

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

June 6, 2023

MINUTES

Present: Shawn Talbot (Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez and Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator)
Also in attendance: Ollie Niemi, Josh Abrams-Accountability for All

5:00 Open Meeting in the Town Office with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:00

5:05 Presentation of American Flag:

Josh Abrams-Accountability for All (YouTube), explained he had come into the Town Office 2 weeks ago doing a First Amendment audit. The purpose of this is to test constitutional rights, in particular the right to photograph and video record in public space. He videoed the encounter and posted it on YouTube. He added he was so pleased with the way the town handled everything, he wanted to donate a flag for the front of the Town Office because ours is in disrepair.

Mr. Abrams commended Mr. Niemi for his service to our country and said people like him are the reason he does these first amendment audits, to honor everything our servicemen fought for.

Ollie will raise the flag on a future date.

5:25 Policies/Procedures/Ordinances:

The first ordinance that was looked at was regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages on Town property from May 30, 1989 and the Open Container Law. The Board made no changes to the consumption part. A fine of \$100 will be added to the Open Container Law. The word "law" will be changed to Ordinance and they will be a combined Ordinance. *NOTE: A fine of up to \$100 will be added*

Debbie will type this for signatures next week.

Jason stated the Maximum Weight Limit Ordinance was rescinded in June 2021.

5:48 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c):

At 5:48 Shawn made a motion to go into non-public session. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 5:57pm, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5:58 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c):

At 5:58 Shawn made a motion to go into non-public session. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 6:48pm, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7:00 Board of Assessors/Tax Collector Discussion:

Present: Jim Coffey, Jeanne Cunningham, Danielle Sikkila, Lisa Carbone

- Shawn stated the Board would like to speak to the Board of Assessors to see what they can do in regards to delinquent tax payers who consistently make payments but will never make any headway and get an idea of the whole process.

Jason added he's never seen a process and doesn't want this to be neglected.

•Lisa explained the lien process...send delinquent tax notice, then an impending lien notice, then the final lien execution. She explained each notice is sent by certified mail, has a final lien date explaining when the lien will be executed and they can't pay with a personal check within 2 weeks of the execution.

Jim Coffey said a property can be deeded after 2 years and 1 day from the lien execution date.

•Jim stated there needs to be a committee formed to look at the tax credits given for the elderly, blind and disability exemptions due to the fact that after the revaluation in 2024, he's assuming there will be a sharp increase in property values. If a resident is receiving a \$50,000 credit currently, if the property value doubles, that \$50,000 won't be adequate. He feels the committee should consist of one Finance Advisory Committee member, one Selectman and one member of the Board of Assessors. Whatever is decided for the exemption would need to be on a warrant article for the Town to vote on. Debbie will contact the FAC to see if anyone would volunteer for this committee. Lou will be the Selectmen's liaison.

•Debbie stated there are a few residents in Town that consistently make a monthly payment toward their taxes but will never get caught up because of the interest and penalties and asked what can be done to help those people specifically.

•Jim said only the Board of Assessors can do an abatement.

•Jim suggested we could do something kind of like a reverse mortgage. We would, in essence, "wipe out" their taxes but when the house was sold, the Town would be reimbursed but the interest would stop. Jeanne said there would have to be a contract in place between the owner and the Town.

•Jason asked if this procedure is strictly between the Board of Assessors and the Tax Collector. Jim said it is but the Selectmen should be aware of these situations.

•Jim added we have very few abatements in this town.

•Shawn said the Board of Selectmen can make a payment arrangement with a taxpayer. Jim agreed and added that is one reason the Selectmen can use NOT to tax deed a property. Every property up for deeding that is refused, must have a form filled out with the reason the Selectmen decided not to deed the property.

•Jim suggested we could also refer people to the Welfare Department if the person is in a poverty situation. Debbie added she had also told people about the DP-8 through the State which would defer someone's taxes if approved.

•Shawn said this conversation cleared up a lot of things from the Selectmen's point of view. He asked Lisa to forward the list of properties which would be scheduled for deeding. He would like to go over this list every January and July. Debbie said the list they have is all of the properties eligible for tax deeding. Any liens executed in 2020 can't be deeded for that particular year because the liens weren't executed properly due to an error by the company we use for lien execution.

•Jim said there are only a few reasons the Selectmen can refuse to deed a property. One of them is the property would be a liability to the Town, another is they have a payment arrangement set up.

•Danielle stated the whole financial picture needs to be seen. Sometimes people need to realize they can't afford to stay in their homes. We don't want to start a trend of giving things for free because it just invites people to think they can get something for nothing.

•Danielle and Jim agreed the person should be vetted by the Welfare Department.

•The Board of Assessors will take a look at the list to give the Selectmen some input.

Jeanne asked why there is a sign on the gate at the Transfer Station says it closes at 2:45 when it was always 3:00. Debbie responded it was changed a long time ago and is also posted on the website. The reason is because the budget only allows the employees to work 8 hours. If they wait until 3:00, it will go over the budget because it takes 15-30 minutes to close out all of the cash, containers, etc. and lock up. Jason added we are trying to hire a 3rd person and hopefully be able to be open on a Wednesday afternoon.

8:15 Round Table Discussion:

•Shawn asked if the monthly budget reports are being sent to the Department Heads. Debbie said Mindy is working on that with BMSI. In the meantime, Debbie is printing/emailing them.

•Jason said he had been speaking to the resident who was arrested by the governor. He would like to have her tell her story at a BOS meeting.

•Jason also said it was great to see residents and students making their voices heard at the school board meeting.

- Jason said he is still waiting to hear back from the radio controlled plane club.
- Shawn asked the board to review the year to date budget for the next meeting on June 13th. He also added we will continue reviewing the policies and ordinances at each of the next few meetings.

At 8:48, Jason made a motion to adjourn. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Deaton
Town Administrator

Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:



TOWN OF NEW IPSWICH

New Hampshire

03071

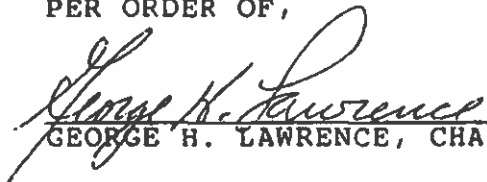
Telephone 603-878-2772

TOWN ORDINANCE

ON TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1989, AT 9:00 PM, THE NEW IPSWICH BOARD OF SELECTMEN VOTED TO ENACT THE FOLLOWING TOWN ORDINANCE:

THERE SHALL BE NO CONSUMPTION OF ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON OR IN ANY TOWN PROPERTY, TOWN BUILDINGS AND ANY TOWN VEHICLE. VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL RESULT IN A FINE UP TO \$100.00 FOR EACH OFFENSE. THE ABOVE IS PURSUANT TO R.S.A. 31:39. VOTE WAS 2 - 0 WITH ONE MEMBER ABSENT.

PER ORDER OF,


GEORGE H. LAWRENCE, CHAIRMAN

GEORGE K. MAKI

TRUE COPY ATTEST

LUCY LEMONS: 


JAMES E. COFFEY

jmc

Posted:

TOWN OF NEW IPSWICH

OPEN CONTAINER ~~LAW~~ ORDINANCE

No person shall consume any alcoholic beverage or possess any open container thereof, as defined by RSA 175:1, while in any vehicle or boat upon a public highway, public waterway, sidewalk, public common, or any public owned property within the township of New Ipswich, New Hampshire.

Violation of this \$100 fine ?

amended 6/6/23

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

If any portion of this ordinance shall be found unconstitutional the remainder shall remain in effect.