

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

**FEBRUARY 21, 2018 7:00 PM**

**TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM**

**Approved March 14, 2018**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, Water & Wastewater Superintendent Sean Greig

**AGENDA**

Chairman Dale Pike welcomed everyone to the February 21, 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.

As no one from the public came forward, Chairman Pike closed the Public Forum at 7:01 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Pursuant to RSA 284:51.I (b) - Petitioned Warrant Article – To Allow the Operation of Keno Games within the Town of Newmarket.**

Chairman Pike opened the Public Hearing Pursuant to RSA 284:51.I (b) - Petitioned Warrant Article – To Allow the Operation of Keno Games within the Town of Newmarket at 7:02 pm.

As no one from the public was in attendance, Chairman Pike closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm.

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Acceptance of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2018**

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2018 which was seconded by Councilor Thompson.

Changes/Corrections:

Councilor Kast made a correction on page 4, line 162 to change "Councilor" to *Council*.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2018 were approved as amended by a vote 7-0.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINSTRATOR**

Town Administrator Steve Fournier stated that the School was having issues trying to secure a **Clerk of the Works** for the High School Project, and that the School Board had requested additional time of the Facilities Director to serve in that capacity. He said he had worked with the Superintendent and the Facilities Director to come up with a solution, and said the School had \$100,000 in their Bond for Clerk of the Works services which would go toward a part-time temporary assistant to cover when Facilities Director Marles worked on the School project. He said they would advertise for the position to field candidates, and said if that did not work the School would go back and look at securing additional funds for a Clerk of the Works.

Discussion: Councilor Thompson said she was concerned that Facilities Director Marles not be overworked or overburdened, and said she personally felt it would be too much and she would be against that. Town Administrator Fournier said it was his concern as well that Town projects not fall behind. He said the first person consulted was Facilities Director Marles who wrote a memo explaining that if he did that work he would need assistance.

Councilor Thompson asked if there were specific qualifications for the position. Town Administrator Fournier said the School could not fund a Clerk of the Works with the money they had, and if they could not find a capable candidate they would tell the School the extra hours would not be possible. Vice-Chair Weinstein said she would also have some concerns, and pointed out that when the Facilities Director was hired it was with the understanding that there would be a School Building Project. She said she assumed that if his role needed to be bigger, the School would have taken that into account and figured it into their budget.

Town Administrator Fournier said Facilities Director Marles would still be doing Town work and overseeing his department, and that the assistant would take some small projects and day-to-day clerical things off his plate while he worked for the School. Councilor Kast asked if there was a way to maintain a priority. Town Administrator Fournier said he discussed with the Superintendent that he did not want anything changing from what was currently being done. He said if it did not work out they would pull the employee. He said he would put it in writing and have a memo of understanding as the next meeting. Councilor Burns said she shared the same concerns, and asked if the reason for the School coming to the Council was purely a financial reason. Town Administrator Fournier said he understood it was purely financial.

Chairman Pike said he also felt the Facilities Director had made a big impact, and said his argument for what the Town Administrator worked out with the Superintendent was that construction management was now in high demand and it was an expensive time to hire for that kind of temporary position. He said it was the same taxpayer for the School and the Town, and if things could be worked out and the Facilities Director was comfortable with exploring this, it was the plan worked out by the Town Administrator and the Superintendent and the idea was worth trying. If it worked, it would be the most efficient way forward for the Town. He said if it did not work out, the Facilities Director had a commitment on the Town side and they would not lose his services.

Town Administrator Fournier pointed out that the Town would not be paying anything additional and would be taking the funds from the School earmarked to pay the individual. Councilor Bowden asked if there would be an opportunity for the Council to talk with the Facilities Director and the Superintendent. Town Administrator Fournier said it was possible, but that any staffing decisions, by Charter, were the Town Administrator's decisions.

Chairman Pike said he had met today with the School Board Chairman and the Superintendent to discuss when the next Joint Town Council/School Board meeting would be held and to work on the agenda. He said the meeting would be held in the first or second week of May, and Town Administrator Fournier said the date was set for May 7, 2018. Chairman Pike said he felt it was important to continue to develop these kinds of shared services and try to work together. Councilor Thompson said she wished this had been better planned and thought about, and had been budgeted before it had come to this point.

Town Administrator Fournier reported on the **FY2018 Budget**, and said that as of the end of January they had expended 60% of the total Operating Budget. He said snow removal was on track as well as Revenues. He said Motor Vehicle Registrations were pretty flat but higher than anticipated last year.

Town Administrator Fournier said they had received some comments about the **LED Lighting** in Town being too bright, and there had been some articles saying LED lighting was not environmentally friendly. He said the lights used by the Town were dark-sky friendly and recommended by the American Medical Association in recent articles about color temperature. He said it had also been asked if the LED lights could be dimmed, and stated that currently the Public Utility Commission and Eversource would not allow installation of the system that controlled dimming the lights. He said they were able to dim the decorative lights in Downtown, but that they had been put in for pedestrian safety reasons.

Discussion: Councilor Kast asked if there were any avenues of recourse for the Town to get around the dimming issue. Town Administrator Fournier said there were no options available as Eversource would not allow it.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairman Pike reported that the *Macallen Dam Committee* met last week and there was some discussion with abutters of the dam which was non-public and confidential. He said they were still working on the Public Hearing by the Dam Committee for some time in the spring. He said he appreciated that members

of the Lamprey River Association were present at the meeting, and said they had suggested a Grant Application that might help with the project in that area.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

#### **Resolution #2017/2018-31 Enter into a Contract with Electrical Installation for Water & Sewer Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Improvements**

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve *Resolution #2017/2018-31 Enter into a Contract with Electrical Installation for Water & Sewer Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Improvements*, which was seconded by Councilor Kast.

Water & Wastewater Superintendent Sean Greig explained that SCADA was the system for water that monitored and operated the water system. He said the current system was installed in 2001 and was no longer supported and needed to be updated. He said they had been waiting for the new Wastewater Treatment Facility to come online and use the same SCADA system for Water. He said the Water Department also had 6 pumping stations with alarm systems installed in 1969 that did not match up with their current SCADA system. He said this would bring everything up to current standards.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and *Resolution #2017/2018-31 Enter into a Contract with Electrical Installation for Water & Sewer Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Improvements* was approved by a vote of 7-0.

#### **Resolution #2017-2018-32 Withdrawal of Water and Wastewater Department Capital Reserve Funds for Water and Sewer Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Improvements**

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve *Resolution #2017-2018-32 Withdrawal of Water and Wastewater Department Capital Reserve Funds for Water and Sewer Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Improvements*, which was seconded by Councilor Bowden.

Water & Wastewater Superintendent Greig said this was essentially to withdraw the money to pay for the project. He said the Water and Sewer Departments had been saving for this particular project and were now requesting the withdrawal from the Water & Sewer Capital Reserve Fund. Vice-Chair Weinstein commended the Water & Sewer Department on their planning for projects.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and *Resolution #2017-2018-32 Withdrawal of Water and Wastewater Department Capital Reserve Funds for Water and Sewer Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Improvements* was approved by a vote of 7-0.

#### **Resolution #2017/2018-33 An Engineering Contract for Bennett and Sewall Well Improvements**

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve Resolution #2017/2018-33 *An Engineering Contract for Bennett and Sewall Well Improvements*, which was seconded by Councilor Burns.

Water & Wastewater Superintendent Greig said everything for the Sewall Well had been put in the building in 1984, and they had since added chemicals to prevent stripping of the pipes. He said in 2010-2011 they had submitted a CIP plan to the Council which listed 6 projects as most important, and this was the only project not yet completed as they could not shut down the wells. He said that now with the MacIntosh Well online, they were able to shut down one well at a time and wanted to move forward with this project. He said there was State money available to help with the project, and they would file an application in May and learn in the fall if funds were awarded. He said they currently had \$600,000 set aside for this project.

Discussion: Chairman Pike said they would need to do more treatment in the future when the Tucker Well came online, and asked if that affected what was needed for the Bennett and Sewall Wells. Water & Wastewater Superintendent Greig stated that for the Sewall Well there were currently safety hazards for the personnel. He said this would update all the equipment and provide a more sound water supply.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2017/2018-33 *An Engineering Contract for Bennett and Sewall Well Improvements* was approved by a vote of 7-0.

**Resolution #2017/2018-34 Withdrawal of Water Department Capital Reserve Funds for Bennett and Sewall Well Improvements Project**

Vice-Chair Weinstein made a motion to approve Resolution #2017/2018-34 *Withdrawal of Water Department Capital Reserve Funds for Bennett and Sewall Well Improvements Project*, which was seconded by Councilor Thompson.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2017/2018-34 *Withdrawal of Water Department Capital Reserve Funds for Bennett and Sewall Well Improvements Project* was approved by a vote of 7-0.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING – None**

**ITEMS LAID ON THE TABLE**

Resolution #2015/2016-52 *Authorizing the Designation of a Portion of Route 152 as an Economic Recovery Zone*. (This Resolution is tabled from the June 15, 2016 Council Meeting pending Planning Board action.)

**NEW BUSINESS /CORRESPONDENCE**

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS – None**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – None**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

Vice-Chair Weinstein said there was a series called “Mindful Mondays” held at the Stone Church on Monday evenings. She said they had approached her about doing a presentation on Town Government, and a date had been set for Monday, March 5, 2018 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. She invited anyone interested to attend the meeting.

Chairman Pike said he had recently read an article in the Wall Street Journal about thrombectomy, which was a treatment for strokes. He said patients were transported to the hospital by ambulance, but that not all hospitals provided the treatment. He said as a result the patient would then need to be transferred to a hospital with the expertise to perform the procedure and the window of opportunity could then be gone. He said he had spoken to Chief Rick Malasky about the process for the Seacoast and for Newmarket, and was told they had discussed it a year ago and found that Portsmouth Hospital provided the procedure. Chief Malasky said they were in touch with a Medical Center which directed those patients to Portsmouth Hospital.

Chairman Pike commended Chief Malasky and said he really appreciated his having taken care of the problem. He pointed out that this was an example of the quality of their Ambulance Service in Newmarket.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Regular Town Council Meeting will be held on March 7, 2018 in the Town Hall Auditorium.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Pike adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary