

APPROVED

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting May 4, 2015

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

NH State Senator Andy Sanborn, Solid Waste Committee member Gordon Carlstrom, Road Agent Dick Perusse, Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Recreation Department Secretary Mary Manna, Willard Dodge, Jen Martin, Kim Borges, John and Kevin Ryan 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 Appointment of Philip Consolini to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Rodney Towne to the Road Committee for 3 years.

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: State Senator Andy Sanborn-Update on the Senate Activities Re: Budgets: State Senator Andy Sanborn was present to meet with the Selectmen to update them on Senate activities. He discussed pole tax and public service revaluation. His goal is to equalize utility pole taxes across the state as each community charges a different amount. This issue was sent to the state Board of Land and Tax Appeals with a deadline of November for a value of utility poles. He said House bills number 542 and 547 regarding how the state and communities assess utility property is also going to the Board of Land and Tax Appeals. New Boston doesn't have any utility property. Andy also discussed decoupling and divestiture saying there is a movement across the country to decouple revenue from expenses in utility generation to guarantee utility companies a level of profitability no matter how much energy they sell. This is expected to raise prices to consumers. NH has the fourth highest electric rates in the country. He said if this issue concerns you, send a letter to the Energy Committee and contact Andy at (603) 271-2609 or andy.sanborn@leg.state.nh.us. He also discussed the state budget and three items that will affect how money is spent in NH including a potential federal lawsuit the Governor settled for \$258 million over 10 years, a lawsuit settled with NH hospitals and implementation of the Affordable Care Act Medicare and Medicaid expansion with an impact to the budget of millions of dollars. Andy is on the Ways and Means Committee. He noted there are 300 additional bills pending.

Item 2: Mike Sindoni/Recreation Commission members-Request for Consideration of Advancing Funds to the Recreation Commission for White Buildings Renovations:

Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Recreation Assistant Mary Manna and Recreation Commission members Kim Borges and Jen Martin were present to meet with the Selectmen as the Recreation Commission voted to move ahead to get work done on the White Buildings to have them ready for the summer program beginning June 29. The Commission has money for the project but has a \$12,000 shortfall. They are proposing using their Revolving Account along with a \$12,000 advance from the town that the Recreation Commission would repay with revenue from the summer program and other Recreation programs within eighteen months. Peter Flynn prepared a response to this request and inquired with town counsel who recommended it be treated as an “advance.” The Recreation Commission is meeting with the school Thursday night to discuss the possibility of the school using the white buildings again. Mike said this seems unlikely, mostly for security reasons, the school now has the portable classroom that is more secure and close to the main school building and an agreement will be prepared on this issue. Joe said the school had a demographic study that said the school population would stabilize and then decrease but Joe expects the population will steadily increase and would like something in writing that the school would not use the white buildings for at least five years. Kim said as a commissioner she would not sign something saying the school could not use the white buildings if the need arose, instead she would like to keep the good relationship with the school and work out an agreement with them in this event as the school has been working with the commission all along. Town Administrator Peter Flynn noted taxpayer money will not be affected by this advance. Joe moved that the Board of Selectmen shall advance the Recreation Commission the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of timely and efficient completion of renovations at the White Building(s) located on property owned by the SAU and leased by the Town. The Recreation Commission shall reimburse the general fund of the Town the amount of \$12,000 as received from anticipated revenue going into and coming out of the Revolving Fund account. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 3: Fire Chief Dan MacDonald-Updates on Fire/Emergency Management

Departments: Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present to update the Selectmen on activities at the Fire Department as follows:

- New Fire Station Design: The land is to be acquired by the end of the month. In 2007/2008 the Fire Wards worked to engineer and design the building and they have a conceptual design that allows for expansion if necessary. An engineer will be consulted now to get costs and put the project into the CIP.
- Transition TARP Program to a Long Term Solution: Four years ago New Boston won an award submitted by former Fire Inspector Russ Boland for \$265,000 to bring two people into the Fire Station in ten hour daytime shifts and the Fire Department would pay for their paramedic schooling. Twenty-five people have gone through the program and helped the Department in other beneficial ways such as maintenance tasks during their shifts. The program is ending in June and the Department plans to cover these positions with the EMT Fire Inspector and EMT Administrative Assistant and the Fire Chief. The Department expects the new system will be successful.
- Ensure the Success of the Fire Department: Dan and the Fire Wards are working together, recruiting new people and working to solve any problems that arise. The Department has great volunteers.

- Participate in the Granite Thunder 2015 Exercise: the Air Force Tracking Station has held terrorist situation training scenarios in the past and will hold one this year. Dan is working with the Police Chief to plan it and recently held a tabletop scenario for twenty-five participants. They are working to make communication more efficient during situations. This is expected to be a great drill. The Selectmen are invited to attend. Dan will send out a program overview.
- Await Results of 2015 Firefighter Grant Requests (2): The Department applied for two grants to replace older vehicles and SCBA bottles that are required to be replaced soon. If the award is not granted the costs will be built into the CIP over the next five years.
- Fill Position for Fire Administration Opening: The position was advertised with a couple of responses.
- Work with New Fire Inspector: Eric Dubowik began working as the Fire Inspector in January. He has been reviewed monthly since and found to be doing fine, is a very detailed person and working great with the public.
- Develop Ambulance Replacement Proposal: The ambulance needs to be replaced soon. Gina Catalano is running the replacement committee and will present to the Fire Wards next month. This item was removed from CIP and the ambulance billing account will be used to purchase an ambulance and rescue related items.

Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald then updated the Selectmen on Emergency Management Department activities as follows:

- Granite Thunder Exercise: This training will be led by the Emergency Management Director and coordinated with the Police Chief and is expected to go well.
- New Boston Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: The Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operation Plan is required by the state and needs to be updated periodically. Both need to be updated this year. A grant will cover \$6,000 of the cost and the town will cover \$2,000.
- New Boston Central School Generator Upgrade Grant: The library was looking for a generator and asked Dan to get a grant but as the school is the primary town shelter and used more often it seemed better to get a new generator for the school as the current school generator is unreliable. Dan worked with the state and decided to apply for a grant for a school generator and transfer the current school generator to the library. Costs involved include the generator, engineering and electric capacity upgrade wiring at \$100,000. A 50/50 grant was considered with soft match acceptable. The school would be responsible for \$50,000-60,000 and the town is considering helping with this cost. Peter will work to answer this but noted the town is benefited by use of the school as an emergency shelter. Peter asked Dan to make a separate presentation on this topic. Willard Dodge was present and noted in the past the School Board limited town use of the gym due to lack of town financial support and recommended the town consider supporting the cost of the generator to avoid the School Board making this decision again. Dan noted Dave Cramb installed the current generator with the capacity to power the gym only. At that time the generator could not power flushing toilets so that was worked out. Superintendent Brian Balke requested a new generator to power the entire school to hold school during power outages if possible. Kevin Ryan asked about parking capacity at the shelter and Dan said there hasn't been an issue yet but if one arose the Recreation Department van is available to transport residents to the shelter if they are unable to get there. Kevin asked about the capacity of the shelter and Dan said it currently has 40 beds but may expand and people have asked about sheltering pets at the

shelter. The library would be a secondary shelter and has already been used as a cooling station during hot weather as part of the Emergency Management Plan. Dan has been in contact with Brian and it is Brian's final decision if the school wants to be involved at all with the cost of a generator. The school has not committed fully. Dan will schedule a meeting with Brian and the Selectmen if necessary.

- **New Boston Emergency Services Radio Communications Upgrade Program:** The Police discovered the communication equipment was gone from the Dodge Road communication site last year. It was replaced by a new communications vendor but the new equipment was incompatible with the other communication equipment. It was then discovered the Ridgeview communication pole is not tall enough for effective communication. This is a Police Department problem but not only a Police Department problem. The pole site is also a fire hazard. A grant was applied for to make the area safer but was not awarded. Police Chief Jim Brace, Dan and Road Agent Dick Perusse met and are working to create a strategy to improve this area. A \$60,000 quote for the antenna was received. A pole was donated. The Highway Department could install it, the Police Department would have better communication and then the area could be fireproofed. A plan will be presented to the Selectmen when more is known about the plan and financing. Dan and Joe will meet to review the communication pole issue.
- **Update School Evacuation Plan:** The plan needs to be updated to keep students safe. New Boston has a great plan in place; it is one of the best in NH and may be used as a model for other communities.
- **Continue Event Emergency Planning for 2015 Youth Center Events:** The Hillsborough County Youth Center hosts events periodically and is now communicating with the Emergency Management Department when events are held so the town knows how to respond in the event of an emergency there.

Item 4: Police Chief James Brace-Updates on Part Time Officer Staffing: Police Chief Jim Brace was unable to attend tonight. Lieutenant Mike Masella was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss two part time patrolman positions the Police Department is working to fill. He said two candidates are progressing well through the hiring process and if this continues to go well Jim will request a meeting with the Selectmen to confirm the new hires at the May 19 Selectmen's meeting. Mike also noted Officer James Moran is attending the Police Academy now. The Selectmen and Dan congratulated the Police Department on how they handled an incident over the weekend.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 5: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of April 20, 2015: The Selectmen reviewed the public and non-public minutes of April 20, 2015. Christine moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 6: Second Reading-Public Hearing-Continuation of Recessed Hearing of April 20th-Solid Waste Facility Fee Adjustments: The Public Hearing opened at 7:10 PM. Solid Waste Committee Chairman Gordon Carlstrom was present. Joe said there is no pressure to remove the concrete pile at the Transfer Station per his recent conversation with Mike Gilfoy at NH DES who said the rules are in place for at least ten years as the process to change the rules is complicated.

Joe said there is a question of liability with an open concrete pile and requested a risk management assessment of the location of the pile from the town insurance provider. Gordon said the town Safety Committee has been proactive with changes to make the Transfer Station safer, including the new lock out program. Peter said the Safety Committee has done a good job but some concerns require more expertise and an assessment may be prudent.

Road Agent Dick Perusse was present and said he has not yet spoken to Transfer Station Superintendent Gerry Cornett but is considering how the Highway Department could handle concrete.

The tipping fee was reviewed and it was noted the tonnage has not increased but the fee to remove the material from the Transfer Station has. A modest fee increase is being proposed to cover the increased cost, from the former \$650 to the current \$785 to remove the material. Joe requested more information from Gerry on volume.

Joe said he doesn't think a fee increase is necessary at this point as the increased removal fee should be absorbed by recyclable revenues. If residents choose to use the Transfer Station they are contributing to revenues. If the town falls below a certain amount of revenue then the fee should be increased.

Gordon noted scales were purchased to weigh fee construction items and are expected to pay for themselves through fees in five years. The Transfer Station has also noticed in the past when fees were low people were bringing a lot of material in that may have been coming from other towns. This fee request is an attempt to prevent abuse of the system. Another issue is the recyclables market is variable at this time, making budget balancing difficult. Using the recyclables market is a mechanism where the Transfer Station can decrease the cost to the normal everyday trash disposal. User fees are for one time occasional things and are used to try to cover the cost of occasional use item disposal so the whole town doesn't have to pay taxes when one person throws an item away because they bought a new one.

John Ryan was present and said he is concerned a fee would cause some residents to dispose of items in another inappropriate way.

Gordon said trash disposal is becoming a user fee environment as opposed to landfills used in the past. He said concrete disposal will become an issue if it is contaminated. The Transfer Station has been able to dispose of it so far but expects to need another way to dispose of it.

Joe said he doesn't want to raise fees to keep up with fees in other towns.

Gordon said this fee increase is requested to cover the cost to dispose of items, not to keep up with fees in other towns.

Willard Dodge of Tucker Mill Road was present and said some residents may bring a large load of fee items but most residents pay taxes that help support the Transfer Station and fees should not be added to cover one-time items for residents. If the concern is contaminated concrete, attendants can watch for that. New Boston has never been a town that did what other towns do.

Kevin Ryan was present and said he agrees with Willard, the town is getting too many fees and common sense should prevail. Kevin noted some towns use trash pickup and residents pay taxes for that, and New Boston's tax rate is a concern.

Gordon said residents are allowed to leave furniture at the Transfer Station without paying a fee a couple of times a year. He also said the Transfer Station is not free, it is paid for either through taxes or fees and this fee request is an attempt to keep taxes low.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:25 PM. Joe moved this matter to a third reading at the May 19 Selectmen's meeting. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 7: Second Reading: Town Hall Parking Ordinance-Peter Flynn: The Public Hearing opened at 7:28 PM. Peter noted parking in the Town Hall parking lot is allowed as long as the vehicle is registered but Peter has noticed an issue for Town Hall employees and residents doing business at the Town Hall during the winter when cars were left in the lot for many days impeding Highway Department plowing and an ordinance may be needed to improve this situation. An amendment of the current parking ordinance is proposed and the Selectmen reviewed it. It has the support of the Police Chief and Road Agent. Kevin Ryan was present and noted he is concerned about the proposal. He has noticed ample parking on a regular basis. In the winter he noticed problems of residents not being able to travel New Boston roads to get home. He is concerned that there are only 40 cots available in the emergency shelter when there are 5000 residents, the shelter could not support all. Therefore, people should not be limited in their ability to park or fined.

Joe said he was also concerned and asked at the April 20 Selectmen's meeting about alternative public parking for use if residents can't get home and was told there are some spaces next to the Community Church.

John and Kevin Ryan said they are concerned about this proposed ordinance and recommend the town use common sense.

Dwight said people will park at the Town Hall but is it right that the town pay Highway Department plowers by the hour to return to the same area multiple times due to this issue. This problem was occurring before this Selectboard formed and they dealt with it previously by hiring a Road Agent who could plow the roads.

Kevin said he is concerned about residents not getting home due to road conditions. He noted Dwight damaged a plant paid for by taxpayers when he parked at the Town Hall. He is also concerned about the exception made for Fire Department volunteers responding to calls as their license plate identifying them as such would be blocked by snow and it would be unknown that they were there for an emergency. He wants parking available for all people in town. He doesn't want an ordinance created due to the behavior of a handful of parkers. He wants common sense used. He also noted that people that work at the Town Hall Park closest to the building causing residents doing business at the Town Hall to walk further to do business.

Joe noted the Town Hall parking lot is not an overflow lot for tenants at the Ryan property next door. The Ryans are responsible for tenant parking. He said Town Hall employee parking is not the issue. The town is trying to be equitable with this ordinance and it involves a few hours.

Kevin said he is not here for tenant parking and Town Hall parking has been an issue for a lot more than three years.

Willard Dodge asked if the town owns the property behind the Fire Station, and if so, create Fire Department parking there. Peter said the town is in the process of purchasing that land and a Town Meeting is not necessary for that purchase. Christine said Willard's suggestion will be considered once the land is purchased.

Peter said he has only worked for the town for three years but he noticed a problem and the Selectmen asked him to find a solution to the problem. He is not sure why it was not solved before he started working here. The Selectmen were called in the middle of the night due to this problem.

Kevin said New Boston taxes are high. This issue should not have come up due to the behavior of a few people and an ordinance might be more than is needed to deal with this problem. He wants town safety and to make sure there is alternate parking.

Dwight noted members of the Ryan family asked him to deal with this problem.

John said he does not want tenants using the Town Hall parking lot inappropriately and he appreciates the work of the Highway Department.

Peter noted if someone can't make it home and ends up in the Town Hall parking lot as the safest location for their vehicle the Police Department can work with that person to allow parking at the Town Hall for safety purposes.

Joe moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:45 PM with all comments noted. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Joe moved to adopt the Town Hall Parking Ordinance as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 8: First Reading: Public Hearing Policy at Selectmen's Meetings-Peter Flynn: Joe moved to postpone the first reading to the May 19 Selectmen's meeting. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 9: Tax Waiver Request for Four Recreational Vehicles-Peter Flynn: Christine recused herself from the Board due to a 'conflict of interest' on this topic. Assessor George Hildum sent a memo to the Board explaining a recent issue with a new law regarding registration of camping trailers at campgrounds. He explained that trailer owners would be taxed if their trailer was not registered by April 1. Some trailer owners tried to register their trailers but there was an issue in the Town Clerk's office if a title was not provided. These trailer owners requested more time and have it be noted they made an effort to register their trailers by the April 1st deadline. They have now met all registration requirements but were technically late. Peter Flynn recommended that the Board, who are the official assessors, waive the tax for those owners due to the titles not being available to the owners by April 1 but they attempted in good faith to register on time. Joe moved to accept the waiver as recommended by the Town Administrator. Dwight seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0 Christine rejoined the Board.

Item 10: Town Administrator's Report:

- Foot Traffic Safety Committee: Road Agent Dick Perusse attended the April 22 meeting and discussed the Old Coach Road construction project planned for this year. They also discussed pedestrian safety. Sidewalks and crosswalk painting were issues. Crosswalks need painting. The state is responsible for one in New Boston and the town is responsible for two. Funding and donations are coming in to the committee.
- Heating and Air Conditioning Units: The units were installed in the Town Hall and wiring will begin tomorrow.
- Town Hall Basement: A walk through will take place tomorrow at 10:00 ARE for contractors interested in bidding for this project.
- Mont Vernon Road Land Purchase: This sale will close soon. The attorneys reviewed the deed and all necessary paperwork and found it to be in order.
- Purchase of Daniels Land behind Fire Station: Peter and Surveyor Bob Todd will present at the Planning Board meeting May 12 as there is a pending lot line change.
- Peter to Investigate the Most Practical Method of Code Enforcement Re: Winslow's Property on River Road: The town is considering enforcing codes at a property on River Road. The process has begun.

- Town Hall Parking Ordinance: As above.
- Two abutters to the Tremblay land received letters from Attorney Branch after the recent Planning Board meeting and mandate asking the abutters if they would mind Tremblay adding another employee.
- Road Agent Dick Perusse was present. The Selectmen asked him how the Riverdale Road bridge project was progressing and he said it is moving along quicker than expected. The Selectmen asked him about the progress of the state bridge project at a bridge on Route 136 in New Boston and he said he has not received a response on that.

Item 11: Selectmen's Reports:

None.

Public Forum:

None.

Item 12: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II (c): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien