

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015 -10:00 AM**

Present: Patty Scholz-Cohen, Chair, Lorn Buxton, Selectman, David McGuckin, Selectman and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Jim Cerny, Pam Cullen, Rita Fusco, Jeff Turner, Will Connell, and Tom Smith.

Chair Cohen convened the meeting at 10:00 AM, and proceeded to the first item on the Agenda.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of March 23, 2015.

Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to approve the Select Board minutes of the March 23, 2015 meeting as amended. Selectman Buxton seconded, and the Motion carried.

Chair Cohen stated the Agenda would be changed to accommodate members of the public present and proceeded to New Business Item 3 b.

3. NEW BUSINESS.

b. Jeffrey Turner-Green Bean-liquor license.

Chair Cohen recognized Jeffrey Turner of the Green Bean who requested a renewal of the liquor license for the restaurant. He stated there were no changes to serving beer and wine and no seating changes. They will open May 22 weekends only, and plan to be open 7 days starting June 19th. Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to support the Green Bean's renewal of their liquor license. Selectman Buxton seconded, and the Motion carried. The Select Board will provide Mr. Turner with a letter for the liquor commission as he requested.

c. Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Jim Cerny circulated a copy of rules and regulations (dated March 19, 2015) in order to solicit comments from the Select Board. Most discussion concerned the section dealing with who may purchase lots and be buried. Selectman McGuckin noted the option should be extended to include teachers at MHT, if the criteria for purchasing a lot is that an individual is paid with New Castle tax dollars.. Jim noted that these rules and regulations are in Final form and will provide a PDF.

Chair Cohen proceeded to Old Business, Item 2b.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.b. 79 Wentworth Road-merged lots- Marsha Cutting.

Chair Cohen recognized Will Connell of 79 Wentworth Road who presented a letter from their attorney, Jonathan Springer, relative to the merged lots issue. Selectman Buxton explained that prior to 2010 there were two separate lots. Only the tax records were merged. He stated the Town could only find a single deed done in 2013 referring to 4 acres. Selectman Buxton stated that if the lots were in fact combined, this matter needed to go to the Planning Board for resolution. Mr. Connell assured the Board that once they reviewed the attorney's letter, this would not be necessary.

2.a. Warrant Articles.

Chair Cohen stated that the Board needed to vote upon the following warrant articles to go before Town Meeting in May. Each article was taken up separately. Articles to be voted upon are 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Note: The Select Board had previously approved other warrant articles at prior meetings. These votes are in the minutes.

Article 2. Relative to Town Hall Renovation and Restoration.

Selectman Buxton made a Motion to Approve. Selectman McGuckin seconded for purposes of discussion.

Selectman McGuckin stated he would not be supporting this article, as it would cause an additional 30 cents to be added to the tax rate.

Chair Cohen stated both the Town Hall and the School projects would overlap since they would each require a bond funding paid over 10 or 20 years. If the Board does not go forward, it will have to address significant repair issues to the Town Hall. Selectman McGuckin further explained his concerns about adding to the taxpayers' burden over either the next 10 or 20 years, depending on which time frame for the bond was selected. After further discussion, the Chair called the vote. The Motion to Adopt passed with Chair Cohen and Selectman Buxton voting in the affirmative, and Selectman McGuckin voting against. (2-1).

Article 3 . Relative to adoption of the operating budget for the Town.

Selectman Buxton made a Motion to Approve the operating budget for the Town at \$2,756,510, Selectman McGuckin seconded and the Motion carried.

Article 4 . Relative to adding funds to the Vehicle and Equipment Trust Fund.

Selectman Buxton made a Motion to Approve the sum of \$132,000 to be added to the Vehicle and Equipment Trust Fund Selectman McGuckin seconded, and the Motion carried.

Article 5 . Relative to removal of hazardous materials.

Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to approve the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of mitigating and properly disposing of hazardous materials in the Town Hall. Selectman Buxton seconded, and the Motion carried.

Article 6. Relative to adding funds to the New Castle Conservation Fund.

Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to approve the sum of \$12,525 to be added to the New Castle Conservation Fund for the purpose of grant matching and conservation projects. Chair Cohen seconded and the Motion carried.

Article 7. Relative to donations to local non-profit agencies.

Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Adopt the sum of \$13,000 to be used to pay Town donations to local non-profit agencies. Selectman Buxton seconded, and the Motion carried.

Article 8. Relative to continued development of plans if Article 2 fails.

Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Approve the sum of \$15,000 to continue development of the Town Hall project should Article 2 fail. Selectman Buxton seconded and the Motion carried.

Article 9. Relative to establishment of a contingency fund.

Selectman Buxton made a Motion to Approve the establishment of a contingency fund for unexpected expenses and to add \$10,000 to this fund. Selectman McGuckin seconded and the Motion carried.

Article 10. Relative to the archiving of historical documents.

Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Approve the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of organizing, cataloguing and archiving historical documents pertaining to the Town of New Castle. Selectman Buxton seconded, and the Motion carried.

Chair Cohen returned to Old Business.

Chair Cohen asked to revisit the water/sewer conveyance status

2.c. Water/sewer conveyance.

Chair Cohen referred to an April 2, 2015 letter from Attorney Ciandella requesting a response from the Board regarding paying for a study requested by Portsmouth. Selectman McGuckin is following up on this matter and will report back after the next meeting of the Water&Sewer Commission. Chair Cohen stated it was necessary to go forward with the study. Selectman McGuckin stated that it is important for the Town to go forward with the study as outlined by the City of Portsmouth. Selectman McGuckin also reported a problem with the Steamboat Lane pumping station which occurred over the weekend and the need for either repair or possible replacement, depending upon assessment of the damage. He will follow up on this matter.

Chair Cohen went back to New Business, Item 3.a.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of Rebecca Goldberg to ZBA.

Chair Cohen reported that Ms. Goldberg has accepted a position on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and will be submitting her resume. After discussion, Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Appoint Ms. Goldberg as a member of the ZBA. Chair Cohen seconded, and the Motion carried.

d. Schedule Bond Hearing for the Town Hall Renovation.

After discussion, the Board scheduled the hearing for April 16th, 7PM at the Macomber Room.

e. Warrant article for Select Board Easement Authority.

Selectman Buxton stated that the Board had planned on submitting a warrant article regarding easement authority for the Select Board. The Board is waiting a response from Attorney Loughlin. Selectman McGuckin agreed to follow up on this matter.

4. Any other business to come before the Board.

a. Island Items article.

Chair Cohen asked for suggestions for the Select Board article for the next issue of Island Items. Selectman McGuckin stated that given what he has heard from many citizens about not being aware of various issues, that perhaps something about the need to take responsibility to learn about issues from all of the sites and publications available regarding town matters, such as signing up for Email alerts provided by the town website. He may also take this up at Town Meeting.

4.b. Email from Chief Blanding.

Chair Cohen addressed the email sent by the Chief regarding shingles coming off the apparatus bay at the Public Safety Building and concerns about leakage. Chair Cohen offered to call Macklin Construction. Jim Cerny questioned if there was a warranty from the original builders. Selectman McGuckin will follow up on this and check with Ricci Construction.

4.c. Rita Fusco.

Chair Cohen recognized Rita Fusco who asked the Select Board to support her criteria for reconsideration of the recent Planning Board hearing on 25 Piscataqua Street. Selectman Buxton explained the Planning Board is independent of the Select Board. The Select Board approves their budget. It would not be appropriate for the Select Board to interject. Rita wanted the Board to hear her concerns about the snickering and certain demeanor of some individuals, and expressed she thought it was a poorly run meeting. Selectman Buxton agreed that there was some inappropriate behavior. She has expressed her thoughts to the Planning Board Chair.

4. d. Tom Smith.

Tom Smith asked the Select Board to schedule a Candidates' Night, as there are three contested positions. He stated the last one was chaired by Gene Doherty who did a very good job as moderator. After discussion, the Board agreed on the dates of either May 5th or 6th at 7PM in the Rec Building. Selectman Buxton will follow up on this matter.

There being no further business to come before the Board Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Adjourn which was seconded by Selectman Buxton. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM.