TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2022

Select Board Present:  Hoby Harmon & Michael Sununu
Others Include:  Amy Barry, Mary Belanger, Nancy Gitschier, Kent Lawrence, Holly Price, Lynne Sweet & Officer Blais

Call to order at 7:01 pm.

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Manifest</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Tax Paid</td>
<td>04/08/22</td>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Checks Dated</td>
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The Garden Club presented their Woodland Path Proposal to the Select Board. This woodland path will be located on the corner of Main and Summer Streets and would be an extension of the garden area currently on site. They hope to incorporate this path to the Hilton Historical marker and then on to the path leading to the Hilton Family cemetery. The committee spoke with the property abutters who were receptive to the proposed plan. Trees less than six inches in circumference would be removed, if necessary, to provide room for the pathway. Plaques will be added to identify trees. A cost of $2,500 is expected for tree removal. Although the committee has funding, it will not cover any labor costs. The committee requested $4,931 in funding from ARPA funds. A fundraiser was suggested to also help raise funds. The committee hopes to have the land cleared prior to June 6th to have tasks for the school seniors who will be volunteering that day. The Board will review the committee’s written proposal and will get back to them.

The committee also provided the Board with information for their proposed rain gardens. Bill Meserve and the Garden Club are researching State grants for stormwater systems. If grant money is received, both the Library and Town Hall would be potential rain gardens to divert water runoffs to help slow down stormwater discharge.

Kent Lawrence asked the Board for permission to start up the Contra Dances at the Town Hall. He would like to host the events without masks. Michael said that the Town Hall does not have any restrictions. The rent for the Hall will remain the same as before for Kent to cover band costs - $40 for up to 45 people $75 for over. Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to reopen the Town Hall for Contra dances. All were in favor and the motion carried.
Hoby brought up a discussion on the debris of old railroad ties and spikes along the Town’s railroad tracks. Hoby stated that he reached out to various State personnel and offered to be the representative to encourage the State to finally clean it up. Michael gave Hoby his full support.

Michael mentioned that Waste Management’s contract is expiring this year which will require putting a new bid together by mid-year.

Hoby offered his opinion that, environmentally, it does not make sense to put trash in bags and then in a container with a lid. He feels that potential haulers should be able to pick up loose trash in the containers. This is something that can be discussed in the new bid.

The Board reviewed the Revenues and Expenditures.

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, granting approval to Deertrees HOA, to rent the Town Hall on 5/18/22. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, granting approval to Courtney Pasay Vaughan – Deertrees’ Covenant Review Committee, to rent the Town Hall on 5/2/22. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to sign the Oath of Offices for Officer Blais, Officer Law, and Officer Peirce, filling Police Department vacancies. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael notified residents that the Spring Clean-up will take place on May 7th at the Newfields Water Treatment Plant on Hervey Court from 8am-12pm.

Michael informed the Board of his discussion with the Town’s legal counsel regarding the Hazell property. The attorney believes the town may need to go to court to seize the property to cover the $19k in cleanup fees and the $192k in violation fees.

The Board discussed no parking signs near the Corey’s property – where the rail trail crosses Route 87. During Covid-19, many people parked in the area. The property owners reached out to the State to post signs since the area is owned by Public Transportation. Michael believes that a no parking sign will just move the cars to another part of the road and does not feel the Town should put no parking signs on every street. Chief Young reached out to the Select Board & Department of Transportation scheduling a monthly meeting to address this issue. They will need to coordinate with the State level before anything is resolve. The Police will monitor the situation and will bring their findings to the meetings.

Hoby updated Michael on his discussion with Secretary of State, Dave Scanlon, regarding military ballots for Town Elections. They are proposing an amendment to RSA 669:26 to permit emailed ballots to UOCAVA/Military voters for local elections to help mitigate the problem. It is expected to be finalized this week.
Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to approve the 3/22/22 Select Board Meeting Minutes as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

At 7:54 pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien