



**Office of the Board of Selectmen  
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**NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022  
TIME: 7:00PM**

**LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD and ZOOM AUDIO  
CONFERENCING**

**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES**

**Zoom conference number 929-205-6099**

**Meeting ID: 818 7979 5674**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81879795674>**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Burrill called the public hearing meeting to order at 7:03pm. In attendance were Selectmen Matthew A. Burrill, Chairman, Robert Marchand Jr, Vice-Chairman, Charles R. Melvin Sr., Michael Connolly, Town Administrator Mark Andrews, and Selectmen's Secretary Diane M. Morin.

Selectman Lawrence Foote was not present.

Chairman Burrill read the following:

To take public input under RSA 31:95-b to accept and expend unanticipated funds for a one-time highway payment in accordance with NH Senate Bill 401 payment for maintenance, construction and reconstruction of Class IV and Class V highways. The Additional Highway Block Grant amount is \$91,031.68.

To take public input on the acceptance of \$49,833.60 from FEMA-4516-DR-NH Public Assistance Grant program. These monies are from the electronic message board sign usage from January 1, 2022 – June 28, 2022.

Acting EMD Trisha McCarthy addressed the Board. She explained that the EOC owns the electronic message board and if the sign is being used to inform the public about COVID-19, the Town is paid \$11.61 per hour the sign is in use. The \$49,833.60 is the payment from FEMA for using the sign. The money will go into the unassigned fund balance for now. The EOC plans to put a warrant article on the March 2023 Town Meeting Warrant to move these funds to the Emergency Ops Center Expandable Trust Fund. The funds will be used to cover expense the EOC incurs has during an emergency.

**Selectman Marchand moved to accept unanticipated funds from FEMA-4516-DR-NH Public Assistance Grant program in the amount of \$49,833.60. These monies are from the electronic message board sign usage from January 1, 2022 – June 28, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Melvin with a unanimous vote.**

Secretary Morin explained that this is a one-time additional Highway Block Grant from the State for road improvements.

**Selectman Marchand moved per RSA 31:95-b to accept and expend unanticipated funds for a one-time highway payment in accordance with NH Senate Bill 401 payment for maintenance,**

**construction and reconstruction of Class IV and Class V highways. The Additional Highway Block Grant amount is \$91,031.68. Seconded by Selectman Connolly for discussion.**

Mr. Anthony Levin addressed the Board. He asked for qualifications on the funds spent. Town Administrator Andrews stated that the public hearing is to ensure that the funds are accepted and expendable.

Selectman Marchand stated that the funds were used to pave Country Pond Road. Secretary Morin stated that Country Pond Road will be paid from the Highway Block Grant. The funds from the additional grant will be used for Pond Street.

Bookkeeper further clarified that no funds have been expended. The Road Agent does have money available in the Highway Department budget and he will be the one to determine which fund is used to pay for the paving projects done this year. These funds are for the Highway Block Grant only.

Mr. Levin expressed concerns about the paving project on Pond Street. Secretary Morin stated that the public hearing is to accept the funds. Chairman Burrill stated that because the Road Agent is not present the Board cannot take any action but will make note of it.

Mr. Levin asked if the funds have been expended. Chairman Burrill stated that according to what the Bookkeeper just stated no funds have been spent.

Mr. Levin asked to how to be placed on the agenda. Chairman Burrill informed Mr. Levin to email the Board Secretary to be placed on the agenda.

**The motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

Chairman Burrill closed the public hearing at 7:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin  
Board of Selectmen Secretary