

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY MARCH 22, 2022**

At 6:44 pm, The Select Board, by motion of Select Board Member Sununu, seconded by Select Board Member Harmon and in accordance with RSA91-A:3 (II) (b), to enter into a non-public session for purpose of personnel matter [RSA91-A3(II)(b)].

A motion to leave non-public session was made by Select Board Member Sununu and seconded by Select Board Member Silvani. The motion was passed and at 6:58 a public session reconvened.

***Select Board Present: Hoby Harmon, Jacquelyn Silvani & Michael Sununu
Others Include: Mary Belanger, Brian Knipstein, Sarah MacGregor & Chief Young***

Call to order at 7:00 pm.

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated 03/25/22: Accounts Payable Manifest \$3,885.61

The first item was to formally elect the chair position on the Board. Hoby nominated Michael. Michael seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to confirm their positions on other Town Boards; Jacqui – Conservation Commission Representative; Michael – Planning Board Representative; Hoby – Welfare Assistance. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Brian, the Town Road Agent, was asked to come in to discuss a resident’s complaint of excess road salt this year. Brian specified that the road salt comes from the State and that all towns receive the same road salt. He has not used any more than prior years. The Town Office, Police Department and the Town of Newmarket advise the Road Agent when salting is necessary. Brian mentioned that Hemlock and Meadow Roads are “new roads” which are darker and would make the salt more noticeable and seem heavier than usual. This year there was more ice on the roads. Brian added that he must address all calls due to liability. Jacqui asked if he could mix sand with the salt. Brian replied that sand does not go away. It would require more maintenance to clean the streets of sand at the end of the winter season and it would also end up in the catch basins. Jacqui asked Brian to give her the price difference between salt and sand & salt mixture. Brian will get back to her with the information.

The Board acknowledged notification from NH DOT of upcoming paving of Route 87 and the required acceptance of crosswalk maintenance after such paving. Brian did not have any issues with the Board signing the letter accepting responsibility for the crosswalks. Brian will also finish the Bald Hill intersection and the paving of Pleasant street. Michael motioned, seconded by

Jacqui, to sign the letter approving the crosswalk maintenance. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Brian and Michael also discussed the need to explore more options for the storm water drainage issues. Michael stated that ARPA can provide money for the project if the State does not. Brian mentioned that CoEd's Pond was put in as a retention basin and that connecting to it but would be a substantial help. They, of course, would need permission from the owner to utilize it since it is on private property. Michael believes they may need to bring in an engineer to assist the Town.

Sarah MacGregor, owner of Dragon Mosquito, came in to discuss the Town's decision to discontinue spraying of the salt marshes. She believes the Town was given out misinformation from someone during the Deliberative Session. Sarah stated that mosquitos do carry diseases and that the town has been spraying the marshes for 50 yrs. Normally, the treatment is done every two weeks. Sarah is very concerned for the residents as the salt marsh mosquito is a daytime mosquito. She uses approximately 1500-2000 lbs. of bacteria during the summer season to treat the mosquitos. Sarah emphasized that this treatment does not affect any other bug and that marshes produce millions of mosquitos. These mosquitos target birds, deer, and people. This treatment directly treats the larvae. She does not believe it is a good idea to not treat the marshes. Michael appreciated her reaching out to the Board with the information. The Board is limited with the budget at this time and asked Sarah to come back during Budget discussions in the fall.

The Board acknowledge an email from Waste Management regarding Exeter trash bags at a Newfields' residence. The Board responded that picking up other communities' trash is not allowed. One should not bring other town's trash into Newfields especially since the Town is paying for it. Michael will reach out to Waste Management and request that other Town's bags not be picked up.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to reimburse the Cartmell's \$50 for the damage to their mailbox by the snowplow during the last storm. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The board acknowledged the NH DOT letter advising the Board that the Rockingham Recreational Trail parking lot project has been assigned to the Rail and Transit Railroad Planner, Louis Barker and the Railroad Operations Engineer, Charles Corliss PE, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) and the Trails Bureau for review.

The board acknowledged the cancellation of New Horizons phone service. The associated cancellation fees of \$406.00 will be covered by the Emergency Management under the communication budget per Michael's conversation with Jeff Feenstra.

The Board discussed whether to have a Spring or Fall town wide cleanup. A Spring cleanup was chosen with a date to be determined shortly.

The board acknowledged the Women's/LGBTQ Health Awareness correspondence. LGBTQ Health Awareness Week is March 21-25 and Women's Health Week is May 8-14, 2022.

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to approve the extension of the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Grant under Emergency Management for another year to allow time to utilize the \$7,500 reimbursement. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to sign the MS-232. All in favor and motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to approve PA-42 property tax abatement for map 201 lot 21. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to approve the appointments of vacancies for the following positions:

John Hayden, Planning; Bill Meserve, Planning; Betsy Coes, ZBA; Jack Steiner, ZBA; Brian Knipstein, Road Agent; Larry Shaw, Building Inspector; Chris Griffith, Conservation Commission; Lauren Hill, Conservation Commission and Josh Lent, Conservation Commission.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board signed the signature cards for Citizen's Bank.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to approve the stipend schedule as listed. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Hoby informed the Board of his discussion with the Secretary of State regarding the insufficient time allowed for military personnel to receive and return their Town Election Ballots. Hoby is pursuing an RSA change with the State to allow time for military personnel to vote in their Town Elections. Ballots cannot be mailed until after the Deliberative Session. To allow more time, the Deliberative Sessions would have to be scheduled earlier in the year. Any changes would require passing both the House and Senate Election Committees.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to approve the 3/08/22 Select Board Meeting Minutes as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Select Board decided on the following dates for upcoming meetings:

April 12th & 26th

May 10th & 31st – tentative

At 8:04 pm, Jacqui motioned, seconded by Hoby to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien