

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 11, 2016 (Tuesday)

7:00 PM – TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 2200 EAST MAIN ROAD

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith E. Hamilton, James A. Seveney, Kevin M. Aguiar,  
David M. Gleason, Elizabeth A. Pedro and  
Joseph W. Robicheau  
Members Absent: Michael A. Buddemeyer

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence for our men and women around the world in harm's way.

**SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

1. United States Invasion of Panama (Operation Just Cause) War Era Veterans Appreciation Week Proclamation

President Hamilton read the Proclamation to the public and announced that the Town Council meeting of November 14<sup>th</sup> will begin at 6 pm to honor the Veterans of Operation Just Cause.

**MINUTES**

TCM 9/26/16

Mr. Gleason noted the in the Town Administrator's Report on the DPW Snow Plow Rodeo the participants' last names were omitted and requested they be added.

A motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to approve with correction, the minutes of TCM 9/26/16. All voted in favor of the motion.

**BILLS**

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to pay all just and due bills in the amount of \$378,958.75. All voted in favor of the motion.

**TAX VOUCHERS** - None

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

1. Dog Park Update – Construction was completed last week. A few minor issues will be fixed. Melville Campground will help maintain the Dog Park property next spring.
2. Status of IT Transition – An agreement, in principle, has been made with the School Department on the transfer of help desk issues, network server maintenance, hardware and software issues, Phase I planned maintenance, replacement of IT materials, as well as liaison with IT vendors for the offices at the Town Hall. JKS Technologies, our current contractor will continue to provide the public safety departments, as well as DPW, assistance with help desk issues as well as maintenance, security, and phase II replacement of IT materials. This transition should be completed by March 2017.
3. Report Out On Permitting Process – An update and review was conducted on streamlining the licensing and permitting processes. Another review will be conducted in December. One form is being developed to handle all permits and requests for the convenience of the public. Plans are for this to become an electronic document and assist in making the town hall paperless.
4. Report Out On Quarterly Naval Station Meeting – A community leadership meeting was held and a presentation was given by Woodard and Curran on the Burma Road implementation study. The next meeting will be held on 12/8/2016.
5. Recycling Coordinator Update – We have received the resignation of Sanne Kure-Jensen. Ray Antaya will temporarily be taking over the position.
6. Honor Roll Update – The Honor Roll Committee is moving forward with the new digital display and the current plaques will be on display somewhere in the Town Hall.

## **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### 1. Appointments:

- a. Economic Development Committee (Re-Appt.) – C. Clarke

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to re-appoint Charles Clarke. All voted in favor of the motion.

- b. Tree Commission (Re-Appt.) – H. Schlesinger

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to re-appoint Howard Schlesinger. All voted in favor of the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

OB 1 - Discussion/Action – Source Water Protection Initiative for Newport’s Drinking Water Reservoirs. / J. Robicheau (FR: 9/26/16)

Mr. Robicheau questioned why DEM needed to do more to protect our water system after they had just recently completed a very expensive upgrade. He inquired if any of the Town staff would be attending the meeting on October 12, 2016 as he wanted the Town Council to be kept informed on the status of the reservoirs. Mr. Rainer and Mr. Crosby will be in attendance, and possibly, Mr. Hamilton.

No action was taken.

OB 2 - Request Acceptance of Mare Terrace Extension and Release of Road Bond. / L. Lesinski

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to accept Mare Terrace Extension and to release the road bond. All voted in favor of the motion.

OB 3 - Discussion/Action – Transfer Station Update. / R. Rainer

Mr. Rainer met with J. R. Vinagro to discuss the safety issues associated with the current walk-in containers, especially the construction and demolition bins. Vinagro proposes splitting the cost of new bins with the Town. Mr. Lathrop suggested the Town’s portion of \$7,450.00 could come from the Transfer Station fund balance. Mr. Hamilton questioned whether RIRRC would approve the use of recycling funds to cover this cost.

Ms. Judi Staven, 51 Long Meadow, suggested that the cost of the new bins be taken out of the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund. She said the audit, as of 6/30/16, showed a surplus of \$102,000.00 in the Fund. She recommended that the cost for the traffic study, conducted by BETA, Inc., of approximately \$1,000.00, should also be taken out of the fund balance.

Sanne Kure-Jensen, Recycling Coordinator, stated that the current drawings were not representative of the final design as they were still working on traffic flow issues.

A motion by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to fund the cost of the new C&D bins at \$7,450.00 from the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund.

A motion to amend by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to fund the purchase of the new bins and the traffic study for a total of \$8,500.00 from the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund fund balance. All voted in favor of the motion.

OB 4- Finance Update. / J. Lathrop

Mr. Lathrop reported that in the first three months the Town is in good shape financially. Tax collection is at the highest rate ever. He hopes the Audit will be completed by the second week of December and is hoping for a surplus of \$200,000.

Mr. Hamilton questioned how overtime expenditures look for the Police and Fire Departments.

Mr. Lathrop stated they were not too bad due to more staff in each department. Mr. Lathrop stated he would now be providing a financial update to the Council on a monthly basis.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

NB 1 - Discussion/Action - COPS Grant Announcement. / R. Rainer, J. Lathrop, T. Lee & A. Riley

Mr. Rainer announced that Portsmouth has been awarded a grant by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for 2 officer positions under the 2016 COPS Hiring Program. The estimated amount of federal funds to be awarded over a three-year period is \$250,000. The Town will have to match funds of \$296,900. This would cover the current Student Resource Officer (SRO) at the High School and an additional SRO at the Middle School. Mr. Rainer congratulated Chief Lee and the Police Department on their hard work to secure the COPS grant.

Mr. Lathrop stated the net cost to the Town would be \$56,000.00 over four years, which would only amount to \$14,000.00 per year. The SRO's would be able to alleviate overtime costs in the summer months as they could fill in for officers on vacation and sick leave.

Chief Lee stated that Portsmouth was very fortunate to receive this grant as we have applied for many years and this is the first time we have been awarded one. He believes the reason Portsmouth was awarded the COPS grant this year was because 2 officers were requested. Only so many municipalities across the country receive funding. He indicated the positive advantages, such as security and education, with having an SRO at the Middle School.

Superintendent of Schools, Anna Riley, reiterated the advantages of having two SRO's. The education, security and safety they provide.

Ray Davis, of the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition, indicated that the positive relationship a SRO has with students is the best deterrent for drug prevention.

Mr. Lathrop stated the Town was under no obligation to keep the second SRO position after the initial four-year term. Chief Lee confirmed that only one SRO position was part of the union contract.

Ms. Pedro stated that we would actually be increasing the budget by hiring an additional SRO for the Middle School. That grant is only for a four-year period so in the fifth year the Town would have to absorb the full cost. Mr. Robicheau questioned whether a new Town Council would understand that the second SRO was not a permanent position.

Mr. Seveney stated this was a great opportunity for the Town and thanked Chief Lee and Superintendent Riley for their hard work.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Aguiar, to approve the proposal for the grant and to thank Chief Lee and Superintendent Riley for their hard work.

Mr. Aguiar questioned whether the Town would be able to reapply for an additional grant at the end of the third year to secure future funding of the second SRO. Chief Lee saw no reason they could not apply for another grant at a future date.

Mr. Robicheau wants to ensure a safeguard that the second SRO would be a temporary position.

Mr. Lathrop stated a line item could be created in the budget for a grant funded position with an expiration date. The current SRO is already in the budget and would have no impact until year four.

Ms. Pedro stated that transparency was needed and taxpayers would eventually end up paying for the additional position as the School is just going to ask us for the \$40,000 they will be paying.

Mr. Gleason inquired if the grant dollars could be used for another purpose. Warwick received a grant for a Community Policing Officer.

Judi Staven, 51 Long Meadow, questioned why the grant was applied for without first obtaining Council Approval. Chief Lee stated he was directed by Council to look into grant dollars when they originally requested an SRO. He stated the Police Department applied for several grants.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Aguiar to approve acceptance of the grant for a SRO at the Middle School and to make sure there is a line item in the budget identifying the position as grant funded with an expiration date of 10/3/2020. Also an updated Memorandum of Understanding needs to be executed with the School Department. All voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Robicheau requested a survey on the children be conducted in order to assess the program annually. Chief Lee agreed and stated it was part of the grant process.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Invitation to the Newport County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner, October 30, 2016. / M. Shavers, Committee Chair
2. Request a Resolution in Support of Opposing the Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville, RI. / L. Phaneuf, Town Clerk
3. Request Resolution in Support of the Goals of the Rhode Island Energy Challenge. / M. DeSisto, Barrington Town Clerk
4. Newport and Bristol County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, d/b/a Discover Newport, Independent Auditors' Report March 31, 2016 & 2015. / A. Adkins, Director of Finance and Human Resources

A motion by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to receive all correspondence and place on file. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

October 24 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
November 3 7:00 PM – Matrix Tank Farm Study Presentation – Brief Council  
November 14 6:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
November 28 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to adjourn. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **ADJOURN**

Time: 8:19 pm

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Joanne M. Mower, Town Clerk