

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 19, 2022 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

Approved February 2, 2022

Councilors Present: Toni Weinstein, Chair; Helen Sanders, Vice-chair (via zoom); Jonathan Kiper, Megan Brabec, Scott Blackstone, Katanna Conley and Brian Ward.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Wendy Chase Recording Secretary and Police Chief Greg Jordan (in the audience).

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:01 PM.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:01 PM without public comment.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

January 5, 2022

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Fournier reported on the following:

- The Deliberative Session is Saturday, February 5th at the Town Hall Auditorium at 9:00 AM.
- The Budget Committee added \$52,000 to the town's operating budget at the January 10, 2022 Public Hearing. Members of the Committee explained that they did not feel the Capital Reserve Funds were sufficiently funded for leased fire equipment. Because the Town Manager was unaware of their intention prior to the meeting, he and the Finance Director were not prepared to explain the process to them that the leased equipment

would come out of the operating budget instead of the Capital Reserve Fund.

- **COVID-19 and Vaccination Update:** As of January 13, there are 132 active cases in the community. We have had 1,219 cumulative cases, an increase of 163 cases since January 5. There is no true number of the positive cases in the community due to home testing. The State DHHS changed their guidelines to align with the CDC's guidelines. Town Manager Fournier issued a new executive order as it relates to isolation for employees. If it is determined essential by the Town Manager, a department may suspend the new guidelines; determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis. 2,000 KN95 masks have been ordered; 1,000 will go to the school district.
- **FY22 Budget Update:** Halfway through the fiscal year we have expended 53% of the operating budget. Revenues: Building permits are up and vehicle registrations are down.
- The Director of Planning and Community Development is being advertised. The application deadline date is February 3rd.

Dale Pike reporting on the Coastal Adaptation Work Group and the Riverfront Advisory Ad hoc Committee

Mr. Dale Pike was present via zoom to give an update on the progress of the Coastal Adaptation Group and the Riverfront Advisory Committee:

The Coastal Adaptation Group is mainly made of up municipal employees from the area towns that surround Great Bay.

Great Bay cities and towns (including Newmarket) have been trying new meeting formats to facilitate communication between boards and committees. Several of us were asked to present our latest efforts in a roundtable format at the December CAW Talks meeting. I discussed the November 4 Newmarket All Boards at which Lisa Wise and Amanda Stone of the UNH Cooperative Extension spoke on Coastal Flood Risk. Here are highlights from other localities:

Exeter had an earlier all boards meeting with Lisa and Amanda. They have a webpage that links to related initiatives and documents (<https://www.exeternh.gov/bcc-cc/climate-related-documents>).

New Castle had an all boards call late last year. They reported the meeting was useful but engagement could have been better.

Dover has had annual all boards for a while. They have hired a full time Resilience Coordinator. Dover also has an ad hoc committee looking at stormwater and flood resilience funding.

Dover and Exeter had more staff available during all boards preparation and they have put a lot of emphasis on documents to communicate and organize within the town. Liz Durfee (who helped Newmarket with Path 2 Resilience documents) is now working with Dover.

Hampton has a standing Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) with membership from other boards and committees and meeting monthly.

Rockingham Planning Commission has hired a person to work with all boards resilience projects.

Barbara Richter, NH Association of Conservation Commissions, advised localities to be thinking

about how they will prepare to compete for bipartisan infrastructure plan funds.

The Riverfront Advisory Committee is working with UNH on a plan for living shoreline at Schanda Park. The Committee will be meeting to discuss concerns of the parking area and runoff from that area flowing into the river and Great Bay. They are also going to discuss whether or not they should replace the culvert to allow back and forth flow.

Chair Weinstein thanked Mr. Pike for his update and said that she will be sending out notification to Boards and Committees to start thinking about setting up another all boards meeting.

Department Reports December 2021

Councilor Blackstone said that he visited NH DES in Concord recently and they informed him that Newmarket has one of the best sewer treatment facilities in the State and is a leader in treating nitrogen. They also expressed how fortunate the Town is to have Sean Greig employed as Director of Environmental Services.

Chair Weinstein reported highlights from the monthly Department Reports:

Environmental Services: "The wastewater treatment facility treated 172 million gallons of water for calendar year 2021. The new facility discharged its lowest amount of total nitrogen, 5,277 pounds since the facility began operation in July of 2017. This a 91% total nitrogen reduction as compared to the old wastewater treatment plant that discharged an average of 62,000 pounds a year of total nitrogen".

Police Department: The hybrid cruisers are operational.

Fire Department: The Fire Department received an American Flag made of old fire hoses from Mark Houle of Durham. Channel 9 was present and the story will be aired on Chronicle this evening at 7:00 PM.

Councilor Blackstone mentioned the rabid skunk reported in the Police Report. Chief Jordan was present and said that the animal did not attack anyone so it was not tested. They are not certain if it had rabies. The Fish and Game Department was notified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Ward reported on the Budget Committee Meeting. The Committee cancelled their upcoming January 31st meeting. At the January 10th Public Hearing they requested \$52,000 be added to the budget. The email sent by the Committee to Councilor Ward was sent to the wrong person so he was unable to inform the Town Manager of the change to the budget prior to the Public Hearing. The Budget Committee members would like to see a Town Council Representative to the Library Trustees. Councilor Ward expressed that he does not see the need for it.

Chair Weinstein commented that there was no one from the public at the town/school budget public hearing on January 10th. She hopes there will be a good attendance at the Deliberative Session on February 5th.

Councilor Brabec reported on the Riverfront Advisory Committee: She clarified that UNH is not involved with the Great Bay Living Shoreline project; NH DES is producing the design concept. They will be meeting with the Committee February 28th for a final presentation and will have the final draft completed in March. They will then go to the Town Council for guidance to their next steps.

Councilor Brabec reported on the Conservation Commission. The Tucker Well area - Lamprey River Advisory Committee sent comments to the Commission; they would like to make sure turtle nests are not disturbed in that area. Wiggin Farm has invasive bittersweet; the Commission is exploring options to get rid of it.

Chair Weinstein reported on the Energy and Environment Committee. They were unable to meet again due to lack of a quorum. The solarized project did launch.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Debra Smith - Arts & Tourism Commission Member - Term Expiration - December 2024

Debra Smith's application was withdrawn.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

A letter from the Budget Committee.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Kiper suggested prior to the mid-term election the Moderator, Town Clerk and election officials put together an informational public forum to answer any questions about the election process and the voting machine and to record it and air it every two to four years. Residents should also be encouraged to volunteer at the elections.

Chair Weinstein reminded everyone of the filing period from January 19, 2022 to January 28, 2022; there are many important positions available.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

February 2, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary