

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 2024**

At 6:28 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 personnel and legal matters [RSA91-A3(II)(a)]. By roll call vote the Board passed the motion: Harmon-Affirmative; Kessler-Affirmative; Sununu-Affirmative

A motion to leave the non-public session was made Select Board Member Sununu and seconded by Select Board Member Kessler. The motion was passed and at 6:46 a public session convened.

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

Others Include:

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated 1/26/24: Accounts Payable Manifest \$13,009.63

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Inventory of Taxable Property Waiver

Hoby motioned, seconded by Mike K. to approve a waiver for the delinquent Inventory of Taxable Property form for map 204/40. The penalty was incurred by the prior owner of the property. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Town Report Dedication

The Board agreed to dedicate the 2023 Town Report to Don Doane who passed away on September 15, 2023. Don was a resident of Newfields for forty years and was the long-term Town Treasurer.

25 Runaway Road

Hoby notified the Board that he received a letter from Mr. Smith acknowledging that he was responsible and is willing to take whatever action is necessary to rectify the situation. Hoby spoke with Mike Cuomo who confirmed a course of action for Mr. Smith and getting the Department of Environmental Services - Wetlands in regarding the shed that is situated in the wetlands area. Hoby confirmed that the Department of Environmental Services is aware of the situation at 29 Runaway but not 25 yet.

Vernon Family Farm (VFF) Signage

Hoby received an email from a resident regarding VFF's signage. The sandwich board sign is up but is not within the DOT driveway cut on private property and therefore allowed as a 30-day temporary sign. The other two signs that hang from the store exceed what is allowed per the Town ordinance. In September, the Town notified VFF that the signs were not in compliance. VFF had removed the signs, but they are back up again. Hoby added that the Board had started dealing with the issue in June 2023. Attorney Durbin sent a letter to the farm on 8/23/23 notifying the farm that the signs did not comply and to remove them by 9/14/23 or be subject to a cease-and-desist letter and a fine of \$275 a day for violations if they continue to post the signs. Michael suggested Hoby reach out to Attorney Durbin for recommendation of legal action.

Vernon Family Farm Complaint Letter

The Select Board received a complaint letter from the VFF's lawyer regarding Scott Wachsmuth's property. The letter states that Wachsmuth's property is an unpermitted junkyard due to numerous unregistered vehicles/boats on the property. Attorney Manzelli wrote that a non-resident helped work on the vehicles which constitutes illegal auto service. Michael said the Board will investigate it and will notify Scott Wachsmuth of the ordinance. Michael will also reach out to legal counsel regarding the potential for this to be an unpermitted junkyard and will give the property owners the opportunity to respond.

Newmarket Dispatch Contract

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to sign the Newmarket Dispatch contract for a three-year period from 1/1/24 – 12/31/2026. The first year will cost \$32,961.26 and increase each year based on CPI beginning July 2025.

Town Hall Rental

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to approve the Town Hall rental for the Friends of the Library Town Trivia event to be held on 2/4/24 from 3:00pm – 7:00pm. This event will include alcoholic beverages. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Tri-State Trek Bike Race

Michael motioned, seconded by Mike K., to approve the Tri-State Trek Bike race through Newfields on Saturday, June 22nd. A copy of Tri-State's insurance was provided. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Posting of Town Warrant, Budget, and Default Budget

The Board signed the Town warrant article, Town budget, and default budget acknowledging that this information was properly posted.

Presidential Primary

The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, from 7:00am – 7:00pm.

Recycling

Michael reached out to Newmarket to discuss recycling options if the event the Town votes down recycling. Michael reported that recycling would be basically the same as before when Newfields residents purchased coupons at the Town Office and brought their recycling to the Newmarket Transfer Station.

Town Hall Streaming

The Board discussed how to initiate the live streaming of all other Town Boards' meetings – Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning. Hoby will draft a notice to all the Boards and Mike K. offered to take care of the training.

Rugg Property

Michael mentioned that at the Bond Hearing a request was made by the public to have the appraisal of the Rugg property made available to the public. Michael was told that TPL does not want to release the appraisal until after the final appraisal is completed which will not take place after the vote in March.

Minutes & Upcoming Dates

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby to approve the 1/8/24 Select Board meeting minutes as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Mike K., to approve the Budget Hearing minutes as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Monday, February 5th & Tuesday, February 20th
Deliberative Session is on Tuesday, February 6th

At 7:26pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Mike K., to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien