

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting December 19, 2016

PRESENT: Joe Constance Selectman
Rodney Towne Selectman
Christine Quirk Selectman
Peter Flynn Town Administrator

Selectmen's Administrative Assistant Laura Bernard, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Recreation Commission Chairman Dave Hulick, Road Agent Dick Perusse, Police Chief James Brace and Kaleb Jacob of the public were present.

A. CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Christine Quirk at 6:00 PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Joe moved to approve the consent agenda. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Attorney Lee Smith-Request for Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) and (c)-Personnel and Legal: Rodney made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a) and (c) at 6:01 PM. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0-Poll Vote: Christine-yes, Joe-yes and Rodney-yes. Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session: made a motion to exit Non-Public Session. seconded the motion. All were in favor. -0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 2: Adoption of Public Minutes of December 5, 2016: The Selectmen reviewed and amended the Public Minutes of December 5, 2016. Rodney moved the Public minutes of December 5, 2016 be accepted as amended. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 3: Review The Adjustments As Discussed At The December 14, 2016 Meeting And Others Recommended By Department Managers: The Selectmen reviewed a summary document and the budget worksheets outlining the proposed 2017 budget adjustments as discussed at the December 14, 2016 Selectmen's meeting as follows:

- The Selectmen asked Police Chief Brace about his recent cuts made after direction from the Selectmen at the December 14 meeting. He said the main areas he trimmed were hours from the part time wages and the cruiser replacement line.
 - \$6,000 was taken from the Part Time Wages line. The Chief noted this is a hardship for the department, especially if an officer leaves the department during the year. If this occurs there will be no contingencies for shift coverage or new officer training. He explained the certified v. non-certified part time officer hiring process. Recent hiring efforts show there is a 20% chance of hiring a certified part time officer for the Department. Otherwise, if a non-certified part time officer is hired, they would have to attend the Part Time Police Academy that is only held twice a year for fourteen weeks, then participate in field training in New Boston for eight weeks. In this case it is possible a new officer would not be on the road until November. Joe recommended the Selectmen put \$6,000 back into the Police Department budget for Part Time Wages after considering the town's commitment to 24/7 police coverage. Joe moved to add \$6,000 to the Police Department Part Time Wages line. Christine seconded the motion. The motion passed. (2-1)
 - The Chief researched the balance of the Police Detail Revolving Account and learned it has \$9,000. He said if \$10,000 is not put back into the proposed 2017 budget for Cruiser Replacement the town will not get a new cruiser in 2017 resulting in 45,000 additional miles on each current cruiser along with additional maintenance costs and a delay of eighteen months for a new cruiser. The Finance Committee noted concern at their October 27 meeting that the request for cruiser maintenance may not be enough. Joe recommended the Selectmen put \$10,000 back into the Police Department budget for Cruiser Replacement after considering maintenance costs. Rodney moved to add \$10,000 to the Police Department Cruiser Replacement line. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0
 - The Selectmen asked about the removal of \$1,000 from the Radio Maintenance line. The Chief said that is the amount for replacement batteries and he hopes but is not sure the current batteries will last twelve additional months.
- The Selectmen asked Road Agent Dick Perusse about his recent cuts made after direction from the Selectmen at the December 14 meeting.
 - Rodney proposed \$10,000 be cut from the Summer Maintenance Equipment Rental line as the Highway Department purchased two pieces of equipment this summer for the purpose of saving \$10,000 in this line, but the initial 2017 request was the same as 2016. Dick agreed \$10,000 should be removed from this line. Rodney moved to remove \$10,000 from the Highway Department Summer Maintenance Equipment Rental line. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0
 - \$20,000 was recently cut from the Cracksealing/Paving line. Joe noted he served on the Road Committee in the past and, during that time, learned the importance of cracksealing to road life. He asked if this cut would affect road life. Dick said he will not know the cracksealing needs until spring when he assesses winter damage.
 - \$1,300 was cut from the Culverts and Catch Basins line. Joe noted he has been impressed with improved drainage in New Boston since Dick became Road Agent and asked how this cut will affect this issue. Dick said he considered structures

and catch basins when cutting from this area as he usually purchases these at a reduced price and plans to do that again in 2017. The Selectmen noted they are happy with this arrangement and the supply at the Highway Shed.

- The Selectmen discussed the Recreation Department budget with Recreation Director Mike Sindoni and Recreation Commission Chairman Dave Hulick as follows:
 - The Selectmen asked how the Recreation Assistant new hire will affect the proposed 2017 budget. Mike said salary and benefits may decrease but this is unknown at this time as it depends on the person hired and their qualifications.
 - The Warrant Article for a minibus for the Recreation Department was removed from the draft Warrant at the December 14 Selectmen's meeting. Joe noted he is in favor of this Article and asked how it would be funded. Mike said \$18,000 would be paid from the Recreation Revolving Account and \$37,000 would be paid from the town's fund balance so this purchase would have no impact on taxation. Joe noted the current Recreation van is not appropriate for Senior Citizens or anyone with special needs and the proposed new vehicle is more like a bus with steps for entry. The current van is a 2005 and is rusting. Dave noted the Recreation Department's primary concern is safety for the seniors it transports on monthly trips. Mike noted it is also occasionally used by other Departments. The seniors are a growing population and the town may consider adding services to seniors in future years and the current van would not be appropriate for those. Rodney recommended waiting another year for this Warrant Article. He also asked why safety and convenience were never an issue before 2016. Dave noted that the Recreation Commission has been considering another vehicle with the needs of the Department in mind as the current van is reaching end of life. Rodney asked if a used bus was considered and Dave said not yet. Dave noted the Recreation Commission accomplishes great things for the town outside of taxation by using its revolving account and they are contributing a large amount from the revolving account to this proposed vehicle. Christine and Rodney noted the town's priority this year is passage of the CRF Warrant Articles and recommended waiting one year for an Article for a bus. Dave and Mike noted the Recreation Department will continue to provide services with or without a bus.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 4: Acceptance of Resignation in Planning and Zoning Department: Joe moved to accept the resignation of Valerie Diaz from the Planning and Zoning Department effective December 16, 2016 with regret. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 5: Acceptance Of Highway Department Resignation: Rodney moved to accept the resignation of Doug Smith from the Highway Department effective December 16, 2016 with regret. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Road Agent Dick Perusse was present and noted that Doug worked December 17 and 18 due to inclement weather. The Selectmen thanked Dick and Doug for this arrangement.

Item 6: Acceptance Of Resignation of Recreation Assistant: Joe moved to accept the resignation of Mary Frances Manna from the Recreation Department effective January 6, 2017 with regret. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Peter noted all of these resignations were the result of these employees seeking other employment to advance their careers.

Item 7: Request For Approval for Establishing a Town Government Facebook Page:

Peter noted Selectmen's Administrative Assistant Laura Bernard initiated this idea after attending the Municipal Association Conference last year. Laura was present and said it was also discussed in depth at the conference this year as a way to get information out to townspeople. She said websites are great to put information on, some people will go to websites and newspapers for information, but more and more people, especially young people, are using social media as an easy way to get information, and, if they sign up for notifications, the information will come to them in their daily newsfeed. There is a New Boston, NH Facebook page but it is run by residents and is unofficial. This proposal is for an official Facebook page with town control of the information put on it, including links to information on the town website. Laura will set up and oversee the page and staff and departments can contribute to it. The Selectmen agreed. Joe moved to approve an official New Boston, NH Facebook page. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 8: Town Administrators Report:

- Old Coach Road Issue with Fairpoint: Communications companies are out working in the area and estimate their portion of the project will be complete mid to late January.
- Disposal of 1999 Ambulance: Peter and Dan have not yet met to discuss.
- Update on Expenditures YTD and Revenues YTD: The Revenues are expected to finish the year higher than anticipated. The Expenditures are in great shape and a modest surplus will be applied to reflect additional amount to the unreserved balance.

Item 9: Selectmen's Reports:

Joe reported the draft timber contract for Old Coach Road including some at the Transfer Station and ballfield is ready. The Forestry Committee plans to use this format with items included to protect the town for cuts on all town forests. Sample plots are completed and GPS'd at the Colby Lot and will be monitored for six years as required. The Committee will continue this procedure with other lots over the winter.

Rodney reported he attended the recent Planning Board Meeting in Joe's place. The Planning Board reviewed a request for lot line adjustment at Depot and High Streets that will go to the ZBA in January and a small business gunsmith. No zoning changes discussed will be considered for the 2018 Warrant. Fire Department issues were held off for now. The Master Plan was also discussed.

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

Item 10: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)(c) Personnel: Joe made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a)(b)(c) at 7:39 PM. Rodney seconded the

motion. All were in favor. 3-0-Poll Vote: Joe-yes, Christine-yes and Rodney-yes. Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session: Rodney made a motion to exit Non-Public Session. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Rodney moved to seal the non-public minutes for 25 years. Rodney seconded. Vote was 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on January 3, 2017
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available**