

## **Council Minutes**

**March 16, 2026**

A duly warned meeting of the Newport city council was held on Monday, March 16, 2026 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase, Council President Carter Finegan, Council Members John Monette, Sharon Pare', Andrew Touchette, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, Financial and Office Administrator Kari Schulze, PW Director Tom Bernier, Zoning Administrator Francis Cheney, Dave LaForce, Emily Smart, Brian Pine, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Ufford-Chase called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

### **Additions/Deletions**

None

### **Consent Agenda, Minutes of 3/9/2026, Liquor Licenses**

Mr. Monette moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

### **Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

Pam Ladds stated this would be her last meeting filming for NEK-TV. She felt the council had sent a message by moving her to the back of the room without letting her know.

### **Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. sec. 313(a)(3) regarding Real Estate Negotiations**

Ms. Carter moved to enter executive Session as per 1 V.S.A. sec 313(a) (3) for the purpose of receiving as update from city staff, Newport Downtown Development and White and Burke regarding sensitive real estate negotiations and related efforts to secure appropriate funding for potential real estate transactions and invite Brain Pine, Dave LaForce, Kari Schulze and Frank Cheney into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Ms. Finegan moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Ms. Pare', motion carried.

No action.

### **Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. sec 313(a) (3) for Six Month Evaluation of Kari Schulze**

Mr. Touchette moved to enter executive session per 1 V.S.A./ sec 313(a) (3) for the purpose of carrying out a six month evaluation of Kari Schulze and invite Kari into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

Mr. Monette moved to come out of Executive session. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

No action

Mr. Touchette moved that after a glowing review that the council approve her salary increase as proposed. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

### **NDD Survey Results Presentation**

Dave LaForce and Emily Smart reviewed that results of the survey with the council and public.

### **Review Truck Bids (attached)**

Public Works Director Tom Bernier reviewed Truck Bids with the council. Mr. Touchette moved to approve the recommended purchase of the 2026 Freightliner from Charlebois Inc. for \$123,759. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

### **Task Force Reports**

Water and Sewer, no report.

Financial Reporting and Fiscal Practices, no report.

City Manager Search Committee, meeting with Dominic Cloud by the end of the month.

Fire Department Strategic Planning, no report

### **New Business**

Ms. Finegan is reaching Water Quality regarding leachate.

### **Old Business**

New Credit Cards will arrive tomorrow.

Two bids have been received for the annual audit.

**Next Meeting Date**

Ms. Finegan moved to set the next meeting for April 6, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Touchette moved to adjourn at 8:23 pm. Seconded by Ms. Pare', motion carried.

Attested James Johnson this 6<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2026

[Signature] Mayor

City Manager ..... (802) 334-5136  
334-3891  
City Clerk/Treasurer ..... 334-2112  
334-3892  
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

3/13/2026

Dear, Rick Ufford-Chase/Mayor/City Council

I am writing to request authorization to accept the bid from Charlebois Inc. for 2026 Freightliner M2 106 Plus in the amount of \$123,759.

While we currently have the budget to replace our 2015 Freightliner M2-106, I recommend instead removing our 2017 International 7400 from the fleet. Although the International is newer, it has required \$58,660 in repairs—primarily due to electrical and emissions issues—compared to \$30,532.27 for the 2015 Freightliner. Furthermore, Freightliner software allows for third-party maintenance, whereas International vehicles require dealership service. Replacing this unit would also standardize our fleet, as 2017 International is currently our only non-Freightliner dump truck.

We received two bids that meet city specifications:

- Charlebois Inc.: 2026 Freightliner M2 106 Plus (\$123,759)
- Allegiance Trucks: 2027 International HV507 (\$113,950)

Despite the \$9,809 price difference, the long-term maintenance data supports the Freightliner as the more cost-effective option. I have attached the repair spreadsheets for both the 2015 Freightliner and the 2017 International for your review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas L. Bernier  
Public Works Director

**2017 International 7400**

04/13/16 PW 10/12/16	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	\$71,704 New Cab & Chassis \$38,615 Body, Plow & Sander \$110,319	#16	Clarks Truck Center H.P. Fairfield	\$1,792
11/10/16 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	4 New Winter Tires	#16	Vianor	\$197.60
11/10/16 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Driver Seat Rest Arm Right & Left	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$407.00
12/07/17 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Charlynn Pump	#16	SouthBay	\$160.34
07/24/18 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Air Cylinder	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$350.70
01/07/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Injector Kit & Hardware	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$717.62
10/19/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Mirror	#16	Pepins	\$674.12
10/21/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Complete Rear Spring Ass.	#16	Pepins	\$237.54
10/03/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Replace Complete Spring Assmbly	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$587.97
10/31/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Sensor, AMM	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$221.81
12/26/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Sensor, 7G	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$1,095.02
12/30/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Core Deposit Pump, Doser	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$566.05
12/26/19 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Dignosotic, ACM Failed/Programming	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$189.21
02/21/20 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Air Brake Chamber	#16	SouthBay	\$563.21
03/02/20 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Sensor, NIT & Core Deposit	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$341.45
03/12/20 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	G.E.M Cont	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$114.14
03/30/20 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Bolt, M8-1	#16	Derby Tire	\$1,265.75
10/29/20 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	6 New Tires, Mount and Balance	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$508.57
01/06/21 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Tensioner T	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$218.54
01/25/21 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Support, Cable Assy, Nuts	#16	Clarks Truck Center	\$532.77
02/03/21 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Injector, D Gaskets, Clamps	#16	Pepins	\$1,238.24
12/06/21 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Complete IH Rear Leaf Spring	#16	Allegiance	\$1,238.24
09/08/22 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Ex. Manifold, Engine Cooler	#16	Allegiance	\$12,222.53
09/08/22 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Cooler Kit, Manifold labor	#16	Allegiance	\$1,085.37
10/10/23 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Step Fuel Tank Support	#16	Allegiance	\$1,299.51
09/08/22 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Pipe Turbo Welded Asy.	#16	Allegiance	\$1,492.79
09/08/22 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Controlled Renewed Electronic Pod	#16	Allegiance	\$146.25
09/08/22 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Swith Power Morror	#16	Allegiance	\$16,270.15
10/10/23 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Complete Exhaust System	#16	Allegiance	\$4,714.55
08/13/24 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Engine Repair, Aftertreatment	#16	Allegiance	\$693.40
10/04/24 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Air Brakes, Chambers 2	#16	SouthBay	\$2,064.13
12/09/24 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Injector Doser, Pump Doser	#16	Allegiance	\$861.90
12/27/24 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Diagnostic 4-Hours	#16	Allegiance	\$255.00
01/17/25 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Transmission Repair Diagnostic	#16	Allegiance	\$1,309.43
01/17/25 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	TCM - TCM Core	#16	Allegiance	\$3,027.50
02/03/25 PW	2017 International 7400	3HAWDSTR7HL650054	Engine Repair, Electrical Issue	#16	Allegiance	\$58,660

**Current Mileage 53,888**

**2015 Freightliner M2-106**

03/21/14 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Charlebois Inc.	#10			
11/24/14			\$38,132	Viking Cives Inc.	#10			
			\$113,985					
10/22/14 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	4 11/R22.5 Oliver Blizzard Deep	#10	Summer Tire	\$1,685.80	
01/06/17 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	4 11/R22.5 Oliver Blizzard Deep	#10	Summer Tire	\$1,685.80	
02/22/17 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Cushion Black Cordura	#10	Charlebois	\$153.88	
03/21/17 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Leaking Radiator Hoses, Labor	#10	Charlebois	\$2,226.52	
03/10/17 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Both rear Spring Replacement	#10	Pepins	\$2,014.70	
07/13/18 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	2 11R22.5 Double Coin RR150 LRH	#10	Vianor	\$820.00	
01/25/19 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Complete Front Springs & Hardware	#10	Pepins	\$597.35	
08/27/19 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Emmissions, Code, wiring Issues	#10	Charlebois	\$5,112.80	
12/16/19 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	1 Overload Spring, U Bolt	#10	Pepins	\$222.32	
12/16/19 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Complete Front Springs, 1 Rear Spring	#10	HP Fairfield	\$496.24	
02/10/20 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Sensor Nitrogen Oxid KR24	#10	Charlebois	\$733.66	
10/20/20 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	SS 1200 Plus Repl-Kit	#10	SouthBay	\$695.00	
11/05/20 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Radiator & Fittings	#10	Charlebois	\$1,251.94	
11/05/20 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Air Dyer Kit & Valve	#10	SouthBay	\$711.98	
03/08/21 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	DFR Pump, PTO TMW Hyd	#10	Viking	\$1,987.33	
12/13/21 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Battery	#10	Oreilly	\$291.54	
01/13/22 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Reman Valve Core Deposit	#10	SouthBay	\$485.14	
01/04/22 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Pump Metatis 60cc Piston Trans	#10	Viking	\$1,875.52	
02/15/22 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	SR-7Valve Spring Brake & Fittings	#10	SouthBay	\$374.21	
02/15/22 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	AD IP Dryer Cart & Core	#10	SouthBay	\$730.04	
02/23/22 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Reman Valve & Core	#10	SouthBay	\$483.16	
03/14/22 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	SR-7Valve Spring Brake & Fittings	#10	SouthBay	\$347.56	
08/30/22 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Fuel Tank Assembly Band	#10	Charlebois	\$242.54	
02/06/23 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Oil Res 35 Gal Frame, Control Cable	#10	Charlebois	\$1,051.02	
08/29/23 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Replace Steering Box	#10	Pepins	\$2,226.00	
10/03/23 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	Oil Pan	#10	Charlebois	\$794.22	
02/12/25 P.W.	2015 Freightliner M2-106	1FVACYCY1FHFZ6622	\$75,853	8 Front Leaf Springs	#10	Pepins	\$1,236.00	

**Current Mileage 72,589**

**\$30,532.27**