

Adopted

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting December 1, 2014

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

Road Agent Dick Perusse, Police Chief Jim Brace, Brandy Mitroff and John Palumbo 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. Dwight moved to approve the consent agenda. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

John Palumbo of 19 Joe English Road was present to meet with the Selectmen to ask about the following:

- He recently spoke to Laura Bernard who said he would be taxed on a 12x12 chicken coop on his property and should have pulled a building permit. Peter will research this.
- He asked if he would be taxed on a 20' conex trailer on his property that is not fastened. Peter will research this with the Building Inspector and call him tomorrow with an answer.
- He is considering building a greenhouse on his property and wondered if that would be taxed. The Selectmen were not sure but thought it probably would not be taxed as it is an agricultural accessory in an R-A district.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

None.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 1: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of November 17 and 19, 2014: The Selectmen reviewed the public and non-public minutes of November 17, 2014. Christine moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Dwight seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The non-public minutes of November 19, 2014 were not available and approval was deferred.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 2: Review of Non-CIP Warrant Articles: Peter said he hopes to have the Warrant Articles finalized for the next Selectmen's meeting. The Warrant Articles were discussed as follows:

- The NH DRA indicated a separate Warrant Article is needed to withdraw \$6-8,000 of interest that has accumulated in the building fund that is planned to be used for the Town Hall cellar renovation that has been planned for a few years to take place in 2015. This amount has been deducted from the amount previously planned to be raised for the project but has to be included in the Warrant Article language per the DRA.
- An estimate of approximately \$13-14,000 was received for a chair lift for the Town Hall. The Selectmen considered including this as a Warrant Article or using surplus funds from 2014 and preferred using surplus for this item. More quotes will be requested.
- Two estimates of approximately \$23,500 were received for a new more efficient air conditioning system for the first floor of the Town Hall and upstairs finance office. The units will have a supplemental heating function. This was recommended by the Safety Committee. The Highway Department would no longer have to come in to install and remove window air conditioners in each room as they do now. This would be a permanent system. It would not protrude the outside wall or affect the outside appearance of the building. Dick noted this might be more energy efficient than the current system and is a long term investment. Christine noted there are many benefits to this system as it is quieter than the window units and gives access to the windows if employees would like to open them instead of using air conditioning. The Selectmen prefer to use a Warrant Article for this item separate from the above Town Hall renovation Warrant Article or use the fund balance.
- The police detail Warrant Article to be included yearly as directed by previous town vote will ask for \$2,118 this year. There is currently \$381.90 in that account. The accounting of how it was used this year is available and it was used as intended by town vote.
- Old Coach Road improvements Warrant Article: Road Agent Dick Perusse was present to update the Selectmen on the progress of this project. He received an engineering estimate today for improvements to the lower section of Old Coach Road of approximately \$562,000. He feels this estimate is high and will review each item over the next three weeks to see where the town can save money. He has some material in stock and actual paving costs may be lower than estimated as the town has a paving contract with a lower rate. The town considered getting these funds from the Unreserved Fund Balance but these funds are expected to be needed for the legal battle with PSNH and Fairpoint. Christine asked if the town can save up for this project over a couple years instead of including the entire project in one year and do the project in 2017. Available Block Grant funds were considered. There is \$148,000 remaining from the 2014 Block Grant and more will be available in 2015 but Dick has other plans for these funds. A Warrant Article will be prepared.
- Police Chief Jim Brace was present to discuss the possibility of a Warrant Article for improvements needed to the Police, Fire and Highway Departments' radio communication system. After the November 3 Selectmen's meeting he asked Bill Bartlett from Two-Way Communications for a proposal for the information he discussed at that meeting. The Selectmen reviewed the proposal. Rodney had some concerns and Jim reviewed them with Bill as follows:

Height of the Tower: Bill's recommendation is to go as high as possible for the success of the system which is why a 90' pole was recommended. If we were to

go with a shorter pole, the long term result might not be as successful. Also, the cost for a shorter pole (50 versus 90) would not be substantial. To have substantial savings, you would have to drop to a 30' foot pole.

Is there a need for 90'? The need is to get above the trees for Radio Propagation. Getting above the trees to get line of site is imperative and provides the best results.

We do not know what height is needed to get above the trees. We also do not have tree a growth rate to account within the height adjustment. We do know the higher we go, the more success we will have and the difference in cost from a 50' pole to 90' would not be substantial.

Site Work: There is no site work in the proposal. We would be re-using the current shelter. The only site work is for the drilling to be performed.

Quote: There is one item within the quote that could be removed. It is the "multi-coupler" quoted at \$17,784. What this allows is for each of the frequencies to work in harmony. With this piece of equipment, the radios would be invisible to one another. Currently, there is no filtration in place. The three systems do currently interact. How much they interact/interfere with one another is unknown.

Systems: The pole proposal would improve all three Emergency systems in Town. Police, Fire, Highway. It is important to understand how the systems interact with Ridgeview.

Fire: Dispatch uses Ridgeview to talk to NB. NB to NB uses radio to radio technology

Highway: (Same as above)

Police: PD uses Ridgeview for everything as it is a repeater system. So even if one cruiser is directly in front of another cruiser, BOTH transmit through Ridgeview to communicate.

The key benefit to the increased height for Fire and Highway is they could communicate – to dispatch – in places they could not before.

Cost: As previously mentioned, without the multi-coupler, the Quote would be reduced to \$50338.37. The system can be installed without it and a determination made later if it is needed. The additional height would provide the benefit of separation of the 3 systems, which could allow the Town to get away without needing the multi-coupler.

Bidding: It is understood that this project may have to be bid. Bill is confident that it could not be completed for much less than what is quoted.

However, 2-way communications just completed the re-installation of the Dodge Road equipment. This is an extension of that project as the problems were discovered as part of that project. 2-Way HAS firsthand knowledge of the system, and the new configurations. Using a new/different contractor could lead to issues that have occurred in the past (not understanding or knowing what was done at the sight by a previous contractor). 2-Way communications completed the narrow banding for New Boston in 2012 and also works with Fire and Highway.

Rodney asked if this is presented to the town in a Warrant Article and fails how would Bill get the system in service and Jim was not sure. Rodney said he is concerned about this proposal and recommended Jim contact other dispatch centers for contractor

recommendations to get more proposals. The current system has worked but as communication gets busier it will work less because no coupler was installed originally. This idea might be too long term as technology changes and another short term solution may be possible. Jim said this project came up when Sprint removed equipment at Weare Road. Some communication problems had been noticed before but became more of an issue one year ago and it was subsequently discovered that equipment was gone. In springtime, when the foliage filled in, the signal became blocked and it became a bigger issue. Bill tried to repair the issue in October with new equipment, but it didn't work so he suggested the solution to raise the tower. The price of a shorter tower could be similar to the price of a 90' tower. Rodney asked if a technician could get a more accurate height to raise the Ridgeview tower to allow for line of sight and check with a forester to confirm the rate of foliage growth as the problem happened within a short time. Jim suggested this could be tested as a Fire Department exercise and the forester could be contacted for specifics on rate of vegetation growth. John Palumbo said he uses two way radios and the antenna should be turned every year. Rodney said yearly maintenance is done on the antennas. Jim said the system changed to narrow band in recent years. Dick noted the Highway Department antenna sight was found to be bad during the narrowbanding process. Jim said the communication needs to work and the pole needs to be changed no matter what height is chosen and which vendor is used. He will work to get assessments from other contractors and ask Fire Chief Dan MacDonald if the Fire Department can arrange to go up the tower to get a line of site and then Jim will contact the forester about the rate of vegetation growth. The Selectmen said this would have to be a Warrant Article but if it fails a short term fix would have to be done and that would overexpend the maintenance budget. John asked if there was any ability to put a tower on Joe English as there is no vegetation in the way there and was told no, but it is possible to put New Boston on the Air Force Tracking Station communication tower but it would be at the same cost and with limited access.

Regarding the recent work done at the Weare Road communication site, two of the Two-Way Communications invoices were paid by Squan but one more invoice was submitted and Squan is hesitant to pay it. Jim is working with these two companies to get the appropriate amount paid.

- Final Warrant Articles are due mid-January. The final Finance Committee meeting is January 3. Final amounts can change at the Deliberative Session.

Item 3: Review of 2014 Year to Date Expenditures and Revenues: Peter reported the year to date budget is going well. 16% of the total budget raised is left to spend (approximately \$250,000). The town is expected to end the year within budget with possible surplus. Revenues are expected to end the year as projected.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 4: Complaint From 89A Clark Hill Road Re: Pig Farm: A complaint letter was received from residents Rose and Rich Colarusso. The Selectmen directed Peter to bring this to the Code Enforcement Officer to review each item. The Selectmen will draft a response. Police Chief Jim Brace was present and noted the USDA has reviewed the situation and no penalties were assessed but recommendations were made. The Police Department has been called there many times and found no criminal activity.

Item 5: Town Administrator's Report:

- Riverdale Road Bridge-DRED Issue: Peter met with the abutters who are willing to sign utility aerial easements at no cost to the town. The bids have been advertised. A pre-bid conference will take place next week. Bids are due in January.
- Foot Traffic Safety Committee: No activity. The Committee is waiting for the state's decision on the grant.
- Parker Road Logging: the Planning Board called a special hearing December 9. Town Attorney Bill Drescher will attend to answer any questions.
- Contact made with Fromeau Appraisal: Fromeau Appraisal is expected to begin the appraisals next week on the Daniels' lot behind the fire station and Grosso lot on Mont Vernon Road that the town is interested in on behalf of the Fire Department.
- The Selectmen approved and signed the 2015 Holiday Schedule for town employees.
- The Selectmen will review and approve the 2015 Selectmen's meeting schedule at the next Selectmen's meeting.
- Peter and the Selectmen noted good things happened in New Boston during the power outage over the past five days. CERT did a great service setting up a shelter for residents in need. Not many towns provided this. The campground offered showers to residents without power. The Highway and Fire Department played a major role in getting the roads back open. Neighbors helped neighbors. The Selectmen thanked all and noted their pride in the town.

Item 6: Selectmen's Reports:

None.

Public Forum:

None.

Item 7: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) and (c)-Legal: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Christine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM. Dwight seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

Adopted: December 15, 2014