone down, why is the rate going up. Selectman Doggett stated that the IRS sets the rate using the previous year data.

Chairman Donovan asked if the rate could vary depending on the vehicle being used. Selectman Doggett stated that it is set by the IRS and is a flat rate.

Donovan – aye, Foote – aye, Burrill – aye, Doggett – aye, Gonyer -- nay

Selectman Burrill asked if by the next Board meeting to have the amount spent in reimbursement mileage for 2018. Town Administrator Wrigley will ask the Bookkeeper to get the amount.

Resident Mrs. Sandra Estabrook addressed the Board and asked how the increase would affect budgets that have already been proposed. Selectman Burrill stated that the impact would be very minimal.

E. Comcast – Sign letter of agency to move 603-382-1996

Secretary Morin explained that the paperwork between Earthlink and Comcast was incorrect. A new move ownership contract for the phone line needs to be signed by the Chairman.

Selectman Doggett moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of agency for Comcast to take over the phone number 603-382-1996. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

IV. Announcements

A. 2018 Equalization Ratio – 86.1%

Town Administrator Wrigley explained that this is the ratio set by the State Department of Revenue Administration. Houses in Town are selling for 13.9% over the assessed value. In 2020, the Town is due for a static review which should bring the ratio back up.

V. Adjourn

Selectman Doggett moved to adjourn at 6:43pm. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary