**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 17, 2014 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Council Chair Gary Levy, Council Vice Chair Dale Pike, Councilor Dan Wright, Councilor Phil Nazzaro, Councilor Toni Weinstein, Councilor John Bentley, Councilor Ed Carmichael

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, Water & Wastewater Director Sean Greig, Public Works Director Rick Malasky, Town Planning/Zoning Administrator Diane Hardy, Mr. Robert Roseen

EXCUSED: None

**AGENDA**

Chairman Levy welcomed all present and called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Nazzaro made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session, and Councilor Bentley seconded. The motion passed the council 6-0.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Chairman Levy opened the Public Forum at 7:01 pm, and asked if anyone present wished to speak.

As no one came forward, Chairman Levy closed Public Forum at 7:03 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Resolution #2014/15-35 An Amendment to the Town Charter Relative to Appropriating Money to Capital Reserve Funds**

Chairman Levy opened the Public Hearing regarding *Resolution #2014/15-35 An Amendment to the Town Charter Relative to Appropriating Money to Capital Reserve Funds,* asking if anyone present wished to speak.

As there was no public comment, Chairman Levy closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 pm. He then asked for a motion to approve *Resolution #2014/15-35 An Amendment to the Town Charter Relative to Appropriating Money to Capital Reserve Funds*.

Vice Chair Pike made a motion to accept *Resolution #2014/15-35 An Amendment to the Town Charter Relative to Appropriating Money to Capital Reserve Funds*, and Councilor Nazzaro seconded.

Town Administrator Fournier explained that because of the wording of the current Town Charter, all Capital Reserve Funds had to be voted on as separate warrant articles for this fiscal year. He added that as a result, the Budget Committee could only recommend or not recommend the warrant articles, but could not make any changes to the numbers. With this amendment, all Capital Reserve Funds would be put back in the Operating Budget allowing the Budget Committee to make changes to funds requested. Town Administrator Fournier further added that State Law allowed putting aside “funds for contingency funding”.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the council and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Acceptance of Minutes of December 3, 2014**

Councilor Nazzaro made a motion to accept the minutes of December 3, 2014, and Vice Chair Pike seconded.

Changes: Chairman Levy requested a change to the end of the last paragraph under **Report of the Town Administrator**, asking that “it would cost the Town less” be corrected to: “it would cost PSNH less”. Vice Chair Pike asked for a correction under **Public Forum** to the paragraph regarding Mr. Leo Filion, to change the wording “a personal engineer for 50 years” to: “a professional engineer for 50 years”. Councilor Weinstein requested that a comment attributed to her in the discussion under **Ordinance #2014/15-01 Water Regulations** be corrected. After a review of notes taken, the name was corrected to: Councilor Wright.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the council and the minutes of December 3, 2014 were approved unanimously as amended, 7-0.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINSTRATOR**

Town Administrator Fournier announced that the Town would be henceforth be using LED lighting for all lights, as the required brightness levels were currently not being met. He reported that in regard to **Tax Collection**, 95% of all taxes had been collected and late payments would be subject to a penalty fee. He reported that the Town had entered into an agreement with **CodeRED** to provide reverse 911 and other notification services. He added that the system’s capabilities would be utilized to send emergency notifications using telephone, text messaging, email, and social media alerts. Town Administrator Fournier stated that people in the Town with landline phones would be contacted in the coming weeks, and that people could also sign up through the Town’s online website, which also provided additional notification options.

Town Administrator Fournier asked if there were any questions with regard to the departmental expense reports provided. Vice Chair Pike asked a question regarding the total appropriation for Parking Enforcement. Chairman Levy added that their budget had increased 4%. He then requested that Town Administrator Fournier provide an overview of the Dispatch system for the State. Town Administrator Fournier explained that with a Dispatch system, 911 calls were sent directly to Concord first and then routed to Newmarket. He added that the Concord operator would stay on the line until the local issue had been resolved. If the Town had no local Dispatch system, calls would be routed from Concord to Rockingham County. Chairman Levy asked whether statistics on response times were available.

Chairman Levy next brought up the Public Works Department YTD Salt usage for roads during snow events for the fiscal year versus the calendar year. Councilor Wright asked whether a record of overtime used just for snow events could be made available to the Council, and Public Works Director Rick Malasky replied that the information would be provided. Town Administrator Fournier explained that the salt for the Town for FY2014 had been purchased in 2013 and stored in a shed, and that there had been no increase in the amount of salt used. Councilor Carmichael asked what part the State played in treating downtown roads. In response to a question regarding the Water Budget increases, Town Administrator Fournier replied they were due to engineering costs and costs for the MacIntosh Well. Chairman Levy raised concern regarding the finding of asbestos insulation found in water pipes, and asked if this presented a danger. Water & Wastewater Director Sean Greig replied that it did not as there were no breaks in the pipe lines. He also stated that when the asbestos-contaminated cement was found it was buried again, as special permission was necessary for disposal of the material. He added that there were sags in the line rather than breaks. Chairman Levy also brought up the finding of clay material in the area which would not support future buildings and would require more work, asking why it was not found previously and the added cost was to use piles to firm the structures. Water & Wastewater Director Greig replied that when the Geotech firm tested the area they had hit a ledge and boulders and did not further test the soil. Chairman Levy asked for the name of the firm, as he felt they had a fiduciary responsibility to the Town to provide accurate information. Town Administrator Fournier said that he would look into the matter. Councilor Nazzaro pointed out that the asbestos discovered was for waste water pipes. He also asked whether the Water Department was in danger of going over budget as they had already expended 66% of funds allocated. Water & Wastewater Greig replied that it was not. Councilor Wright mentioned the pumping station problems during the Thanksgiving storm and asked for the added cost of using piles. Chairman Levy noted that the IT Department showed a large increase, up 31-48%, asking if it was because of deeding. Town Administrator Fournier explained that the process involved a continuing rolling over of the same annual amount. Councilor Wright asked whether Water system plans had yet been made.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice Chair Pike reported on the last Budget Committee meeting which was the Public Hearing for the Proposed Town Budget. He stated that a motion had been made to take $150,000 off the total budget allocated, but that the motion had eventually been withdrawn after discussion. He added that the Macallen Dam Committee had met the previous evening and that a survey of ownership around the Dam was in progress. He added there were plans to meet with Mr. Steve Doyon in January and that some evaluation of Mr. Leo Filion’s idea was being considered.

Councilor Weinstein reported that she had missed most of the Conservation Committee meeting due to another engagement.

Chairman Levy reported on the School Joint Advisory Committee meeting and that he had received an answer from Interim Director Matt Angell who was currently soliciting information regarding the “banking needs” of the Town. Chairman Levy added that there were also minor financial issues concerning credit outstanding, for which Interim Director Angell would provide some explanation at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2nd READING**

**Resolution #2014/2015-33 Contract for Albanese D&S to Install a New 12-Inch Water Main on North Main Street from Bay Road to Simons Lane**

Vice Chair Pike made a motion to approve *Resolution #2014/2015-33 Contract for Albanese D&S to Install a New 12-Inch Water Main on North Main Street from Bay Road to Simons Lane*, and Councilor Bentley seconded.

Water and Wastewater Director Sean Greig provided an overview of the North Main Street Water Main Replacement project to install a new 12-inch water main from Bay Road to Simons Lane. He stated that he had received ten (10) bids for the project, with the lowest construction bid submitted by *Albanese D&S*. The project, which was slated to begin in April 2015, was to be completed by *Albanese D&S* 120 days from the start of construction.

Discussion: Councilor Nazzaro asked Director Greig if this was a fixed-price contract. Water & Wastewater Director Greig replied that some parts of it were fixed but that others were not. Town Administrator Fournier cited the gas situation with costs at 0.9%, adding that there might be a need to remove contaminated materials which the State would cover. Water & Wastewater Director Greig stated that the contract required payment by the Town of up to 125% and that *Albanese D&S* would honor up to 25% over the total cost. Councilor Nazzaro brought up that the Town had never contracted with *Albanese D&S* before, and Water & Wastewater Director Greig replied that they had not, but that he had spoken with Wright-Pierce about their track record. Councilor Weinstein asked if they were expanding, and Water & Wastewater Director Greig replied that they were enlarging the size of the pipes. He also spoke of the 16% construction oversight fee which would be charged by the State. Chairman Levy questioned the $75,000 contingency fee and Water & Wastewater Director Greig said that it was recommended by the engineer. Chairman Levy then asked if any of the other companies with higher bids might not include a contingency fee as part of the contract, and Water & Wastewater Director Greig replied that hopefully the contingency would not be spent. Town Administrator Fournier noted that every contract includes a $75,000 contingency fee. Councilor Wright felt that increasing the diameter of the pipe would be helpful to the Town.

As there was no further discussions, Town Administrator Fournier polled the council and the motion to approve *Resolution #2014/2015-33 Contract for Albanese D&S to Install a New 12-Inch Water Main on North Main Street from Bay Road to Simons Lane* passed unanimously, 7-0.

**Resolution #2014/2015-34 A Grant to Study Building Resilience to Flooding and Climate Change in the Moonlight Brook Watershed**

Vice Chair Pike made a motion to accept *Resolution #2014/2015-34 A Grant to Study Building Resilience to Flooding and Climate Change in the Moonlight Brook Watershed* and Councilor Bentley seconded.

Town Planning/Zoning Administrator Diane Hardy gave an overview of the project as a response to climate changes in coastal flooding and changing weather patterns. She passed out several photographs of past storm damage in the area to the council members. She stated that the Planning Board was trying to find ways to mitigate these problems using “green infrastructure” which included using rain barrels to collect roof water runoff, bioswales, and green rooftops. Town Planning/Zoning Administrator Hardy reported that the Town had received a grant of $57,793 from the NH Department of Environmental Services to hire a consultant to assess building resiliency to flooding in the Moonlight Brook Watershed. She then introduced Mr. Robert Roseen of GeoSyntec Consultants who would be assisting in the project. She said that Mr. Roseen was a former researcher at UNH, and that he would be continuing some of the research that he had begun there.

Mr. Robert Roseen addressed the council with his proposal to bring the project to the design level. He cited the history of flooding in the Moonlight Brook Watershed area and stated that they planned to further refine how to address the issues by looking into new and innovative ways to mitigate the problems. He provided examples of “green infrastructure” such as using dry wells off rooftops to ease increased rain depths. He stated that a flood model would be developed which would include a cost evaluation assessment, recommendations, and a climate adaptation plan. Mr. Robert Roseen added that the project was scheduled to begin in June of 2015 and would take approximately one (1) year. He stated that update reports would be presented to the Town Council periodically.

Discussion: Councilor Weinstein asked if the ultimate goal was to provide good guidelines to the Planning Board. Town Planning/Zoning Administrator Hardy replied that project would provide impact development techniques. Councilor Weinstein then asked the size of the area being considered. Mr. Robert Roseen replied that the area ran from the Lamprey River to the PiscassicRiver and that three (3) rivers in the area were jumping their banks during severe flooding. Chairman Levy pointed out that a map of the watershed area would be helpful. Mr. Roseen stated that the area covered 212 square miles of the Lamprey River Watershed which amounted to only 10% of the Town. Councilor Bentley questioned how the Piscassic River reached the area. Public Works Director Rick Malasky provided an explanation of how and where the three (3) rivers converged, and that they all tied in to Midnight Brook. Councilor Nazzaro raised the question of funding and Town Planning/Zoning Administrator Hardy replied that current funding was approximately $50,000. He then ask what the deliverables from the project would be, to which Mr. Roseen replied the designing of the area project. Chairman Levy asked what tangible things the Town would get from the project and how some of the goals already set by other Town requirements would be implemented. Town Administrator Fournier reminded the council that the project would be key to helping the Town meet the requirements of the EPA Administrative Order relating to Total Nitrogen and the requirements under the MS4 program for non-point source pollution. . Town Planning/Zoning Administrator Hardy added that it would show good-faith efforts by the Town to meet State and Federal regulations. Councilor Wright asked whether doing the study would solve all of the Town’s flooding problems. Mr. Roseen replied that it would not but that it would reduce the degree of the flooding and the degree of damages as a result. He added that it would also improve water quality. Councilor Carmichael asked for a map of the area to be provided and Councilor Nazzaro agreed. Mr. Roseen clarified that the costs of the study were a 50/50 match with activity already ongoing from funds already committed by other departments.

As there was no further discussion, Town Administrator Fournier polled the council and the motion to approve *Resolution #2014/2015-34 A Grant to Study Building Resilience to Flooding and Climate Change in the Moonlight Brook Watershed* passed unanimously, 7-0.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 3nd READING**

**Ordinance #2014/2015-01 Water Regulations**

Water & Wastewater Greig gave a synopses of the details of changes and additions to the Water Regulations requested by the council at the last meeting. He stated that each individual house was required to have their own service connection line, and that a building with several owners would need to go before the Planning Board to ensure that each owner provided his/her own service. It was pointed out that associations could also be owners, for example a Mobile Home Park.

Discussion: Councilor Nazzaro asked a question as to whether Section 3.2.8 of the Water Regulations referenced new or ongoing work. Town Administrator Fournier stated that this was the current practice and the rules were simply being codified. Chairman Levy asked if a limit existed regarding the timeline for permits and Town Administrator Fournier replied that there was not, adding that the issue would come up with internal procedures. Water & Wastewater Director Greig stated that permits were limited through the Planning Board. Chairman Levy again raised concerns about customer responsibility in the case of a defective meter. Water & Wastewater Director Greig explained that rather than defective meters, it addressed failure of the meter, and that the abatement process was in place. He added that if damage was the fault of the Water Department they would take care of replacement, but that damage caused by customer neglect or manipulation of the meter was the responsibility of the customer. Town Administrator Fournier reiterated that this was ultimately an attempt to codify the ordinances.

As there was no further discussion, Town Administrator Fournier polled the council and the motion to approve *Ordinance #2014/15-01 Water Regulations* passed unanimously, 7-0.

**Items Laid on the Table -** None

**NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**Town Council to Consider Nominations, Appointments and Elections -** None

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1st READING**

**Resolution #2014/2015-36 Authorize Town Administrator to Enter Into Two Contract Amendments with Hazen and Sawyer, PC, for Engineering Services Related to the Development of the MacIntosh Well**

Chairman Levy read the resolution in full.

**Resolution #2014/2015-37 Acceptance of Fox Hollow Drive as a Town Road**

Chairman Levy read the resolution in full.

**Correspondence/Closing Comments**

Chairman Levy thanked PSNH for taking the time to come to the Town and provide information and feedback.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Nazzaro made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Bentley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary.