

# **TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## **TOWN COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD JOINT MEETING**

**April 13, 2022 7:00 PM**

**Auditorium**

**Minutes**

**Approved May 18, 2022**

**Councilors Present:** Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley, Councilor Brian Ward, Councilor Joe Lamattina and Councilor Colin White, Sr.

**School Board Members Present:** Gary Swanson, Heather Durant, Andrew Haemaker, Phil Nazzaro and Amy Tilton

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Stephen Fournier and School Superintendent Susan Givens.

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

Each person present introduced themselves.

Council Chair Weinstein mentioned that she attended the open house at the Jr./Sr. High School and congratulated the School Board, Dr. Givens, prior School Board Members and the Community on the new High School. She said it was amazing to see the transformation of the building. She also mentioned that the Junior and Senior Representatives did an outstanding job.

Town Manager Fournier presented and overview of the different forms of Government.

1. Strong Mayor/Board of Aldermen. Nashua and Manchester
2. Council/Management (RSA 49). Voters elect a legislative body (Councilors). The head of the Council runs the council meetings. The Council hires a professional CEO to run the daily operations of the town. 11 cities and 7 towns have this form of government. Area cities are Dover, Rochester, Somersworth and Portsmouth; area towns are Durham and Newmarket. Newmarket has a budgetary town meeting with 2 items (besides election of officers) the budget and bonds. The Town Council votes on everything else.
3. Select Board SB2. The School Board is similar to this form of Government. The voters elect School Board Members to serve as the governing body; they may hire a manager or administrator. A Manager has duties set forth by State Statute and an Administrator receives authority by the Board. The Town Meeting serves as the legislative body. There are 2 sessions, the deliberative session meeting to debate the warrant articles and the town meeting to vote on the warrant articles and budget. Area towns are Exeter, Hampton, Rye, and Epping.

4. Traditional Town Meeting. The voters elect Board members to serve as the governing body; they do not have to appoint an administrative officer. The Town Meeting serves as the legislative body. They meet annually at the town Meeting to vote on Warrant Articles and the Budget. Area towns are Stratham and Newington.

Town Manager Fournier stated that under the town's form of government we are not allowed to accept petitioned warrant articles unless when raising funds.

Members of the Council and School Board have discussed briefly changing the town meeting date from March to May. If the meeting were in May, it would give more time to prepare the budget.

Council Chair Weinstein said that they should discuss creating a Charter Commission; it's been 10 years since the last Commission and it's a good idea to review to see if things need to be updated.

#### Current Projects:

Superintendent Givens thanked everyone for supporting the budget and special meeting held in November 2021. Current projects at the school – upgrading the electrical, ventilation and updating the windows in the older section of the elementary school; finish the landscaping in the courtyard at the Jr./Sr. High School for students to use as a learning space; security upgrades to the third floor of the town hall. Education-wise implementing a core math program at the elementary school and middle school. The PTA is fundraising for a new playground at the elementary school.

Town Manager Fournier – The Town hired a new Community Development Director, Bart McDonough. Other job openings include a Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator and Town Engineer. Current projects include:

- New Road complete reconstruction, replacing water and sewer lines and stormwater improvements and paving
- Tucker Well construction.
- Conduct salary survey – hire an outside consultant to conduct it.
- Town Gateway improvements. North Main Street extend the downtown to North Main Street; Route 108 - create a recreational zone – possible bike park with shops and restaurants. Take advantage of the rail trail, and Route 152 – self-contained development such as town houses and banks.

Superintendent Givens asked the Town Manager to include some of the school's positions in the salary survey and to give her a copy of the State's paving of route 152 schedule to her.

#### Town Hall Facilities:

Town Manager Fournier said that the CIP Committee have been discussing upgrades to the town hall at their last year's meeting. The town offices are running out of room. There are space needs

at the Police Department and the Recreation Department. He said they will use money from the Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund to conduct a facilities study and plan to include the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the town hall (school side) in the study.

Superintendent Givens said that the school side is in good shape. They were able to renovate the annex across from the Jr./Sr. High School for some office space.

Both the Town Manager and Superintendent agree that there are some issues with the building. The windows don't work and there isn't adequate egress in the offices; there are wiring issues and no room for expansion.

#### Town/School Collaboration:

Superintendent Givens said that she has worked with the Recreation Department to organize a before and after school care at the school. The school has also worked with the library on the "community read" project. They have also shared resources such as the recreation van to transport athletes to events.

Town Manager we will assist the school district in however we can. During the pandemic we shared a lot of resources, and we were able to give GOFERR money to the school when they needed it.

Discussion ensued on the shared positions in the past. The finance director and facilities director positions were not equal positions on each side resulting in the failure of those shared positions.

School Board Member Nazzaro asked how the town and school could work toward a shared vision.

Town Manager Fournier said that it would involve working with the Planning Board on the Master Plan and holding visioning sessions. The last visioning session was held 6 or 7 years ago.

Councilor Conley made a Motion to go into non-public session at 8:00 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(i) – Security, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

The Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase  
Recording Secretary