

Town of Newry Select Board Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 2025 @ 5:00pm

**Selectperson's Present:** Virgil Conkright, Mandy Berry, David Bartlett

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

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

**Signing of Warrants:** all approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2025 meeting. Selectman Bartlett 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. ~~Selectman Bartlett abstained.~~  
unanimous vote. (Arett)

**Adjustment to the Agenda:**

**Public Comment:**

**Announcements:**

Edward Baker, chair of the Planning Board informed the Board of a vacancy on the Planning Board and requested the Board recruit to replace the member.

Brooks Morton states he got word from Tony Vigue of Community Access Television Stations of Maine that they have a contract that is agreeable with all parties concerned. Asked about multi town meeting. It is being held September 15. It is advised towns get together on the same contract with James Katsiaficas. All towns are paying 2.5%; all contracts have expired except Newry as 15 year contract but new legislation voids it as that long of a contract is not allowed as population and hookups determine how much each town gets in franchise fees with the max being 5%. Also in bill it can be negotiated that the cable company will pay for upgrades at the station to bring it up to HD. Now they are sent HD and the cable company puts it down to the lowest quality. It is recommended that towns get together with 1 lawyer and have 1 franchise for all the towns.

**Public Hearings and Possible Action:**

**Items for Discussion and Possible Action:**

~Renewal Marijuana Retail Store JAR Co.~

Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the renewal of the Marijuana Retail Store JAR Co. Selectman Bartlett 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; unanimous vote.

### **~Review & Discuss Acceptance of Coin Policy~**

Selectman Bartlett made a motion to accept the Coin Policy. Selectman Berry 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; unanimous vote.

### **~Discuss Dumpster Pickup~**

Lots of discussion was had regarding dumpster pickup and how Bethel had an article they voted on at their town meeting but Newry did not. This will be discussed further at the Solid Waste meeting tomorrow at 10am in Bethel. \$120,000 was spent in 2024 on dumpster pickup.

### **~Discuss Cemetery Work~**

Reviewed the quote given by Thomas Stevens Cemetery Restorations. Budgeted \$2,000 for cemeteries and have \$6,000 in the cemetery capital account. Will ask if there is a minimum to come to do work and see if we can get some restorations done and budge more next year for additional work.

### **Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:**

See Report.

Alan, Newry Fire Chief would like permission to sell the hydraulic pump and parts from the old door at the fire station. Selectman Berry made a motion to allow the sale of the hydraulic pump and parts from the old door. Selectman Bartlett 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; unanimous vote.

An agenda was passed out for the Appeal's Board meeting taking place tomorrow at 5pm at the Town Office.

### **Clerk Report:**

21 liens currently including 7 from FY24. Have reached out to all owners through email or a phone call. Have had a good response so far.

PestShield came today. She has seen some progress and reports mice have taken quite a bit of bait from the Grange basement but no sign of them in the upstairs closet that I recently cleaned out. I'm hoping to get the basement cleaned out soon.

### **TAdmin Report:**

Bruce Pierce resigned so we need to get another Planning Board member. We have 60 days.

Bruce Pierce has been approved by the State and town since March of 2010 as Fire Warden.

They sent a copy of the paperwork. I talked to Brad Bucknell regarding this.

Solid Waste committee meeting tomorrow.

FirstLight meeting regarding fiber is at 10am on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in Bethel.

Appeals meeting tomorrow night at 5.

The first Comprehensive Plan meeting is Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5. I contacted Erica from AVCOG to give me hints on how to start the meeting and get it going. She will attend next meeting to go over what they do.

David asked if the group accepted the reduction for the Grange Hall rental. They did and they are using it September 10.

Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40PM. Selectman Bartlett 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting:**

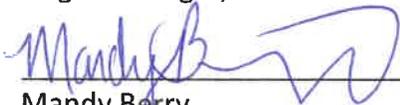
August 5, 2025, 5:00 pm at the Town Office.

**Refer to audio recording for verbatim discussion of meeting.**

Minutes Approve by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Virgil Conkright, Chairman

Date: 8/9/25

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mandy Berry

Date: 8/5/2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Bartlett

Date: 8/5/2025