

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth and James McIlroy. Wes Moore joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Chief Reed, Lt. Gould, Jamie Thompson, Win Fream, and Mike Kahlke.

Chief Reed advised that the DWI and Speed Grants have been completed. He will be submitting paperwork to the State of New Hampshire for reimbursement. The Speed Grant went well, but the DWI Grant was only one-half staffed. The Alcohol Compliance checks will end after this weekend. So far, there have been 17 arrests for selling alcohol to minors. The Lt. will put together a list of the number of underage purchase attempts, how many businesses sold alcohol to minors, and how many businesses did not sell to minors. The individuals who actually sold alcohol to minors were arrested and some were repeat offenders. A press release will be issued by the Police Department.

On October 10th, 2007 the Chief and the Newfields Teachers Organization will hold a class for parents on internet child predators.

One of the police cruisers hit a deer last night. The only damage is a cracked lens light. It will not be repaired as this is the cruiser that is being replaced.

The Chief is applying for a grant of 50% of the cost for a camera to be installed in the new cruiser. No cameras have been in the Newfields police cruisers for the past seven to eight years. The camera will cost between \$3,500. and \$6,000. and will be paid with funds from the Police Special Details Revolving Fund. Eventually the Chief would like to have cameras in each of the police cruisers. The Selectmen will have to approve this expenditure.

Chief Reed advised that he asked Lt. Gould to research Short-Term and Long-Term Disability Insurance coverage for the full-time police officers. He reported that the Local Government Center has the lowest rates, that they would invoice the Town for the coverage, and that the participating police officers would have the monthly premium deducted from their paychecks. A Benefits Administrator would need to be appointed.

Peter Chapel of the Local Government Center stopped in the office last week regarding the disability insurance. Before he is able to proceed any further in obtaining coverage for the police officers, he needs written approval from the Selectmen. One of the Selectmen will call Peter to find out the ramifications to the Town if they approve this. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Two potential part-time police officers failed the background checks. The Police Department is starting the process over again to hire additional part-time officers. The job application is being revised in the hopes of eliminating unqualified candidates earlier in the process to save time. Chief Reed advises that the shortage of police officers is nationwide, not just in Newfields.

Checks were signed.

Correspondence from Cedar Island Ledge Property Management, LLC was reviewed regarding their application before the Planning Board.

A letter from Tom and Eileen Conner was reviewed. They asked that the Library Trustees re-schedule the meeting with the library abutters on September 24th because of the short amount of notice.

Notice was received from Primex that the Health Insurance costs for the Town employees will increase 11.5% as of January 1st, 2008 and again July 1st, 2008 by another 9%. Nancy was asked to obtain pricing from other health insurance carriers.

The Newfields Elementary School and SAU 16 Financial Reports were reviewed by the Selectmen.

Win Fream, Jamie Thompson, and Michael Kahlke of the Budget Advisory Committee met with the Selectmen. Win announced that he is resigning from the Committee because of work commitments. He will stay on the Committee until a replacement is found for him. The Selectmen have a couple of candidates in mind and will contact those candidates to ask if they are willing to serve.

Win did not have the prototype of the new budget form with him, but basically it is an Excel form with line items and definitions of each line for all departments.

The Committee needs to decide how they want to meet – department heads only or department heads and the Selectmen. Do they want a Selectmen's representative on the Committee? Jamie recommends that the Budget Advisory Committee meet with the department heads first and then meet with the Selectmen to review each department's budget request.

The Selectmen are looking for the Budget Advisory Committee to vet the proposed department budgets, to make sure that one time costs are not repeated in a department budget year after year, and to justify any increases. The Committee is not authorized to make policy decisions – only the Selectmen are able to do that. The Selectmen also want the opinions of the Budget Advisory Committee members on the various departments' budget requests.

Win asked the Selectmen to send out a notice to the department heads that the

Budget Advisory Committee will be meeting with them. The Selectmen agreed to do so.

Jamie asked if mosquito control would be a line item rather than a Warrant Article in 2008. The Selectmen will be holding a public hearing on mosquito control. After obtaining information from experts and comments from the residents, they will decide whether to include this in the budget or as a Warrant Article.

The Selectmen were asked about the Town's income. At this time, it has increased because the Town is keeping 100% of the Current Use Change Tax instead of splitting it with the Conservation Commission. However, bond payments will be due on the Conservation purchases.

A copy of the Town's August financial report was given to each member of the Committee for review. This includes the year to date expenditures by department and the percentage of their budget which has been spent. Nancy was asked to e-mail the September Reports to the Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee as soon as they are available.

Jamie asked about the Dispatch status. The Dispatch Advisory Committee has viewed both the Newmarket Dispatch and Rockingham County Dispatch facilities. The Selectmen should receive their report shortly.

It was agreed that the Budget Advisory Committee will meet with Department Heads in October. They will meet with the Selectmen after all of the budgets have been submitted in order to review them together.

Win Fream submitted a list of dates for the Cub Scouts to meet at the Town Hall. Win was reminded that the Cub Scouts have five free uses of the Town Hall. As they have used four so far this year, they have one remaining free use and will have to pay the \$75.00 rental fee after that. Two of the dates that Win submitted conflict with the Planning Board and Win will have to reschedule them or hold the meetings elsewhere.

The Selectmen reviewed the report from Sarah MacGregor (Dragon Mosquito Control) which follows:

Hello All,

Adult mosquito trapping was conducted last week. I waited until the weather warmed up for the best results. Traps set in other towns early in the week were lucky to catch any mosquitoes with morning temps in the low 40's. The Newfields traps were picked up on Friday morning. The three town sponsored traps caught a total of 19 mosquitoes. Not an alarming number of mosquitoes but they are the bad species. Test results should be available later today. If there is a positive mosquito, then the State DHHS will call the Town first. So no news is good news.

Scientifically, there aren't enough mosquitoes in the traps to warrant road spraying. The Newfields school was sprayed Friday evening, Sept 21st. The school has approved another week of trapping and will revisit the need for further spraying after the trap results are complete.

We continue to investigate the woods and wetlands in the Sanborn Rd/Bald Hill Rd area. It's still very dry in this area. Rain is expected later this week.

I would rather see cooler temperatures instead of the summer temps we're experiencing right now. Regardless of the current warm weather, there comes a point where the mosquito larvae can't complete their lifecycle. They run out of daylight. Their lifecycle is dependent upon photoperiod. They're going to run out of sufficient day light.

Sarah MacGregor
President
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.
603-964-8400

Based on this report, Wes made a motion to authorize one more week of trapping and testing. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

James reported that he has not spoken with Fran Lane regarding the renewal Comcast Contract, but will do so.

James is still working on the e-mail to the Transportation Advisory Committee and should have it completed this week.

Nancy was asked to obtain two duplicates keys to the dumpster at the Town Hall.

Correspondence from the Windham Board of Adjustment regarding a cell tower was reviewed.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

Nancy was asked to schedule a meeting with the Selectmen and a candidate for the Town Planner position.

Approval to pay Quality Welding for the handrail job was approved.

Correspondence from the NH Department of Safety Bureau of Emergency Communications was reviewed by the Selectmen. The NHBEC will be taking over responsibility for the NH 9-1-1 ALI Database from Verizon and is asking for a liaison for Newfields. It was suggested that Ray Buxton be asked to fill this position as he currently holds this position with Verizon. Nancy will ask Ray if he is willing to continue to serve as liaison for NHBEC.

The Selectmen reviewed a short list of items that will need to be repaired &/or replaced at the old Post Office Building before it can be rented. Wes and Larry Shaw will meet at the building to view the electric panel and the water pipes. A complete list of items will be given to the Selectmen at a later date. Larry advised the Town Office that the new

handicap ramp still needs to be blocked off as it does not meet ADA requirements. Nancy was asked to contact Brian Knipstein and Reuben Hull about getting together to finish this project.

Correspondence from Comprehensive Environmental Inc. was reviewed.

Nancy was given permission to attend a workshop at the Local Government Center on the Tax Implications of House Bills 790 and 437.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18th, 2007 meeting. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

At 9:00pm Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by James and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer