

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 01, 2016**

Present: Selectmen: Michael Woodworth, Jamie Thompson and Chris Hutchins. Others include: Joe Perna (Main Street Art).

Call to order at 7:10pm.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed:

- Checks Pd 02/26/16: Accts. Pay. Manifest - \$4,979.03
Payroll Manifest - \$7,330.49
- Checks Pd 03/04/16: Accts. Pay. Manifest - \$6,745.80 (Casella/Comcast)
Accts. Pay. Manifest - \$20,785.63
Payroll Manifest - \$11,557.83

Joe Perna, Main Street Art, met with the Board to discuss the “colorful” exterior shutters they would like to put on the building. Joe stated if there is a negative response to the shutters, they will repaint them a solid color. The Selectmen approved his request.

Payroll Change Notice – Lauren Maclachlan (New Hire- Library). Jamie made a motion for Michael to sign the Payroll Change Notice for Lauren Maclachlan upon receipt of approval of the background check and finger prints, seconded by Chris. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Board reviewed, approved and signed the 2016 Quarterly Payroll, Yearly Stipends and Election Stipends.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter from Scott Wachsmuth to the Planning Board dated 2/23/2016 regarding his statement of intent to apply for the full member seat vacated by the resignation of David Edgerly. Chris made a motion to appoint Scott Wachsmuth to the vacant Planning Board position, seconded by Jamie. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Board reviewed the Expenditures for February.

The Selectman discussed and approved Carol Stark to assist in the Town Office to get caught up. Jamie made a motion for Carol Stark to assist in the Town Office, seconded by Chris. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Board would like Clay Mitchell to assess the additional driveway now at 13 Dixon Ave. and update the Board.

Adjourn at 7:58pm.

Police Chief Community Forum, in the Town Hall.

Call to order at 8pm.

Michael Woodworth, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, welcomed everyone to the public hearing to get to know the Interim Chief Nate Liebenow, hear his ideas and plans for the Town and answer any questions they may have.

Nate Liebenow thanked the Selectmen and everyone for coming out on a Tuesday night at 8pm. Nate introduced himself and he would consider this opportunity an honor to serve the Town as Police Chief. Nate also noted everyone is always welcome to express their concerns and share their ideas with the Police Dept.

Jeff Buxton noted there has been tension between the police and fire departments in the past. Nate has changed that. He looks forward to working and training with the Police Dept. Jeff stated Nate is the best candidate.

Nate acknowledged that strain and looks forward to future training opportunities together.

Michael spoke about the direction of the police facility and Nate stated that the space needs of the dept have to be examined. They should be affordable, reasonable and practical.

Michael brought up the topic of coverage. Nate responded that there are now 3 of the 4 full time officers and 3 part time officers working 20 hours a day / 365 days per year. The State Police provide coverage from 3 am thru 7 am daily. There is an opening for a full time officer to fill the 4th position.

Trish Cox stated that when you get to know Nate he is everything we need. Nate responded that he believes in a community oriented Police Dept which builds trusting relationships with the kids. He will continue the DARE program and Bike Rodeo as well as the Thursday reading program at the school.

Valerie Sununu discussed the Nixel – Safety Notification system- which seemed to have problems being implemented in the Town. She felt this was important for the residents to know if there is an emergency in town. Nate said he was aware of the complications with Nixel and would like to tap into the Town Residents e-mail in order to send out a monthly newsletter and alerts to the residents. Qwinny McElwee said these notifications would be helpful like the alerts received from the Middle and High schools.

Michael asked about opiate concerns in the community. Nate answered Newfields is not exempt from these issues of overdoses and crimes related to drug use. Narcan is carried on the ambulance.

Stephanie Seacord asked Nate how he would characterize working in Newfields. Nate responded that Newfields is a safe community with low crime and would use a pro-active approach by the police dept. He said he really enjoys working here.

Sue McKinnon stated she feels Nate is perfect for the job, has positive energy, loves his job and cares about the residents and the town.

Brian McElwee stated he supports Nate and feels he would be a fantastic Chief!

Brian questioned the Board of Selectmen as to where we are in the process of selecting a new chief and are there other candidates being considered? Jamie responded that this has been a 60 day trial period and the Board is working with Nate.

Jackie Horgan noted Nate exhibits consistency between the police dept and the town, so she gives Nate her vote of confidence.

Mike Todd made a motion for a vote of confidence by a show of hands for support of Nate to be the Chief of Police. An overwhelming majority of hands were raised.

Jamie noted we can now move forward with confidence on a more reasonable plan with compromise for the police facility.

Ray Pawlencio voiced his support of Chief Reed's character.

Charlotte Legg stated we need to move forward to appoint Nate before the Town vote.

Mike Sununu stated he is supportive of the idea of Nate as Police Chief.

Greg Corson voiced his concerns related to the current Police Dept budget. Nate felt the budget would remain stable moving forward.

Maureen Smith stated that Nate is looking at ways to reduce cost like the Fuel Program. Nate explained that the State locked in the gas price at \$2.67/gal and by using the Wex fleet program at any gas station paying \$1.65/ gal -tax exempt. Being a taxpayer himself, Nate will be looking out to save tax dollars for the Town.

Michael Sununu brought up the turnover cost for training and equipment for new officers. Nate said he doesn't see a turnover in the near future.

Nate thanked the residents for coming out which epitomizes Newfields.

Minutes of the December 29th meeting were read. Jamie made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Chris. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Minutes of the January 5th meeting were read. Chris made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Jamie. All were in favor and the motion passed

At 8:35pm, Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jamie. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna C. Newman