

**TOWN OF NEWBURY
SELECT BOARD**

MINUTES

DATE: November 28, 2023

PRESENT: **Select Board:** Chair Alicia Greco; Vice Chair Bill DiMaio; Clerk Leslie Matthews; Geof Walker; Dana Packer;

Staff:

Tracy Blais, Town Administrator

Julie O'Brien, Executive Administrator

Patty Fisher, Police Chief

Speakers: Lon Hachmeister, Local Historic District Study Committee

Robin Etheridge, Local Historic District Study Committee

Call to Order:

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Alicia Greco called the meeting to order with a salute to the flag

Motion: D. Packer moved to open the meeting seconded, B. DiMaio and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

Public Comment

Debra Price, 277 High Road, spoke regarding the Local Historic District Study Committees project. Stated her family has spent three and a half years renovating their house. Discussed how a neighbor in 2022 asked to discuss protecting the Green and School House. Explained she and her family bought the house with the knowledge no one would govern what they did for renovations and that they still have a lot of work to do. Stated very adamant does not want to be part of the Local Historic District and feels her family is now portrayed as the villains because they do not want to be included. Bottom line they do not want to be included in the Local Historic District but do agree to save Green and save School House.

Board and Committee Reports

Report of Chair Greco:

PR24-10 - Julie O'Brien

PR24-11- Julie O'Brien

PR24-10 - Select Board

Grants, Gifts & Donations

(Chapter 44: Section 53A Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure)

Jag Grant - \$50,000 - Police Dept

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the Grant seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: Chief Fisher addressed the Board and provided information regarding the Jag Grant

Vote: Voted unanimously to approve

Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education Grant - \$20,000

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the Grant seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: Tracy Blais, Town Administrator, provided information to the Board

Vote: Voted unanimously to approve

Public Hearings: None

New Business:

Tax Bill Insert - COA Flyer

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the COA Flyer as an insert seconded, B. DiMaio

Discussion: Discussion ensued

Vote: Voted unanimously to include

Local Historic District Study Committee update - Lon Hachmeister and Robin Etheridge

Discussion: Lon Hachmeister and Robin Etheridge, Local Historic District Study Committee, displayed a power point presentation, addressed the Select Board, provided an update and answered questions from the Board.

L. Hachmeister explained the committee had put out a survey and solutions to gain more exposure to the survey were discussed

Debra Price expressed that the survey should not be anonymous and should be residents only who fill out.

Russ Barry, 2 Cottage Road, stated he is not in favor of the property restrictions the

Town Administrators Report

Tax Rate Recapitulation

- Our rate has been approved - \$7.68

Resignations

- Samantha Holt, Conservation Agent 11/30
- Erin Thompson, Library Director 1/26
- Interviews/reorganizations are underway

Negotiations with the IAFF, MassCop and the Teamsters are ongoing

FY 2025 Budget Cycle

- Will be underway soon
- The Select Board usually provides the Town Administrator with goals that they would like to see established for the new Fiscal Year.

Free Cash Certification

- The FY 2023 books have been closed and the Department of Revenue has certified our Free Cash \$3,504,712
- Made up primarily of last year's unexpended Free Cash (\$2.2M)
- As the Select Board considers a permanent location for our municipal operations, we will need to look closely at our committed reserves and how you would like to see them allocated in the future

Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash

- Certified at \$398,862

Christmas Tree Lighting – 12/3 @ 3pm

Old Business

None

Correspondence

Letter from Xfinity

Discussion: A. Greco read the Xfinity letter regarding changes to service

Meeting Updates

B. DiMaio discussed a MMA Webinar he attended regarding running an effective meeting; A meeting on November 20th at PITA Hall regarding the Pink House; and a November 21st meeting for a demo of the new COA van

A. Greco mentioned she attended a MMA Fiscal Policy meeting. Topics of discussion included, revenue/operational overrides/ constraints of two and a half

Review of Meeting Minutes

Draft Meeting Minutes 11.14.23

Draft Meeting Minutes 11.20.23

Draft Meeting Minutes 11.21.23

Motion: B. DiMaio moved to approve the 11.14.23 minutes seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted unanimously to approve

Motion: B. DiMaio moved to approve the 11.20.23 minutes seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted unanimously to approve

Motion: B. DiMaio moved to approve the 11.21.23 minutes seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted unanimously to approve

Warrants

PR2410

VW2410

PRVW2411

VW2411

Motion: G. Walker moved to sign the Warrants seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted unanimously to sign

Executive Session: None

Adjourn

Motion: At 8:30 p.m. G. Walker moved to adjourn seconded, B. DiMaio

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Julie O'Brien
Executive Administrator