

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOINT TOWN COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 7:00 PM
NEWMARKET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Approved October 16, 2019

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Chairman Toni Weinstein, Council Vice Chairman Amy Burns, Councilor Zachary Dumont, Councilor Jon Kiper, Councilor Gretchen Kast, Councilor Casey Finch, Councilor Helen Sanders

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: School Board Chairman Mike Kenison, School Board Vice-Chairman Elizabeth McKinney, Jennifer Wieselquist

EXCUSED: Al Zink, Kimberly Shelton

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan K. Givens

AGENDA

Chairman Toni Weinstein welcomed everyone to the September 25, 2019 Newmarket Joint Town Council/School Board Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Weinstein said they were returning from a tour of new construction at the Newmarket High School and Elementary School with Facilities Director Greg Marles.

NEW BUSINESS

Basic Forms of Municipal Government

Town Administrator Steve Fournier stated that he would go over the basic forms of Municipal Government in New Hampshire, and said Newmarket is unique in its form of government and there was a difference between the Town and School governments. He stated that there were 234 cities and towns in New Hampshire and 167 School Districts or SAUs.

Town Administrator Fournier reviewed the four (4) basic forms of government in NH as follows:

1. Mayor & Board of Aldermen

Strong Mayor (CEO) to run city and a Board of Aldermen to set policy, elected by the people. Only 2 such governments in New Hampshire: Manchester and Nashua.

2. Council/Manager form of Government

Town Council acts as legislative body elected by the people who hire a professional CED or Town Administrator to run the community as a city/town manager. There are 11 cities and towns in NH including Newmarket and Durham.

3. Select Board – SB2 (Senate Bill 2)

Select Board elected by voters to serve as governing body with 3-5 members; only set policy and do not pass amendments or Zoning Ordinances. Town Administrator *may* be appointed as Chief Administrative Officer. Town Meeting serves as legislative body, a deliberative session is held to debate/amend articles, and people approve those articles on Voting Day. There are 68 such communities in NH.

4. Select Board with Traditional Town Meeting

Voters elect a Select Board which serves as the governing body. A Town Administrator/Manager *may* be appointed, Town Meeting serves as legislative body which meets annually to approve Warrants and Budget. Includes most cities and towns in NH.

Town Administrator Fournier said Newmarket was a hybrid between SB2 and Charter because their budget still goes on the Ballot. He said petitioners can only petition raising funds for Charter Amendment. He there is a significant difference in SB2 between a Town Administrator who only receives as much power as the Select Board allows, and a Town Manager who follows Statute. He said in Newmarket that person has all the authority of a Town Manager plus what Charter says.

Basic Forms of School Government

1. Dependent School District

People elect a legislative body or the legislative body appoints a Board of Education; School Boards are no longer appointed in NH. The Board of Education appoints the Superintendent of Schools, schools must approve and present a budget to Mayor or City Manager who includes it in their presentation to the Legislative Body. Can only be done in cities without State Legislation.

2. Independent School District – SB2

Voters elect a School Board as governing body which appoints the Superintendent of Schools. School District Meeting serves as legislative body, and may have Municipal Budget Committee review budget and approve. Articles are deliberated and people approve those articles on Town Meeting Day. Encompasses most towns in the State and is where Newmarket falls.

3. Independent School District – Traditional Town Meeting

Voters elect School Board as governing body who appoint the Superintendent of Schools. Town meeting serves as legislative body and may have Budget Committee review budget. Meets annually to approve warrants and authorize budget.

Town Administrator Fournier said Newmarket has a constitution and a Charter that sets up their form of government, but the School must follow all State laws.

Shared Services Update

Town Administrator Fournier said the Town and School began implementing Shared Services between the two governments to find efficiencies, improve communication, and save money. He said they first combined the Town Finance Director and School Business Administrator into one position, then created the position of Facilities Director, with both signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He said the Finance Director was an employee of the School with the Town contracting for services and the Facilities Director an employee of the Town with the School contracting for services.

Town Administrator Fournier said in the past year there was a resignation in the Finance Director position and also a new Superintendent onboard, and they decided it was not beneficial at this time to continue to share the position. He said the Town is now contracting for a new Finance Director and the School for a new Business Administrator, and they will continue to look at other services for the future.

School Board Chair Mike Kenison said there was a lot of common sense to sharing services and providing better services overall as a Town. He said it was hugely important in the long term for maintenance and long-term Capital Planning, and said the School is required by educational statutes to have a maintenance plan when construction is complete. He said they now have a skilled professional in the Facilities Director who can look at all functionalities and devise a plan, and was important that the two boards were getting together and talking about things and planning projects.

Chairman Weinstein said the Town had come a long way since the Charter Commission to work together with the School as a community and understand each side and where the Town is headed.

Update on Sustainability – Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

Chairman Weinstein said her goal was to introduce the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee and the idea of the Committee. She said she wanted to talk about composting and how the School might integrate it into their program. She said 2 members of the Committee were also present, Don Sanders and William Turner.

Chairman Weinstein said the Committee started 2 years ago to recommend best policies, provide community outreach and education, review adopted Town policies, and recommend actions, projects, and programs to the Town Council for funding. She said initiatives include the Food Waste Composting Program, an EV Charging Station in front of the Library, the municipal weed control program, community education programs, and establishing a greenhouse gas and nitrogen inventory as a baseline for the Town.

Food Waste Composting

Chairman Weinstein said a Municipal Composting Program was started in Newmarket in April with the goal to create more compost and reduce the amount of trash generated. She said in 2015 the US generated 262 million tons of municipal solid waste, 40-56% of which was compostable. In 2014 the EPA

said the US throws away 38 million tons of food per year, with municipal fees for trash and recyclables going up and landfill space becoming scarce.

Chairman Weinstein said composting saves money, conserves valuable resources by returning organic matter to the soil, and reduces climate-warming gases from landfills and avoids possible groundwater pollution. She said the program in Newmarket started April 3, 2019 and the Transfer Station has two 96-gallon bins for people to drop compostable materials, with no charge to participate. She said they use Mr. Fox which is a private company.

School Composting

Councilor Weinstein said for the School, a study was done in Minnesota showing 78% of school waste can be diverted from the trash, 50% could be managed via organic composting programs, and the single most common waste was food at 23.9%. She said it was estimated that public schools generate 527 pounds of waste per day or 47 tons/year, 25% of which could be composted. She said Oyster River started a program in 2013 and found 500-1,000 lbs/week taken from the waste stream, and Winnacunnet High School started a program in 2015 and diverted 7 tons in 14 weeks, winning an award.

Mr. Fox Composting

Chairman Weinstein said Mr. Fox works with a number of school in the area. She said Mr. Fox has municipal curbside pickup for a fee, services a majority of restaurants, and any facility can get some compost back. She said some schools do their own composting but there are rules, and said one reason Mr. Fox is so successful is that he is located in Maine which has different laws and allows composting meats, bones, and dairy which New Hampshire does not.

Councilor Dumont asked for data on the Newmarket program and Chairman Weinstein said about 40 people were using the program at a cost of \$168/ton. Councilor Kiper said Mr. Fox was \$65/ton to come to Newmarket, and Councilor Kast added that organic matter is the heaviest part of waste treatment.

Mr. Sanders said that people in Town who were contracting with Mr. Fox are going off and switching to use the Transfer Station. He said the issue of the Transfer Station is that you have to *bring* the compost to the station, and said the School could separate organics and have Mr. Fox take them. Mr. Turner said just the educational aspect is very important to have kids get involved and develop habits while they are young. Councilor Kiper said in the Elementary School kids would go home and ask their parents why they are not composting which will get more people in the community doing it.

OTHER

Town Administrator Fournier said this week he sent off a letter to their legislative delegation as well as the Governor about the lack of a State Budget. He said he was happy to report that New Hampshire does now have a State Budget approved by the House and the Senate. He said the Town as a whole would be receiving additional revenue if he budget is signed by the Governor.

Joint Town Council/School Board Meeting
September 25, 2019

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Town Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary