Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024 @ 5:00pm

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

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

Joelle Corey (Code Enforcement/LPI/Road Commissioner)

**Others present:** Ted Baker, Brooks Morton

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2023 meeting with the deletion of the update on Simonds Bridge on page 2 as that was addressed on page 1. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**~Renewal of Liquor License-Shipyard Brewhaus II~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to renew the liquor license for Shipyard Brewhaus II. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Public Comment**: None

**Announcements**: Selectman Conkright stated the fire department had five rescues during the flood.

**Business Agenda:**

**~Review of Simonds Bridge Bid~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to accept the bid from CPM for $264,000. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Approve guardrail repair on Skiway & Summit Road~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the guardrail repair on Skiway & Summit Road to be added to next year’s budget. Mainline Fence gave an estimate of $3,160. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Approve funding for Road Study~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the funding for the road study to be added to next year’s budget. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote. Estimate from AVCOG of $3,476.

**~Sign Deputy Clerk 32-hour week position~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the Deputy Clerk position for Amy Henley as a 32-hour benefited position. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Employee Handbook Review~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the employee handbook effective today. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote. Exception was made for Deputy Clerk Walker to leave for lunch for a half hour daily and maintain benefits not working 40 hours as stated.

**~Request for Camp Scholarship & Approve~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the scholarship for Brooklyn Deprey. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Cemetery Ordinance Review~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to double the price schedule. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote. Will add The Black-Smith Cemetery to the list of cemeteries.

**~Transfer Station Ideas~**

It was decided to send a letter to the landowner before moving forward with any ideas or planning.

**~Appeals Board appointment, Rick Nelson~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to accept Rick Nelson to the Appeals Board. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Appoint Alan Fleet as Fire Chief~**

Selectman Berry appointed Alan Fleet as Fire Chief as voted on by members of the Fire Department at their meeting on January 15. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

Cross Excavation did a miraculous job of getting us back to safely travelling our roads. Sunday River to the Covered Bridge right up to Nordic Knoll was dangerous for length of damages. They got that back. Branch Road was back in less than a week. For as much water the bridge is sound on Branch Road. Bridge between Skyline and Akers had abutment damages and will be part of spring repair work. All homeowners have damages listed and reported through the MEMA website. We have all ours input and in. Estimated high as do not know what asphalt prices will be. Every road shy of 14 miles sustained some damage. Will need to be cut out and repaved in patches. 2 homes were catastrophic; 1 gone on Sunday River side and one basement washed out on Bear River side. FEMA has not declared us a disaster yet. From the county it may be towards the end of February before we hear that declaration.

Not a lot to do code wise until permits need to be issued when they are ready.

State is gearing up for Spring Training Schedule.

Bethel has not hired a new code enforcement officer as yet. Not their alternate; they went with a different person out of Oxford.

New SCBA 4 packs came in and are 20 lbs. lighter. Fire department likes them very much and appreciate them.

**Clerk Report:**

34 dogs left to license; 56 done. Have until January 31st after that $25 late fee.

No Labels party has done a voter registration drive and voters unknowingly changed parties and now will be ineligible to vote in the primary as there is a 3-month waiting period. There is a lot of discussion among clerks on this topic and I have contacted our local representative to keep them informed; Lisa Keim and Mike Soboleski, who was going to be going to the State House and hoped to have more info on this. I did see a story reported on WGME. Be cautious as to what you are signing.

Have been asked to write the Newry column for the Bethel Citizen. Advised them I would do 1 to 2 columns per month and am waiting to hear back from the editor. Hoping this would be a good way to report on town news and hopefully get more people involved.

**TAdmin Report:**

Have a new ACO. He covers 11 towns now. Eric Giroux out of Rumford. Need to decide on pay. Will look and see what we have currently in that account.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03PM. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting**:

January 23, 2024, 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