

# Adopted

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting September 21, 2015

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

School Board members Wendy Lambert, Bill Schmidt, Glen Dickey, Transfer Station Superintendent Gerry Cornett, Vernie Federer, Road Agent Dick Perusse 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

### **B. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Brandy Mitroff of Thornton Road was present to discuss the plowing issue between the Highway Department and NBCS. She noted the Highway Department has been plowing the NBCS parking lot forever and she never heard of any problem when Rick Matthews was the Principal. She remembers the Highway Department even helped cut a path to allow a disabled student to do the snowshoeing activity that takes place every year with her classmates. It is Brandy's impression that this issue came up when the Road Agent was slammed by someone at the school. She understands the roads come first, school cannot be held when roads are not passable anyway. Her impression is NBCS is located on a town road with a road sign, Central School Road. This is on fire maps and this address is given in emergencies. She noted the dirt road between NBCS and the Recreation Department is a safe way for village children to get to school and is used under the school evacuation plan used to get school children and staff to safe locations in emergencies. The community keeps reminding NBCS that the gym located there is not the school's, it was built as a community center and is used often by the Recreation Department, a town department, especially in winter, at night and on weekends, almost as often as school is in session. NBCS is also the location of the town emergency shelter. Brandy spoke to Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald who suggested a meeting with all involved parties should be held to discuss this issue. Brandy said this is a town cooperation issue. The Principal, School Board, Selectmen, Town Administrator, Emergency Management Director, Recreation Director and Road Agent should meet to work through this issue in a friendlier fashion.

School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert was present on behalf of the School Board along with School Board Members Bill Schmidt and Glen Dickey so there is a line of communication between the town and school and she noted the School Board will make an effort to attend upcoming Selectmen meetings for an open line of communication.

School Board Member Bill Schmidt was present and noted this issue has highlighted a lack of communication between the School Board and the Selectmen.

Peter said the Selectmen will take this issue under advisement as it is not on the agenda. The Selectmen can make a statement tonight but no decision can be made. Joe said this issue will be discussed again soon.

School Board Member Glen Dickey was present to discuss the potential FEMA 50/50 grant for a generator at NBCS. He said even if a whole school generator is not selected, the town and school should take advantage of this grant as a smart use of taxpayer money, coming from federal tax receipts. This will be beneficial to families as school will be able to be in session when power is out if roads are passable and it makes economic sense.

Dwight said the generator should only be used for emergencies. He is a former electrician and is concerned about spending a lot of money on a whole school generator due to the large number of components in the school building, something could be damaged if the school tried to hold session during power outages if the generator is overloaded and a costly rebuild is necessary.

Joe said the town has paid for three emergency generators in the past. If the School District wants a generator it now has money to purchase a generator combining the federal grant and CRF tax deposits. Sitework from the Highway Department would be the town contribution.

Brandy said the New Boston School District does have a CRF for building maintenance and repair but NBCS has never had a whole school generator so that would be a different use of the CRF and that would need to go to public request. If the current generator is repaired or replaced, that would fall under appropriate use of the CRF. More research is also needed on the different factors involved in holding school during a power outage such as buses and staff availability.

Joe said these issues were discussed at the last Selectmen's meeting. This project probably doesn't need a separate Warrant Article as the current generator is working intermittently and this is an appropriate use of the CRF.

Bill noted he is on the School Board and agrees with the Selectmen's position due to what Brandy said and to instill self-sufficiency in New Boston families.

Joe noted Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald has not yet obtained competitive bids for a diesel v. propane generator and better quotes are needed.

### **C. APPOINTMENTS:**

**Item 1: Public Hearing: Acceptance of Indian Falls, Susan and Campbell Pond Roads per RSA 674:40-a:** The Public Hearing opened at 6:05 PM. Peter said this hearing is being held after the Planning Board recommended the Selectmen accept Indian Falls, Susan and Campbell Pond Roads as town roads. The roads were approved by the town engineer. This Public Hearing was posted appropriately. Road Agent Dick Perusse was present and said the roads seem satisfactory and ready for acceptance as the town engineer accepted them. Joe noted he has

visited the roads and the developer has made several appearances to the Planning Board. The topic was opened up to public comment. Wendy asked if these roads will be plowed and maintained by the town and if school buses are now allowed to travel them once they are accepted. The Selectmen said yes but there are no houses currently on these roads, but approximately 90 houses are anticipated. Wendy noted the School Board is considering evaluation of bus routes and stops for consolidation and greater efficiency in areas that need it. Joe moved to accept Indian Falls, Susan and Campbell Pond Roads as town roads in New Boston. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Public Hearing closed at 6:13 PM.

**Item 2: Gerry Cornett-Superintendent of the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility:** Transfer Station Superintendent Gerry Cornett was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- **Discussion Re: Bids for Waste Disposal:** The contract for solid waste disposal with Wheelabrator is ending. A request for bids was sent. Waste Management would have been competitive but cannot bid for New Boston for seven years due to a non-competitive clause with Wheelabrator. Gerry has been working on this with the bids received and prepared a comparison of prices over five years. He recommended New Boston enter a three year contract with Naughton & Sons/Northeast Recovery Association with the option to extend two more years and expects this will save New Boston \$57,000 over five years. Christine moved to enter into a three year contract with Naughton & Sons/Northeast Recovery Association with the option to extend two more years. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Gerry will follow up on this tomorrow. The Solid Waste Committee met this week and also approved the contract.
- **Paving Issues at the Facility:** Shortly after the cold weather began last year issues began with the new paving at the facility. The contractor Advanced Paving was recently in and sealed the cracks but said the pavement is raveling and it needs to be top sealed. It will cost \$11,000 to resurface. The current surface is eleven months old. This needs to be done this year or next year to preserve and protect what is there that was an investment of taxpayer money. Joe recommended Peter and Gerry contact the contractor to try to get this fixed at a better price. Gerry said the contractor stands behind the product. Peter said he contacted them when the problem arose but will be more forceful when he contacts them again. Gerry noted Continental Paving did some paving at the facility in 2004 that has held up very well. He also noted the former pavement was there for 20 years and held up well.
- **Baler:** The Solid Waste Committee discussed the age of the equipment at their meeting this week. Gerry noted there is a trust set up for replacing Transfer Station equipment but no line for refurbishment. He said most of the current equipment is in very good condition and he would like to keep it but it would need maintenance every couple years. The baler and backhoe are great pieces of equipment and a few thousand dollars could refurbish these instead of replacing them at a higher cost. Gerry would like to add a line to the budget for equipment refurbishment starting next year. The Selectmen agreed. Gerry will work with Peter toward the end of the year to replace the baler. It is a 25 year old piece of equipment, the first piece of equipment the town purchased for the Transfer Station. It was repaired in the past but the piston is cracking again. It is expected to get worse and become a safety issue. It is the most heavily used piece of equipment at the

Transfer Station. It will cost approximately \$6,000 to repair or \$12,000 to replace. Gerry recommends replacement at this time as repair is not a good use of tax money.

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

**Item 3: Adoption of Public Minutes of September 8, 2015:** The Selectmen reviewed the public minutes of September 8, 2015. Joe moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

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

**Item 4: Official Appointment of New Selectmen's Assistant:** Peter reported the Selectmen signed the Consent Agenda previously to hire the new person conditionally and allow the new Selectmen's Assistant to begin work. She has been working in the position for about a week and working very well. Peter highly recommends the Selectmen officially approve this hire. Joe moved to approve the appointment of Maralyn Segien as the new Selectmen's Assistant at grade 6, Step 7A at an hourly rate of \$15.82. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0  
The Selectmen congratulated Maralyn and wished her well in the new position.

**Item 5: Discussion and Recommendations in Updating Salary and Step Tables:** The Selectmen reviewed cost of living adjustments. Peter reviewed the history of the former and current salary and step system that began three years ago. Peter researched this and prepared material for the Selectmen's review. He recommends an adequate and fair cost of living increase of 1.5% for all town employees. Joe said this seems reasonable. Christine moved to set a cost of living increase to all employees at 1.5% for the 2016 budget year and the Pay Tables and Steps are adjusted accordingly. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

#### **F. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Item 6: Review of Town's Year to Date Expenditures:** Peter reviewed the year to date budget and said it is doing very well. Some department budgets are tight but some budgets are in very good shape and unexpended funds are expected to make up for other budget shortfalls... The tax rate will be set in October or early November. Peter attended a conference regarding this issue last Thursday and learned how the tax rate will be calculated through a new software program established by the Department of Revenue. At town meeting last year the town considered using \$100,000 out of the fund balance where \$1.2 million is estimated to be available. New Boston has no debt which paints a very good financial picture as a whole.

#### **Item 7: Town Administrator's Report:**

- Foot Traffic Safety Committee: The Committee met the other day and considered four bridge types with the design engineer and decided to investigate the aluminum bridge option further.
- Town Hall Basement: Carter Sprinkler Company made modifications to work around the Boiler Room while construction is in the works. Front stairway is temporarily blocked.
- Stairchair: Installation will begin in the near future.
- Employee Recognition: This will take place September 23.
- Solid Waste Contract: As above.

- Tree Cut v. Flagpole Removal: A recommendation was made to remove the flagpole but this was put on hold for a tree analysis at the town common. The report came in and approximately \$1,000 is involved to correct the problem. This will be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting. Brandy Mitroff was present and noted concern as the last time something like this was considered the town almost lost the Christmas tree. Peter noted this proposal does not involve removing any of the trees.
- Riverdale Road Bridge: The Messenger published an article about the recent ribbon cutting ceremony.
- The Selectmen will hold a non-public session tonight to discuss the Town Administrator contract.

**Item 7: Selectmen's Reports:**

- Joe reported he walked the town cut at Middle Branch Road and is interested to see what the town nets from the proceeds and how this is accounted.
- The Planning Board plans to work on the Master Plan at their meeting tomorrow.
- Dwight noted there was a large amount of silt in the river last week from Howe Bridge down and asked the Road Agent where that came from. The Road Agent said he was unaware of it. Joe suggested it could have been from the pit. Dwight invited the Road Agent to go with him to view the source.

**Public Forum:**

Vernie Federer of Labree Road was present and noted concern about the poor condition of the pavement at the Transfer Station. Joe said it just needs to be sealed earlier than expected. Road Agent Dick Perusse was present and the Selectmen asked him about the quality of pavement. He said the formula has changed over the years and that could be a factor in how it holds up.

**Item 9: Town Administrator Annual Review: Request for Non-Public Per RSA 91-A:II, (a) Personnel**

Joe made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3II (a) at 7:04 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Board then entered non-public session after a poll of all members.

**Move to exit Non-Public Session:** Joe Constance moved to exit Non-Public Session at 7:20PM seconded by Christine Quirk. All were in favor. 3-0.

**Public Session-Continued Item 9:**

Joe moved to continue the employment of Town Administrator Peter Flynn for one year (September 21, 2016) and to include him in the cost of living increase as voted earlier for all other employees. Christine seconded the motion. All voted in favor 3-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Joe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM., seconded by Christine. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien - Adopted on October 5, 2015*