



the road and Ronald's sister Claudia who indicated the family has no problem with the plan. Dwight Lovejoy was present and noted he was Ronald's friend and makes sure the memorial area is well maintained. He is appreciative of this plan.

Karen noted this is happening in conjunction with Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War occurring 2012-2023. She read aloud the objectives of this effort. This will be considered a commemorative event and will be posted on their website. She asked that the town fly the Commemorative Flag on a town flagpole that day. They would love to hear from any and all Vietnam Veterans. Karen honored Vietnam Veterans present tonight with Commemorative lapel pins as thank you gifts.

Rodney noted NBCS will hold their Memorial Day service May 27 this year. Brandy will publish this event in the New Boston Bulletin. Christine noted it is an honor to have this happening in New Boston. Rodney moved to support this effort and commit to flying the Commemorative Flag the day of the event. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Item 3: Dan Donovan Rose Meadow Discussion Re: Abatement Possibility for Future Rose Meadow Development:** Rose Meadow Facilities' owners Dan Donovan and Dan Donovan II were present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the possibility of temporary tax abatement for a new Rose Meadow Development. Dan II spoke on behalf of the Donovans and noted they are exploring the possibility of building a fourth facility in New Boston. They completed the third facility six months ago and considering building a second building on the same property, the old Wildwood Campground. They asked the Town Administrator for a phased in tax structure to help them use the tax savings toward construction, staffing and furnishing costs as they are very costly and it takes a lot of time to get the facilities up and running. The tax savings would be over five years and explained in the Donovans' letter to the Selectmen dated March 21, 2016. He noted the property is in current use and is taxed \$500 annually. If there were buildings there the property would come out of current use and be taxed approximately \$58,000 per year at the full tax amount. This property is a "giver", not a "receiver" as recently explained in an article in the New Boston Bulletin, as the property does not draw on town resources such as the school and Transfer Station, but does use fire and rescue services occasionally. He also noted the New Boston ambulance service bills for its services and is considering becoming a for-profit service. In this case Rose Meadow clients would help the town revenues by using the ambulance service for appointments, etc. Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present and noted the Rose Meadow facilities do not bring their trash to the Transfer Station but do bring their recyclables and items of value to the Transfer Station, which brings revenue to the town. This tax phase in plan was suggested as the town of Hillsborough recently did something similar with the same formula. Dan has also seen it done in places such as Boston and North Carolina. This could also be something the Donovans can take to their lenders to make financing another project more favorable. They have never had a phased in tax structure on their other properties. Joe noted he lives near a Rose Meadow facility and finds it well done fits into the neighborhood and is well maintained. This project is in the preliminary stage now; the development will also have to go through Planning, Zoning and Conservation approvals. The Donovans want to stay in New Boston and hope to go forward with the project and have the exterior of the building complete before winter and have the building open for clients in 2017. The Donovans invited anyone to visit their new facility. Peter noted there is nothing in the RSA about a phased in tax structure except in the first sentence of Abatement Law

RSA 76:16 that he read aloud. It was noted this project will have no cost to the school district and that the school district is 70% of the New Boston tax bill. The Selectmen would like to take this possibility under advisement to do research before making a decision. The Selectmen will ask the Donovans to meet with them again at their next meeting. Rodney noted he would be in favor of an arrangement like this as an opportunity to reward businesses that want to expand that are doing business in town and treating New Boston well. He noted other communities are using this arrangement as an incentive to bring businesses to their town.

**Item 4: Steve Sears Representing The New Boston Taxpayers' Association Requesting Input On An 'In Depth' Study Of The Workings Of Our Town Government:** Steve Sears of Carriage Road was present representing the New Boston Taxpayers' Association to meet with the Selectmen to request a meeting with each department to see if there are ways to decrease costs in each department.

Steve said he recently returned to New Boston after he left the area after graduating college in 1973. He enjoyed visiting New Boston periodically for his wedding reception and the Fourth of July parade and recently made his home here. He noted economic stress and strain on homeowners has become an issue in many states, especially in NH as the state relies heavily on property taxes to run government, sometimes spending more than revenues and this needs to be evaluated. He formerly lived in Massachusetts that had Proposition 2 ½ spending limits. He served on a 2 ½ override committee in the past to evaluate spending and learned 90% of the people involved were part of the school system. He then studied the school system and wastewater treatment plant and a landfill closure committee. Other issues at that time included a brand new elementary school opened and a librarian was hired but there was not enough money for books, money was spent on a grand piano and football equipment. That school system then had to consider layoff of five teachers. He noted the government hearts may be in the right places but priorities may need adjusting. He and others recently began a Taxpayers' Association in town. Some are here tonight. They want to meet with each department to see if there are ways to voluntarily decrease costs in each department to decrease taxation in New Boston. There is a housing recession over the past ten years but progression of taxes in New Boston. Taxpayers have not seen their taxes go down as the value of their homes and properties go down. This information can be found on the town website. Mill rate is used in some areas. This is not the only item in taxation formula including assessing value of neighborhoods in town; some are valued 30% higher than others for taxation purposes. The April New Boston Bulletin listed some cuts that were made as New Boston is now using a default budget but the Association has questions. They want to vet each department closely to determine how they are operating compared to how other towns are doing similar tasks to see if there are ways to reduce the cost of business in New Boston government. He wrote a letter in the April New Boston Bulletin and discussed "givers" and "receivers." He reviewed this. A lot of homeowners in town are empty nesters and probably in the same position he is. Some retired homeowners can't afford to live here, some might say New Boston is not a place for retired homeowners because they can't afford to live here but some homeowners want to spend the rest of their life in New Boston. The Association wants to determine how to make that happen to be good for all residents including new parents, middle aged and retired. Many homeowners have seen their tax bills increase \$1,000 per year over the last three to four years in a housing recession when property values and taxes should have lowered. A property reval is scheduled and taxes are expected to increase He said a window for tax relief in New Boston was missed and now the Town will look for more

taxes because New Boston is in a housing boom. He has heard a lot of homeowners are leaving town after retirement because they can't afford the taxes and he thinks residents of all ages should be able to live in and enjoy New Boston. He is asking permission from the Selectmen to conduct interviews with Department Heads and will ask the School Board for permission to do the same to try to find ways the town can save money that will reduce taxes.

Joe noted he grew up in Massachusetts and is familiar with construction in Massachusetts and the Prop 2 ½ override process. He said it is not the same in New Boston. Town meeting and vetting process is rigorous. Support for construction projects from MA is higher than NH. The New Boston process is extremely thorough and intensive with the Finance Committee, CIP Committee and Selectmen. New Boston used the Town Meeting system in the past and used to have bitter debates over \$500 items. New Boston has not had violations of trust that Steven mentioned occurred in MA. Joe also noted NH state support of municipalities has decreased and these costs were offloaded onto municipalities including New Boston and more of this seems to be happening. He said the homeowners cannot leave state government out of the process of tax evaluation. Three NH representatives are from New Boston. Joe asked what kind of review the Taxpayers' Associations would put state representatives under. New Boston taxes are established after rigorous review and are expected to increase 9 cents/thousand. The school budget is also under rigorous review. All was done very well. Joe noted Brandy Mitroff is present tonight and is a volunteer on both the Finance and CIP Committees as are others in the audience tonight. The process is rigorous; both committees meet with all Department Heads each year, sometimes more than once. The participatory process is important and he invited any and all to attend these meetings.

Rodney noted that just because the value of a home goes up does not mean taxes go up. If the value goes up during assessment but spending stays the same, tax rate goes down. If a property is improved the value goes up and taxes go up in that case. He is not in favor of accommodating a management study in New Boston. New Boston has one of the most open systems in the country. The public has not been attending these meetings but attendance is the way to make a difference. Any and all are welcome to attend and to speak at the meetings and to review materials in advance. The budget is reviewed over sixteen meetings; the Finance Committee asks questions about budget items. The process vets these things. He asks the public to attend and participate. If they choose not to attend and participate he cannot help them. His town portion of taxes increased \$220 in seven years at Rodney's property valued at \$250,000. Including the school portion his taxes increased \$2,000. The Selectmen only have control over the town portion. Rodney has been involved as a Selectmen for several years, took one year off, but when he does tax presentations he always mentions how much his taxes and how much his elderly parents' taxes will increase due to any proposed changes. He said if the Taxpayers' Association wants to talk to any Department Managers, they should call the Town Administrator to set up an appointment. Rodney has been asking any and all to attend and participate at meetings for years, but few attend and hear him ask. He said use the system, it and the elected officials are here for the taxpayers. He understands what Steve is saying. Rodney's family is fortunate that they managed their funds in a way that they can stay in New Boston after retirement. He also said not everyone likes to live on a credit card. New Boston doesn't live on a credit card. New Boston does not owe any money and does not pay interest. This is due to the CIP Schedule to plan for large budget items. Rodney said use the system.

Joe noted the Transfer Station annual report published in the Town Report includes formulas the Transfer Station Manager uses to offset Transfer Station costs with recycling. Joe said this is very enlightening. Joe noted each department had a very good report in this year's Town Report and that is a good place for the Taxpayers' Association to begin research.

Brandy Mitroff was present and noted the town portion of the tax rate is not the entire tax rate.

Rodney said that is true but the school officials also work very hard, vetting their budget, and said go to their meetings. He noted School Board Member Glen Dickey is present tonight and has become very involved in town meetings due to his concern about the tax rate.

Joe noted the school district is responsible to include state mandates in their budget, including special educations, teacher retirement and other additional costs the school district was not required to include thirty-five years ago. He noted School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert and School Board member Fred Hayes are also present tonight.

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present and noted that as a Department Head he is held to an extremely high level of accountability to the Selection and state regulations. He noted the process is rigorous and thorough. He noted this year's Town Report did not reflect the improvement of Transfer Station operating costs over the past thirteen years. He can show savings and how the Transfer Station budget has decreased constantly over the past nine years. He runs his department like a business.

David and Joanne Sherman of 139 Byam Road were present and noted they moved to a nice home in New Boston in 2001, worked to improve the home and their taxes have doubled since they moved here. He is now retired and Joanne will retire in two years. Taxes and utilities are the reason they plan to move once she retires although they love living in New Boston.

Bill Gould of Town Farm Road was present and noted he has volunteered as the Chairman of the Finance Committee for three years. He wants to assure all that the role of the Finance Committee is to look out for taxpayers to make sure all New Boston taxes are spent well. The Committee reviews each budget page by page and line by line for hours at evening meetings and spends five hours at a culminating Saturday morning meeting. The Committee takes this very seriously to make sure every issue is resolved and the consensus after discussion is that all on the Committee agree in the end and ensure that appropriate action is taken on each question, making sure tax money is spent wisely.

Steve noted it has been said in the media and around town that approximately 200 voters automatically vote "no" on every Warrant Article. He gave an example that if someone came to his house with a document that got subsequently more and more confusing he would probably pass. He said that could be why these voters are passing on voting in favor. He noted there were many Warrant Articles for trucking; there was one for trucking fees for a bridge to nowhere. The April New Boston Bulletin reviewed cuts that were made due to the default budget. He compared Fire Department cuts to Transfer Station cuts and said the Fire Department is open 24 hours per day; 7 days per week with 10% cut and compared that to the Transfer Station that is open 30 hours per week cut overtime and budget by 2%. He said there are hourly wage and salary line items. He has worked in government and government agencies throughout his career

but noted in private business hourly employees go home first and salaried employees stay and finish the work that needs to be done. If a business put in overtime each year would not have been in business long. He said if first responders have to cut their budget by 10% and Transfer Station has to cut its budget by 2%, many are questioning the priorities of town government. People attending tonight are here because they are concerned about their taxes increasing. He said the Deliberative Session may sound good on paper but town meetings, Finance Committee meetings and the Deliberative Session are a small opportunity for the public to ask in depth questions of any government agency or department.

Rodney said these things are untrue. Any and all are allowed to ask questions and have questions answered. The reason he didn't know is because he did not come to the meetings and ask the questions.

Steve asked if the public is not supposed to believe the financial report.

Rodney said the public should believe it, need to attend meetings and ask questions. The Financial report was published after the budgets were approved. He said Steve is wrong.

Joe said Steve has the Fire Department budget wrong.

Gerry said Steve is mistaken on the Transfer Station budget. The Fire Department has a phenomenal amount of volunteers and comparing them to a contractual department such as the Transfer Station is not a fair comparison. The Transfer Station brings a lot of revenue to town; one of the best years was \$130,000. Improvements to the Transfer Station have been done within budget with no CIP or additional Warrant Articles under Town Administrator and Selectmen guidance and Gerry is pleased to work for them.

Steve said he got the information comparing the Fire Department and Transfer Station budgets from the New Boston Bulletin. Peter said that is not official. Steve said in that case is he not supposed to believe the media.

Brandy noted that as a decade long volunteer member of the Finance and CIP Committee she would have liked to see all concerned at the meetings. These meetings don't just have a Public Comment session, as each budget line is reviewed the public are allowed to ask questions. Overtime is clear at the Finance Committee meetings, but not clear in the abbreviated budget the public reviews at the Deliberative Session. She asked any and all to please attend Finance and CIP Committee meetings as it is almost too late at the Deliberative Session. She said not all suggestions made at the Finance Committee are approved but questions and suggestions can be offered, a better answer may be out there but the public needs to be there to make suggestions. She said this is true of any town committee.

Glen Dickey of McCurdy Road was present and said he is sympathetic of the Taxpayers' Association goals. He became involved in the town finance process seven years ago for this reason and learned the town budget is doing well and every line is reviewed. The school budget is efficient. The town needs to add money to the tax base without adding students to the school system.

School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert was present and invited everyone to School Board meetings for open conversation.

Chairman of the New Boston Taxpayers' Association Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Lane was present and said the Association understands the public should have attended meetings. Part of their organization was to do that that is why they asked permission to interview Department Heads. He said there may be mistrust. He asked voters to vote for a default budget and to defeat one article; he doesn't know why other articles didn't pass. The Association wants to get involved and understand the process. Town officials are now saying the public has to go to all meetings but he doesn't feel that is necessary as town officials are elected to do that. He owns a business, has children in the school system and a mother-in-law that take up his time. Taxes have increased. In the 8.5 years he has lived in New Boston his taxes went from \$7,600 to \$12,500. He lives on a non-maintained road and not receiving more services. He has done research and learned of mandates and also discrepancies that make him wonder why. He asked committee members if they ever made a decision they regretted and they said they had. His purpose is to get information out to taxpayers that they can understand. The Taxpayers' Association has a Facebook page and anyone is welcome to join, even if they don't agree with the Taxpayers' Association. He will attend meetings but will not attend every meeting.

Rodney noted the town agrees there is a problem and will have to do better.

Kaleb said that is not completely true.

Rodney reviewed history of taxes. He said the town is under a partially socialist government as it pays for what the entire community has available. The nation chose school, community protection and highway maintenance to be socialist. Individuals can't beg out of the whole system.

Kaleb said part of the reason he began the Association was he has heard a lot of stories of people who can't afford taxes and have to move out of town. Mike Pimenta of McCurdy Road was present and noted he has lived in New Boston for 28 years and watched the Police, Fire and Recreation departments grow each year successfully. On the other hand, the Highway Department always asks for more money and equipment. Today there was another storm and vehicles still had difficulty getting home. He has been discussing this issue with recent Selectman Dwight Lovejoy for two years.

Rodney said that is not true. Rodney has been involved with the Selectmen for seven years and one ten-wheeler and one road grader were purchased in those years. There is a process for replacing vehicles. There are also more trucks now as there are more roads and more people.

Mike said the CIP Schedule is brought up each year, it is not new equipment every year, but he is told to stop complaining. He is aggravated seeing taxes increase each year as this problem of difficulty getting home on roads after storms continues. Dwight noted Mike called him very late at night complaining that vehicles were passing on a double yellow line.

Joanne noted she formerly lived in Atlanta where elderly who did not have schoolchildren living with them did not have to pay taxes for schools. Joe noted that is because Georgia has a large

lottery system, the entire Georgia and NH lottery goes to education but Georgia has city and state support that NH does not have. Joanne said the way NH is paying for education is not the only way.

Rodney also noted Wyoming residents are issued free college certificates for each child due to the coal industry.

Tim Erickson of Carriage Road was present and suggested New Boston look to the town of Atkinson as a model as they have similar properties and population and pay less for their school portion of taxes and their taxes have not increased much in fifteen years. In comparison he also noted Derry's taxes are very high and higher than New Boston.

Christine suggested comparing the ratio value of houses in comparative towns.

Fred Hayes of Bedford Road was present and noted he volunteers on the School Board and several other town committees. He noted residents to school children ratios would be an important aspect to consider when comparing taxes in NH towns.

Gerry said Atkinson's cost of living index is \$141 compared to the US cost of living index at \$100.

Ed DiPietro of Clark Hill Road was present and said it is nice to have lower taxes but the questions discussed tonight let him know that many taxpayers do not know how the town works. Talking to all Department Heads seems extreme. He suggested the group designate members to become involved in each committee instead of talking to Department Heads as they are already explaining everything at the Finance and CIP Committees. He reminded taxpayers that the purpose of the CIP Schedule is to put money aside each year in CRFs for large purchases instead of going into debt in a year when a large purchase is made.

Steve said the other thing is to find other tax revenue for the town. The Association wanted to explore taxation rates on deeded parcels of land, approximately 400, that are waiting to be purchased and developed that could increase residency by 10% or more, currently being taxed at a much lower rate than developed lots. In his neighborhood there are several such developments with homes, the Association wants to learn how these empty spec homes are taxed. Also assessment of parcels with homes with land over 2.5 acres being taxed at a much lower rate than developed land with 2 acre parcels and if a home is already there, anything over 2.5 acres may be swampland. Also, other towns have put moratoriums on building to prevent more children from going to the school system. He also noted there are town roads with no houses that are still getting services where developers are paying fewer taxes than residents. He suggested the town go to developers and ask for more taxes if possible. He is not sure he would learn the legal answer to that possibility by attending meetings. The people on the New Boston Taxpayers' Association have other things to do and are too busy to attend meetings. That is why elected officials were elected. If the taxpayers don't get answers the same thing that happened at this year's election will continue to happen. The Association wants to find more ways to bring in revenue such as rezoning properties to commercial. The Association is getting e-mails from all over town; some are forwarded unresponded from town officials. The Association is trying to be efficient by going to Department Heads, not bothering them, taxpayers are their employers.



Joe said contact the Town Administrator for this. Steve said the public does not expect the Town Administrator to answer for every Department Heads, if that is the case why have Department Heads.

Rodney said if ever a Department Head does not respond to an e-mail it is important that the sender let other town officials know as the public should be answered. The Department Heads do a pretty good job. Also, all the lots Steve mentioned earlier are in current use until the lot is sold and taken out of current use by development.

Steve said the town is providing services to empty lots and charging less taxes for these lots compared to lots that are not in current use.

Rodney said the road Steve is talking about was accepted by the town less than a year ago and building has begun there. Eventually all those lots will be off the current use map and bringing children to the school. He noted alternatively Forest View, Christian Farm Road and Wright Drive were developed then accepted by the town.

Joe noted the Master Plan is being updated and may be a good place for the Association to provide input on zoning and commercial development. The Master Plan is available for public scrutiny. Steve said the Master Plan is good for a long term plan but taxpayers want more immediate results.

Joe noted the town of Bedford is almost entirely developed and New Boston seems to be the next option for families moving to the area and in this way it is not long term.

Steven said thank you for answers tonight but these answers may not answer the questions of all in town, the Association will continue attending meetings and asking questions comparing New Boston to other towns.

Fred said all committee members, are volunteers with busy lives, careers and other things go do and continue to volunteer. Department Heads are working, keeping tight budgets and tight with their time and meeting with them for the study will take their time.

Kaleb said the Association will fight it out in social media.

David noted he is a citizen and citizens feel something is out of whack. He and his wife made a pretty good living and will have to move out of town. Taxes have doubled in the last several years. They want to learn what is going on and try to work with the town to make it better for all of us.

Rodney noted he is glad everyone is here tonight, he is happy to answer questions, he saw this vote coming over several years, town officials and Department Heads are paying attention and want to fix the problem. The vote was very important. The town officials and Department Heads try to run the town efficiently but can consider alternatives if taxpayers want to participate. It is a commitment to come to meetings, but spread the load out among members, join committees, and participate.

Steve asked if the Selectmen are against contacting the Department Heads to go over what was discussed tonight in more detail.

The Selectmen said the Department Heads are very busy now planning and working with the default budget. Rodney suggested he contact the Town Administrator to ask for an appointment with the Town Administrator and Department Heads individually with specific questions. Any citizen can do that. The Fire Chief has an elected Board of Fire Wards that are his governing body and a meeting with the Fire Chief should be scheduled through the Fire Wards. Rodney considers the Taxpayers' Association's request a management study that would take too much time and he is against that. If a management study is desired a Warrant Article can be put on the ballot next year for this.

Joe noted items suggested by Department Heads during budget season are sometimes opposed; the Finance Committee and Selectmen do not simply approve all items.

Dan MacDonald said that if anyone wants an appointment with a Department Head, understand the challenges they face such as working weekends and stockpiling in preparation of projects. He noted how fortunate the town is to have committed and dedicated Department Heads, dedicated to the success of the department and committed to the people of the town. He asked the budget be put aside.

Jim Brace noted if anyone has a concern he wants to meet with them but he said if someone brings something forward as a comparison, compare apples to apples, instead of comparing New Boston to Goffstown and Bedford, Jim has a list of comparable towns and New Boston does exceptionally well with tax money compared to these. All Department Heads have gone before the Finance Committee who reviewed the budget line by line, the Selectmen were elected and did their job, to question them now and not approve the budget makes it seem the job done by the Finance Committee and Selectmen was not trusted. When ask can this be done cheaper, come forward with solutions from a comparable town. All Department Heads bring ideas forward that save tax money. He reviewed an example of when he saved the Police Department money by beginning a part time officer program. Jim appreciates the comparisons made to other areas, but they are not NH. If someone moves to another area, compare the costs and make sure it is really cheaper, it may not be. New Boston is successful due to employees, their wages will be the first thing to be cut and this could drive out these dedicated people. This issue is exceptionally difficult in the Police Department as it is difficult to find, attract and maintain police officers and keep them beyond the three year contract. If they don't feel appreciated because they are not getting a raise, they could leave New Boston. If the budget is cut, services are cut and there could be long term consequences. He suggested the public attend meetings and learn the reasoning behind the budget, and what makes elected officials say they support an item, meet with Department Heads after doing research with ideas of how New Boston can improve.

David said he is part of the Taxpayers' Association, he worked with the town in the past, there are exceptional people working for the town, he is not here to be adversarial, he is here to work together to try to find other ways to pay for things.

Rodney noted all pay taxes, there are always going to be people that have trouble paying taxes. Elected officials make decisions, some taxpayers make bad financial decisions, the town can't save all taxpayers and neither can the New Boston Taxpayers' Association.

Steve discussed revenues and said it would be helpful to include in the Town Report town revenues broken up by department, approximately \$2 million.

Rodney said that is not unreasonable.

Selectmen's Executive Assistant Laura Bernard was present and noted the easiest way to see revenues broken up by department is in the quarterly Year to Date expenses and revenues report Peter brings to the Selectmen where he reviews the actuals against the projected expenses and revenues. These sheets are attached to the Selectmen's agenda and posted on-line.

Steve said this is information the Association wants to learn that this information does exist.

Dan noted there are two groups here, they are not adversarial, they need to find out what they have in common and work together. All are taxpayers and all care about New Boston. All Department Heads want to be successful and if someone has a good idea Department Heads are in favor.

David noted he always speaks with pride about New Boston and feels very safe in New Boston.

A recess was taken from 7:55 to 8:03 PM.

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

**Item 5: Adoption of Public Minutes of March 21, 2016:** The Selectmen reviewed the public and minutes of March 21, 2016 and made one change. Joe moved they be accepted as amended. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

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

**Item 6: Discussion BOS Letter to Forestry Committee Setting Future Goals and Mission:** Rodney drafted a letter to the Forestry Committee setting future goals and mission. It was read aloud. Forestry Committee member Kim DiPietro was present and asked about the mention of biomass as sometimes it is needed to deal with disease and insects in the forest. This is covered under "dire" circumstances in the letter. Kim asked that "dire" be changed to make it clear. The Selectmen agreed to change "dire" to "in which no other options are adequate." New England Forestry Foundation did a biomass cut last year. Kim will research this. Rodney said New Boston should probably not manage town forests that way. The Forestry Committee will review the draft letter for input at their meeting next week. Peter will post the Forestry Committee meeting and the Selectmen will attend. Joe moved to support the mission statement as presented and amended tonight to be presented to the Forestry Committee at their April 12 meeting. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

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

**Item 7: Report Concerning State Bridge Reconstruction in Village Center-Peter Flynn:**

This item is to confirm Mr. Boodey's e-mail from DOT of how the DOT project will be scheduled in conjunction with the Old Coach Road project. The meeting took place this morning. Old Coach Road at Route 13 will be done by May 16 when the Route 13 project begins. The Selectmen are comfortable with the schedule. This letter is available on line with the Selectmen's meeting agenda.

**Item 8: Town Administrators Report:**

- Highway Safety Committee/Foot Traffic Safety Committee: Bids for site clearing and tree removal are due next week and will be brought to the Selectmen.
- Tax Waiver: As above.
- Radio Tower Update: Information is attached to the meeting information packet.
- SAU All Boards Meeting Update: Peter has not had time to work on this with SAU Superintendent Brian Balke but will work on it tomorrow. The meeting is planned to be held in the school library.

**Item 9: Selectmen's Reports:**

Joe began working with the Town Planner on the Master Plan and was very impressed with the Town Planner's knowledge. Joe looks forward to the new Master Plan.

**Public Forum:**

None.

**Item 10: Possible Request for Non-Public Per RSA 91-A:II (a): Meeting With Ed Hunter**

**Code/Zoning Legal Issue:** Rodney made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II (a) at 8:30 PM. Joe 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 made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 8:45 PM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Joe moved to seal the non-public minutes for a period of five years. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**ADJOURNMENT:** Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*