

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2024**

At 6:53 pm, The Select Board, by motion of Select Board Member Sununu, seconded by Select Board Member Harmon and in accordance with RSA91-A:3, to enter into a non-public session for purpose of personnel matter [RSA91-A3(II)(c)]. By roll call vote the Board passed the motion: Harmon-Affirmative; Kasper-Affirmative; Sununu-Affirmative

A motion to leave the non-public session was made Select Board Member Sununu and seconded by Select Board Member Harmon. The motion was passed and at 7:02 a public session convened.

Select Board Present: Chairman Michael Sununu, Hoby Harmon & Mark Kasper
Others Include: Officer LaValley, Jeff Couture & Kent Lawrence and Mike Mackey

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated 6/14/24: Accounts Payable Manifest \$ 24,402.00

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Health & Human Service Contributions

This matter was discussed at the last meeting but there was a discrepancy as to the amount that was paid the previous year. Hoby motioned, seconded by Mark, to make the following contributions in the amount of \$3,350:

- American Red Cross \$500
- Child Advocacy Center \$1,250
- Rockingham Community Action \$900
- Rockingham Nutrition & MOW \$700

All were in favor and the motion carried.

Rugg Property Status

Michael referenced Exeter's Select Board meeting last night. He stated that the Rugg family is no longer interested in selling their property to the Towns of Exeter and Newfields. Michael indicated that there are conflicting claims on the property in Exeter. Seven parcels of land were included in the Trust For Public Land project. Two were owned by the Rugg family, the other five parcels bordering Newfields are deeded to Exeter. Exeter says they have a deed and will not give the land away nor buy land they already own. This is a discrepancy from

Rugg's claim that the property is owned by the Rugg family. According to Jeff Couture, the Rugg family has been in dispute with Exeter since 2005. Hoby said this was an outstanding issue since the initial acquisition discussions. Hoby conveyed that questions were raised about the Exeter Land and the issue was never resolved. Michael added that last week's Ruggs conversation with Exeter was the first since January.

Mike Mackey mentioned that the Ruggs hired a surveyor last July who proved the Rugg family owned the land. Exeter then hired their people who disputed the claim.

Primex Correspondence – Bellamy Eagle

Primex sent a letter denying the continuation of insurance coverage for the Belemy Eagle unless an appraisal is conducted. Michael will reach out to some auction houses for estimate for the appraisal.

Draft Right To Know Request

Deferred until the next meeting so board members can review the form.

NYAA Institutional Exemption for 2024

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to approve the exemption for Newfields Youth Athletic Association. All were in favor and the motion carried.

May 28th Meeting Minutes

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to accept the 5/28/24 minutes as amended. All were in favor and the motion carried.

May Revenues and Expenditures

The Board reviewed the May revenues and expenditures.

Stormwater Contract

Michael explained that Hoyle, Tanner and Associates, LLC (HTA) was selected to assist with the planning for the stormwater project on Pleasant St and Summer St. This stormwater project will be financed by a \$28k NH grant the Town received for this purpose. Michael said HTA will provide a plan to address the Town's stormwater runoff from the school, past the Fire Station, across the intersection and down Summer St. HTA is familiar with the stormwater system and have worked with the Town in the past on the Stormwater Asset Program to identify the GPS locations for all the culverts and drainage throughout the Town. Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to approve the draft contract with HTA contingent upon any changes Bill Meserve may have. The Board will invite Bill Meserve to attend the next meeting.

Miscellaneous

Mark alluded to a prior conversation in another meeting and said that he would like to have an agreeable relationship with the Board and the Town. He will try to listen to everyone in a

commonsense realistic way without interjecting or adding his opinion or bias. He wants to treat people fairly and this is the position he is taking.

Michael commented that Mark is new to the job and that criticism will come from all corners. We will have a lot of discussions but at the end of the day not everyone will be happy with the decisions to be made. Michael added that as long as Mark is honest with himself, he will do fine.

Hoby informed the Board that he had not heard back from CSX Rail regarding a failed culvert on Mr. Booth's place located at 5 Old Rt 108. CSX Rail did a site survey to determine their liability. Hoby will follow up this week with CSX Rail.

Hoby mentioned that the camera was not streaming. Mark remarked that he would like to invest in a better camera and will introduce some ideas at a later time. Hoby said their intention was to get a better system, but it was postponed until the Falls's budget due to costs.

Kent Lawrence from the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) indicated that the March 2024 Zoning Warrant Article #1 suggested by the Town Planner was recently determined to be inadequately written and may need to be revised. Michael will raise the issue in the next Planning Board meeting this Thursday. Michael also told Kent that someone would need to suggest a new warrant article and that it would need to be voted on by the Town.

Kent mentioned that there are a couple ZBA members who are either unaware of the responsibilities of the ZBA board or are disrespectful of it. He told the Board the ZBA denied Mr. Ward's application for his garage. One of the comments made at the meeting was that the ZBA was outdated, and people need garages nowadays. Michael responded that the Town has existing ordinances. There is a process to change them. If people feel the need to change them, they may submit warrant articles for the Town to vote on. The Board must adhere to the law and not to how they would want them to be. If the Board uses discretion where discretion is not allowed, they will be opening the Town up for some serious problems when it comes to enforcement at a later date or legal challenges in the way the town is enforcing the zoning ordinances. Kent agreed and added there is a certain amount of precedence that occurs that encroaches on future decisions. People come in to see how the process is done before dealing with their own property matter.

Kent asked Michael if a decision was made regarding Quinn Ct's setbacks/right of way. Michael suggested having the boundaries surveyed and formalized. Michael will look into it and the Board will address it at the next meeting.

Scott Wachsmuth asked the Board if they had decided on the noise level at the Vernon Family Farm. Michael said that they may have a discussion at the next meeting to submit a bid for a professional monitoring service. Michael said he confirmed with the Town Planner

and Town counsel that it is residential and as such is restricted to 60 decibels during the day and 50 decibels at night.

MS-535- Final Version

The Board signed the Final Version of the MS-535.

At 7:54pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien