

## Approved

### Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting July 23, 2012

**PRESENT:**            Rodney Towne                            Selectman  
                         Dwight Lovejoy                        Selectman  
                         Christine Quirk                         Selectman  
                         Peter Flynn                              Town Administrator

Police Chief James Brace, David & Nicole Murray, Willard Dodge, Gerry Cornett, Dick Perusse, Burr Tupper and Brandy Mitroff were present.

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

**Consent Agenda-**The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Christine moved to approve the consent agenda. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

### **B. PUBLIC FORUM:**

None.

### **C. APPOINTMENTS:**

#### **Item 1:**

#### **Police Chief James Brace**

#### **Discussion re: Update on Department Staffing: Request for appointment**

Chief Brace updated the New Boston Police Department organization chart to include the recently hired full-time Sergeant Daniel Aiken and Office Kate Fiore (who starts 7/24). He introduced David Murray (and his wife Nicole), as the newest candidate for a full-time officer position. Mr. Murray is a 5-year veteran of the Boston Police Department, who was highly recommended for this position. He is a St. Anselm graduate, a training officer and Massachusetts certified. Chief Brace asked the board to accept Mr. Murray as a new full-time officer. Christine asked the candidate why he is interested in working in New Boston? Mr. Murray explained that he and his wife Nicole just purchased a home in Londonderry, NH (where his wife is from), and they want to settle here in Southern NH where they have family close by and where his wife works. Rodney asked if David would need to go through the academy? The Chief said that he will need to attend some classes that cover items not covered in MA, but he will only attend on the days those classes are scheduled and will be doing field training in New Boston on the other days. His start date will be August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Rodney made a motion to accept David Murray as a full-time officer with the New Boston Police Dept., Christine seconded the motion. All Approved.

Chief Brace indicated that the part-time, per diem position was the final opening and that he'd identified a candidate. The candidate is currently going through the background checks and could attend the academy this fall. She is a military veteran, and would be sent through the academy as a part-time candidate that will save the town significant money. He hopes to present her to the Board in the next 2-4 weeks.

## **Item 2:**

### **Road Agent Dick Perusse**

#### **Discussion re: Updates on Bridge & Road Construction Projects**

Gregg Mill Road Bridge – Dick told the Board that he'd had difficulty in finding a contractor to take on this job. He and Tom Miller approached TK Danis and asked if he'd be able to take on this project. Mr. Danis does not have the ability to bond the job, so the HW Dept will run the project, which entails renting equipment, purchasing concrete, etc... and they will sub contact with TK Danis for the actual work. Dick estimates it should take 2 weeks and will be starting the week of Aug 6<sup>th</sup>. The HW Dept will take care of the paving, as well as the prep work on the deck and excavation of the abutments. They will also do the backfill and signage. HW has D.O.T. permission to place signs on Rt. 13 and they will deploy jersey barriers and warning signs on Rt 13, Gregg Mill Rd, Lull Road, and others. They will also be distributing orange notice sheets to residents in the immediate vicinity of the work. Dwight asked about the number of HW workers on this project. Dick said that upfront, his entire crew would work on the preparations, but once TK Danis takes over, his team would be back on other projects. Dwight also asked who would be doing the excavation – Dick said Tom Dutton.

Riverdale Road Bridge – Dick sent out requests for Engineering qualifications for the work, reviewed all and had two good candidates. He's recommending the work go to Hoyle & Tanner and would like the Board to accept their qualification and allow him to pursue a proposal and schedule of fees from them.

Rodney made a motion to accept Hoyle & Tanner as Engineers for the Riverdale Road Bridge job, Christine seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Other Road Projects – Bedford Road work is progressing between Wilson Hill Rd and McCurdy Road. There are 5 crossings being replaced, 2 were done today with the remaining to be done this week. They intend to reclaim and bind that ~1 mile stretch of Bedford Road this year. They are also looking to smooth out some troublesome curves, realigning to help better maintain good shoulders. Dick indicated there are finding between 3 1/2" and 5" of pavement, but poor soil conditions underneath. They are adding gravel for better drainage.

Other crossings that will be upgraded this summer include crossings on Summit Dr., Old Coach Rd. and maybe others. Reclaiming on a portion of Old Coach will be done in September.

2001 Pickup Truck – The HW Dept purchased a 2009 F250 to replace the 2001 pickup truck. Dick asked for advice regarding the best way to advertise and sell the old truck. Christine thought that given the fact it's a plow truck, maybe waiting until Sept to advertise it would make sense. Dick will work with Brandy to advertise the truck in the September Bulletin, and Dick will park the vehicle on Gardner LeBaron's property.

### **Item 3:**

#### **Recreation Commissioner Lee Brown**

#### **Discussion re: Recreation Projects/Baseball League Firearms Issue**

About 14 months ago, Rick Matthews approached the Recreation Commission about a Family Endowment containing ~\$6,000. The family thought that maybe a basketball court could be built at the school and as the project was discussed further with the School Board, NBCS Staff, PTA and towns-people, the project grew to include a dual use amphitheater to be used as an outdoor learning center. Over time a number of locations were discussed, but in May of this year, the final decisions were agreed upon.

The current plans include the building of a full size (50' X 84') basketball court, as well as an amphitheater in the back of the school. The project has begun and should be completed over the summer.

Firearms Issue – One of the baseball coaches was carrying a firearm while on the field coaching the children. Lee had spoken with the individual and requested he lock the firearm in his car, but that spurred a 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment discussion. Lee indicated that as word spread, the Manchester umpires stated they were ready to “walk off” if the coach was armed at a game. The coach also spoke with Chief Brace who spoke of his own experience as a coach and said he never in 17 years felt the need to carry a firearm while coaching children. He encouraged the gentleman to talk with Lee and try and reach a solution and focus on the kids.

Lee said the gentleman has opted to give up coaching and is currently a timekeeper. Lee has asked the Board to seek legal counsel regarding this issue should it arise in the future. Rodney expressed his desire not to make this an issue, believing that prohibiting firearms on the ball field may actually raise the issue and cause more problems. The Board did however instruct Peter to seek a legal opinion from Town Counsel regarding this issue.

### **Item 4:**

#### **Burr Tupper, Gerry Cornett, Laura Bernard, Willard Dodge & Lee Brown**

#### **Discussion re: Rail Trail Project**

The Conservation Commission decided last fall to work on upgrading the section of the Rail Trail between the Fairgrounds and Lang Station in order to make the trail more available to

hikers of all levels. Burr brought the Board up-to-date with the status of the Project. Burr, Gerry Cornett, Laura Bernard, Willard Dodge and Lee Brown met this spring to begin work on the project. Funding started with the Conservation Commission fronting money to get the project going. Louise Robie dedicated this years' Town Wide Yard Sale monies to this project, and the Rail Trail subcommittee has found two individuals who have volunteered to do grant writing. There maybe a 5K race later this year also.

To ensure long-term access to the trail, the Conservation Commission is working with the 4-H Foundation to secure a ROW from the Hilldale Lane Bridge to the trailhead. Town Counsel Bill Dresher is working on the paperwork and Willard Dodge will get final approvals from the 4-H Board of Directors.

Most of the work to date has focused on getting approvals from DES, DRED, and others. Burr indicated that the process was much more cumbersome than he'd expected, but that they should have all the necessary approvals in place by September. At that time tree removal and stump grinding can begin. Culvert work and general cleanup can also start. Lee Brown requested that legal counsel review the DRED Memorandum of Understanding.

Burr and a DRED Forester walked the trail and he was pleased about plans to move the existing trail back up onto the rail bed on the stretch where the trail has drifted down off the rail bed. DRED also will allow the Conservation Commission to utilize their Riverdale Rd access – this will allow for equipment to get in for trail maintenance.

The bridge connecting the 4H grounds to the Trail has a new concrete surface, installed in early July. Gerry Cornett has been working on acquiring signage for the trail that will include markers every 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile with GPS coordinates that would aid first responders if they were called in an emergency. Willard indicated that both ends of the trail would be gated, with motorized access allowed for emergency personnel and maintenance only.

Dwight asked if the Conservation Commission would allow horseback riding on the upgraded trail. Burr indicated that they would not be excluding any non-motorized use of the trail, however, would be calling on the horseback riding community to assist with trail maintenance as needed to keep the trail in good shape for foot traffic. Rodney Town said that the horseback riders be required to remove the manure from the trail.

#### **D. OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Item 5:**

**Employee Appreciation Cookout:** Christine has a binder with details from the previous years cookouts and volunteered to do most of the food purchasing if Rodney and Dwight would take charge of the grills and cooking. Christine suggested the cookout be held in early September, before the risk of cooler weather. It was decided that the week on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> would work, and Peter can decide which day works best for employees.

##### **Item 6:**

**Review and adopt public minutes of July 9, 2012:** The Selectmen reviewed the minutes. Christine moved that they be accepted as presented. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Item 7:**

**Mid-Year Financial Review:** Peter reviewed the revenues for the first half of the year. Karen said the Current Use numbers are not accurate because some money was moved to Conservation for last year. Most revenues are on target – plastics from the Transfer Station are down, but auto registration is ahead of last year. Peter is very happy with the way revenues are looking so far. Peter will be delivering monthly expense/revenue updates for the rest of the year. Brandy was curious if the school had connected with the Board yet about their unspent balance? Brandy believes there may be substantial monies that could help lower the school portion of the upcoming 2012 tax rate.

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

##### **Item 8:**

##### **Town Administrator Report:**

1. Kim DiPietro (Forestry Committee) - Town Administrator notified Town Counsel of their intent to use his services re: land locked parcel in question. Peter confirmed request again with Kim DiPietro. No new information.
2. Met with Avitar regarding online credit card payments for the Town Clerks office. Within the next two months, residents should be able to pay their auto registration with a credit card. In the mean time, Karen Craven and Ann Charbonneau will be working with Town Clerk Irene Baudreau and Deputy Town Clerk Cathy Strausbaugh to allow for a single check to cover both the town and state portion of auto registrations. Once this is implemented, the town will be looking into credit card payments for taxes as well. The company handling this service will be responsible for the usage charges and they will be passed on directly to the residents.
3. Fuel Bids – Peter will have both oil and propane bids available for the next meeting.
4. Mr. LaPenn – Peter spoke with Mr. LaPenn and agreed to bring his concerns to the Board. Mr. LaPenn wants to know if the Selectmen will allow him to put up a gate on the portion of John Newton Dodge Rd that he uses as his driveway. The Board unanimously said “No” to gating the Class VI road.
5. Budget Discussion (Salaries) – Peter wants to start talking with the Board regarding salaries for next year’s budget. At the next meeting he will come prepared with options for COLA and/or Merit increases.
6. Building Dept. looking at Avitar module – Peter, along with Ed Hunter, Jan Caswell and Laura Bernard, met with Avitar last week to preview their building permit module. All were impressed with the flexibility and integration with the Assessing module. It’s fairly

expensive (~4K), so it won't happen this year, but Peter is looking to add the cost into the 2013 budget.

7. Meeting w/Mainstay Technologies – Laura Bernard and Peter met with Mainstay (our IT vendor), and they are putting together a proposal for an annual service contract. Peter will be reviewing the proposal to see if it makes more sense than the current pay as you go service we currently get.
8. Energy Portfolio – at the request of Susan Carr of the Energy Committee, Peter was asked to have someone be trained for entering energy data for use by SNHPC and the Energy Committee. Ann Charbonneau volunteered to receive the training.
9. HW Safety Committee – Peter wants to post a notice for interested towns people who may want to be on the committee. Jim Brace said someone interested has approached him already. Peter will bring names to the August BOS meeting.
10. Letter from SNHPC and CNHRPC Joint Venture developing Economic Development Strategy – looking for participants. Peter was instructed to try and get additional information regarding the scope of the project.
11. Piscataquog River Mitigation Project – Peter will investigate more.

**Item 9:**

**Selectmen's Report:** None

**Public Forum:** None

At 7:35PM Dwight made a motion to enter non-public session to discuss a personnel issue.

Roll Call vote: Dwight Lovejoy-yes, Rodney Towne-yes and Christine Quirk, yes.

7:40PM – Board came out of non-public session

7:41PM – Christine moved to adjourn, seconded by Rodney. All voted in the affirmative 3-0