

## **Village of Newport Regular Meeting**

**August 19, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Village of Newport was called to order on August 19, 2024 @ 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Butler with the following members present:

Mayor – Marc Butler  
Trustee – Steven Woods

Maureen Damone (Clerk), Richard foster (Deputy Clerk), Herm Harris (Streets), George Farley (Codes & Zoning), Christine Lynch (ZBA Secretary)

Absent: Trustee Tom Roberts

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments (not to exceed 30 minutes): Gregory Lang of West Street advised that he met yesterday with Tom Roberts regarding 7397 West Street, where there was a garage fire. He asked the status and if there was a Codes report. There are open questions about actions taken or not taken. Law enforcement was not there. Mayor Butler asked the Fire Chief about it, but there was no response as of the time of the meeting, and he will make a formal request. An effort will also be made by the Village to clean up that area.

Mr. Lang asked if there was a business operating there with scrap metal because it was not just a residence. He advised that people lived in the garage which burned down, and there is no septic there. The owners advised they want to rebuild the garage with living quarters, and he wants to know the codes, etc. He asked what could be done about the business aspect. The Village laws state that no building can be changed, or change the use, without a permit. George Farley stated that a fine on that house was issued. A Demolition Permit was issued, but there is no permit yet for reconstruction.

A question was also raised, in light of the fact that there is no longer a Village Justice, what authority the Town Justice has over the Village and where do Village fines go, to the Village or the Town? Trustee Woods stated the Village gets the fines back from the Town. Mayor Butler said he would speak with Judge Harris and get questions answered.

Ralph of the ZBA asked if there can be an ordinance about the tracks not using engine breaks on North Street.

Minutes: Trustee Woods made a motion to accept the Minutes from last month's meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Butler.

Mayor's Report:

1. The Village will be changing the water rates. They had been operating at a deficit for quite some time, and for months they have been wrestling with changing the rates to meet those costs. The last rate increase was in 2007. Some adjustments were made since the water meeting.

This quarter will have the old rates; the new rates will begin the following quarter, and a letter went out with the new rates and when they will begin. Village of Newport Fall 2024 Newsletter with new water rates went out to all citizens, and a copy is attached. A new company will do the billing and notify the Village of non-payments. Shut-offs will be made for non-payments.

2. Mayor Butler thanked Herm and Travis for their hard work during the recent storms.
3. A discussion was had to have a Public Hearing on September 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss making a law concerning maintaining one's property. After research and discussions with the Village Attorney, a proposal will be made that, after a 10-day notice is sent to a resident, the Village can clean up a property full of unsightly weeds, overgrown grass, etc., charging the owner \$50/hour. IF this amount is not paid, it will be applied to their tax bill.

#### Department Reports:

Historical

Water – see Report submitted

Streets – see Report submitted

ZBA:

1. Christine Lynch sent a letter to the Board (copy attached to Minutes). They want to amend the laws to allow breweries in the Village. This will require a public hearing and a Plan Review. Mayor Butler requested that this be scheduled for September 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Woods seconded.
2. The Town of Webb will be giving a class on Zoning, and Christine needs a check by September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Village will pay for a maximum of two people to attend this class.

Planning

Codes/Zoning Officer – see Report submitted

Fire

Recreation

Treasurer – see Report submitted by Richard Foster

Library

Resolution No. 2024-9 Adopting New Water Rates

Motion made by Mayor Butler; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Woods.

Opposed: None

Adjournment: Mayor Butler requested an adjournment of the meeting at 7:39 p.m., seconded by Trustee Woods.

Vouchers 37-66 were approved for payment