

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY MARCH 16, 2021**

**Select Board Present:** Chris Hutchins, Jacquelyn Silvani & Michael Sununu

**Others Include:** Nicole Cooper, Jeff Couture, Chris Griffith, Brian Knipstein & Virtual Attendees

*Call to order at 7:00 pm.*

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

|                 |           |                           |              |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| School Tax Paid | 03/10/21: | Accounts Payable Manifest | \$410,759.00 |
| Checks Dated    | 03/05/21: | Accounts Payable Manifest | \$ 24,014.80 |
| Checks Dated    | 03/05/21: | Payroll Manifest          | \$ 27,639.71 |
| Checks Dated    | 03/12/21: | Accounts Payable Manifest | \$ 800.99    |
| Checks Dated    | 03/19/21: | Payroll Manifest          | \$ 27,781.19 |
| Checks Dated    | 03/19/21: | Accounts Payable Manifest | \$ 8,908.82  |
| Checks Dated    | 03/19/21: | Accounts Payable Manifest | \$ 7,559.52  |

Chris recognized and thanked Jamie Thompson for his service on the Select Board for the past nine years and welcomed Jacquelyn as the new Board Member.

The Board and Conservation Commission members discussed the recent monitoring reports done on properties with conservation easements. They informed the Board that a property owner was posting his property against trespassing along most of his boundary line. The owner did retain the right to “permit or forbid access by the public for recreational uses from time to time.” However, the Town of Newfields has an affirmative right to allow pedestrian access to, on and across the property. The Conservation Commission will draft a letter to the property owner for the Board to review prior to sending.

The Board reviewed the Building Inspector’s report for 75 Main St which listed several items in need of repair. Some of the items include: foundation repairs, overhead doors replaced or blocked off, window replacement etc. The inspector recommended having a contractor to look at the crack in the foundation and the overhead doors. The inspector also provided a list of contractor contacts. Chris recommended contacting a mason contractor before entering into a rental contract. The Board was in agreement. Michael will reach out for some quotes.

Brian, the Road Agent, informed the Board of his discussion with Division 6 regarding two issues - Route 85 Bridge sidewalk and the intersection of Route 87 & Ball Hill Road. Division 6 gave ownership of plowing the bridge’s sidewalk to the Town. Brian’s concern is that, once plowed, it’s a bridge to nowhere; the sidewalk ends. The only place to go is to cross over to Railroad Avenue which does not have a sidewalk. For him, this is a safety concern for pedestrians when cars come over the bridge.

As for the Bald Hill intersection, Division 6 is in favor of the Town transforming it to a T intersection. Brian completed a permit for the T construction and hopes to hear back from the State within a month. Brian estimated the 150-200 foot stretch construction will take 3-4 days. He proposes to coordinate it when he has pavers in Town.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacquelyn, to approve the Veteran's Disability Tax Credit for Map 208/4.5. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacquelyn, to accept the annual application for residence in a commercial zone - Map 201 Lot 21 by Vincent and Pauline Bateman. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board decided on the following for Select Board representatives: Michael for Planning Board, Jacquelyn for Conservation Commission and Chris will oversee Welfare.

Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to approve John Hayden's Appointment as Rockingham Planning Commission Representative. All were in favor and the motioned carried. To save time, Chris read the following list of Appointments:

Bobby Kelly, Newfields Health Officer  
Dave Mason, Conservation Commission  
Jeff Couture, Conservation Commission  
Ray Buxton, Assistant Fire Chief  
Kent Lawrence, Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Michelle Sullivan, Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Mike Todd, Planning Board  
Mike Price, Planning Board

Michael asked Chris if he was aware of any other individuals interested in joining the Boards. Chris responded that these were the only appointments the Town Clerk provided at this time but believes there are a couple of vacant seats remaining. Chris then motioned, seconded by Michael to approve the appointments. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board approved the quarterly payroll, yearly stipends & election official stipends for 2021.

Chris then opened up a discussion pertaining to the recycling Warrant Article. Michael informed those attending virtually that recycling will be put out to bid. It would be a violation of Town Policy to add recycling to the Waste Management (WM) contract as it is as separate service from the current contract. Michael went on to elaborate that when the trash/recycling was first put out to bid, Casella was actually less expensive when providing both services. WM was only less expensive for waste collection only. If the Town was to 'add on' recycling to the WM contract, Casella would have a case against the Town for not accepting Casella as the lowest bidder.

The Board revisited the Purple Heart signage for the Town. The Board was unable to obtain funding for these signs. The Board requested the Deputy Clerk contact Marie Grella to purchase

the six signs at a cost of \$555.00. The Road Agent will install the signs; DOT will specify where to place them on State roads.

The Board reviewed the January/February expenditures.

The Board acknowledged correspondence from the Rockingham County Commissioner recognizing noteworthy achievements the county has made.

The Board requested Ray Buxton, Water/Sewer Commission, attend the next meeting to discuss his written request for funding in respect to Great Bay total Nitrogen permit.

Michael updated the board on the Hazell Property. Since the last meeting, Mr. Hazell's legal counsel temporarily stepped off the case which delayed the court date. Michael informed those attending virtually of the steps the Town has taken leading up to today to clean up Mr. Hazell's property.

At 8:05 pm, The Select Board, by motion of Michael Sununu, seconded by Jacquelyn Silvani and in accordance with RSA91-A:3 (II) (a) & RSA91-A:3 (II) (b) entered into a non-public session for purpose of a personnel matter - By roll call vote Chris Hutchins abstained, Jacquelyn Silvani – yes; Michael Sununu - yes.

A motion to leave the non-public session was made by Michael Sununu and seconded by Jacquelyn Silvani. The motion was passed and at 8:15 a public session reconvened.

At 8:16 pm Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien