

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2024***

At 6:38 pm, The Select Board, by motion of Select Board Member Sununu, seconded by Select Board Member Harmon and in accordance with RSA91-A:3, to enter into a non-public session for purpose of legal matter [RSA91-A3(II)(c)]. By roll call vote the Board passed the motion: Harmon-Affirmative; Kessler-Affirmative; Sununu-Affirmative

A motion to leave non-public session was made Select Board Member Sununu and seconded by Select Board Member Harmon. The motion was passed and at 6:45.

Select Board Present: Michael Sununu, Hoby Harmon & Mike Kessler

Others Include: Town Residents

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated 1/05/24 Accounts Payable Manifest \$510.56

Checks Dated 1/12/24 Accounts Payable Manifest \$1,446.19

Checks Dated 1/12/24 Accounts Payable Manifest \$15,360.54

Michael Sununu opened the meeting at 7:01pm.

The Board reviewed a Conservation Restriction Assessment Application for Map 209 Lot 8.11. The applicants qualify according to the Town Assessor Rod Wood. A motion was made by Michael Sununu and seconded by Hoby to approve the application. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board reviewed an abatement request for Map 206 Lot 16. The applicant was charged an inventory penalty in error. A motion was made by Michael Sununu and seconded by Hoby to approve the application. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board acknowledged a letter written by Mike Cuomo regarding wetlands violations at 25 and 29 Runaway Road. A motion was made by Hoby and seconded by Mike Kessler to accept the letter of Rockingham County Conservation District. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board acknowledged a letter sent to the owners of 399 Piscassic Road, requesting that they clean up their yard of trash and debris.

Chairman Sununu briefly reviewed the operating budget and asked if there were any questions. There were none. The proposed operating budget for 2024 is \$2,092,446 and the default budget amount is \$1,972,247. The operating budget will be discussed in detail at the budget hearing tomorrow evening.

The proposed warrant articles were reviewed, and recommendations were made:

Article 1. Bond Warrant Article for the Rugg Property Acquisition. A bond hearing will be held on this warrant article Tuesday January 16, 2024. Not recommended by Select Board 0-3.

Article 2. Operating Budget -Recommended by Select Board 3-0.

Article 3. Fire Truck Capital Reserve appropriation in the amount of \$50,000. Recommended by Select Board 3-0.

Article 4. Fire Equipment Capital Reserve appropriation in the amount of \$2,000. Recommended by Select Board 3-0.

Article 5. Final payment on the purchase of new fire truck. This is a non-lapsing appropriation of \$200,000 with no money to be raised by taxation. The funds will come from the unreserved fund balance. It will take up to 2-3 years for the fire truck to be ordered and delivered. The Select Board are the agents to expend from this capital reserve. Recommended by Select Board 3-0.

Article 6. 175th Town Celebration appropriation of \$5,000. Recommended by Select Board 3-0.

Article 7. A Citizen's Petition to study the acquisition of the Rugg Property. The article includes funding options, the ramifications of Exeter failing to vote on and conserve the 47 acres in their town, the number of lots that can be yielded on the entire parcel and the impact it will have on the Town. Recommended by Select Board 2-0, 1 Abstention.

Article 8. A Citizen's Petition to reinstate biweekly curbside recycling for \$15,000. Not recommended by Select Board 1-2.

The minutes of December 12, 2024, were reviewed. A motion was made by Michael and seconded by Mike Kessler to approve the minutes as written. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The minutes of December 18, 2024, were reviewed. A motion was made by Michael and seconded by Mike Kessler to approve the minutes as written. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael Sununu mentioned that the Stormwater Bid Meeting took place at the Town Hall on Friday January 4, 2024. The meeting was attended by Bill Meserve, Michael Sununu, Road Agent Brian Knipstein and one bidder. The project should be underway by spring of 2024.

The Select Board announce the following dates for upcoming meetings:

Presidential Primary-Tuesday January 23, 2024. Polls open at the Newfields Town Hall from 7:00am until 7:00pm.

Tuesday January 9, 2024-Town Budget Hearing @ 7pm at Town Hall

Tuesday January 16, 2024-Bond Hearing on Rugg Property Acquisition @7pm at Town Hall

Wednesday January 24, 2024-February 2, 2024-Filing period begins for town officers to sign up to be on the ballot.

Monday February 5, 2024-Newfields Elementary School Deliberative at 6:00 pm at NES.

Tuesday February 6, 2024-Town Deliberative Session at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Tuesday March 12, 2024-Town and School Elections at Town Hall from 8:00pm to 7:00pm.

At 7:29 pm Michael motioned, seconded by Mike Kessler, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McKinnon