



Town Council Regular Session

January 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance Led by the Boy Scouts

Chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Cub Scout Pack 201 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Katanna Conley, Council Vice-chair Brian Ward, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Colin White, Councilor Justin Glazebrook.

Excused: Councilor Scott Blackstone.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Town Engineer Lyndsay Butler and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

3. Public Forum

Chair Conley opened the public forum at 7:06 PM.

Chair Conley closed the public forum at 7:06 PM without public comment.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. December 18, 2024

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve the December 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

5. Town Council to Consider Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

a. Carol Grulla - Public Transportation Advisory Committee - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to appoint Carol Grulla to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee with a term expiration of April 2027

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Councilor Dornblut commented that Ms. Gulla has served on a town committee prior and has a transportation business in the area and would make a good fit on the committee.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

6. Report of the Town Manager

a. January 15, 2025

Town Manager Fournier informed the Council that Chris Wolfe resigned from the Budget Committee.

- Bond Public Hearing: Although not strictly required by the town's charter, Bond Counsel recommends noticing and holding the required public hearings on the three bonds before the town's deliberative session. The meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, January 29 at 6 PM in Town Council Chambers.
- Deliberative Session: Deliberative Session is February 1, 2025 at 9:00 AM at the Newmarket Jr/Sr High School.
- Exeter Hospital Paramedic Intercept Services: Exeter Hospital will discontinue its advanced life support paramedic intercept service in September 2025. A working group of fire chiefs is creating a replacement program for paramedic services. After consulting with Chief Malasky, concerns were raised such as location of equipment, response times, and future funding sources. Newmarket has medics who can manage the load, and backup from McGregor in Durham. We will not participate at this time, but will have the option to participate in the future if needed.
- Intersection of NH 108 and Bennett Way/Terrace Drive Safety Audit: The application for the Road Safety Audit (RSA) for the intersection of NH 108 and Bennett Way/Terrace Drive has been approved. The audit will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team consisting of the NHDOT, their engineering consultant, the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC), the Town, and other relevant stakeholders. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for January 14th.
- DRA Sales Ratio: The Assessors reviewed the Department of Revenue Administration's analysis of the sale data. The Town's overall median ratio for 2024 is 96.0%, with a coefficient of dispersion (COD) of 7.58 and a price related differential (PRD) of 1.01. The revaluation appears to have effectively aligned assessments with current market values while maintaining equity.

b. Department Reports - December 2024

Councilor LaMattina thanked the Police Department on the services they provide especially concerning social issues.

Chair Conley commended the Police Department for alerting the public on their Facebook page on rental scams that are currently taking place. She thanked the Community Church for their continued support to local residents. She appreciates the work the Planning Board is doing on the Master Plan and praised the channel 8 staff for doing a good job.

Town Manager Fournier gave a follow-up on the New Road bridge. There is a question on whether or not the Town of Newfields or the State of NH actually

owns the bridge. The bridge will be closed tomorrow 11:00 AM to 3:00 Pm for repairs.

7. **Committee Reports**

Councilor Ward reported on the Conservation Commission/Riverfront Advisory Committee's January 9th joint meeting and the January 13th Budget Committee meeting:

The two committees discussed Schanda Park, and Heron Point and stormwater management. Sue Frick is retiring as the Conservation Commission's recording secretary.

The Budget Committee went over the proposed warrant articles for the town and school.

Councilor LaMattina reported on Community Power:

Community Power rates went to basic and will be the same as eversource; commercial rates vary month to month. The Committee will work with Channel 8 to get the word out on the rates effective February 1st. There may be changes coming down the pike that could make community power obsolete. The proposed changes have not come up as a House Bill yet.

Councilor Dornblut reported on the Public Transportation Committee's January 8th meeting:

The Committee spent much of its time on the transportation chapter of the Master Plan and will probably have it finalized in the next two meetings.

8. **Old Business**

9. **Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading**

- a. Resolution #2024/2025-26 - Replace Bay Rd Forcemain \$5.5M Bond
Town Manager Fournier requests to suspend the rules

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to suspend the rules and vote on the 3 Resolutions without a second reading due to time constraints.

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-26 - Replace Bay Rd Forcemain \$5.5M Bond

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Sean Greig explained that the Bay Road Forcemain is damaged and needs to be replaced.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- b. Resolution #2024/2025-27 - \$100k Bay Rd Forcemain Design
Town Manager Fournier requests to suspend the rules

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-27 - \$100k Bay Rd Forcemain Design

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that the purpose of the bond is for planning and design of the Bay Road Forcemain Replacement.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- c. Resolution #2024/2025-28 - Cushing Rd Lubberland Rd Stormwater Project
Town Manager Fournier requests to suspend the rules

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-28 - Cushing Rd Lubberland Rd Stormwater Project

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Town Engineer Butler explained that this next phase will address the design and construction of stormwater system improvements along Cushing Road and Lubberland Road.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

10. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence to the Council.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Chair Conley reminded folks to attend the public hearing on January 29th at 6:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers, and to attend the Deliberative Session on February 1st at 9:00 AM at the Jr/Sr High School Cafetorium.
- c. Next Meeting
- i. Public Hearing Warrant Articles - January 29, 2025 at 6:00 PM
- ii. Town Council - February 5, 2025

11. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the Meeting at 7:43 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary