

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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

Others Include: Police Chief Young, Chris Griffith, Chris Frysalis, Heather Kessler, Bill Meserve and Deb Pawlenczio

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated	02/02/24:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 33,584.97
Checks Dated	02/02/24:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 36,426.88
School Tax	02/06/24:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$458,142.00
Checks Dated	02/10/24:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 3,131.70
Checks Dated	02/16/24:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 42,019.56
Checks Dated	02/16/24:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 37,258.39
Checks Dated	02/23/24:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 3,803.42

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Body Cameras

Police Chief Young advised the Board of a congressional grant from the Department of Justice for police officer body cameras. The grant deadline is March 4th with funds to be allocated in 2024. Given the lack of a set date, there is the possibility of not receiving the funds until the latter half of the year with a 2025 receival time for the cameras. The approximate recurring software cost is \$4k-\$5k per year with a possibility of other grants to cover some of the yearly cost. The software fees will not be due until the end of 2025. There is also a \$1k yearly cost to maintain each camera. Police Chief Young plans to purchase ten cameras. The cameras should have a 10-year lifespan. If the department does not receive any subsequent funding, Police Chief Young is still confident that he will have half the fees already budgeted since the department does not fully utilize the budgeted amount for radios. The department's part-time officers use cameras in other towns. Newfields is the only town in the area without body cameras. The Board granted permission to apply for the grant and will decide on the cameras once the grant is approved.

Chris Frysalis Abatement

Chris Frysalis asked the Board to use the \$12,315.09 abatement refund towards his property tax balance. The Board agreed.

Annual Town Cleanup

Phyllis Mackey received permission from the Board to organize the 4th Annual Town Cleanup with the garden club. It will take place on May 4th with a rain date of May 5th.

Great Bay General Permit

Bill Meserve and the Board discussed the Great Bay Nitrogen Permit and the letter that was supposed to have been forwarded to the Board from the EPA. Michael said the Board never received it. Bill said he wrote a response letter to the EPA saying the Town has the right regulations in place. He listed Town commitments in the letter such as maintaining the best management practices (BMPs) which can be devices, practices or methods that are used to manage stormwater runoff by controlling the peak runoff rate or improving water quality. He listed a few locations that have BMPs: Co-ed Sports, Dunkin' Donuts, the Irving gas station, and Lila Drive. Bill said the Town will get credit for these. He wants to pass out brochures to the developments so they will know where the stormwater catch basins are and that they must be maintained by the homeowners' associations to prevent flooding. The maintenance of catch basins should be an ongoing theme for future developments. Presently Newfields has a waiver from the EPA MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) regulations. EPA is in the process of reviewing MS4 and the town may lose the waiver which would require additional reporting.

Michael asked Bill if he thought the reason the EPA is going after Epping and not Newfields is because of the work that the Town has already completed. Bill concurred and added that the EPA looked at impervious surfaces of each town and listed ten hotspots in each. Newfields only has eight hotspots that need to be resolved. Two are the cemetery and Badger park. The two Stormwater projects will take care of four of the eight. The Library and Town Hall will also be taken care of. The Water and Sewer hotspot treats itself by way of runoff into the field instead of into a waterway. Within three years, they should all be fixed. The asset management has corrections needed for Summer/Pleasant Streets, the Town Hall parking lot, and Hilton Avenue. Bill suggested the Board sign the letter and he will also sign as the Planning Board representative.

Stormwater Bids

Bill discussed the Stormwater bids with the Board. Bill prefers to go with Hoyle, Tanner & Associates since they have been working with the Town and already know the assets.

Bill mentioned brush clearing, cleaning stormwater treatment and detention ponds. Michael said the state allows towns to do utility maintenance. Most are on private property and charging a maintenance charge may make sense. The Planning Board may need to bring the homeowners' associations in to discuss associations either maintaining them or paying the town to do so.

Bill added that they should coordinate with the school with their stormwater project. Michael agreed. Michael will reach out to the School, so they are aware of what the Town is planning to do.

Abatements

Michael motioned, seconded by Mike K., to approve the \$447.26 abatement for map 209/8.11. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Mike. K., to approve the \$145.27 for abatement for map 208.14. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Vernon Family Farm Complaint Letter

Michael said that he reached out to Scott Wachsmuth about the letter. Scott said he is out of Town and to email any future correspondence to him.

Boot Camp Acknowledgements

Hoby would like to have future military bootcamp graduates acknowledged on the Town Hall sign. He will reach out to recruiters for information.

David Partikian Correspondence

Michael said the letter has a lot of incorrect information in it and he will draft a letter to Mr. Partikian to have him come in to discuss.

Candidate's Night

A forum will take place at 7:00pm on Thursday, February 29th at the Town Hall. This will provide an opportunity for all town candidates to speak with residents prior to the election.

Cease and Desist

The Board reviewed the cease and desist letter by Attorney Durbin. The Board will resubmit the letter to the attorney.

Minutes & Important Dates

Michael motioned, seconded by Hobby, to approve the 2/5/24 Select Board meeting minutes as amended. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Town Election will be held at the Newfields Town Hall on Tuesday March 12th from 8:00am to 7:00pm.

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

Monday March 11th & Wednesday March 27th

At 7:47 Michael motioned, seconded by Mike K., to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien