

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE NEW CASTLE
SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, July 5, 2022 – 7:00 pm (Town Hall)

Members Present: Dave McGuckin, Chair, William Stewart, Jane Finn

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Bernice Barnes, Recording Secretary, Pam Cullen, Jim Cerny

Chair McGuckin called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of the June 20, 2022, meeting.

Chair McGuckin's first order of business was a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2022, Select Board meeting. Selectman Stewart made a motion for the approval of the amended minutes, and Selectwoman Finn seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

2. Public Questions and Answers.

Chair McGuckin asked if any public questions or answers weren't on the agenda this evening. Pam Cullen stated that the Assessor's Agreement from Avitars Assessors for a five-year coverage was received for approval. Ms. Cullen noted she could not locate the previous contract to determine any changes. This will be on the next meeting agenda.

The next topic Ms. Cullen addressed was Veteran's Exemptions/Credits, and she believes the current Exemption/Credit rates should be reviewed to see if any changes are to be made and if so, she would like this to take effect by May 2023. Changes in the rate may require a Warrant Article.

3. New Business:

- a. Wood Island Fireworks

Chair McGuckin stated the event is on August 6, 2022, from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm at the Commons. Collection of Parking fees on that day will be extended until 7:00 pm, contingent upon staffing availability. Selectwoman Finn motioned for approval, and Selectman Stewart seconded this Motion. The motion carried.

- b. Town Historian Appointment

Chair McGuckin stated that Jim Cerny is retiring as Town Historian. Carol White has been selected to be the new Town Historian. Selectwoman Jane Finn motioned to appoint Carol White as the new Town Historian, and Selectman Stewart seconded this motion. The motion was carried. The Board thanked Jim for his service.

c. Rockingham Planning Commission Appointment

Chair McGuckin stated Michael McAndrew is stepping down as Rockingham Planning Commission Representative and Jim Cerny has agreed to take over this position. A motion by Selectman Stewart was made to appoint Jim Cerny as the new Rockingham Planning Commission Representative. Selectwoman Finn seconded this motion, and the motion was carried. Jim was thanked again by the Select Board for continuing his service to the community.

d. Appointment to Boards/Pam Cullen:

Pam Cullen brought up to the Board the appointment renewals that needed updated approval and signatures by the various boards and their members. She will send out an email with that list to all boards requiring signatures. Selectwoman Finn motioned to approve all renewal appointments contingent on the members accepting the renewal of their appointment, and Selectman Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

4. Old Business.

- a. Nick Diana Road/Race Fee was confirmed as \$300.00 (out of pocket), and \$1.00 per runner

- b. Fire Chief Agreement:

Selectman Stewart motioned to approve drafting a letter to Chief Hartmann with language provided by the Town's Attorney regarding Fire Chief Hartmann's employment with the Town of Newcastle, fully understanding that it is "Employment at Will," abiding by (RSA 154:5.I) and that he cannot be appointed to a specific term. The crux of the letter states the town would like Chief Hartmann to remain as Fire Chief / Emergency- Mgmt. Director providing that Chief Hartmann remains in good conduct and efficiencies. Selectman Stewart made a motion to approve the letter, and Selectwoman Finn Seconded this motion, and the motion carried. The Select Board will provide a copy of the letter to Chief Hartmann.

- c. Abatement Update/Pam Cullen:

Chair McGuckin addressed Pam Cullen about the abatements, which in turn stated that there are four pending abatements from Avitar Associates. Chad from Avitar is readdressing/rewriting two abatements, and the remaining two abatements were voted upon.

Chair McGuckin made a motion to approve the abated amount for KYPG, and Selectwoman Finn seconded the motion. The motion was granted. Selectman Stewart abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Selectman Stewart then motioned to accept the abatement as written by Avitar Associates for the denial of Jane Finn. Chair McGuckin seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Selectwoman Finn Abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

- d. Town Hall- New Days and Hours:

Chair McGuckin discussed that the new Administrative Assistant to the Select Board's public office hours would be Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, beginning on July 18, 2022. Selectwoman Finn made a motion for these new proposed days and hours, and Selectman Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

5. Committee Reports:

Chair McGuckin stated the Fire Department had submitted their report, and the Board is awaiting a report from the police department to be given. It will be discussed or amended as needed when received.

Chair McGuckin then addressed an old business item from Carol White regarding The Riverside Cemetery. There is a section of the wall that has fallen apart. Chair McGuckin will address the issue with Carol White as the dollars for repair are not in the overall budget. Also, Chair McGuckin would like boundary lines to be checked to see if the faulty wall falls on town

property and if there is a more financially feasible patchwork job that can fall under Carol's budget.

Chair McGuckin made the last item note about the Select Board Meeting Minutes he needs copies of so they can be uploaded to the town website and be all up to date. Selectman Stewart had most of those minutes, so he forwarded them along.

Selectwoman Finn stated she would like to publicly thank the Fourth of July committee, especially Chair Nancy Borden, for doing such a great job. The Select Board would like to send a thank you card.

Selectwoman Finn also had a question regarding our professional cleaner Carol and who she reports to from the town. There were some complaints regarding the Macomber Room and its bathroom facilities not being clean. It's currently not part of Carol's duties, and the Select Board would like those two rooms to be added to Carol's list when she cleans the Library. The Select Board will check with Lori Ruest to see if Carol could sign off with her to ensure the Macomber Room and its facilities are being cleaned at least every other week or on an as-needed basis.

Chair McGuckin asked about the Town Newsletter, Island Items. Chair McGuckin inquired if any submissions are coming for the upcoming August issue. Bernice Barnes stated we do have submissions from different Boards, Departments, and community members. Pam Cullen also mentioned possibly submitting some clarification to the Town Newsletter regarding the trailer and boat issue we had experienced this year at the Commons. Terms of the trailer/boat storage, fee schedule, and penalties for late removal need to be reviewed, which will be discussed later.

6. Adjourn.

Chair McGuckin moved to adjourn the meeting as the Board was going to go into a Non-Public Meeting for an Executive Session. Selectwoman Finn motioned to enter a Non-Public Meeting, and Selectman Stewart seconded. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bernice L. Barnes
Recording Secretary