

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD**
2 **Monday March 5, 2018 – 7:00 PM**

3
4 **Present:** Bill Stewart, Chair, Tom Maher, Selectman, Damon Frampton, Selectman,
5

6 **Also present:** Mary Ann Driscoll, Suzanne McFarland, Sandra Bisset, David Borden,
7 Jim Cerny, Christiane McAllister.
8

9 Chair Stewart convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.
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11 **Public Hearing: Gift to Riverside Cemetery**
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13 Jim Cerny, Cemetery Trustee, spoke in favor of the Town accepting the gift of 161
14 square feet of land from Mark Hughes (former owner Laurie Clark) to be added to
15 Riverside Cemetery. The Select Board must hold two public hearings within a
16 specified time frame and then vote on whether to accept the gift pursuant to NHRSA
17 41-14:a. The next hearing is scheduled for March 19th, with the vote to take place on
18 April 2, 2018 at th Select Board Meeting. After brief disussiion, and with no one in
19 opposition, Chair Stewart closed the public hearing at 7:05 PM. Selectman Maher
20 and Chair Stewart thaked Selectman Frampton for taking the lead on this matter.
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22 **1. Approve Select Board minutes of February 19, 2018:**
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24 Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the February 19th Select
25 Board Meeting as amended. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the Motion carried.
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27 **2. Public Question and Answer: None.**
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29 **3. Items:**
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31 **a. Letter to New Castle Water Users.**
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33 Chair Stewart stated that the notification letter to the residents regarding the status
34 of water quality testing (TTHMs) was mailed on March 1, 2018. The Town did pass
35 this quarter however the rolling average still exceeds the State limitation, and the
36 Town needs to continue to mitigate. Portsmouth's aeration project is set to go
37 forward; it went out to bid in January and will be a part of the long term
38 solution.and New Castle has done its own directional flushing recently. The
39 contaminants affect both the drinking water quality and the fire suppression piece
40 of our water system. It's expected that the upcoming replacement of the pipes will
41 help improve the situation.
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43 **4. New Business:**
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1 **i. BOEM letter to the Governor (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management):**
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3 Maryanne Driscoll, spokesperson for supporters, explained that Governor Sununu
4 notified communities asking if they wished to participate in BOEM’s task force for
5 offshore wind energy. Maryanne and Christine Collins gave a copy of a draft letter
6 asking that New Castle have a seat at the table for this task force. She explained she
7 had been working with the Conservation Commission, Sandy Bisset of the Energy
8 Committee, and Suzanne McFarland from the Town of Rye in pursuing this. All of
9 the coastal states have a task force except New Hampshire and Georgia. Dover, Rye
10 and Hampton have already sent in their letters, and several other municipalities are
11 planning to do so. It is not dealing with a specific project but is a proactive group, to
12 respond as projects are proposed. Ms. Driscoll stressed the importance of being
13 involved as we are a coastal community and have fishing and tourism interests so
14 we should have a seat at the table. Sandy Bisset stated that the BOEM already has a
15 good process in place, with ongoing research taking place. There is no funding
16 required. There is a packet of letters from 16 towns set to go into the Governor this
17 month. (mid March). It will be neutral group. Selectman Maher pointed the need for
18 New Castle to also have a seat at the table as a coastal community. Selectman
19 Frampton would like to read through the packet of information and will decide by
20 the end of the week. After further discussion, the Select Board will review this
21 week, and possibly revise the letter by the end of the week.
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23 **ii. Proposal to form a committee for the town’s 400th Anniversary-Great Island**
24 **400.**
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26 Jim Cerny speaking as Board Member for NCHS (New Castle Historical Society) as
27 well as Town Historian, briefed the Select Board on Portsmouth’s efforts which
28 consists of hiring Susan Labrie to head up a committee under the umbrella of
29 Discover Center/Portsmouth Historical Society, to formulate and execute plans for
30 the celebration, due to take place in 5 years. Both Portsmouth and Rye will also be
31 involved. He stated that NCHS has been aware of the 400th since 2015 when Dennis
32 Robinson was hired to write a new history of New Castle to be released in time for
33 the celebrations. After hearing from Jim, he suggested that NCHS take the lead in
34 forming a steering committee, and Selectman Frampton offered to be the contact
35 person for the Select Board.
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38 **iii. Pontine Theater Request.**
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40 Chair Stewart spoke about the request from Pontine Theater to hold their annual
41 garden tour, a fundraiser for the theater, on June 10th from 1-4PM. They also asked
42 to use the town lots next to the Coast Guard Station for parking and to put up a small
43 tent for ticket sales. Also they requested use of the empty lot next to the public
44 library for volunteer parking. Chair Stewart sees no problem but just wanted to be
45 sure there is no conflict. He had heard there may be a request for the nationals for J-

1 24 sailboats and wants to be certain before approving the request. Otherwise the
2 Board approves of the annual garden tour event.

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4 **iv. Avitar abatement. – Northern New England Telephone operations.**

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6 After discussion, the Board agreed to forward the request to Avitar. It was not clear
7 if this was a different abatement request, but they are questioning the \$311,000
8 assessment. Avitar will review and inform the Select Board of their findings, and
9 then the Select Board will either grant or deny the abatement,

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11 **v. DES letter received 3/5/18.**

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13 This letter lays out a thorough description of the TTHM problem, the town’s water
14 system, and recommended remediation efforts expected by DES to be implemented
15 by the Town. The Select Board is meeting with a representative from DES on
16 Thursday, March 8 at 1:00 PM.

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18 **vi. Warrant Articles Review.**

- 19
- 20 • The Select Board began its review of the most recent draft warrant articles,
21 with Town Donations or Charitable Giving. There was some question as to
22 specific non-profits and allocations and clarification was requested. The
23 total amount used to be \$13,000 but last year the total was reduced to
24 \$11,000. This year the Garden Club will not be needing a donation as they
25 have secured a volunteer to assist with their annual garden sale. Chair
26 Stewart spoke about possibly establishing two scholarships for local New
27 Castle students who were going onto higher education.(college, trade school,
28 etc) This idea had been proposed to him by a few citizens, and he asked for
29 comments. Selectman Maher is open to the idea but was not certain how it
30 would be administered and questioned the funding. The Town accountant
31 noted that the State requires the donations be given for the purpose of
32 “health services”. Chair Stewart thought that the scholarships could possibly
33 come under this category. He is open to suggestions as he believes it’s a good
34 idea, and would like the other Selectmen to think about it. Other suggestions
35 as to who would administer and how to apply criteria were discussed. It
36 could also be run through the SAU Superintendent for New Castle kids. All
37 agreed to include it in the Town Donations list which will be finalized in
38 terms of reallocation of the funding.
 - 39
 - 40 • The Select Board then went on to discuss the V& E Trust fund, and agreed at
41 this time to ask to fund it with \$132,000.
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 - 43 • The next article asks for \$80,000 to be added to the Municipal
44 Transportation Improvement Fund.
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- The proposed article asking to raise one of the municipal motor vehicle fese was discussed and the Board determine to keep it status quo for now, with the option of going forward at a subsequent town meeting.
- The Board reviewed the proposed article requesting \$30,000 for the contingency fund. The rationale for the increase is to cover potential retirements. If none occur, then this money will lapse into the General Fund.
- Proposed \$25,000 for government buildings maintenance expendable trust fund maintenance. The Select Board will be the agent to expend from this fund.
- To change the purpose and name of the streets and roads trust fund to the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. Needs majority vote. This is taking the roads fund and changing its purpose and name. This gives more flexibility to the Town to do what is needed for anything related to roads and transportation. Selectman Frampton is not in favor at this time because of the effect on the CIP Committee and its reaction. Selectman Maher offered some explanation, and noted it would provide more flexibility to meet the needs of the Town. He did not believe there was any intent to rob the roads fund or impede DPW from meeting its scheduled paving, as outlined in the CIP. Chair Stewart stated that his view is that this fund is to take care of the New Castle infrastructure. Selectman Frampton expressed his concerns over tax money being used for any private roads or sidewalks, such as the Safepath. Chair Stewart called for a vote to approve and submit the article as presented. Selectman Maher made a Motion to adopt and put the article forward to the voters at Town Meeting. Chair Stewart seconded. Chair Stewart and Selectman Maher voted in the affirmative with Selectman Frampton opposed.
- Cemetery Trust Fund: For cemetery maintenance and capital expenses.

Chair Stewart stated there are three remaining items to discuss: Warrant article for the Water, Auditor issues, and committee reports.

vii. Auditor Selection.

After discussion of the interviews with the three candidates, the Select Board selected and agreed upon one of the applicants to replace the services of the current auditor.

vii. Budget discussion.

1 After several minutes of discussion, regarding the proposed budget, the Select
2 Board agreed to submit the proposed Select Board budget as presented.

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4 **viii. Water article:**

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6 After discussion, the Select Board voted to put forth the article as presented which
7 excluded the costs for the Wentworth Bridge, but includes improvements for the
8 entire island, with a potential tax rate increase of 70 cents per thousand on the tax
9 rate. The article regarding easements on private properties and associated
10 betterment fees was approved for inclusion on the ballot.

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12 All of the above warrant article proposals will be submitted to the Budget
13 Committee for response and comment.

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15 **5. Committee Reports:**

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17 **a. Fire Department.**

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19 Selectman Maher submitted the monthly Fire Dept. Report (See attachment)

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21 There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Maher made a
22 Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Frampton. Motion carried.

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24 Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 PM.