Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2022 @ 5:00pm

**Selectpersons Present:** Gary Wight, Virgil Conkright, Mandy Berry

**Staff present**: Loretta Powers (Town Administrator), Amy R. Henley (Deputy Clerk, Recording Sec.), Joelle Corey (Code Enforcement)

**Others present:** Brooks Morton, Gretchen Strauss, Bill Strauss, Cathy Markavich (speaker)

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2022, meeting. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**~Discuss and consider RHR Smith & Co. audit, fixed asset services and FY23 bank reconciliation for an estimate of $10,750.00. ~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to accept the RHR Smith & Co. audit, fixed asset services and FY23 bank reconciliation for an estimate of $10,750.00. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Discuss and consider quote from O’Leary’s Professional Power Washing, LLC for power washing of Sunday River Fire Station. ~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve power washing of the Sunday River Fire Station for $1,800.00. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Discuss and consider letter from Oxford County Board of Commissioners regarding a caucus on August 31, 2022 with the purpose of electing two Selectmen to serve as Budget Committee members.**

Selectman Wight offered to go to the caucus on August 31, 2022 to be held at the Mexico Town Office.

**Public Comment**: None

**Announcements**: David Bartlett submitted a letter of resignation from the North Newry Church Committee.

**Business Agenda:**

**~Discuss RHR Smith Audit Review-Cathy Markavich. ~**

Ms. Markavich went over the audit quickly. Selectmen were satisfied with the information as long as staff understood the information. The audit was reviewed with staff prior to the meeting and Ms. Markavich is going to work with staff on questions they have.

**~Discuss and consider review of land use map, ordinance, and definitions. ~**

Planning board will look at the land use map, ordinance, and definitions at their meeting tomorrow night. This is in reference to a possible campground which according to the ordinance would be allowed only in the general development district. Currently there is one campground- Grafton Notch Campground which is 5,000 sq ft per site. The Planning Board will bring their findings/recommendations to the Selectmen which can then go to a public hearing or a town meeting.

**~Discuss and consider Tax Commitment 3 scenarios. ~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to accept the recommended .008350 rate with an overlay of $44,443.63. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Discuss and consider craft fair at the Grange Hall on Oct. 22, 2022. ~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to allow a craft fair at the Grange Hall on Oct. 22, 2022 for no fee. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion. Selectman Berry abstained from the vote as she is the organizer of the event.

**TAdmin Report:**

Tarnow timeshare, according to Attorney Katsiaficas, should be offered to the Summit Association; can sell if they do not pay the back taxes within 3 months.

There is $775 left in the budget for roadside mowing. Will verify with Alan what is left to be done.

Postage machine is up and running.

Still working on setting up MEPERS with Cathy from RHR Smith.

Working on cleaning up incorrect posting of liens.

A letter was sent to taxpayer regarding the $300+ owed from 2020.

Generator contract was signed. There was no cold weather kit on the old generator.

Attended Motor Vehicle training last week.

Election training is in Augusta in October.

Heat Pumps should be coming.

The CEOs old cell phone was canceled. Should give current CEO a stipend for using her own cell phone. Board agreed to this.

Request to stop charging excise on equipment as no other towns do this anymore. Selectman Berry made a motion to stop charging excise on equipment. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Property tax stabilization program applications must be in by December 1st each year.

Had someone interested in buying the North Newry Church and converting into a house. Selectman Conkright suggested we obtain an appraisal to see what the building is worth.

**Clerk Report:**

63 liens remain on FY2022 taxes. Of these 44 belong to Locke Summit leaving 19.

**Road Commissioner:**

Striping was done on the Sunday River Road.

The driveway was seal coated at the Sunday River Fire Station.

**Code Officer Report:**

Joelle presented a sketch and RFP that is a work in progress. The idea is to get a monetary idea of the cost of the big projects to be done.

Ted Baker has been working hard on creating fillable forms for the Land Use Permit.

Selectman Conkright made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16PM. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting**:

September 6, 2022, 5:00 pm at the Town Office

**Refer to audio recording for verbatim discussion of meeting.**

Minutes Approve by***:***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gary Wight Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Virgil Conkright

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mandy Berry