

**Town of New Boston  
Selectmen's Meeting  
September 19, 2011**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Peter Flynn	Town Administrator
	Rodney Towne	Selectman
	Dwight Lovejoy	Selectman
	Christine Quirk	Selectman

Brandy Mitroff, Amy Parrish, Dick Perusse, and Ken Lombard of the public were present.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Rodney Towne at 6:00PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Incoming Tracking Station Commander Hanson introduced himself and spoke to the Board for a few minutes. He noted that the Tracking Station is in the fifth year of a planned eight-year ordnance debris cleanup process and wants to open again for veteran recreational use in the future. The Selectmen will tour the Tracking Station.

Brandy Mitroff updated the Board on the status of Dodge's Store she received from owner Mike Danzinger. He is working with his bank and they are hoping to have the bank foreclose on the property. A public auction could be held in November and it could reopen with new owners. The bankruptcy process would have taken approximately a year but the foreclosure process could be quicker. Mike expressed to her he loved New Boston and is devastated by what he had to do to the town when the store closed.

**C. APPOINTMENTS:**

**1. 6:30 PM                      Dick Perusse                      Road Agent**

Road Agent Dick Perusse was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the status of projects the Highway Department is working on.

- Rodney, Dwight and Dick have been discussing the contract with Holden Engineering regarding their lack of performance on the upcoming bridge projects. Greg Hill Road and Dougherty Lane. They wish to stop Holden Engineering now and ask them to not go any further with the project pending review of the contract. The complete engineering fee would not be owed but they have already been paid some money. The expected date of 100% completion of the project was September 12 with a final signoff on September 22. However, the engineers have not proceeded beyond submitting preliminary repair plans to the town and NH Department of Transportation, which was originally planned for July 24. The plan was to receive and open bids on August 10. However, the final set of plans is not even ready yet. Neither of these projects is expected to be completed until next year due to fall temperatures and weather. An \$85,000 Warrant Article was passed for

the entire repair of the two bridges. The price for design, plans, permits and bids from Holden Engineering is \$30,000. They have estimated construction costs to be \$110,000, which is way out of budget. The completed plans probably won't be done until November. Town Counsel may need to review the situation. The project is actually expected to cost less than the estimated construction amount as Road Committee Chairman Tom Miller feels they exaggerated the construction estimate.

- Snowplow rates for hired trucks were reviewed. Dick compared New Boston's rate with NH DOT rate and felt that New Boston's hired truck driver compensation is sufficient and more than adequate and will not increase. Drivers have expressed they are happy with the rate.
- Dick gave the Selectmen a copy of the letter and check for \$125 he plans to send to Bob LaPointe for the pavement saw for cutting asphalt he gave to the Highway Department.
- Dick has contacted five vendors for prices for 2000 yards of winter sand. Two vendors have responded so far. The town bought 2500 yards of sand last year.
- Dick reviewed two complaints he has received from residents with the Selectmen. The first is from Adrian on Rustic Lane who was concerned about how a basketball hoop he keeps on the edge of the road was handled during the recent paving and reclaiming work in the area. It was pushed into a ditch during paving then the Highway Department carefully moved it to the edge of his driveway last week. It was not damaged. He does leave it in the right of way. He will be contacted about this by phone call and letter. Rodney also took a complaint from Mr. Burgin about an issue of growth impeding the sight line at McCollum Road coming onto South Hill Road. It was investigated and no issue was found.
- Highway Department employees Terry and Ron took a GPS basics class today to learn how to use GPS for specific RSM program tasks the Highway Department would like to do. They learned that these tasks can be done with GPS but not the one the town owns that is shared with the Building Department. Building Inspector Ed Hunter has also noted problems with it. It might be worthwhile to upgrade the GPS unit in the future.
- The Grader Operational Safety class Highway Department employees were scheduled to attend was cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled.
- The new grader transmission overheated last week. It is fully paid for and still under warranty. It was caused by premature failure of the shaft, as it was not properly hardened during manufacture. Dick and the technician will decide tomorrow how it is to be fixed. Fall grading needs to be done.

#### **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**1. Minutes of September 6, 2011** - The Selectmen reviewed the minutes. Corrections were noted. Dwight moved that they be accepted as amended. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### **E. OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Planning:**

- There was a submission for application for a store at 3 River Road. A sitewalk was held previously. The Planning Board approved the application as complete. There was discussion of if the site plan should be major or minor and the Planning Board decided it

can stay minor for now but if the business wants to expand it will have to change to major.

- Vista Road major subdivision 2 lots at Byam Road and Route 13-The Planning Board accepted the environmental study and asked that the drainage calculations be confirmed. This subdivision is expected to be approved soon. There is still a bond issue.
- A public hearing was held regarding an application for 26 Hooper Hill Road to install a wetland crossing. The application was accepted as complete.
- Gravel pit hearings continued. The Planning Board is giving 40-50 year permits with yearly inspection approvals. They discussed Granite State's Lyndeborough Road gravel pit. There was a question of if it was grandfathered. This was sent to Town Counsel for review a while ago where it was confirmed it was grandfathered. Granite State's Salisbury Road gravel pit was approved. The Houghton gravel pit was approved. A waiver for traffic study and environmental impact was requested. The Susan Road subdivision wants certificate of occupancy on the road that is not approved. The Selectmen and the Planning Board are against this.
- Two sitewalks are scheduled.
- The next Planning Board meeting will take place at the library.

2. **Fuel contract bids**-Rodney is still working on these bids. The town is considering joining a buying group with the SAU. Fred Fuller is the SAU oil supplier. The town has used Putnam Fuel for years that has given a price that is 5 cents higher than Fred Fuller's price. This is a \$500 per year difference in fuel costs for the town. Rodney will call Putnam again to see if they will come closer to Fred Fuller's price. These prices are a guaranteed rate not a prepay. The library uses propane heat and they will be asked to consider being included in the town propane contract this year. They got their own contract last year. The Transfer Station also uses propane but it is very little and the Highway Department uses propane for its generator.

3. **New Town Administrator**-The new Town Administrator is present tonight and he was introduced. He said he is thrilled to work for New Boston. Today was his first day and he had a great day.

4. **Muriel Matthews Slip and Fall at the Town Hall**-Peter met with Muriel today. She asked for a status on her claim and asked that lost wages be considered. Paul will call the insurance company for a status and research the possibility of reimbursement for lost wages.

#### **F. NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

#### **G. OTHER:**

1. Peter noted he will meet with the Department Managers Wednesday and make recommendations after that. He is in observation mode for now. He plans to better prepare the Selectmen before their meetings. He may schedule a staff meeting for Thursday.

#### **H. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brandy Mitroff asked about the status of the town purchase of land for the new Fire Station. The Selectmen said some land was considered but the owners were not interested in discussing this option. Ken Lombard is here to discuss the status of another potential land purchase for a new Fire Station.

**Move to enter Non-Public Session:** Rodney made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3II(d) (re: land issue) at 6:45 PM. Dwight seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Rodney Towne-yes, Dwight Lovejoy-yes and Christine Quirk-yes. The Board then entered non-public session after a poll of all members.

**J. Move to exit Non-Public Session:** Rodney made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 7:35 PM. Dwight seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rodney-yes, Dwight-yes, Christine-yes. All were in favor.

**K. ADJOURNMENT:** Dwight made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*