Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023 @ 5:00pm

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

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

**Others present:** Ed Powers, Edward Baker, Becky Bean

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2023 meeting. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**~Flanders Electric Estimate.”**

Flanders Electric provided us with an estimate for a generator for the Sunday River Fire Station. $10,500 plus $1,400 for the cold weather kit, 10-year warranty & annual service. We would also need about $2,000 for piping. Mike Field is going to test the water at the Town Office and the Grange Hall. These items are both things the ARPA money could be used for.

**~Health Insurance. ~**

Debbie Bridges from Maine Health Trust stopped into the office. She advised that we offer an additional insurance policy that covers all 50 states and does not require referrals as a couple of employees have been having issues with this. The cost to the town is less for this policy although the deductible and some copays are higher. We would need to do a letter requesting we add the policy but either policy would be available to employees. It was decided to offer both policies to employees.

**~Escrow Money ~**

Planning Board is requesting we send escrow money back to Sunday River. They have two accounts and Susan Duplessis has an account. Selectman Berry made a motion that we refund prepaid escrow money to Sunday River and Susan Duplessis and that they pay as they go as everyone else does. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Public Comment**: None

**Announcements**: None

**Public Hearings and Possible Action:**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the liquor license renewal for South Ridge Lodge. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Business Agenda:**

**~Do we want to participate in Roadside Clean-up Day. ~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion we participate in Roadside Clean-up Day on May 6, 2023. The town will provide trash bags and gloves. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Update Personal Property. ~**

We received notification that our letter was delivered to Keith Durgin on March 6, 2023 and he has 30 days to respond. We have heard nothing back yet. We are sending out 706a forms to resident business owners to get lists of their assets for personal property taxes.

Selectman Conkright made a motion for personal property to be exempt under $2,500. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Approval of Carry Forwards. ~**

Discussion was had about carrying forward the $4,700 in the cemetery account and moving the $2,500 in the Newry Recreation Committee account to Bethel Recreation. It was decided to make warrant articles out of these.

**~Review Church Estimate. ~**

Discussion was had regarding the $180,000 quote received from Calderwood Engineering. Two articles will be added to the warrant regarding the church. One is regarding the $180,000 and the other is whether the town wants to keep the church or not. The article in last year’s warrant, article 40, was a straw poll asking if the town wanted to offer the North Newry Church and its assets including the $40,000 to a nonprofit. There is no $40,000 that has been allocated to the church for repairs after looking through accounts and through past town warrants along with the auditor’s review.

**~FY2024 Budget. ~**

We reviewed highway through capital improvements.

**Clerk Report:**

We have 4 liens and I have spoken to both owners. All timeshares are paid.

Today was the deadline for school board nomination papers to be delivered to the registrar.

Tax payments are coming as they are due in 10 days.

Nomination papers are available for select board.

**Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

See Report.

Discussed holding off on Monkey Brook Road. Would like to see an estimate for just Wheeler Road and the Town Office parking space. May possibly raise the money for Monkey Brook Road paving but complete later on.

**TAdmin Report:**

We have not received any additional donation requests. We do not receive requests from Western Maine Transportation anymore as they are funded by the county.

Awaiting estimate on Simonds Bridge.

Auditor called regarding capital improvement accounts as we have two. We should have a capital project and a capital reserve.

Selectman Wight was sent highlights from 2022 to write his Selectmen’s Report

School House Committee needs members and we need to obtain a key from Darnita Taylor.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28PM. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting**:

April 4, 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

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Virgil Conkright

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

Mandy Berry