

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting February 21, 2017

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

Amy and Victor Parrish, Dwight Lovejoy, Marty Kelley, Tim Hey, Patrick Burke and David Litwinovich of the public were present.

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

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Rodney moved to approve the consent agenda including Re-appointment of Ken Lombard to the Open Space Committee, Re-appointment of Cheryl Christner to the Energy Commission, Re-appointment of David Craig to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appointment of Joseph Constance as Alternate Representative of the SNHPC. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Timothy Hey-Introduction and Interview For Appointment To Open Space Committee: Tim Hey was present and said he is interested in volunteering for the Open Space Committee and is happy and excited to help. His background in this interest includes working with NRCS during college and living on Hilton Head and he is very interested in this endeavor. Joe moved to approve appointment of Tim Hey to the Open Space Committee for three years. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen thanked Tim for volunteering.

Item 2: Marty Kelley-Introduction and Interview For Appointment To Conservation Commission: Marty Kelley was present and said he is interested in volunteering for the Conservation Commission and is also happy and excited to help. He likes to spend time exploring town conservation land and wants to help others enjoy it as well. Joe moved to approve appointment of Marty Kelley to the Conservation Commission for three years. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen thanked Marty for volunteering.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of January 17, 2017, January 26 and Special Public Meeting of February 6, 2017: The Selectmen reviewed the Public and Non-Public Minutes of January 17, 2017, January 26, 2017 and February 6, 2017. Rodney moved the Public and Non-Public minutes of January 17, 2017 and January 26, 2017 be accepted as amended and the February 6, 2017 Public minutes be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 4: Summary Of Deliberative Session Meeting: Candidates and Warrant Articles as amended at the Deliberative Session provided.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 5: Review And Adoption of Town of New Boston Investment Policy: Peter noted the auditors require approval of the town Investment Policy annually. The policy has not been changed in years. The Selectmen will sign it during the week. Rodney moved to accept the Town of New Boston Investment Policy as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 6: Request For Residential Abatement Due To Fire Damage: This house at 353 Lyndeborough Road Map 10 Lot 35 was totally taken down after a fire. The Assessor can decrease the assessment on a burned out house. He inspected this house and recommended the current assessment be \$42,400 due to the fire. Rodney moved to accept the Assessor's recommendation for 353 Lyndeborough Road Map 10 Lot 35 after a fire. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 7: Request Appointment Of Accounting Supervisor To Permanent Status (Probation Completed): Accounting Supervisor Elisa Fitzgerald has completed six months of employment. Peter drafted a letter to officially make her a permanent employee with benefits. Rodney moved to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation to take Elisa Fitzgerald off probation and make her a regular employee with their compliments. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 8: Town Administrators Report:

- Old Coach Road Issue With Fairpoint: The Fairpoint contractor has slowed on this project moving a telephone pole at Old Coach Road and delayed this project eight months. Peter will call them tomorrow.
- Radio Tower Complaint Ridgeview Road: This is a noise problem. Peter sent a letter to the complainant and will meet with the Police and Fire Chiefs and the Road Agent for a permanent solution.
- Disposal of 1999 Ambulance: The ambulance is being shown to interested towns.
- Transfer Station Complaint: Peter will speak to the people involved. A letter of response is expected by the next Selectmen's meeting.

Item 9: Selectmen's Reports:

Joe reported the Planning Board met. There were questions about Code Enforcement in two situations. One situation was an individual given a cease and desist order and when to fine. The Board advised Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter to continue the process and check with the town attorney. The other situation was at the Thibeault gravel pit that is negotiating sale of the property to a business that is already operating on the property. The current owner has never reclaimed the property as required. The Planning Board wants a firm guarantee from the new owner that the property will be reclaimed directly after the sale. Planning Coordinator Shannon Silver is working with them to resolve this and for a revised site plan. Joe met with Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter, Mary Stanger from NH DRA, the potential owner and the current owner to view the property.

Joe reported the Forestry Committee is doing a great job recently. Joe, Willard Dodge, Graham Pendlebury and Tom Miller surveyed the Colby lot. They will work on the O'Rourke Lot next. Jon Strong was selected through a bid process and is scheduled to do a cut at the Transfer Station and the Old Coach ballfield in March. The bid process will be standard procedure from now on.

Rodney noted information was received on a traffic study done in September. 5000 cars per day were found to travel High Street. The Selectmen often get comments asking why the Police Department patrols certain areas and in this case it is due to activity in the area. 2791 cars per day were found to travel Bedford Road north of McCurdy.

Rodney read aloud a letter the Selectmen wrote to State Representative Keith Ammon as follows:

To The Honorable Representative Keith Ammon New Hampshire House of Representatives
Dear Keith,

We are writing to express our concern regarding House Bill 324 as we, the Selectmen, consider this one of the most important issues of this legislative session. If this bill passes, it will dramatically reduce utility property valuations in many municipalities and specifically New Boston's which would be a value of \$13,612,000 and shift the tax burden onto all other taxpayers. For the Town of New Boston the tax shift is in the area of \$300,000.00 dollars. It is critical that committee members as yourself understand the effect that this bill will have on our town and the taxpayers. Apart from the dollar impact, this is an attack on municipal authority for the benefit of a narrow special interest. We request that you do not recommend passage of this Bill as the result will be financially devastating to our Town.

Victor Parrish of Hopkins Road was present and asked for the background of this matter.

The Selectmen said the utilities have challenged the way their poles and equipment are taxed. New Boston is involved in a lawsuit with them and other towns that is going to the Superior Court. If the utilities win New Boston will owe them money. The utilities have also brought this matter to the legislative process. If this passes New Boston could lose \$300,000 in taxes per year from one utility and other utilities may become involved. The legislators have chosen utilities to be helped with taxes under a bill but no other businesses, the legislation is focused and biased.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

Item 10: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)(c): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Rodney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on March 6, 2017 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available**