Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2023 @ 5:00pm

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

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

Joelle Corey (Code Enforcement/LPI/Road Commissioner)

**Others present:** Brooks Morton

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2023 meeting. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**Public Comment**: None

**Announcements**: None

**Public Hearings and Possible Action:**

**Business Agenda:**

**~Jar Company Cannabis Renewal~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to grant the cannabis renewal for Jar Company. Selectmen Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Bethel Library update/free portable library ~**

See letter. The free portable library was tabled. Will offer the opportunity for the Bethel Library to attend the next annual town meeting.

**~Increase Grange Hall Rental fees~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to increase the summer rental fee for residents to $100 and non-residents to $200 with the winter rental fee for residents being $150 and non-residents $300. There will be no charge for a resident’s celebration of life. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Bethel Food Pantry Request~**

A request for $1,600 was made. This will be added to the donation requests for the FY2025 budget. Will offer the opportunity for the Bethel Food Pantry to attend the next annual town meeting so residents can ask questions, if there are any.

**~Would we be interested in ACO-County~**

Selectmen stated they were interested but did not want to commit to anything. Would like to be kept updated.

**~Veteran’s Day & Christmas/New Years~**

Staff will be given a floater day off for Veteran’s Day is on a Saturday.

November 22, 2023 the office will close at noon.

December 18, 2023 there will be a Christmas Party Dinner at the Grange Hall.

December 21, 2023 the office will close at noon.

November 2, 2023 the office will open at noon as staff is attending BMV Training in Rumford.

**~Update on Inter Local Agreement for Tri-Town Transfer Station ~**

Again Bethel tabled the Inter Local Agreement after receiving a letter from Hanover. The town is going to look into other options. The first being contacting DEP. The Casella contract expires in June.

**~Proposed State Valuation 2024~**

The proposed state valuation for Newry for 2024 is $961,450,000 up from $713,850,000.

**Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

Had FEMA meeting received lots of info, still working on getting more info together.

40 buildings permits.

A dormant subdivision has sold and will start breaking ground.

New subdivision being proposed near Merrill Hill.

FEMA incident command training in Alabama was eye opening. Will start with the mountain, won’t be until about April.

Will get the bid packages out for road paving mid-January/February.

Working with engineer regarding Simonds Bridge. Have not heard back.

Asphalt schedule changing a bit due to things that need to be taken care of.

**Clerk Report:**

We’ve had at least 20 residents license their dogs since sending reminders a little over a week ago.

Most people have paid their taxes.

Automatic Foreclosure notices will go out next month on 4 properties with 2 owners and they have been contacted in an attempt to collect prior to this action.

**TAdmin Report:**

Working on a date for a special town meeting.

Auditor is starting next years audit next week.

Will have a copy of an updated Personnel Policy for next meeting.

Working on Spirit of America. Found what was previously given out. Will order and present at special town meeting.

The window has been ordered for the Grange Hall.

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

**Next Meeting**:

November 13, 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

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Mandy Berry