

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 20, 2018 7:00 PM

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Approved July 18, 2018

PRESENT: Council Chairman Dale Pike, Council Vice Chairman Toni Weinstein, Councilor Zachary Dumont, Councilor Gretchen Kast, Councilor Kyle Bowden, Councilor Amy Burns, Councilor Casey Finch

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, Police Chief Kyle True, School Superintendent Meredith Nadeau, Facilities Director Greg Marles

AGENDA

Chairman Dale Pike welcomed everyone to the June 20, 2018 Newmarket Town Council Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chairman Pike opened the Public Forum at 7:01 pm.

Stacey Mazur of 5 Church Street addressed the issue of the Prowash Carwash Detail Center in North Hampton being found in violation of water standards for PFAS pollution in Aquarion wells. She asked if anyone would be taking steps to test the water at the Prowash Carwash in Newmarket to see if there were any issues, and what sort of treatment would be done to protect the Newmarket water supply. Town Administrator Fournier said he would address the issue in his report.

Chairman Pike closed the Public Forum at 7:02 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Pike opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm, and said there were three hearings on the agenda for the evening. He stated that individuals may speak to items for 3 minutes and said it was a chance for the public to provide input. He said the Council would debate the items separately later in the meeting.

Ordinance No. 2017-2018-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Central Street Traffic Two-Way

John Bracket of 19 Central Street stated that he had observed the traffic on Central Street for 24 years and the street was too narrow to support 2-way traffic. He said in winter the street closed up from snow, and foot traffic there was walking in the street. He recommended putting up mirrors at the corner or adding caution signs, as there was not even signage to stop. He encouraged the Council to not make the street 2-way.

David Talmage of 116 Main Street said he was a music teacher and had classes with small children. He did not think it would make people coming to his business safer and felt it would be more dangerous.

Barbara Briggs of 20 Chapel Street said when she saw these changes she measured the width of the street in one section which was only 19 feet wide. She said she did not believe 2 large vehicles could pass through that spot, and said there was not room for 2-way traffic in her opinion.

John Brackett of 19 Central Street said he was a long-time resident and he could confirm those measurements. He said also there were only 263 continuous sidewalk feet on Central Street and a left-hand turn into traffic at the bottom would be dangerous. He said it was a bad intersection with parking spots obstructing views of on-coming traffic, and said he could find no prior reference to this kind of change. He felt it would be irresponsible to move forward, and in his opinion was a terrible solution.

Ordinance No. 2017-2018-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Church Street Traffic One-Way (Westerly)

Stacey Mazur of 5 Church Street said she had voiced all her concerns in an email she had sent detailing the reasons she opposed the change of direction of Church Street. She said she still opposed it and was there in person to state that.

Jefferson of 5 Church Street felt changing the direction of traffic on Church Street was not a good idea. He said he lived on the hill itself, and to make a left up the hill from his driveway in winter would be almost impossible. He said he thought it was dangerous and not a good idea.

Town Administrator Steve Fournier stated that he felt people had a misconception of where the “do not enter” sign would be placed, and said it would be moved up the hill from where it was now. He asked that the applicant for the change explain his concerns.

Mike Hoffman from the Stone Church said he originally looked at this purely from a commercial viability standpoint, as his business was hard to find. But that after looking into it, found there were a lot more factors at play. He said the Stone School had an arrow pointing toward their business and he saw people turning around on Rock Street and getting stuck in the snow. He said the layout at Rock Street was two-way and then turned to one-way, and said coming up Granite Street was very difficult. He said the proposal was to change just the portion that is one-way.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that upper Church Street is where it turned and the “do not enter” would be on the corner where it turns 2-way on Granite Street. He said Church would be 2-way going up

the curve and one-way going the other direction. He said they looked at the sharpness of the corner and the Highway Safety Committee reviewed it and forwarded it to the Town Council for approval.

Mr. Hoffman agreed that the corner was very sharp and said pedestrians were unaware of traffic behind them. He said people were also using this as a shortcut to avoid the stop sign. He said the basic premises in traffic engineers was if you can't make it up the hill it is not safe to go down the hill. He felt the change affected some intersections, and it would alleviate some traffic on Granite Street. He said the left turn from Chapel Street onto Granite was completely blind, and Church Street onto Main Street you could not see on-coming traffic and parking spots completely blocked the view to the north. He said the Highway Safety Committee had years of experience and had voted unanimously to make the change.

Town Administrator Fournier said as a member of the Highway Safety Committee they received a request on May 22nd which they reviewed and determined there were no safety issues with switching the traffic flow to go uphill, and it would reduce the number of cars going up illegally and turning around. He said it would also allow for signage for the Stone Church and the Museum by directing people up the hill.

Police Chief Kyle True said as a member of the Highway Safety Committee, when an applicant made a valid application he looked at whether it would affect Police servicing or create an obvious traffic safety concern, and said they found no valid reason to deny the permit. He said he did think meetings should be held for community input before even sending the issue to the Town Council.

Josh Quigley of 7 Penstock Way said that from the point of view of people walking around town he felt the street was too narrow to be 2-way up to the corner and said the sidewalk was in bad condition and not plowed in winter. He felt serious improvements would be needed if this change were approved. He said he was concerned with people being used to the old way of traffic and the potential for accidents.

Monica Coin of 9 Granite Street said the only way to stop cut-through traffic would be to make Granite Street one-way. She said there was an elderly disabled community living there and she was concerned about the speed people drove up Granite to make the sharp curve. She said people walked in the street and felt the sidewalk was the problem with over-hanging bushes which needed to be cut back. She said she wanted the Stone Church to succeed but had concerns about traffic issues.

Sarah Low of 3 Church Street said she found out about this at the last minute, and did not see any Council reference to it until the June 6th meeting. She said her understanding of it was that it would be two-way up to the Rock Street ledges. She felt Church Street was much too narrow for 2-way traffic up to the corner and said she also disagreed about Central Street. She said one-way up the hill on Church would not make the hill safer and would increase traffic in an area where pedestrians walked up the middle of the street. She said the grade of the hill was too steep and felt Church Street should be one-way going down with a right-turn-only at the bottom.

Matt Perkins of 5 Church Street said he understood access issues were a problem for Newmarket businesses, but that to sacrifice the safety and welfare of Newmarket residents to get people from out-of-town to come to their businesses was short-sighted and a poor way to do things. He said in winter if traffic backed up as far as Main Street, the only way to get out would be to back into traffic which would be a hazard.

Cecilia Kiley said she lived on Rock Street and said she would like to speak to the 25+ cars parked there. She said right now they had to back out of their spaces into traffic and 2-way traffic would make that impossible. She said the Stone Church was a landmark and very easy to spot, and felt the current one-way traffic sign was reducing uphill traffic. She said there was a huge issue with people speeding around the corner but felt there were better ways to address that issue. She said she worked from home and did not see that many cars cutting through daily, and she felt the uphill/downhill logic was not sound. She said on behalf of the 40 people living on Rock Street she was concerned about the safety of all the residents.

Barbara Briggs of 20 Chapel Street said she lived right at the top of the hill, and thought it was an exaggeration to say it was “blind” turning onto Granite Street. She said as far as coming down and turning right onto Route 108 it was also not good off Chapel Street as it was a tough turn.

Town Administrator Fournier said he would like to read a written testimony on the issue from a resident who encouraged the Town Council to approve the traffic safety recommendations to reverse the flow of traffic on Church Street. Chris Blackstone of 40 Spring Street stated that the time the Highway Safety Committee had put into the issue was a strong indication that the direction should be changed, and felt the reversal could have a positive result on traffic patterns in Town.

Resolution #2017/2018-51 Newmarket Elementary School Resource Officer

Town Administrator Fournier stated that the resolution was not to approving the School Resource Office for the Elementary School, but accepting the unanticipated revenue from the Newmarket School District in the amount of \$88,000 for the purpose of funding the officer at the Elementary School. He said it was the purview of the Police Chief to determine where police officers were placed, but that the Town Council must accept any unanticipated revenues that may become available during the year pursuant to Rule 31-95B. He said they would accept public input on whether the Town should accept these funds in the amount of \$88,000 for a School Resource Officer.

Police Chief Kyle True said that over the past 35 years they had seen a rise in school violence, and said he met with the School Superintendent shortly after the Parkland shooting in Florida to discuss where they stood as a school with law enforcement support. He said he also met with parents from both schools and was asked by the School Board what was the best way to ensure a safe school environment. He said his answer was that putting a School Resource Officer in the Elementary School was the fastest, most efficient way to secure the schools ASAP.

Police Chief True said the responsibility of the School Resource Officer (SRO) was to provide a safe and secure environment conducive to learning, and felt the presence of a uniformed SRO was an immediate and effective deterrent to illegal activity. He said the SRO at the Junior-Senior High School identified and addressed safety concerns in the building and the exterior, and provided training throughout the School year. He said the last student to die in a fire at a school was 1959, and changes were made to school building principles for fire safety.

Police Chief True said there was now a disturbing rise in acts of violence in schools, specifically students and staff killed by gunfire. He stated the country needed to change as a society how they did business,

and though it was an unlikely event in Newmarket he would do everything in his power to ensure that it did not happen. He said Detective Stevens was placed at the Newmarket Junior-High School based on data that acts of violence were more likely to happen at a high school, and he felt having a second SRO at the Elementary School would enhance security measures by 100%. He said the mere presence of Detective Stevens was deterring criminal activity and teaching respect.

Police Chief True stated that having an SRO at the Elementary School was all about safety, security and first aid as officers were all trained first-responders. He said they could also provide educational pieces to students and provide traffic control, especially with the coming construction at both schools. He felt it would be beneficial to work with kids at a young age to build up positive rapport and trust with police and act as informal counselors. He said parents were trusting in the School, the Police Department, and the Fire Department to keep their kids safe, and he urged the Town Council to pass this resolution.

Chairman Pike said any questions from the Council would take place during the discussion of the resolution, and opened the floor to public comment.

Alana March of 7 Church Street said she wholeheartedly supported the funding of a second School Resource Officer for the Elementary School. She said she would love to see someone there all day to support the School, staff and safety of the children.

Monica Coin of 9 Granite Street said she was not a mother but urged everyone to wholeheartedly support the resolution. She said in her work as an RN in the Emergency Room at Bellevue Hospital she had seen the damage done by bullets, especially by the new automatic weapons, and said the children were their most important resource. She thanked Chief True for his presentation and strongly urged everyone to vote in favor of this resolution.

Chairman Pike closed the Public Hearings at 8:02 pm.

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session which was seconded by Councilor Kast. Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session were approved by a vote of 7-0.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2018

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2018, which was seconded by Councilor Finch.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2018 were approved by a vote of 5-0, with 2 abstentions.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINSTRATOR

Town Administrator Steve Fournier first addressed the issue of the **Prowash Carwash in Newmarket** and in North Hampton. He said the Town of Newmarket did not have the same situation as in North Hampton, and said the water from the carwash here goes into the sewer where it is treated and cleaned. He said the issue in North Hampton was that the aquifer for Aquarion Water was located in the area of the carwash. He said the aquifers in Newmarket were uphill and everyone in the area of the carwash was serviced by municipal water and there was no chance of pollutants getting into the drinking supply.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that the Town Council was now on their **Summer Schedule** and there would be only one meeting in July on the 18th, and one meeting on August 22, 2018. He said for any issues that came up a special meeting would be called.

Town Administrator Fournier said he was pleased to announce that the New Hampshire Cultural Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) had named **Diane Hardy** as the **2018 Climate Adaptation Community Champion**, for finding ways to integrate adaptation into Newmarket's programs, policies and operations so they reflect the Town's commitment to reducing risk in building community resilience. He cited her work on the Master Plan update, envisioning future land use with emphasis on coastal resiliency, Stormwater regulation updates, the Moonlight Brook project, work on the Macallen Dam, and as an advocate for the Levering Creek culvert upgrade in response to sea-level rise. He said the award was presented today with two councilors present.

Town Administrator Fournier addressed the **FY2018 Budget** saying the Town was 91% through the fiscal year and currently under budget, with 86% of the overall budget expended and 88% of the General Fund Budget expended at this time. He said Fire & Rescue were 100% expended due to the implementation of the on-call program to reduce response times. He stated that 97% of anticipated revenues had been collected, with Motor Vehicle Registrations over the anticipated estimate by 2% and Building Permits also above anticipated by 4%.

Department Reports: Report of the Facilities Director

Facilities Director Greg Marles stated that he used a survey methodology to figure out where the Town stood with regard to their facilities by conducting site visits and creating photographic images for each facility, and creating a Condition Record for each building. He said all model and serial numbers plus age of all equipment and systems was obtained, and they collected data on existing structures, renovations, and life cycles. He said the data would be compiled into spreadsheets for each location based on condition, replacement schedule and projected costs for replacements/repairs.

Facilities Director Marles stated that they would use life cycles developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers and the US Builders Association to review the age, current conditions, and projected remaining life cycle. He said during the process they would utilize the collected data and life cycle information to create projected replacement costs for their systems. As far as maintenance, they looked at the maintenance history and operating conditions as well as any deferred-maintenance issues.

Facilities Director Marles said they looked at capital, preventative, and operational issues to create a 10-year projected Capital Investment Plan with annual fiscal impacts, an annual Preventative Maintenance Plan with cost projections, and an annual Operational Repairs Plan. He said in this way the Town could look at what the big projects were, their preventative maintenance, and what the on-going regular maintenance items were.

In conclusion, Facilities Director Marles said his Facilities Report showed that the Town of Newmarket had suffered from deferred maintenance, with equipment and systems at the end of their life-cycle, and that a lot of operational changes were needed. He said the heating & cooling systems in the Town Hall were 28 years old with a life expectancy of 25 years, and were no longer efficient and were expensive to operate. He said the buildings themselves were in pretty good shape but the Town needed to put some investment into their general infrastructure to protect those assets moving forward.

Facilities Director Marles reviewed funding options and recommended increasing the Capital Investment Budget, bonding projects or grouping projects together, and making energy-saving investments. He said an energy-efficient investment of \$300,000 would get \$2 million worth of work that could be done in Newmarket facilities by energy savings over the next 20 years and generate energy-saving costs of approximately \$100,000 per year. He said they found a way to pay for a replacement roof for the Public Works building by incorporating solar panels. He said that all these improvements would also be good for the environment and provided a way to plan and take care of Town assets over a long period of time.

Discussion: Councilor Dumont asked if the deferred maintenance was due to a lack of action on the part of the Town or from not having sufficient funding. Town Administrator Fournier stated that on the part of the Town they should be maintaining their buildings, but that priorities were set in any budget situation, and the Town was now trying to catch up to where they can just maintain their facilities. Vice-Chair Weinstein felt that hiring a Facilities Director showed a commitment by the Town to address these issues, and said they knew the issues would be coming to light and it was not a surprise that Town infrastructure had been neglected. Councilor Finch felt this was the perfect time to make these upgrades to take advantage of energy rebates and energy-saving options.

Chairman Pike asked if some of the projects being discussed would be done in the coming budget cycle. Facilities Director Marles said he needed to sit down and work with the Town Administrator on how they approached the next step. Town Administrator Fournier stated that with funding provided in this year's budget he felt they could start chipping away at some of the projects if the upfront investment was small.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Finch reported on the meeting of the *Conservation Commission* and said the official ceremony for the opening of Schoppmeyer Park would be held July 28, 2018. As far as access to Heron Point, he said Facilities Director Marles would be able to help install an automated gate system using the pre-existing gate. He said the automatic gate would respect the park hours of sunrise to sunset and address access for Emergency Services. He said the commission seemed interested in pursuing the system which would be further discussed, with plans hopefully finalized in July.

Vice-Chair Weinstein stated that the *Energy & Environment Advisory Committee* met on June 5, 2018 and talked about the Button-Up Program brought by the four utility companies for residents of the area to learn ways to cut costs and save energy in their homes. She said it would be held at their regularly-scheduled meeting on October 2, 2018. She stated that at the next meeting in July they were expecting a presentation by Mr. Fox about composting.

Chairman Pike said he attended the *Planning Board* meeting as an alternate. He said there were 3 items to be discussed and 2 had been deferred at the petitioners' request and the 3rd was accepted for down on Main Street, adding that no major actions were taken. He said they did discuss the Joint Town Council/Planning Board Meeting which had been deferred from this meeting, and said they were in favor of setting a standing combined meeting for September.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2017/2018-49 Tiger Hose Repairs and Painting

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve Resolution #2017/2018-49 Tiger Hose Repairs and Painting, which was seconded by Councilor Burns.

Facilities Director Marles said they had discussed last year the need to paint and repair the Tiger Hose Company and had a projected cost of approximately \$15,000, and since winter they had to increase costs due to a lost window. He said they would paint the outside, fix wood rot, replace a door and replace the window. He stated that the project was put out to bid and 2 bids were received back, one from Educational Building Consultants for \$18,800 and one from Target NE Historical Restorations for \$27,380. He said Educational Building Consultants had already done several projects for the Town and he was confident they would do an excellent job.

Discussion: Councilor Bowden said he was trying to find the documentation, and Facilities Director Marles said there should be a tabulation sheet, the bid submissions, and the original RFP detailing the specifics for the project. Chairman Pike asked how often they would need to put this kind of investment in the Tiger Hose Company, and Facilities Director Marles stated that if the Town kept up maintenance they could invest approximately \$3,000-\$5,000/year for updates and repairs.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2017/2018-49 Tiger Hose Repairs and Painting was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Resolution #2017/2018-50 Police Station Parking, Drainage and Pavement Repairs

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve Resolution #2017/2018-50 Police Station Parking, Drainage and Pavement Repairs, which was seconded by Councilor Burns.

Facilities Director Marles said he had identified a few issues which needed to be addressed in the Police Station Parking Lot including a sinking pavement area which created ponding and cracking in the pavement which created a safety hazard. He said they were putting in a porous concrete panel system

which would allow water to drain to a screened stone area underneath with corrugated drainage and running to the Town's catch basin, and he had also asked for other repairs to take care of safety issues.

Discussion: Councilor Kast asked if they were also looking at a technique for Stormwater runoff and if it was increasing the costs. Facilities Director Marles said the porous panels would help with the MS4 Permitting because they were decreasing the amount of pervious surfacing in that area. Town Administrator Fournier said this process was now required and was the new normal. Chairman Pike said that the amount in the resolution was higher than the RFP submission. Facilities Director Marles said that was because they identified other issues and were below their projected cost for the project, and felt finishing the lot and getting it completed was the best approach.

Chairman Pike asked if the changes were documented in the submission or were calculated outside, and Facilities Director Marles said the work was added based on their request for the low-qualified bidder for the RFP. He said he asked them to look at these additional items which were also part of the MRI Report done on the Police Station. He said it made sense to work with the low-bidder on the project who would already be on the site.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2017/2018-50 Police Station Parking, Drainage and Pavement Repairs was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Resolution #2017/2018-51 Newmarket Elementary School Resource Officer

Vice Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve Resolution #2017/2018-51 Newmarket Elementary School Resource Officer which was seconded by Councilor Bowden.

Town Administrator Fournier said when he spoke with Police Chief True and Superintendent Nadeau he wanted to make sure costs would be covered. He said the Town was accepting the money and the officer would work for the Chief of Police. If the School did not pay next year, the worst-case scenario would be a reduction in the police force. He added that he and Chief True had already been discussing the need to possibly hire an additional officer in any case, and said they would probably budget for another individual next year. He said he talked to the Town Attorney and the Department of Revenue Administration on the proper way to handle the situation, and they said it would be a transfer from one police subdivision in the community to another, and the IRA had said to treat it as unanticipated revenue and hold a Public Hearing.

School Superintendent Meredith Nadeau thanked Chief True for the eloquence of his presentation. She stated that the School Board voted to approve the addition of a School Resource Officer at the Elementary School and they passed that request forward. She said they held a public listening session to hear how people felt about the issue, and said the community input was overwhelmingly positive. She said she had heard some concerns, but that the School Board weighed all that in making its decision and recommendation, and she was there to ask for the support of the Town Council.

Discussion: Councilor Burns asked if this was something that could possibly fall to the Town next year. Town Administrator Fournier said at this time his recommendation from the Chief of Police was that he would include an additional officer in his budget. Councilor Dumont asked how the School Resource Officer (SRO) was funded, and Police Chief True said the current SRO was funded through the Town and paid for out of his operating budget, and was an employee of the Police Department. Chairman Pike

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asked if the SRO at the High School was under the Town's discretion. Town Administrator Fournier said he wanted to clarify "discretion" and said it was funding from the School District and the High School officer was currently under the Town, though oversight was still by the Chief of Police.

Vice-Chair Weinstein said she may be landing on a different side of this issue. She said she was very emotional when talking about her kids and their safety, and it was obviously something incredibly important to her as a mom, community member, and as a Council member. She felt the \$90,000 could be spent on other security measures rather than hiring a School Resource Officer. She said she completely agreed with Police Chief True that they need to change as a society how they do business, but she did not think putting in a Police Officer was the solution, especially in the Elementary School. She said it was with a heavy heart that she would not support the resolution.

Councilor Kast asked whether or not the School thought this would continue next year. Superintendent Nadeau said the spirit of the motion made by the School Board was to continue the position moving forward, but that was subject to each budget cycle. Councilor Finch felt some good points had been brought up, but said he had worked in schools for 12 years now and had seen a huge benefit from having SROs, beyond the protection of students, for building relationships and trust with Police Officers. He felt there was a benefit to having informal counselors, and said he would vote in favor of the resolution.

Councilor Burns said she did not disagree with many of the comments and felt Officer Stevens provided a huge benefit at the Junior-Senior High School. She said where she was not in agreement was with how the funding was going to be done, and she referenced the Deliberative Session of last year. She said she would be voting against the resolution. Councilor Kast said she shared some of the misgivings, but she also felt that within the community of Newmarket the Police Force was of a certain style, and said that would offset her misgivings for now. Councilor Bowden said he had kids in both schools and thought the way Newmarket Police Force operated was the complete opposite from what he grew up with, and said he would vote in favor of the Police Officer at the Elementary School.

Councilor Dumont said he had been wavering on this issue and had spoken at length with Chief True. He said he would very much like to see some security measures take effect in the Newmarket Elementary School, but was concerned about the \$90,000 cost and asked if the funding was solely for salary. He said he had been at the Deliberative Session and knew some funding had been cut from the School Board Budget but was amended back in by voters to save a teaching position and some tutoring services. He asked where the train of thought went from the meeting to the decision to use the \$90,000 for a Police Officer instead.

Town Administrator Fournier said the \$88,000 would not take effect until July 1st and the School Resource Officer had to be trained to be onboard by the start of the School year. He said the amount would cover salary and all benefits, and said he always used the worst-case scenario for health insurance using a starting officer with a family plan for healthcare which was the high end of everything. He pointed out that the law as it affected budgetary numbers for the Council or the School Board was that any amendment at a Town Meeting to a budget was only adding the number and not the purpose.

School Superintendent Nadeau said as far as security measures at the Elementary School, they had \$550,000 worth of security measures being put in place at both Schools over the next 2 years with 80% funded through the State Infrastructure Fund which was carryover money from the last Fiscal Year. She

said with regard to the use of funds from the Deliberative Session, the Board did have that discussion. She said the School had received some additional Title I funding (unanticipated) of approximately \$20,000 which would allow them to provide a part-time tutoring position in math. She said as the Town Administrator pointed out it is a bottom-line budget and the School Board has that discretion. She said the Board weighed those pieces and that was the decision made.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2017/2018-51 Newmarket Elementary School Resource Officer was approved by a vote of 5-2.

Ordinance No. 2017-2018-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Central Street Traffic Two-Way

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-2018-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Central Street Traffic Two-Way which was seconded by Councilor Burns.

Town Administrator Fournier said periodically he and the Department Heads walked the downtown, and they noticed that on Central Street the “do-not-enter” signs were 20 to 30 yards in and there was also an illegal stop sign on the other side of the street which was supposed to be on the corner. He said the Highway Safety Committee originally planned to recommend one-way in the other direction, but that the Public Works Director had told them the street was wide enough for two-way traffic, being 20 feet wide on average with no parking on the street. He said the committee reviewed it and felt that was a better proposal.

Discussion: Councilor Dumont said he drove and walked the street and noticed there were some vehicles parked there and asked if the “no parking” was enforced, and Police Chief True said he did not write a lot of parking tickets on Central Street. Councilor Finch felt one-way westerly made sense but was concerned with the awkward diagonal angle of the street in making it two-way. Vice-Chair Weinstein said she avoided it because it was so narrow, and said she was also concerned about the intersection. She said any streets that needed to turn onto Main Street, especially left-handed turns, were incredibly dangerous and she would have a hard time supporting two-way on that street.

Councilor Dumont said he would completely support westerly traffic but could only support two-way if the bottom was right-turn only. Councilor Kast stated that there were a lot of strong opinions and suggestions from the public and first-hand experience shared around the whole traffic flow with regard to safety. Town Administrator Fournier said that this is where the Town Council comes in. He said the Highway Safety Committee provided an expert opinion and he felt the public was under a misconception, and stated that emergency vehicles, plows, and fire vehicles did not have to follow the one-way signs in an emergency.

Councilor Kast said they had expert recommendations and the opinions and wishes of the public that lived there and their main concerns were around safety as well. She felt there were 2 groups not meeting in the middle and asked if there was an avenue to bring that together better. Town Administrator Fournier said that was the job of the Town Council and that was the process. Councilor Finch agreed with Councilor Kast that the process could be improved.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Ordinance No. 2017-2018-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Central Street Traffic Two-Way failed by a vote of 2-5.

Ordinance No. 2017-2018-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Church Street Traffic One-Way (Westerly)

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-2018-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Church Street Traffic One-Way (Westerly) which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Administrator Fournier said the Highway Safety Committee, on a request from the owner of Stone Church, reviewed the traffic flow on Church Street and determined there were no safety issues to reversing the traffic in one section. He said it would also allow signage for businesses on Main Street and direct people uphill.

Discussion: Councilor Bowden said he felt it would also prevent people from starting up the hill and turning around and going back down in slippery conditions. Town Administrator Fournier made a clarification about the overgrown bushes and trees on the street, saying that Tree Law in New Hampshire did not allow cutting trees unless it is an imminent hazard, and said the Town did not always have the right to cut back. Councilor Burns said there was a statement about the disrepair of the sidewalk and asked if it was listed on the Town plan to be updated. Town Administrator Fournier said they could look at what they could do to fix the sidewalk.

Councilor Dumont said he was concerned about the thinning of the road at the top of the bend, and Town Administrator Fournier said they could always make the street wider. Councilor Kast asked how the change of direction would related to Rock Street and Town Administrator Fournier said Rock Street would now be able to go in both directions. Councilor Kast was still concerned that residents had to back out into traffic. Councilor Finch felt two-way would reduce some concerns and would not have much effect on Rock Street. He said he felt the change was a marginal improvement.

Vice-Chair Weinstein said the road was tough to navigate and was narrow and hilly with bad sight lines, and though it was not a vast improvement it would help. Councilor Kast said she was hearing so far that this did not involve a lot of incremental improvement and asked if there had been any serious incidents caused by the current traffic pattern. Police Chief True stated that data collection based on IMC since 2010 showed 3 accidents with the current traffic pattern between Rock, Chapel, Church and Granite. Councilor Dumont said he was concerned about the survival of Newmarket businesses and asked what the net impact might be with traffic driving to the Stone Church. The Council agreed to allow Mike Hoffman, the owner of the Stone Church, to answer and he said a lot of customers told him they gave up trying to drive to their location and parked Downtown and walked up the hill. He said there was the potential for more customers going down Granite Street.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Ordinance No. 2017-2018-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire; Making Church Street Traffic One-Way (Westerly) was approved by a vote of 6-1.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 3RD READING – None

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 – None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilor Finch reminded everyone that the Schoppmeyer Park opening ceremony/dedication would be held June 28, 2018 and said more information would go out shortly

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Town Council Meeting will be held on July 18, 2018 in the Town Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pike adjourned the meeting at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary