

TOWN OF NEWPORT REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING-THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 AT 5:30PM

Present: Steve Barrup, Jerry Waterman, Richard Gosselin, Bob Best, Chris Roy, Dennis DeLaBruere, Gretchen Baker of United (John Deere), Ernest Choquette, Randy LaBelle of Beaugard Equip., Scott Perren of CRW Corp., Matt Wilson, Rick Crosby, Tina Royer, Denise Daigle

Rick called the meeting to order at 5:30PM and introduced those present. Jerry read the ground rules for the meeting.

Jerry made a motion to appoint Steve Barrup as chair of the selectboard, seconded by Rick and passed on a voice vote.

Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/1 and 2/15 meetings, seconded by Steve and passed on a voice vote.

Appearances by local citizens/visitors – Dennis DeLaBruere discussed upgrading the walking path/cross country ski trail used by students between the town owned land and the school. He stated he talked to Shaye Collins about doing this work. The board stated that this had to be discussed with the ARPA committee and Denise will let Dennis know when the next ARPA meeting will be.

Road Commissioner Report – Loader purchase was discussed. The sales people were here to discuss different brands of loaders, pricing, and specifications and to answer any questions the board and Mike may have. This will be further discussed at the April board meeting. Rick Crosby was here to discuss the speed limit on Lake Road, specifically above the Leadville Road heading north. Rick provided the board with a letter of support along with signatures in this regard. The letter requests possibly widening the road to add a shoulder for walking/bicycling. The board stated that there are many culverts that would need to be addressed before this would happen, along with other issues as well. The board thanked Rick for coming in and stating his concerns. The board will discuss this at future meetings. The board also suggested that Rick contact the sheriff's department with his concerns and request that a better sheriff presence in this area would possibly help. Dennis DeLaBruere stated he is concerned with the speed limit on Vance Hill in town. He would like to see this speed limit reduced to 25 MPH. Jerry stated that he talked to the state garage and there is a process the town needs to go thru to do this. Mike Cheney was not present.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – The board reviewed the contract with Aldrich and Elliott for the yearly waste water inspection. Steve made a motion, based on Mike's recommendation, to sign this contract, and authorize Mike to sign this, seconded by Rick and passed on a voice vote. Mike stated that the waste water class that is mandatory for him to take is being held in Chester, Vermont. The board voted to pay Mike's mileage for this. Jerry stated the solar panels appear to be working properly. Nothing to report on recycling.

Rick reviewed the sheriff's report.

The board reviewed a letter from Bill Davies stating that he is no longer conducting tax sales. Based on this letter Steve made a motion to engage and sign a letter with the law firm of Bauer, Gravel, and Farnham to conduct tax sales beginning immediately and authorize the delinquent tax collector, Denise Daigle, to sign this letter. This was seconded by Jerry and passed on a voice vote.

The board reviewed and signed appointments for 2024 and also signed the Newport Ambulance Contract. Steve made a motion to approve the bank statement and journal entries, seconded by Jerry and passed on a voice vote.

Unfinished/new business – Denise stated that the annual meeting with AOT is scheduled for March 26' 2024 at 8AM at the town clerk's office. The board asked Mike to see if between now and the April board meeting he could get the sales people to bring a loader out for Mike to try out.

Voted to adjourn at 7:10PM.