Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024 @ 9:00am

**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, Kurt Youland, Karen Youland, Chaia Alford

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2024 meeting. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**Public Comment**:

**Announcements**:

**Public Hearings and Possible Action:**

**Items for Discussion and Possible Action:**

**~Tree Growth Penalty Karen Youland**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to table this to next meeting to get more clarification on breakdown of penalty as far as interest, penalty or just back taxes. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Cannabis renewal for JAMY ~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to renew the cannabis license for JAMY. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Sign Conditional Agreement for The Pines~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to sign the conditional agreement for The Pines. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Abatement Real Estate~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to grant the abatement on R14-019-002. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Letter S Road repair/roads ~**

Letter S is complete. Simmonds Brook Bridge is complete with drainage. Final bill of $271,300. Everything has been submitted to FEMA. There have been some changes at MEMA at the Augusta office. We’ve been lucky to have Christine Peterman as our Director for all 3 storms.

**~Liquor License changes “Bells Summary~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to give permission for the town administrator to electronically sign the liquor licenses after the Select Board approves them. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~SR Fire Station Generator update~**

Generator has been installed. Needs a roof over it. David Berry has agreed to do it hopefully before it snows. Fire Pond has been dredged and stainless steel hydrant has been installed.

**~Invested money at Northeast Bank-better rates~**

Opened a $500,000 CD at Northeast Bank with an interest rate of 4.7%. Androscoggin Bank CD came due and they matched the Northeast Bank rate.

**Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

Quote from Jeff Stearns and contractor to do work in Sunday River working on still

Trash complaint- certified mailing was picked up and will check then send to attorney if not.

EMA meeting 10/24/2024 wish was notified of hydrologist speaking the week before in Rumford. Only 1 flood stage detector between Shelburne and Rumford and is in Rumford. USGS would like to see another one installed at confluence of Sunday River and Androscoggin. USGS has no money. Will get more details from Allison if surrounding towns can work together to obtain another one. Monitoring per year is $16,000 and have to commit for 3 years; unsure how much to install.

Permits still going; plumbing permits still coming in for septics.

AVCOG can do the traffic portion of our Comprehensive Plan. The rest from third party says $35,000 is a good start but to do everything they recommend $100,000.

**Clerk Report:**

277 voters. Only 4 ballots left. Great turn out. Lots of people registering dogs that day.

USPS did deliver a ballot that was sent first class mail the day before from New York. It arrived in Portland and USPS drove it to us at 5:08pm and the vote was counted. Contacted his mother and she was thrilled.

Thank you to the ballot clerks who did a wonderful job.

Tax payments still coming in. Sent past due reminders to all taxpayers who have outstanding bills from FY24.

Dogs need to be registered by January 31 to avoid the late fee of $25 per dog.

Ballot boxes were collected on Friday by Oxford County Sheriff.

**TAdmin Report:**

Started FY24 Audit.

Laurie attended the Hanover town meeting recently suggested dedicating our Town Report in memory of Doug Jones.

FEMA $117,000 projected for the May storm. Have only used $260,000 of the $1 million borrowed.

On vacation from 11/20-11/24.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48AM. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting**:

November 26, 2024, 9:00 am 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