**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 19, 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

EXCUSED: None ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier

**AGENDA**

Chairman Levy welcomed all present and called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Chairman Levy opened the Public Forum and asked if anyone present wished to speak.

Mr. Allen of Garrison Road addressed the Council expressing dismay regarding the budget increases, and reported there had been a lot of discussion in the Town, and offered various proposals to save money on the budget. He stated that the cost of electricity was going up with the Town paying the highest possible amount. He stated that one (1) million tons of wood chips were currently going for $97/ton, with the price rising. He added that plenty of chipping companies were out of work and would be willing to bring their equipment to Newmarket to harvest these chips, which could also be used for carbon credits for the Town. He mentioned Japan announcing a recession and the dropping price for metal. Mr. Allen next suggested the Town open a pit for sand and gravel, adding that sorters could be rented from Caterpillar. As sand and gravel make up the base for the roads, which amounts to 65% of the road cost, Mr. Allen felt this would save the Town the cost of purchasing these materials. He also added that the mowing of the Wilson Property could be done free, as plenty of local farmers would like to hay the fields at no cost. Mr. Allen next addressed the $5,000 designated for containers (#2 metal), suggesting these could be sold and used containers substituted. He added that money could be raised by trucking and selling aluminum cans, with immediate payment to the Town. He stated that the Town needed the extra cash inside the budget for any possible problems. Chairman Levy asked Mr. Allen to wrap things up and offer one more suggestion. He recommended Mr. Allen email a copy of his suggestions to the Council for review. Mr. Allen next addressed the Portland Pager Company as a possible alternative source for fire fighters, with equipment being rented rather than purchased. All the information needed for a call would be readily available by picking up the radios on the truck, rather than each fire fighter carrying his own equipment. In general, Mr. Allen stated that he was trying to find alternate ways to save on the budget that the Council might not be aware of.

Chairman Levy closed the Public Forum at 7:19 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Councilor Bentley made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting of October 15, 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilor Weinstein, and passed the Council unanimously, 7-0.

**Acceptance of Minutes of October 25, 2014 – Budget Review Session I**

**Acceptance of Minutes of October 29, 2014 – Budget Review Session II**

Chairman Levy asked for a motion to approve the budget review minutes of October 25th, and asked if there was any discussion.

Discussion: Councilor Nazzaro felt that in general the minutes were good on the Town side, but that the individual questions and comments of the Councilors had not been identified. The Recording Secretary noted that a suggestion had been made to eliminate Councilor names, most probably as a time-saving measure. Vice Chair Pike agreed that knowing who said what helps in remembering what transpired at the meeting. Chairman Levy also agreed and recommended tabling the minutes of October 25th and October 29th and requested that they be rewritten. He further explained they should include the questions of the Councilors, citing what was asked and the answers received, to provide a more accurate history of the budget review discussion as it unfolded. Town Administrator Fournier stated that for now, these minutes needed to be posted and available for review. Chairman Levy felt he that because it was the Budget, he would rather vote in the affirmative when the minutes better reflected the Council session. Vice Chair Pike agreed that major questions should be identified with the Councilors.

Chairman Levy requested that the minutes for both Budget Review Sessions be tabled and rewritten, with the names of the Councilors included. The members of the Council were all in agreement.

**Acceptance of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2014**

Councilor Nazzaro made a motion to accept the minutes of November 5, 2014, and Vice Chair Pike seconded. The motion passed the council 6-0, with Councilor Carmichael having stepped out of the chamber.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINSTRATOR**

Town Administrator Steve Fournier presented his report which covered three (3) major topics: **Reverse 911/Code Red**, **Tax Bill Status**, and **Auditorium Improvements**.

He first addressed the Reverse 911/Code Red which would provide two (2) levels of service to the Town. He stated that the first service would include Emergency Services, using a prepopulated database of telephone numbers for contact on using a GIS system. This would enable the Town to take a map and draw a circle around the neighborhood needing notification, pulling up all area telephone numbers in the database. Examples would be shelter-in place, evacuation and missing person reports, and would have an opt-out option. He next described the second service which would consist of important notices, i.e. street closures, hydrant replacement, and polling hours. He added that this service would be opt-in with a need to sign up for the service. Town Administrator Fournier felt both of these services could be funded from current appropriations. He said that the State had already implemented Reverse 911 but only on the emergency portion. He felt that instituting both services by the Town would allow control from their own dispatch, assuring all affected individuals would be notified. Town Administrator Fournier next addressed the Tax Bill Status, stating he had spoken with the Town Clerk and that 54% of taxes were due on schedule by December 5, 2014. He stated that the Town was moving forward with the Auditorium Improvements and that the Auditorium would not be available for the first few weeks of December. He added that plans were also underway for further renovations updating audio equipment and the equipment for Channel 13. Town Administrator Fournier further provided two items not included in the report. He announced that Jeremy’s Pizza was again hosting the free Thanksgiving dinner, this year at the High School, and that donations and volunteers were needed. He then took the opportunity to wish the Council and the public a very happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Chairman Levy asked the Council if there were any questions for the Town Administrator. Councilor Weinstein first mentioned the Department of Public Works report regarding beavers, which she found amusing. She next brought up a question she had raised in closing comments at the last meeting regarding Welfare information available on the website said that she was happy to see the Welfare website had been updated, thanking Town Administrator Fournier, and added that she was providing a write-up of resources currently available in Newmarket for the Councilors. Chairman Levy questioned variations in the DPW Vehicle Maintenance and Equipment budgets, and felt this would be worth further discussion with someone. He then questioned Water Expended, on page 33, and asked if any special work was being done. Town Administrator Fournier said the funds were for engineering services for this year. Chairman Levy next asked the Town Administrator to apprise the Council of Newmarket Mills LLC, on page 39, by providing the contract. He next cited page 44, asking if the Traffic Grant was on schedule. Town Administrator Fournier replied that it was.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice Chair Pike reported on the Budget Committee meeting of November 17, 2014, stating that they had gone over what the Council had covered in the Budget deliberations. He added that there had been a few questions raised, but that in general there had been a noticeable lack of controversy. Town Administrator Fournier reminded the council of the Public hearing scheduled by the Budget Committee for December 15, 2014. Vice Chair Pike added that the Macallen Dam Committee would be have a site visit next week.

Councilor Weinstein reported that the Conservation Committee had met on November 13th and that the meeting had proceeded quickly. She said there was discussion of composting, with all composts sold, and rain barrel usage, with some sales through Durham. She noted that there had been talk of a possible demonstration somewhere in the Town Hall, but that no decision had been made and the committee was looking into the cost.

Chairman Levy mentioned that, unrelated to committee meetings, people be cognizant of recent coyote attacks.

Chairman Levy next reported on the School Joint Advisory Committee meeting agenda. He stated that Mr. Randy Bell had provided a litany of information and recommended that the Council watch the recorded meeting. He stated that Mr. Bell had provided indicators of quality education, presented comparisons of test scores with variations of cost-per-pupil, and had broken down the costs between Elementary and the High School. Chairman Levy added that Mr. Bell had provided ways for the group and the community to evaluate surrounding towns, including dropout rates, for economy of scale with other communities. He reported that the entire Committee had gone through the building the prior week, and that all members had now gone through both schools. He praised the children and the teachers who very professional and helpful, pointing out Principal Pine being particularly forthright with the Committee. Chairman Levy stated that a number of Public Hearings were being scheduled but were postponed until January due to the December holidays, offering that Mr. Bell would have more empirical data to share at that time. Meetings were planned to be held at the Senior Center, the Town Hall, or possibly the Recreation Department. Councilor Wright added that another enrollment study was done on a possible 20,000 square-foot addition with rough figures of 3-4.7 million. He also stated that new construction figures had been revamped down slightly based on population, and that Mr. Bell hoped to corroborate these results with a demographer. Chairman Levy added that though things were not progressing as quickly as desired with the Committee, obtaining accurate information was necessary for making a cogent and thoughtful decision. He lastly added that the School Board had hired an engineer for $8,000, and that it was the same engineer used the previous year.

Chairman Levy reported on the Economic Development Committee stating that he had met with Mr. John Connery, who had a great deal of expertise working with Public Housing and with companies. He then mentioned the different levels of elderly housing from 55 and older to partial care to full service care and nursing. He stated that they would be evaluating a new road area including 152, and looking into available office space for opportunities there. He added that they had visited the Wilson property as well as others for re-evaluation. Councilor Nazzaro noted there was a meeting with the town staff tomorrow, and felt that there was no “silver bullet” but that it would take the right mixture of development to move forward. He added that this was not a salvation for the tax rate, but to maintain a healthy, positive economic climate for the community.

**OLD BUSINESS** -None

**NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

**Resolution #2014/2015-31 Transferring Funds from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund**

Chairman Levy read Resolution #2014/2015-31 Transferring Funds from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund in full.

Discussion: Chairman Levy asked if this move would shut down the fund completely, and Town Administrator Fournier replied that funds would continue to be contributed yearly over the next five (5) years to cover the cost of the revaluation.

**Resolution #2014/2015-32 Authorize Town Administrator to Enter into Two Contract Amendments with Hazen and Sawyer for Engineering Services Regarding Macintosh Well**

Chairman Levy read Resolution #2014/2015-33 Authorize Town Administrator to Enter into Two Contract Amendments with Hazen and Sawyer for Engineering Services Regarding Macintosh Well in full.

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

Chairman Levy read Ordinance # 2014/2015-01 Water Regulations in full.

Discussion: Town Administrator Fournier noted that this was the first ordinance of the new Fiscal year and was not a resolution. He stated that a 38-page document would be provided to the Councilors which would replace the 1991 Water Regulations. He clarified the ordinance was being “appended” or added, as the old was being dropped. Councilor Nazzaro asked if there would be something available for a side-by-side comparison and Town Administrator Fournier replied that only a summary of the major changes would be provided, as this was a completely new deal and not a revision.

**Correspondence/Closing Comments**

Chairman Levy asked if there was any correspondence or there were any closing statements.

Councilor Bentley bought up that volunteers were still needed on several shifts for Jeremy’s Thanksgiving Dinner and praised the yearly event. He added that his participation last year had been very rewarding.

Chairman Levy reminded all present to stop by the Senior Center tomorrow at 10 am for to pay their respects to Martha McNeil on her retirement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Levy adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary.