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Town of New Castle
NEW CASTLE, NH 03854-0367

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE NEW CASTLE SELECT BOARD

MEMBERS: Chairman David McGuckin
Selectman William Stewart
Selectwoman Jane Finn
Town Administrator Lori Ruest

DATE/TIME: Monday, November 21, 2022 – 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Macomber Room, 301 Wentworth Road, New Castle, NH 03854

Members Absent: None.

Chair McGuckin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and introduced Lori Ruest, who has transitioned from our Town Accountant position to our new Town Administrator. She will also be overseeing financial activities in town and our Town Budget. Chair McGuckin also introduced Bernice Barnes, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of the November 7, 2022 meeting:

Chair McGuckin's first order of business was a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2022, Select Board meeting. Selectwoman Finn made a motion to approve the Select Board minutes of November 7, 2022 as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded; motion carried.

2. Public Questions and Answers:

Chairman McGuckin asked if there were any public questions at this time. Terri Golter, Cemetery Trustee reported that she was notified by a local tree company that a large tree

needs to be taken down on Pit Lane because it is in danger of falling towards the Tarlton cemetery. Chris Robillard, Public Works Supervisor, will look into that matter. Mrs. Golter also commented about the Trash and Recycling because she heard it was going to be one truck now for both instead of two separate trucks for pick-up and she was concerned about staff changes if this occurs. The Select Board had not heard that yet, and will look into it.

3. New Business:

a. Proposed Creation of Park & Committee:

Various members of the recreation, library and garden club are proposing an outdoor space to meet for various activities and would like to form a committee to research the possibilities. The proposed committee if allowed, would like to raise funds and hire Ironwood to design the space. This space would facilitate multiple activities for everyone. The initial proposal is to put something next to the library but other areas may be reviewed. The Select Board will review this proposed idea with further discussion.

b. NHDOT- Draft Feasibility Report- Route 1B Causeway:

Loretta Doughty, from the NHDOT, Brian Colburn, of McFarland Johnson, Consultant Engineer, as well as David Walker, Rockingham Planning Commission presented the DOT Draft Feasibility Report on the Route 1B including the Causeway. Although the report identifies and highlights significant concerning information regarding access to New Castle, resiliency and sustainability and public safety issues on route 1B, it was unclear from the presentation that NHDOT is prioritizing the identified issues and concerns in their ten-year planning. Those present at the meeting and the Town's officials clearly communicated significant concerns if route 1B, the most heavily trafficked by-way in NH, were not to be included in the ten-year plan. The rising sea level, the deterioration of the bridge and roads, concerns of emergency vehicle's ability to access the Island, emergency evacuation and the safety of pedestrians and bikers have been serious concerns of Town Officials and residents for quite a while. It was noted that a lot of these concerns are detailed in the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, Master Plan and related documents. The NH Draft Feasibility Report will be attached as a PDF to the minutes. David Walker, Rockingham Planning Commission, welcomed feedback and additional comments from the residents regarding this topic and the prioritization of this project. Comments should be addressed to NHDOT.

c. REC Center Gym, Pickleball:

Guy Stearns, Rec Director, proposed the idea of adding lines for a Pickleball court to the Rec Center due to the growing interest in the sport. To see how it may work, lines will be added with vinyl tape for one court and a portable net will be purchased. Mr. Stearns stated he did meet with Chris Robillard, Public Works Supervisor, on the dimensions, measurements and location of the court. The cost would be approximately \$200-\$400. Members of the public commented on the limited hours currently available to reserve the Rec Center under the current system. Chris Robillard, Public Works Supervisor is

currently looking into an online scheduling and reserving system. The current scheduling and reservations are done through email, to Bernice Barnes, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board. The public also commented on the benefits of an online reservation and scheduling system. The Select Board also noted they are aware of the issue and are looking into it. Selectman Stewart asked if there is currently money allocated in the recreation portion of the budget to purchase the Pickleball net and vinyl tape and Mr. Stearns said it is not at this time. The Select Board stated they will take this matter into further consideration & discussion.

d. State Rep- Jaci Grote: New Castle Proposed Legislative Bill- PDA (Pease Development Authority)

Jaci Grote has proposed a legislative bill, which if passed, will change the membership of the Pease development authority board of directors to give representation to the town of Rye and New Castle by allowing one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, to jointly represent the town of Rye and New Castle. Chair McGuckin asked Town Administrator Lori Ruest, her opinion and she stated it would be a good idea. Selectman Stewart made a motion to support the legislation proposed by State Representative Jaci Grote, Chairman McGuckin seconded, the motion carried. State Representative Grote stated she will let the Select Board know when the hearing will be, if the Board would like to come and testify.

3. Acceptance of Manifests (Payroll & General Funds/Accounts Payable):

Chair McGuckin made a motion to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable manifests dated 11-4-22 and 11-10-22 in the total amount of \$74, 828.15. Selectwoman Finn seconded the motion, motion carried.

Payroll: Date of Manifest: 11-10-22 Amount: \$34,862.07

Accounts Payable: Date of Manifest: 11-04-22 Amount: \$39,966.08

4. Other: No other comments or questions were offered.

5. Adjourn:

Selectwoman Finn made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Stewart seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bernice L. Barnes, Recording Secretary