Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024 @ 5:00pm

**Selectpersons Present:** Virgil Conkright, Gary Wight, Mandy Berry (arrived 5:23pm)

**Staff present**: Loretta Powers (Town Administrator), Amy R. Henley (Deputy Clerk, Rec. Sec.) Joelle Corey (Code Enforcement/LPI/Road Commissioner)

**Others present:** Brooks Morton, Ted Baker, Mia Purcell, Becky Bean

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2024 meeting. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; 2 in favor, Selectman Berry not present.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**Public Comment**: None

**Announcements**: None

**Business Agenda:**

**~Mia Purcell, talk about Bethel Library Tech Help~**

Mia provided handouts regarding free tech help at the Bethel Library. Occurs Thursdays from 2:45pm to 4:45pm at the Bethel Library.

**~Liquor License renewal South Ridge Lodge ~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the liquor license renewal for South Ridge Lodge. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; 2 in favor, Selectman Berry not present.

**~Request approval Water Filter System for Town Office~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the water filter system for the Town Office. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; 2 in favor, Selectman Berry not present.

**~Request for warrant article from WHAT for $5,000~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to add the request for $5,000 from WHAT TV to the warrant articles. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; 2 in favor, Selectman Berry not present.

**~Use of Grange Hall for Tai Chi starting in April~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to allow the use of the Grange Hall for Tai Chi starting in April. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; 2 in favor, Selectman Berry not present.

**~Salaries & Wages proposal~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve a 5% wage increase for the town administrator, CEO and deputy clerk positions. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; 2 in favor, Selectman Wight did not vote.

Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the Fire Department training officer position be raised to $1,000. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Selectman Berry made a motion to keep all other stipends the same. No 2nd; motion dies.

Selectman Wight made a motion to keep the Selectmen, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Captain, Safety Officer and Secretary the same and add $100 to the Planning Board and School Board. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

Permits are starting to come in a little faster this spring. 2 on desk while away and 2 arrived this week for subdivisions on the Sunday River side.

 Received language for an ordinance or an existing ordinance for the accessory dwelling law (LD2003) even though we have standards in place we allow an accessory dwelling unit on properties as long as septic and well will allow.

FEMA scoping meeting took place today for the December flood and will have in person meeting with EPA rep, MEMA rep. All damages have been entered into the portal.

Engineer to fix damages put out RFT proposals due 18th to talk about on the 19th.

Public hearing next week regarding UDRO. Would like to have public informed about what they are going to vote on.

**Clerk Report:**

71 voters last week. Have started on June election.

Real estate starting to sell again with lots of calls verifying tax payments.

Tax payments coming in as due by March 31st.

Copies of UDRO at the office and on the website as well. Shared on Facebook and I put in my Newry column to spread the word.

**TAdmin Report:**

Signed the town up for Household Hazardous Waste Day on September 21, 2024.

Received FEMA money from December 2022 Winter Storm Elliott.

Working on phone system.

Vern has agreed to moderate our town meeting.

Plaques are in for Spirit of America awards.

Budget talks will continue next meeting.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58PM. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting**:

March 19, 2024, 5:00 pm at the Grange Hall

**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