

**Town of New Boston  
Selectmen's Meeting  
January 16, 2012**

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

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, School Board member Betsy Holmes, Road Agent Dick Perusse, Willard Dodge, Library Trustee Bill Gould, Library Manager Betsy Chapman, Town Moderator Lee Nyquist and Finance Committee members Brandy Mitroff, Lou Lanzilotti, Kim DiPietro and Kim Colbert, Paul Scopa, Greg Gualtiere and two other members 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.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2012 BUDGET**

Rodney opened the public hearing at 6:00 PM. The Operating Budget was reviewed. Rodney noted the proposed operating budget is \$93,000 less than last year. The budget was discussed as follows:

Under Emergency Management, Brandy asked about the Riverview communication sitework that was discussed at the last Selectmen's meeting. She said Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald probably didn't know the grant was awarded when the Emergency Management budget was prepared in October but he probably did know the grant had been applied for at that time and could have mentioned it at the Finance Committee meeting where the Emergency Management budget was discussed. The project is estimated to cost \$12-16,000 meaning up to \$4,000 could be the town share as the town has to pay 25% of the total cost and the grant will pay for the rest. She said this amount indicates there is probably not a good estimate at this time. Brandy is concerned because the town has been negatively affected by bad estimates recently. Dan also indicated at the last meeting that the grant money could also be available next year. She recommended the town wait another year to get a better estimate and include it in the budget at that time. This cost seems high for the project planned of cleaning up brush and landscaping, and doesn't even include the fence that is also planned for the area. She also wondered if the cleanup could be done as a Boy Scout service project. Rodney thought it probably couldn't be a Boy Scout service project because it involves more than just raking, also includes planting. He said an estimate was submitted with the grant application, neither of which the Selectmen have seen. He will speak to Dan about this and review these documents. Another more accurate estimate is expected. The fence will be discussed as part of next year's budget. The Ridgeview communication site is a critical site for the Fire Department, Highway Department and Police

Department and hardening (security) of these sites has become more of a priority recently after work was done at the site by Jack Moorehouse when he suggested the area be made more secure. Kim DiPietro asked why wasn't this asked for in a Warrant Article as the Transfer Station item was. She is also disappointed that the Finance Committee did not have the opportunity to review an estimate and was not told about the possibility of a grant, instead this was brought in at the last minute. The Selectmen told Dan to review this item with the Finance Committee but that didn't happen. The Selectmen did put this item in the Operating Budget at Dan's request. Kim also noted \$16,000 is not the final total, a fence will be an additional cost that she would also like to review an estimate for. Lou asked if this is included in the budget should it be included for the whole amount with the grant money noted as a revenue? He also said the project might not need to be brought up in a Warrant Article as long as the money is spent for the reason given. Peter will discuss this project with Dan and research the appropriate process to include this project in the budget or on a Warrant Article. The Selectmen decided to remove the \$4,000 from the Emergency Management budget as this project was not presented properly.

The Highway Block Grant will decrease this year. Kim DiPietro noted the Finance Committee has asked for a breakdown of the block grant funds. Peter will send this to the Finance Committee members in the next couple days. The Revolving Fund accounting for the Recreation Department and the Fire Department are ready and Peter will e-mail these to the Finance Committee members tomorrow.

Landfill monitoring costs have been added to the Transfer Station budget and these increased \$2,000 this year for a permit fee. This cost might decrease again next year. Peter will research when this program can be discontinued. Gerry said the program stops when the area is no longer producing gas. This is not expected to happen because of the water in the area.

The total Operating Budget is \$4,060,945 after removing \$4,000 for the Ridgeview Communication site cleanup.

**Mr. Flynn emphasized that this year's budget submission is \$95,228 lower than the 2011 budget and that is what the Selectmen should be making clear to the public, especially at the Deliberative Session**

A resident asked if the town regularly requests bids for insurance, etc. and was told the Town Administrator is asked to keep track of these rates. Peter noted in 2011 the town changed prescription programs resulting in savings and he is working on getting the best rates possible every year. Fuel rates are reviewed yearly and the town does compare prices to save money. The budget hearing was closed at 6:44 PM. The Selectmen thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the budget and also thanked the Department Managers for their work preparing the budget.

#### **B. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

#### **C. APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Item 1: Town Moderator Lee Nyquist, Esq.-Discussion concerning Deliberative Session including speakers from the Board of Selectmen:** Lee thanked the Selectmen

for the opportunity to meet with them to prepare for the Deliberative Session. He noted there are fewer town warrants than usual this year. The Selectmen prepared their schedule to move and speak to each article. An article 20 could be added for the Ridgeview Communication site project as discussed above. The current Article 20, a petitioned article, would be changed to Article 21. Town counsel has reviewed this article and determined it is not legal and recommended it be ruled out of order at the Deliberative Session. Alternatively an amendment could be made at the Deliberative Session to make this article ineffective. Lou asked if the petitioner should be notified of the status of the article. The Selectmen discussed possibly telling the petitioner the article is inappropriate as written due to the wording or that it is illegal. Interested parties should seek their own advice on issues regarding this article. There was discussion that any Warrant Article has to be legal; per NH law, any illegal Warrant Article would be void if passed. This happened three years ago with the term limit article. Lee commented residents don't seem to understand the significance of the Deliberative Session and the power it has. There has been low attendance at Deliberative Sessions, but this is where Warrant Articles could be totally changed as long as the Warrant Article remains germane. Childcare services will not be offered this year after it was offered in past years but no residents came to use it. The Selectmen will consider if any recognitions should be made at the Deliberative Session. Woody Woodland of the Community Church has been giving the invocation for several years and Lee will ask him to do this again. Lou asked if is appropriate to use the same clergy every year as there are two other churches in town with pastors that could do this some years for fairness. The Finance Committee vote will be included on the Warrant Article sheet distributed at the Deliberative Session as usual.

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

**Item 2: Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2012:** The Selectmen reviewed the minutes. Dwight moved that they be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

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

**Item 3: Discussion regarding Town Report cover and other issues concerning inclusions in the Town Report:** Selectmen's Secretary Laura Bernard and Brandy have proposed using a photo of the Halloween Scarecrows on the town common covered with snow as the cover of the 2011 Town Report as this snow storm was a major 2011 event. The Selectmen will consider this suggestion. Rhoda Shaw Clark will probably be recognized on the inside cover. Major events to be included in the 2012 Town Report will be the reopening of Dodge's Store and the passing of Ella Daniels.

**Item 4: Public Forum:** Greg Gualtiere was present and noted he has been losing power often recently and thought it was due to inferior Howard pole mounted transformers PSNH is now using that are made in Mexico. He asked the Selectmen to contact PSNH and ask them to use better quality parts that are made in the USA. The Selectmen will consider contacting the PUC regarding this issue.

**G. OTHER:**

**Item 5: Town Administrator's Report:** Peter reported on the following items:

- 1. Finance Committee Budget Status:** The Finance Committee took a vote on the budget on January 7 not including the \$4,000 for Emergency Management discussed above. \$300 was removed from the Energy Committee line. The \$10,500 grant for closure of the engineering fee was not in the budget at that time. The Finance Committee approved the budget that day. The default budget is now in place and is less than the proposed Operating budget. The Operating budget is \$94,000 less than last year.
- 2. New Phone System:** The startup cost has been paid. Detailed negotiations with OTT have taken place the past few weeks. The phone committee and town counsel have reviewed the contract and it has been signed.

**Item 6: Selectmen's Reports:**

**Planning:** Dwight missed the last Planning Board meeting and plans to get caught up tomorrow. He attended recent sitewalks.

**Item 8: Request for non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3,II. (B):** Christine made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A: 3II(b) Personnel at 7:20 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.

**Move to exit Non-Public Session:** Christine made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 7:20 PM. Dwight seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Rodney Towne-yes, Dwight Lovejoy-yes and Christine Quirk-yes. All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dwight made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*