Town of Newry Selectmen Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2025 @ 5:00pm

**Selectperson’s 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:** Brooks Morton, Ted Baker

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Conkright made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2025, meeting. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**Public Comment**:

**Announcements**: Selectman Wight announced he was not planning on running again for Selectman.

**Public Hearings and Possible Action:**

**Items for Discussion and Possible Action:**

**~Engineering Bids ~**

Received 3 bids: Fiddlehead Environmental Consulting $47,200

TRC Company $142,750

Gorrill Palmer $139,800

Selectman Berry made a motion to accept the bid from Fiddlehead Environmental Consulting. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Vacation Rental Ordinance & Fees~**

Joelle reviewed changes made to the ordinance and proposed fees of $175 for the first year and $125 for years following.

**~Set public hearing date~**

Selectman Wight made a motion to hold public hearings on Tuesday, April 1 @ 6pm at the Town Office. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Abatement for R11-028-052 ~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to accept the abatement for R11-028-52. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Employee Handbook~**

Selectman Berry made a motion to accept the changes made to the Employee Handbook. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Update Office & Grange Hall Cleaner~**

Selectman Conkright made a motion to accept Amy Henley as the new cleaner at $24/hour- 3 hours a week with MPERS benefits. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**~Budget~**

Went through more budget lines. Will continue next meeting.

Selectman Conkright made a motion to increase the Fire Chief stipend to $7500 and the Planning Board Chair stipend to $2500. Selectman Conkright 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

**Clerk Report:**

Tax payments due by March 31.

Town Report dedication. Selectmen chose Eleanor Davis.

Nomination papers are available for a Select Board position.

We have an ACO alternate for when ours is away. Letters were sent out to residents who have not licensed their dog(s). They will be issued a citation if not done within 10 days.

**TAdmin Report:**

Contacted AVCOG regarding Comprehensive Plan and needing a facilitator. Price will depend on what is needed. They recommend having a committee meeting first. There is $30,000 currently in the budget. Will send letters to committee members.

Fire Department repairs to ladder truck (currently out of service) are $21,548. Selectman Conkright made a motion to pay for the repairs to the ladder truck. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

We have 27 students attending SAD#44.

Selectman Berry asked the board to consider donating the rental of the Grange Hall for a benefit for a local woman diagnosed with cancer. Selectman Wight made a motion to use the Select Board’s contingency fund to pay the rental fee for Sarah Chase. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30PM. Selectman Wight 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting**:

April 1, 2025, 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

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

Virgil Conkright

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

Mandy Berry