

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting April 6, 2015

PRESENT: Joe Constance Selectman
Dwight Lovejoy Selectman
Christine Quirk Selectman
Peter Flynn Town Administrator

Police Chief James Brace, Transfer Station Superintendent Gerry Cornett, Energy Commission Chairman Susan Carr, Jack Munn and three others from Southern NH Planning Commission, Solid Waste Committee member Gordon Carlstrom, Donald McGinley and Brandy Mitroff of the public 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. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Consent Agenda included Appointments to the Foot Traffic Safety Committee-Gail Parker, William Morrissey, Henry (Randy) Parker, Jay Marden and Elizabeth Whitman; also, Burr Tupper to the Conservation Commission; Floyd Guyette to the Solid Waste Committee.

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Donald McGinley-New Applicant for Solid Waste Committee: Transfer Station Superintendent Gerry Cornett was present to introduce Donald McGinley who would like to serve on the Solid Waste Committee. The Committee is looking for a few members and is glad to have him. Christine moved to appoint Donald McGinley to the Solid Waste Committee for three years. Dwight seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen congratulated him on his appointment. The Town Clerk will meet with him to swear him in.

Item 2: Susan Carr-Energy Commission and Jack Munn-SNHPC Re: Solar Garden: Energy Commission Chairman Susan Carr and Jack Munn from SNHPC were present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the possibility of building a solar garden in New Boston for energy cost savings. The state finalized the rules recently and laws are now in place allowing group net metering. Jack Munn from SNHPC was here to discuss. He said he has been working with Andre Keller, President of NH Solar Garden, and this came up a couple of months ago when he met with Susan. He and Susan considered the capped landfill as a good location in New Boston. NH Solar Garden has been working with several NH communities to put solar gardens on capped landfills. This could benefit town buildings, the school building and residential buildings. There would be a 20 year land lease for solar arrays that the town as the landowner would enter into

with NH Solar Garden. An escalator could be built into the lease but there is no cost for maintenance or liability to the town as that is all paid for by third party investors who are invested in the company for tax credits. Susan said a suitable site in New Boston could be the landfill, the Highway Department or the school. She has spoken with SAU Business Administrator Ray Labore who is very interested in learning more about this. Gerry noted these are being built on landfills all over New England and New York and asked how NH DES has been receiving them. Jack said NH DES is very supportive of solar gardens on capped landfills as they have settled. SNHPC has engineers working with them to help with the DES permitting process. Solar gardens are expected to become more popular in communities as they add value to communities and great energy savings. A 200 kW size on a landfill would generate 250 kw/hr. enough energy to power 20-30 homes. Christine moved to enter into a non-binding letter of interest. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 3: Gerry Cornett-Transfer Station/Recycling Updates: Transfer Station Superintendent Gerry Cornett was present to update the Selectmen on activities at the Transfer Station as follows:

- **Concrete/Ceramics Disposal Handling Charge:** Gerry noted the Transfer Station formerly had avenues to dispose of concrete but this has changed. The state is also now closely watching the amount of material kept on the property and are expected to request by the end of the year that everything be cleared from the property every seven days. Gerry contacted NH DES about this and said New Boston cannot afford to do this as New Boston has created a storage system to hold recyclables until they can be sold at a good price while at the same time not allowing runoff into the watershed to fulfill EPA requirements, and the trash container is full and ready to be removed every ten days not every seven days. However there is concrete kept on the ground on the property and there are several tons that are difficult to remove from the property as they contain metal. This material on the property is also a safety hazard. Concrete is included in items accepted for a fee but Gerry would like to change this and put it into the demolition dumpster fee structure to eliminate the issue of getting concrete off the Transfer Station property. Joe asked about the likelihood of the seven day removal requirement taking effect. Gerry said he is not sure but there are a lot of changes happening at DES. They are changing their Solid Waste Division, how it is run and requirements for towns. Gerry said he keeps good records at the Transfer Station and is prepared for these changes. Joe asked Gerry to consult with the Road Agent to see if the concrete could be stored at the Highway Department as they store rock to have it crushed periodically. As long as there is no metal in the concrete there could be uses for repurposed concrete to prevent adding concrete to the fee items. Gerry said he has had no luck with this in the past as concrete consistency is unknown. There is also a possibility he is not allowed to move it off the property as lime could possibly be in it. Gordon said Gerry and the Solid Waste Committee are in favor of adding concrete to the fee schedule and revisit the fee structure constantly for appropriateness. They are now noting this item to be an issue to remove from the facility. Dwight and Christine are in favor of adding concrete to the fee schedule. The Road Agent will be asked about the possibility of storing and crushing concrete at the Highway Department before the final decision is made.

Gerry discussed different ceramic items and the work required to get them ready to be thrown into the ceramic bin. Options will be presented to residents who do not want to pay the ceramic removal fee. He said the fee structure is there and he and the Solid Waste Committee want to move items the facility cannot handle to it.

- **MSW Contract Expiration:** The many year contract with Wheelabrator is coming to an end this year. Wheelabrator is now owned by Capital Investments. Gerry contacted different removal companies and other towns about what New Boston is expected to pay for this service. He found New England Resource Recovery that will bring the material to Naughton for \$67.50 per ton, \$14 cheaper than what New Boston is currently paying. A test run was done and it was completed in 23 minutes and Naughton was found to have an outstanding facility that is very accommodating. This is expected to save New Boston \$30,000 per year. Wheelabrator quoted \$72 per ton and Covanta quoted \$59 per ton. Gerry noted trucking is a major contributor to this cost at \$100 per hour. When choosing a new company he considered this along with price per ton and wear and tear on the trailer. This will be on next year's budget and an RFP will go out soon. CPI will not be included in the contract.
- **Transfer Station Traffic Issues/Speeding:** Dwight said the new traffic pattern at the Transfer Station makes movement around the facility easier and safer. Gerry asked to add two removable rubber speed bumps to the parking lot. One at the crosswalk and one at the bypass lane. The Selectmen approved. Joe moved to authorize Gerry to add two removable rubber speed bumps at the Transfer Station. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0
- **Salt Budget:** The salt budget was underbudget this year as there was not much available to purchase. The Road Agent contributed some to the Transfer Station supply along with some of the grit material used on New Boston roads this winter.
- **TV/Electronics Disposal Fee Adjustment:** Gerry noted the fees increased to \$785 to haul this material away last year. The current fee does not collect enough to cover that amount. New Boston uses East Coast to remove this material with many benefits including the fact that their price includes trucking, a \$300 expense. He and the Solid Waste Committee propose increasing the fees as provided to the Selectmen to bring the total fees collected for each load to \$785. The cost to dispose of these items is expected to rise in the future. Peter noted the fees are part of a policy and this is considered a first read of a policy change to increase fees. Joe noted the increase is modest but the Transfer Station is the only town department with a cost recovery factorial. He asked what percentage is a good recovery rate as this percentage should be factored into the fee increase. Gerry said that changes every year as the market fluctuates. Fees are set at the cost of doing business. The Committee is also reviewing construction tipping fees at this time and these may possibly decrease. They are not revenues, they are fees. There are some good years and some bad years. Joe said some costs are recovered from other sources and asked if revenues from recycling could offset electronics disposal fees. Gerry said no because using recycling revenues for this purpose is against the recycling mandate to cover the fee it would cost to put recyclable items in the hopper and remove them from the facility. The fees are there to offer a convenience to residents who don't want to take the items to other disposal facilities that might cost them less. Gordon said the trash and recycling removal market is volatile and the other piece is static costs to remove items such as electronics and concrete. Joe asked why recycling revenues and electronics disposal fees are separate. The volatility of the market should be researched

and compared for the past few years. Brandy said the fee schedule came up approximately ten years ago as the fees at the time were not covering disposal costs. The Finance Committee did not agree with making all taxpayers pay to dispose of items for some residents that elected to make home improvements. Christine moved to move the electronics disposal fee policy to a second reading and Public Hearing. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

- **Recycling Market Stability:** Gerry has been on the board of New England Resource and Recovery for two years and has been emphasizing the direction of the organization as this area is rapidly changing. New Boston has its own scales and trailer and has been weighing and ticketing for years to prove and document what New Boston was trucking out. Shady weighing was going on throughout the state and now the state is getting involved. A collapse in the pricing structure is occurring. New Boston recycles paper and cardboard the most. New Boston is extremely prepared for the expected changes. New Boston made a good decision when it did not change to single stream recycling. Many towns did and are now paying to have these items removed instead of using them for a revenue.
- **Winter Storm Staffing/Summer Staffing Hours:** Storms this winter fell on Sundays and Mondays when the Transfer Station was not open but part time staffers came in for winter clean up at the facility on Mondays. This affects the summer part time hours and the part time budget line will be over this year by five weeks of Tuesday and Thursday overtime hours. This cost will be made up in another Transfer Station budget line.
- **NH The Beautiful Grant Acceptance:** New Boston received a \$1300 grant from NH the Beautiful for purchase of a 53' Dorsey Trailer as the trailer will be used for recycling.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 4: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of March 16, 2015: The Selectmen reviewed the public and non-public minutes of March 16, 2015. Christine moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 5: Acceptance of Donation of a 53' Dry Van Trailer (Transfer Station): New Boston received a \$1300 grant from NH the Beautiful for purchase of a 53' Dorsey Trailer as the trailer will be used for recycling.

Item 6: Discussion and Adoption of Frankestown-New Boston Special Mutual Aid Agreement: Police Chief James Brace was present and said Frankestown's Police Chief and some staff resigned a month ago. Frankestown's Town Administrator approached Jim asking if the New Boston Police Department could help cover Frankestown with four hour patrols at New Boston's detail rate. New Boston Police staffing can handle this coverage. New Boston already has a mutual aid agreement with Frankestown. Other police agencies are helping Frankestown as well. This arrangement would affect the mutual aid agreement. A six month Memorandum of Understanding in addition to the mutual aid agreement was drafted to address many possible issues including liability. The Memorandum is to be approved by Jim, the Town Administrator and Selectmen and reviewed by town counsel. Peter and the Frankestown Town Administrator reviewed the Memorandum. Frankestown has not yet responded. Brandy asked if New Boston

could use the Frankestown cruiser to avoid wear and tear on New Boston's vehicles. Jim said that is possible but would mean New Boston officers would need training on a different computer and dispatch system. New Boston cruisers have a system with its own computer and dispatch for assisting other agencies. An extra New Boston cruiser is available. Some days New Boston might tell Frankestown an officer is available but not a cruiser. Joe asked if Frankestown should hire New Boston officers for full time work and Jim said New Boston does not have any part time officers to offer in this way and they would have to go through the full interview and background process. The interview and background process has already been done in New Boston and are of good quality. The Selectmen approved and signed the Memorandum pending response from Frankestown. The Selectmen thanked Jim for all the Police Department does.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 7: Town Administrator's Report:

- Foot Traffic Safety Committee: The next meeting is April 15. Mary Weiss, an expert fundraiser who is helping with fundraising was a guest at the last meeting.
- Parker Road Logging: Action was taken by the Planning Board.
- The GZA annual landfill monitoring agreement and reports are ready to be sent to NH DES.
- The Hazard Mitigation grant will be signed.
- Heating and Air Conditioning Units: The bid request went out and bids are due this month.
- Town Hall Basement: The bid package was created and needs some revision.
- Mont Vernon Land Purchase: The deed was received from Don Grosso and is now under legal review.
- Purchase of Daniels Land Behind Fire Station: The Selectmen approved purchase of this land for \$10,000 in March. The money will be taken from the operating budget. Peter met with Town Attorney Leslie Nixon to prepare the deed and resolve property line issues.
- Highway Department Proposed New Hire: The Highway Department is hiring due to a retirement. The Road Agent chose an applicant for the position and this will be announced soon.
- Preparation of Eagle Scout Proclamations: Peter prepared proclamations for Tyler Ruggiero and Cody Paquette. Dwight presented them to the scouts at the ceremony March 28. The scouts were very appreciative to the town and to Forestry Committee Chairman Kim DiPietro who helped them with their projects. Dwight commended Peter on the thought that went into the proclamation wording.
- Support of HB 192: Assessor George Hildum asked the town to contact Senator Andy Sanborn to convey request for support. Peter did so as it is expected to benefit New Boston.
- Joe asked Peter for some information earlier and this will be done.
- Peter noted that under the right to know law a majority of Selectmen cannot have casual conversation as it could be considered a meeting. E-mail conversations also should not occur.

Item 8: Selectmen's Reports:

Joe reported he met with Open Space Committee Chairman Ken Lombard and Conservation Commission member Barbara Thomson to walk the 87 acre property the town is considering accepting as a donation discussed at the last meeting. He noted it is a beautiful property that the owner wants to donate to the town for recreation. There are a few caveats such as logging but this may be changed as some trees could be removed to help wildlife and create trails. There is a lot of work to be done and the Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission are willing to do the work.

Public Forum:

Brandy noted town committee openings were advertised in the New Boston Bulletin with applications accepted until March 31. However, some applicants were approved in March before the deadline. The Selectmen will consider making the application deadline earlier next year.

Item 9: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (c): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Christine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

Adopted –April 20, 2015