

Adopted

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting July 20, 2015

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

Energy Commission Chairman Susan Carr, Energy Commission member Betsy Whitman, Police Chief James Brace 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. Joe moved to approve the consent agenda. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Consent Agenda included Appointment of Jacqueline Fillmore to Permanent Status as the Town's Bookkeeper. It was noted she has demonstrated knowledge of all requirements and more.

B. PUBLIC FORUM:
None.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Chief James Brace-Introduction and Swearing In of Lt. Matt French, Officer Matthew Koziol and Officer Brandon Tucker as Newest Members of the New Boston Police Department: Police Chief Janes Brace introduced Lt. Matt French who has twenty-two years of police experience, Officer Matthew Koziol who is completing his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and attended the Massachusetts Police Academy and Officer Brandon Tucker who is completing his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Then they were all pinned by their families and sworn in by Deputy Town Clerk Cathy Strausbaugh. The Police Department is now fully staffed.

Item 2: Susan Carr and Keith Lavalieri-Energy Committee-Continued Discussion Re: Solar Energy: New Boston Energy Commission Chairman Susan Carr was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss a potential solar garden to supply electricity to town government buildings. Keith was unable to attend tonight. Susan distributed a handout with electric rates for each town building as the Selectmen requested. Joe had some questions such as how much energy New Boston's solar panels would load into the grid compared with the total stored in the grid and thought a greater savings per kwh would be more worthwhile for New Boston. He is also concerned as this proposal would tie up town land for twenty years and something such as a five year renewable lease seems more favorable. Susan said there are options such as placing the solar array in another area but in that case New Boston would not get lease income in addition to

the 2-4 cent savings per kWh. Christine noted she would also like to see more savings and thought the companies placing these arrays are probably making a lot of money doing this. This is new and more savings may be available in the future. Susan said the town uses electricity and will continue to use electricity, residents seem in favor of solar and being “green” and a few families have begun the process for solar generation at their properties. Dwight was concerned as problems have arisen from solar in Salem, NH and it may be too early for New Boston to make this change. Susan said the only cost to the town is the cost for an attorney to review the contract. Group net metering gives the benefit of decreased electric rate, and the array could be located on town land or another location. Betsy Whitman was present and said she saw an article in the Union Leader saying the PUC will increase electric rates, it is unknown what to expect for electric rates in New England and this proposal could help. The Board will take this under advisement pending answer of Joe’s questions. Susan will have Keith contact Joe. Susan said the Planning Board is reviewing the Master Plan and the energy portion will be updated to include alternate energy sources.

Item 3: Walter Kirsch-Seeking Town Intervention in Right Of Way Matter: Walter was not present but Peter reported Walter was seeking Selectmen assistance on a civil matter that is a right of way battle between Walter and his neighbor. Walter is requesting action from the Selectmen upon the advice of attorneys for both parties. It is the Selectmen’s position they can take no action on this matter.

Item 4: Ed Hunter (With Peter Flynn)-Discussion Re: code Enforcement of Illegal Junk Yards: Peter reported he and Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter have been working on this issue at a couple properties in town. Peter has been researching the legality of how to remedy these areas. One property has a file in the Town Hall full of legal correspondence and agreements that were never met or fulfilled, equaling town money wasted. Peter will research if there is an applicable ordinance. If this is pursued the legal fees will be very expensive. If handled, it should be done at town meeting and the term “grandfathered” should be addressed. Ed noted that all along there was an annual licensing fee, one property has been paying it and others have not. If the license fee is not paid the activity should not be occurring. The Selectmen reviewed the New Boston ordinance for Regulation of Trailers, Private Dumps and Other Activities. This is a newer ordinance and there is another ordinance that was passed in the 1960’s that probably needs to be updated to bring it in line with the applicable RSA. A proposed ordinance was reviewed. The Selectmen want to start the process of legal review to see if the proposed ordinance handles the “grandfather” issue. Peter and Ed will meet again to review the proposed ordinance and send it to town counsel.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 5: Third Reading-Separation of Employee’s Contract Revision (Police): Peter reported the attorney reviewed the proposed language and suggested changes. Police Chief James Brace was present and reviewed the suggested changes from the attorney. He said a promissory note is signed by new officers in conjunction with the contract and he hopes this will continue with the new contract procedure. Joe moved to approve the Third Reading. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Joe moved to amend his motion to include this new language in the agreement “Any employee who is contractually employed by the town and accrues vacation leave, shall forfeit the unused balance of accrued vacation leave upon

separation to cover any unpaid balance of their contract. In the event the contract becomes satisfied, the employee shall receive any remaining balance(s) in their final paycheck.” Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 6: Adoption of Public Minutes of July 6, 2015: The Selectmen reviewed the public minutes of July 6, 2015. Christine moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 7: Update on School/Shelter Generator Status-Re: Highway Department

Involvement: Peter noted there have been different participants in this issue including SAU Superintendent Brian Balke, Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald and Road Agent Dick Perusse per the Selectmen’s request. The town does not have money available to put toward this project for a new generator at the school but may be able to contribute in-kind donation. A meeting with all parties will take place tomorrow at 8:00 AM. The Selectmen would like to know how much the school has available for this project, such as the current amount in its Building and Renovation CRF. Powering the entire school during power outages is not a priority to the Selectmen. The town and school money is all taxpayer money, the school should pay for this project and the town should provide in-kind donation. Brandy Mitroff was present and noted Brian and Peter have clear roles, Dan should be advising the town and the school with two quotes, one for powering the emergency shelter at the school and one for powering the entire school to help the town determine its share of the project. Joe said two quotes are not needed, the school should pay for it if they want it. Brandy said ask SAU Business Administrator Ray Labore if the state oil mitigation reimbursement is included in the CRF balance. The town has given the school money to use as it is all taxpayer money. The Selectmen will ask Dan what is the most people that have ever stayed at the emergency shelter and find out the condition and age of the current generator.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 8: Award Bid for Stair Chair: Peter reviewed the RFQ and scope of work for a stair lift for the Town Hall. Two bids came in with a \$6 price difference. Peter recommended the project be awarded to Stairlift of Amherst, NH due to the quote and his experience with the company. \$17,000 was budgeted for this project, \$900 additional is available in the town budget. Joe moved to approve the quote from Stairlift of Amherst, NH in the amount of \$17,900. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 9: Town Administrator’s Report:

- Foot Traffic Safety Committee: The Committee is meeting again soon and plans to ask Sandi Van Scoyoc to apply for a small grant on their behalf. The Committee has some money available for the proposed footbridge project already. There have been some environmental issues but these are expected to be resolved appropriately.
- Town Hall Basement: No bids came in yet for renovations but once they are in, a daytime Selectmen’s meeting will be called.
- Purchase of Trailer for Voting Equipment: The Parkers currently rent storage space to the town for its election equipment and a personal vehicle was used to haul the items to

elections in the past. A storage trailer for this equipment was purchased today from Ron's Toy Shop and it will be stored at the Highway Department. Willard Dodge will pick up the trailer this week. A lot of elections will occur next year and the trailer will be very useful.

- Riverdale Road Bridge: This project has been going very well.
- Employee Recognition: The Selection hold an employee appreciation BBQ in September and this will be held at the Fire Department.
- Solid Waste Contract: Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett is preparing the RFP, will send a request and present it to the Selectmen for approval. Joe will visit a facility with Gerry next week.

Item 10: Selectmen's Reports:

None.

Public Forum:

None.

Item 11: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(c)(e)-Police Chief Brace: Joe made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3II (a)(c)(e) at 7:08 PM. Christine seconded the motion. Poll vote taken: Joe C. –yes, Dwight-yes, Christine-yes. All were in favor. 3-0 The Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session: Dwight made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 7:30 PM with Joe seconding the motion. All were in favor. 3-0
Joe moved to seal the minutes for 20 years for Non-Public with Christine seconding. All voted in favor 3-0 to seal the non-public minutes of Item 11.

Item 10: Possible Motion Resulting from Non-Public: Re: Appointment: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40PM.with Christine seconding the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien