

City Manager..... (802) 334-5136  
City Clerk / Treasurer..... 334-2112  
Public Works..... 334-2124  
Zoning Adm. / Assessor..... 334-6992  
Recreation / Parks..... 334-6345  
Fax..... 334-5632



City of Newport  
222 Main Street  
Newport, Vermont 05855  
[www.newportvermont.org](http://www.newportvermont.org)

**Newport City Council Meeting**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, January 20, 2020, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Council Room**

City Council: Paul Monette, Mayor  
Julie Raboin, President  
Kevin Charboneau  
Dan Ross  
Melissa Pettersson

Laura Dolgin, City Manager  
James D. Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer

1. Call the Regular Council Meeting to Order
2. Approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2020
3. Comments by Members of the Public
4. Executive Session for the Fire Chief Interview, 1 VSA 313(a)(3)
5. Appointment of Fire Chief, Vote
6. Newport City Elementary School Budget Presentation, Elaine Collins, Principal of NCES
7. E911 Update - Charles Elliott, Zoning Administrator, Vote
8. Holiday Discussion
9. New Business
10. Old Business
11. Set next meeting: Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting: February 3, 2020
12. Adjourn

**Newport City Council Meeting Participation Guidelines**

Newport City Council meetings are for the purpose of allowing Council members to conduct City business. Distinct from public hearings or town meetings, City Council meetings are held in public, but are not meetings of the public. City Council meetings are the only time the City Council members have to discuss, deliberate and decide upon City matters. In an effort to conduct an orderly and efficient meetings, the Mayor kindly

requests your cooperation and compliance with the following guidelines per the policy adopted on December 21, 2015 and ratified on January 23, 2017, and adopted again on April 1, 2019:

1. Please be respectful of each other, Council members, city staff, and the public.
2. Please raise your hand to be recognized by the Mayor. Once recognized, please state your name and address or affiliation.
3. Please address only the Mayor and not members of the public, staff, or presenters.
4. Please abide by any time limits. Time limits will be used to insure everyone is heard and that there is sufficient time for the Council to complete their agenda within a reasonable timeframe.
5. The Mayor will make a reasonable effort to allow everyone to speak once before speakers address the Council a second time per the limits adopted on January 23, 2017.
6. Once public comment has been heard, discussion will be limited to the City Council members.
7. Please do not interrupt or mock other speakers or otherwise exhibit disruptive behavior during the City Council meeting.
8. Please do not repeat the points made by others, except to indicate agreement or disagreement with other views.
9. Please use the hallway for side conversation. It is difficult to hear speaker remarks when side conversations are occurring in the Council Chamber.
10. Presentations to the Council are not open to public comment. However, per the policy adopted on December 21, 2015, matters on the agenda requiring a vote are open to public comment immediately prior to the Council vote.
11. Individuals who do not abide by these procedures will be asked to leave the Council Chamber.

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## Council Minutes

January 6, 2020

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Julie Raboin, Council Members, Melissa Pettersson, Kevin Charboneau and Daniel Ross, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Chief Seth DiSanto, Chief Jamie LeClair, PW Director Thomas Bernier, Becky Therrien, Michael Welch, Conrad Bellavance, Dan Pellerin, Steve Wright, Woodman Page, Robert Currier, Charles Elliott, Robert Gosselin, Daniel Pickering, members of the Press and Public. Rec. Director Jessica Booth was absent.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pettersson moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the minutes of December 23, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to approve the minutes of December 30, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried unanimously.

### Comments by the Public

Laurie Grimm read a letter about the ATV vote scheduled on January 14, 2020.

Anne Chiarello would like the City to adopt Martin Luther King Day as one of its holidays.

Robert Currier gave a statement in support of the City Landscaper position.

### FY20-21 Budget Vote

Ms. Pettersson moved to approve the FY 20-21 Budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau.

Both Ms. Raboin and Mr. Ross stated they were against the proposed 3% increase for the non-union staff. Ms. Raboin requested an executive session to discuss a certain employees' salaries. Mr. Charboneau withdrew his second and Ms. Pettersson withdrew her motion. Ms. Raboin moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, Ms. Raboin and Mr. Ross voted in favor, Ms. Pettersson and Mr. Charboneau voted against the motion. Mayor Monette voted no to break

the tie, motion failed. Mayor Monette noted the council had not received a request from a Department Head or anyone else to discuss their salary.

Ms. Petterson moved to approve the FY20-21 as presented, seconded by Mr. Charboneau. Ms. Raboin and Mr. Ross voted no on the motion, Ms. Petterson and Mr. Charboneau voted in favor of the motion, Mayor Monette voted in favor, motion carried.

#### **Authorize the City Attorney to Conduct the next Tax Sale**

Ms. Petterson moved to authorize the City Attorney to conduct the next Tax Sale. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Presentation of the City Plan**

Robert Currier presented the City Council with the proposed City Plan for their review. The first Public Hearing on the plan will be February 10, 2020. The potential date for the second hearing will be March 2, 2020.

#### **Planning Commission Appointment**

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Daniel Pickering to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Recreation Committee Appointment**

Ms. Petterson moved to appoint Lori Wells to the Recreation Committee. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Bayview St. & Summer St. Parking Ordinance**

Some new ideas were brought up by Lynnette Johnson and Jennifer Bernier who are residents of these two streets respectively. The Ordinance was set aside for further review by the City Staff.

#### **New Business**

None.

#### **Old Business**

None.

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**Next Meeting Date**

January 20, 2020

**Adjournment**

Ms. Raboin moved to adjourn at 8:06 PM. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Attested; \_\_\_\_\_ This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of January 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

1-14-20

Dear Council Members,

It has been my privilege to be the principal at Newport City Elementary School. This is my fourth year there. Our work as a school system makes a real and measurable impact upon the lives of our students every day.

From the perspective of a person who isn't working in education every day, it must seem as though schools keep getting more and more expensive for fewer children. Even from my perspective, and I've been working in schools for 30 years in a variety of roles, that is in fact true. School is getting more expensive.

As you know from other conversations that we've had over the last four years, our job in education is becoming increasingly difficult. The effects of drug addiction, trauma, and other societal issues are creating pressure on schools. The world is a different place than it was even ten years ago, and it's affecting our children.

At the same time, our community's resources are dwindling: the Department of Children and Families, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, and other area agencies are struggling to keep positions funded or filled. When we refer a student to receive outside services, we often are told it may be many months or even a year for that student to receive the help they may need immediately. Subsequently, this is more pressure on schools to provide mental health supports and services for students because they won't get them anywhere else. There's a practical aspect to this: if we have students who are explosive or in crisis, no one learns nor is it practical or fiscally responsible to send every student who is explosive or in crisis to an alternative educational placement. Because of this, we have to have positions that were unheard of even ten years ago, like behavior specialists, behavior team assistants, school psychologists, home-to-school coordinators, two guidance counselors, resolution room manager, and a social-emotional learning coach. All of this comes at a cost, but in our new reality, these are necessary costs.

Based on our current scope and intensity of need, as a community, there are some things we should advocate for at the state level. Our current funding system doesn't give any more weight to students who are on an IEP or who live in poverty. There was a recent study done for the Agency of Education that states both of those things should be given a greater weight. And not just poverty, but poverty that is pervasive. In order for our students to perform as well as a student who isn't living with any of the mitigating factors that our students have, they need more supports. Think about a student who is deemed homeless, is living in poverty, may not have enough to eat, and has one or both parents who are struggling with addiction. Often this child doesn't come to school ready to learn. She may need food, clothes, and nurturing in order to be ready to access her education. That child's everyday reality is much different than a child who has a stable home environment where all of their basic needs are met. Because we have more students who live in the first scenario, our system has to be

responsive to meet those needs. In no way am I trying to blame people who are currently experiencing a lot of challenges for our current budgeting issues. What I am saying is that because we have many more people who are experiencing these kinds of problems, the effects of that on our children can't be ignored. And these supports come at a cost.

Last year when I came to this council, we had a decrease in spending and a decrease in tax rate. I'm sorry to say that this isn't the case this year. Although the chart that I've provided you with is still a draft because the school board hasn't adopted a budget yet, this is likely to be pretty close to what we will be asking voters to approve on Town Meeting Day. As a mother who raised six children on a single income, I have always had a mindset of being fiscally austere and I think I've carried that mindset with me into administering a school's budget. That being said, because we've worked really hard to develop a system that works to meet the needs of students, our educational spending overall is up about 11.5%. Our equalized pupil count is down by about 20 students. Those two things have created a perfect storm for an increase of 18% per equalized pupil. This is the number that people will see on their ballot when they are voting in a budget. All of those numbers are staggering. As a taxpayer myself, I want to know how that boils down to an impact on my tax bill. The NCES impact on the tax bill for voters will be 0.0648 cents. For a \$100,000 home, this is an increase of \$64.80 for the year. At this point, I can't speak to the impact of the Junior High or High School because their budgets haven't been approved.

There are several reasons for our increases that are beyond our control:

\*You may have heard about the new contracts that were recently settled through the negotiations process. Salaries and benefits have increased \$432,080.76 from one year to another.

\*With increased need across the SU, our portion of the special services assessment has increased \$209,796.00. Next year's projected special services assessment for our school will be \$658,188.00. Folded into this assessment are students who are at alternative educational placements, special education teachers, behavior specialists and assistants, and the neurodevelopmental team.

\*Our equalized pupils are down and the common level of appraisal at the city is also down slightly. These both impact the tax rate negatively.

This past fall when I brought the first round of budget to the board, we were at nearly a 25% increase which would have resulted in a 0.15 cent increase to voters. Obviously, we couldn't bring that budget forward. We have made cuts to mitigate some of this for taxpayers: cutting a math coach position, finance assistant position, 6 paraeducator positions, and several other smaller cuts (i.e. cutting \$15,000 the amount of books for the year for example). Currently, with our 0.648 increase, I believe this is as low as we can possibly go without directly impacting services and programming for our most vulnerable and neediest students.

As part of my preparation for this meeting, I looked at historical spending to see how what we are proposing to spend compares to prior years. In fact, in 2016 – 2017, the school's portion of

the tax rate was more than 0.06 cents higher than what is currently being proposed. Our spending over the last several years that I have been at NCES has been significantly lower than that. This year has been an atypically difficult budgeting year.

Our school system continues to work hard to build strong working relationships with community stakeholders and to keep the line of communication open with everyone involved, including taxpayers. We will be holding an informational meeting for taxpayers before the actual vote to make sure that people in the community are well informed and have an opportunity to have any questions about the budget answered satisfactorily. I will have more detailed information about the approved budget available at that meeting for people to take a look at. Our informational meeting will be on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the NCES library. If you unable to attend the informational meeting, please feel free to contact me with your questions. I am happy to answer any of your questions or listen to any of your concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with Newport City's children. It is a privilege and honor.

Sincerely,

Elaine Collins, Principal

NEWPORT CITY TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ESTIMATED HOMESTEAD TAX RATE FY2021

DRAFT BUDGET

ESTIMATED TAX RATES FY2021 WITH VARIANCE TO FY2020 TAX RATES	FY2020	FY2021 ESTIMATE	VARIANCE	VARIANCE
TOTAL BUDGET	\$5,407,338.05	\$6,182,412.84	\$ 775,075	14.33%
LOCAL REVENUES	\$612,409.48	\$833,135.33	\$ 220,726	36.04%
EDUCATION SPENDING	\$4,794,928.57	\$5,349,277.51	\$ 554,349	11.56%
EQUALIZED PUPILS @ NEWPORT CITY SCHOOL	355.74	335.18	(20.56)	-5.78%
EDUCATION SPENDING PER EQ PUPIL	\$ 13,479	\$ 15,959	\$ 2,481	18.40%
DOLLAR EQUIVALENT YIELD	\$ 10,648	\$ 10,883	\$ 235	2.21%
TAX RATE	\$ 1.2658	\$ 1.4665	\$ 0.2006	15.85%
EQUALIZED PUPIL PERCENTAGE	55.19%	51.67%	-3.52%	-6.38%
TAX RATE NEWPORT CITY SCHOOL	\$ 0.6986	\$ 0.7577	\$ 0.0591	8.46%
COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL	97.29%	96.78%	-0.51%	-0.52%
HOMESTEAD TAX RATE	\$ 0.72	\$ 0.7829	\$ 0.0648	9.03%
AMOUNT REQUIRED TO CHANGE TAX RATE				
\$0.01				

NEWPORT CITY TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ESTIMATED HOMESTEAD TAX RATE FY2021

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Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

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## Council agenda

1 message

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Charles Elliott <charles.elliott@newportvermont.org>

Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 3:26 PM

To: Paul Monette <Paul.Monette@newportvermont.org>, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

Paul

May I have a few minutes at the Council on Monday 1/20/20.

I am in the very final stages of completing the changes at Camp Elizabeth Way and Paddock Lane. A portion of Paddock Lane will change to Lakeside lane. Camp Elizabeth Way will terminate at the junction with Hayes Road and Hayes Road will extend out to Bigelow Bluff Road. Standard procedure is for the Council to approve the final changes before they are implemented.

--

Charles Elliott, Zoning Administrator  
222 Main Street,  
Newport, VT 05855  
802-334-6992  
charles.elliott@newportvermont.org

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January 16, 2020

Postmaster  
Newport Post Office  
59 Coventry Road  
Newport, VT 05855

Dear Postmaster,

Re: Road name changes and 911 renumbering

Due to road changes over time, two loop roads in the city became blocked in the middle preventing access to all residence on the roads from either end. This has caused confusion and delays for emergency responders. For this reason, we have changed names for two small sections of roads. A description of 911 number changes are below and a map of each change is attached.

**Camp Elizabeth Way:**

As shown on the map Hayes Road is a short spur road off from Camp Elizabeth Way. Hayes will now continue at the junction with Camp Elizabeth Way to the Junction with Bigelow Bluff Road. Camp Elizabeth Way will now terminate at the Hayes Road junction.

The two properties now adjacent to Hayes Road will be given new 911 numbers for Hayes Road.

The following properties will be renumbered;

59 Camp Elizabeth Way will change to 25 Hayes Road,

83 Camp Elizabeth Way will change to 27 Hayes Road,

78 Camp Elizabeth Way will be deleted, this building was torn down and not replaced.

Note: The house at 27 Hayes Road (83 Camp Elizabeth Way) and the garage at 25 Hayes Road (59 Camp Elizabeth Way) share a common driveway.

All other properties on Camp Elizabeth Way will retain their existing 911 addresses.

Paddock Lane:

Paddock Lane originated as a loop from Bluff Road (west end) to Racetrack road on its eastern end. The section of road in the middle is swampy and was rarely used. It now has grown up to trees, etc. and has become unusable. To resolve the confusion of two dead end streets with one name, we are renaming the eastern end of the road "Lakeside Lane". The 911 address changes are listed below and depicted on the attached map.

The following properties will be renumbered.

195 Paddock Lane becomes 12 Lakeside Lane,

166 Paddock Lane becomes 29 Lakeside Lane",

167 Paddock Lane becomes 30 Lakeside Lane,

159 Paddock Lane becomes 42 Lakeside Lane.

153 Paddock Lane becomes 56 Lakeside Lane.

All the affected properties are vacation homes. All the owners live out of state which is where their home and business addresses are. For this reason, I do not believe these changes will have any significant impact on the post office daily operations.

If you have any questions or problems, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Elliott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Elliott, Zoning Admin. and 911 Numbering Coordinator  
(802) 334-6992



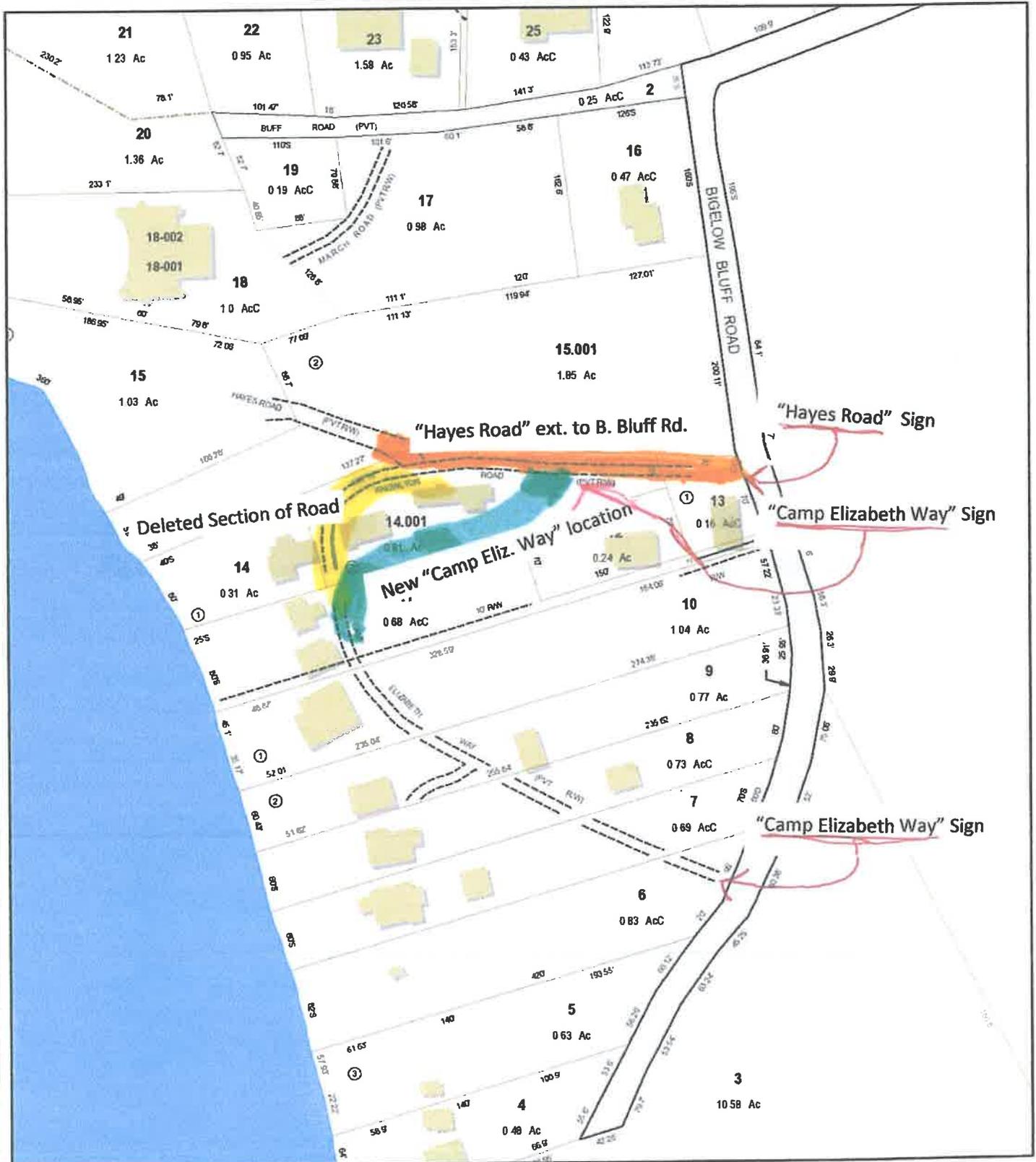
# Camp Eliz. Way & Hayes Road

Newport City, VT

1 inch = 133 Feet



November 26, 2019



Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.

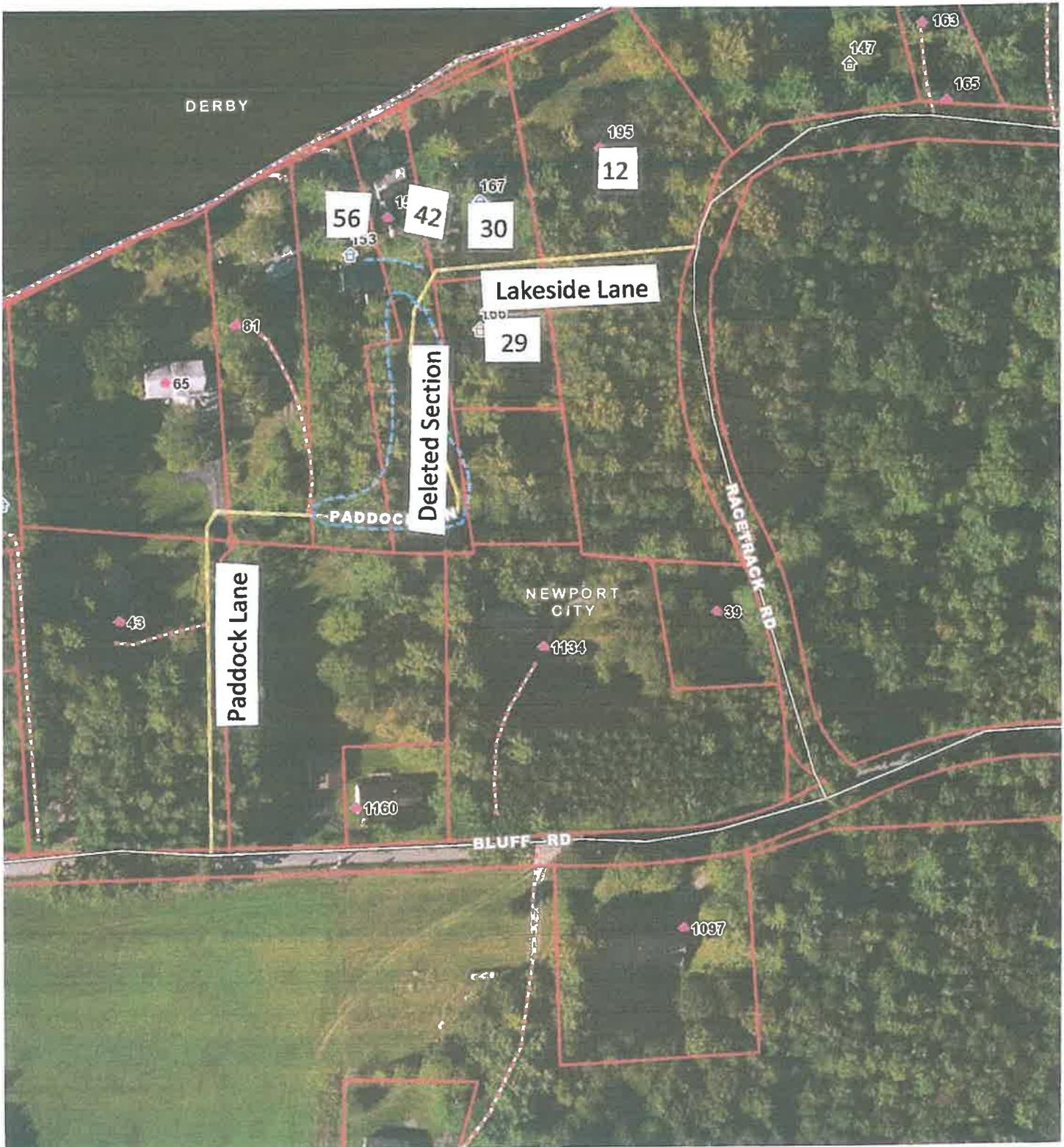
1-15-2020

Paddock Lane Change to Lakeside Lane



# E9-1-1 Viewer

e911.vermont.gov/e911viewer



0.05 0 0.02 0.05

Miles

August 4, 2015



DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. E911 and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map.



EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

For Non-Profit Organizations

TO: USDA Rural Development  
Brent Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
Montpelier Area Office \_\_\_\_  
P O Box 249 \_\_\_\_\_  
Montpelier, VT 05601 \_\_\_\_

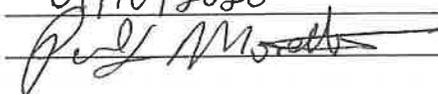
SUBJECT: Community Support for Community Facility Application to  
USDA Rural Development

Please be advised the Town/City of Newport, VT supports the application which has been submitted to USDA Rural Development by Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. (NEKLS) (applicant) for (brief description of project):

Expansion of Ready, Set, Grow Childcare to include a year round school age (5 - 12 yrs old) program and expansion of the Newport Early Childhood Center to include a Parent Child Center in Collaboration with Northeast Community Action (NEKCA).

The applicant/project will provide needed services to the community and is not expected to have an adverse impact on other facilities providing similar services or on services provided directly by our community (such as police, fire, water, sewer, educational, transportation, etc.).

Provision of this certificate in no way commits our community to provide financial support for the proposed project.

Name: Paul L Monette  
Title: Mayor City of Newport  
Date: 01/10/2020  
Signature: 

*This document should be executed by an authorized official of the governing body of the community in which the proposed facility to be financed is located.*



## Newport City Downtown Development

DiscoverNewportVT.com

January 16, 2020

In recent weeks there has been much discussion in our community about the pros and cons of the recent City of Newport Ordinance #120 regulating All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use on Town Highways approved by the City Council on October 21, 2019.

Newport City Downtown Development issues the following statement:

*The City of Newport Ordinance #120 Regulating ALL – Terrain Vehicle Use on Town Highways also known as the 'ATV ordinance' was approved by the City Council on October 21, 2019 for a trial period commencing May 2020 to October 2020. The trial period outlined in the approved motion provides a reasonable approach and a measured way to assess the benefits to our Downtown. The NCDD Board considers this type of exploration in alignment with our efforts to build Newport's Outdoor Recreation Economy."*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ATV ridership is proven to provide substantial positive economic benefits to many communities across the country. However, it is important for Newport to assess the experience for ourselves in our own community. NCDD therefore is willing and offers to set up an independent ATV Study Committee charged with developing measurable standards to assess the impact of ATVs on City streets during the trial period. A report will be generated based on these standards, along with fact finding and conclusions from this information. When the committee has reached consensus on its findings and conclusions it will develop a set of recommendations. The Committee will present both the full study report and the recommendations to the City Council at the end of the trial period.

NCDD suggests that the ATV Study Committee be comprised of representatives from each of the following groups: two Newport City businesses, two resident representatives from Third St. who live on the designated ATV route, two resident representatives from Pleasant Street who live on the designated route, two members from the Recreation Committee, the Newport City Police, two members from the Borderline Ridge Riders ATV Club, and NVDA, with NCDD as facilitator. The NCDD Board believes that a local committee comprised of people directly impacted by the ordinance is the best way to generate a credible report.

NCDD has been working for several years to build a foundation for Newport's Outdoor Recreation Economy. This is based on the community's support to build on Newport's incredible natural assets. This theme has been stated repeatedly at every community meeting about how to develop Newport. Although the organization has not worked directly with ATV ridership or the creation of Ordinance #120, we are pleased to see that outdoor recreation groups like snowmobilers and ATV riders are beginning to approach the City with opportunities to be part of this economic development strategy. We are likewise pleased to see that the City leadership is open and willing to try out these opportunities on a limited basis in order to gauge the impact on the City.

As the organization that holds the Downtown Designation and represents the interests of the community in developing Newport's future, NCDD has the capacity to facilitate and support the ATV Study Committee with the goal of generating a quality fact-based report and recommendations to the City Council at the end of the trial period in October. Interested candidates who meet the study committee criteria, should contact NCDD Economic Development Specialist Jim Davis at 334-0599 or email him at [newportdowntowndevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:newportdowntowndevelopment@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Conrad Bellavance", written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Conrad Bellavance

Board of Directors

Newport City Downtown Development