Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023 @ 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/LPI/Road Commissioner)

**Others present:** Ted Baker, Brooks Morton, Deb Webster, John Walker

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2023, meeting. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**None

**Public Comment**: None

**Announcements**: None

**Business Agenda:**

**~Deb Webster use of Grange Hall. ~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to let Deb Webster from The Eddy Middle School use the Grange Hall monthly for $50 per month February 1 through May 31 on Wednesdays from 12:30-2:00pm. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote. A contract will be created.

**~Request to join the Bethel Chamber of Commerce. ~**

John Walker from the Chamber was present and explained the goal of getting more community support. Selectman Berry made a motion to join The Bethel Chamber of Commerce at the Enhanced Level for $450 per year. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Broadband Update. ~**

There is a Zoom meeting coming up next week with FirstLight. The Mahoosuc Connect the Ready application is not being funded by the Maine Connectivity Authority but there is one more round of funding planned. Will look into what the time limit is to use the APRA funds.

**~Med-Care Ambulance. ~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to use $2000 from the Contingency Fund for the requested funds for Med-Care Ambulance for capital expenses. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Review Copier. ~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to leave the copier to the employee’s digression within the budget. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Appoint Alan Fleet as Fire Chief for 1 year (1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023). ~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to appoint Alan Fleet as fire chief for one year as voted on by the members. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Personal Property Tax. ~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to enter into a Settlement Agreement with Harris Golf Inc., and PNC Equipment Finance to settle their personal property. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote. Regarding Keith Durgin’s outstanding personal property, we will contact the Town’s Attorney, Jim Katsiaficas, to see if he can Zoom into our next meeting for further clarification regarding property location and burden of proof.

**Clerk Report:**

We have 14 liens and 4 are for timeshares. We have one property set to foreclose on January 20, 2023 that is not a timeshare.

**Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

See Report

**TAdmin Report:**

There was a billing error with FirstLight overcharging $2.70/month and we’ll be getting a credit.

Lithium deposit couple are fighting the DEP in court.

We are signed up with PowerMarket for the solar project.

W-2s went out in the mail today.

Working on 1099s.

$3,684.73 for MMA membership fees.

Solid waste meeting last week. Going to do punch cards for construction debris while working on interlocal agreement. Newry has a dumpster requirement for construction.

Waiting for call from the auditor.

Need to appoint Joelle as the Health Officer.

Move next meeting to Wednesday, February 8, 2023 due to a conflict.

Selectman Berry made a motion to recess the meeting at 6:12PM. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Selectman Wight made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6) (A) at 6:20pm. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6) (A) at 6:41pm. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Selectman Wight made a motion to reconvene the selectmen’s meeting. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Request to move Town Meeting from Tuesday, May 16, 2023 to Monday, May 15, 2023 so we can accommodate a Moderator.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42PM. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting**:

February 8, 2023, 5:00 pm at the Town Office

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

Minutes Approve by***:***

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Gary Wight Chairman

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

Virgil Conkright

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

Mandy Berry