

Adopted

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting December 4, 2017

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

Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Recreation Assistant Sheri Moloney, Recreation Commissioners Lynn Wawrzyniak and Helen Fanning, Selectmen's Assistant Laura Bernard, School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert, Don Duhaime, David Litwinovich and Kaleb Jacob of the public were present for all or part of the meeting.

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

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Joe moved to approve the consent agenda including the appointment of Peter Moloney to the Open Space Committee. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Don Duhaime of 588 Bedford Road was present and asked why the Selectmen don't think it is necessary to complete the driveways at 588 and 590 Bedford Road/Campbell Pond Road. Rodney Towne said it is complete. Don dropped a box of rocks on the table that he picked up from his driveway this morning. Rodney noted he went to the area today at 3:30 pm to view. Joe noted he has been to the area several times and got out of his vehicle to view. This is the nitpak material the Highway Department added to his driveway after Don and Mark Evans' recent meetings with the Selectmen where the Selectmen agreed to extend the material to a 15' apron. Don said this nitpak is not good for the snowblower and the apron was originally 17' and he wants it back to the way it was before the Bedford Road construction project. Rodney said it is now better than it was. Don disagreed and asked the Selectmen to meet him there to view it together. They refused and invited Don to get on a Selectmen's agenda to discuss the matter if he wants the Selectmen to take more action. Pictures Rodney took showing he got out of his vehicle and pictures from google maps were viewed.

Don said he hired someone to regravel the driveway but was told the Highway Department would place material, waited three to four months and the Highway Department came and threw stones all over it, and the distance is not the same as what was there before. Rodney said the distance is the same as before plus more.

The Highway Department also installed new posts and mailboxes as part of the Bedford Road project. The Selectmen approve of the style but Don prefers something else. The Selectmen noted it is his property and he can change the mailbox. The Selectmen noted they promised

nitpak to Mark at a recent meeting, and the Highway Department placed it recently. Don said the nitpak was not placed close enough to his or Mark's driveway and the town did not do what they said they would do. Joe said if Don has documentation that the Selectmen and/or Road Agent made any promises to Don and Mark they did not deliver on, let them know. The Selectmen noted they all looked at the driveways after the original complaint and Rodney measured the area with the Road Agent. They have also looked at it since the recent work was done. Rodney said over 3' of pavement and 6 yards of nitpak was added, the area was flattened, raked and swept. There are places in Don's driveway that are beat up from someone spinning out when they turned, the town is not going to fix that. Sometimes there are 2" stones in nitpak but it packs in just fine. It is a Class VI road and the town did not have to do what it did. They will not agree to the paving and things Don wanted to do on a Class VI road.

Don said the nitpak placed is not the type of nitpak he gets every year as part of his driveway maintenance. It is a Class VI road and he compared it to the paving done at St. Jude Road, a private road. Don asked Christine about a document she signed in 2003. Christine does not recall the document. Don is trying to get the document from the Planning Department but they have not returned his calls.

The Selectmen decided not to make any more changes to the driveways or St. Jude Road and will not meet with Don at his driveway.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Mike Sindoni-Recreation Director-Proposal For Bus Purchase: Recreation Director Mike Sindoni was present with Recreation Assistant Sheri Moloney and Recreation Commissioners Lynn Wawrzyniak and Helen Fanning to discuss a proposal for bus purchase. A minibus financing option was brought to the Selectmen two meetings ago where a 70 town/30 Recreation Revolving Account split was proposed, similar to the arrangement for the current Recreation van. The Recreation Commission met again and proposed paying 60% from the Recreation Revolving Account with 40% financing from the town including the trade in of the current Recreation van valued at approximately \$3,500. The total cost of the proposed handicap minibus is \$42,000 with the town portion is estimated at \$20,000. A Warrant Article for \$20,000 is proposed. Last year the town portion was estimated at \$37,000.

The Selectmen suggested the Recreation Department explore other financing avenues as discussed at the previous meeting and concerns it has not happened yet. Mike noted searching for grants was suggested but asked how many other town departments have paid for town vehicles with grants. The Selectmen said the Fire Department has paid for three vehicles with grant funding, the Police and Highway Departments are always looking for grants as it is good practice and it is not unusual for Recreation Departments to seek grants. The Selectmen suggested calling SNHPC for assistance finding grants.

Mike noted the Recreation Department has accomplished a lot of capital improvements with its Revolving Account over the years such as the white building, grandstand and ballfields at no impact to taxpayers and it seems like the Selectmen are resistant toward the Recreation Department. The Selectmen said they would like the Recreation Department to make more of an effort to find grants and would like to see the Recreation Department have the ability to do more

through grant funding. There is a precedent for Recreation Departments to find alternative funding. The Selectmen suggested the Recreation Department search for grants in March. The bus was removed from the 2017 Warrant in December 2016. Joe noted he is available to help with grant application writing. Warrant Articles are due mid-January. The Selectmen want to see an effort made to find grants to save money from the Revolving Account and the taxpayers. The Police and Fire Departments are expected to seek grants for vehicles, the Highway Department seeks grants but there are not many available. The Town Clerk sought grants for record retention and the Transfer Station gets grants. Joe moved to postpone this discussion to the next Selectmen's meeting to give the Recreation Department and Commission more time to seek grants including the avenues suggested by the Town Administrator and Selectmen. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 2: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of November 20, 2017: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of November 20, 2017. Joe moved the Public minutes of November 20, 2017 be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed two sets of Non-Public minutes of November 20, 2017. Joe moved two sets of Non-Public minutes of November 20, 2017 be accepted as presented and sealed for the appropriate amount of time. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 3: Discuss The Special Permit for Fertilizing the Town Common: George St. John sent an e-mail about lawn treatment on the town common as he has researched it and got permits. Peter noted this is planned to be spent out of the 2017 budget and requested it be encumbered with an invoice to have the work done in 2018. Peter will present this at the next Selectmen's meeting. Joe moved to approve lawn treatment as proposed by George St. John at the Town Administrator's discretion and research of chemical v. organic fertilizer. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 4: Review The Proposed Warrant Article From the Trustees Of The Whipple Free Library: Peter reported the Library Trustees brought this to the Selectmen in the summer where they were advised to check with town counsel. Town Attorney Bart Mayer reviewed the proposal in detail and is now comfortable with the contract. Bart drafted a Warrant Article that was reviewed tonight. Peter recommended the Warrant Article be added to the Warrant. The Selectmen agreed. Joe moved to move onto the 2018 Warrant the solar Warrant Article for the Whipple Free Library to enter into a 20 year solar purchase agreement. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 5: NE Document Systems Quote For Scanning Town Reports And Encumbering 2017 Funds: Peter reported the Town Clerk and the Selectmen were working on getting document systems and formed a committee a year ago. There have been a couple proposals. Laura has been working with NE Document Systems who did a demonstration at the municipal conference. She was impressed with the presentation and asked them to prepare a proposal. She reported a proposal is presented tonight to scan all Town Reports store them electronically with search capabilities. Newer Town Reports are available on the town website but are not searchable.

Currently if something needs to be researched hopefully the person researching knows when the event in question happened so it doesn't take too long to confirm the information by looking through Town Reports. The quote is \$3,510 for 1,500 pages. \$3,500 was added to the town budget last year for the Record Retention Committee. Joe said this is the first step, the town also has older records it would like to preserve. The town is going to proceed with a historic records preservation grant application this year. Joe is meeting with State Librarian Mike York Friday to review this and the possibility of a grant to restore the stage in the Town Hall. Spending the money will not have a negative effect on getting a state grant and will show the state New Boston is making an effort to preserve records and help New Boston get grants. The town received this money through the March vote but by that time it was too late to apply for a 2017 state grant. Laura also noted that pdfa is now recognized as a legal way to preserve documents. Old Town Reports will be requested from the Historical Society, library and the public in the next issue of the New Boston Beacon. Joe moved to encumber the funds from the 2017 budget to digitize the Town Reports with NE Document Systems. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 6: Request For Board Approval To Adjust Contribution For Health Insurance Costs:

Peter reported Laura prepared a complete analysis of the expenses, he studied it today and approved. The town pays for a portion of the health insurance premiums for town employees. Laura explained the town employee healthcare plan and reported the town changed to Schoolcare Consumer Driven Healthcare and Flexible Spending Accounts a few years ago. The Police Chief also helped prepare the analysis. There was a cap that the town would pay toward the premiums for three and a half years. This year premiums increased 3.5% which would mean a significant increase for town employees if the cap remains in place. Town officials considered sharing some of this increase with employees to be fair and this is presented tonight with a handout. The Town Administrator and Selectmen agree the proposal is fair and it was presented to the Finance Committee November 16. The Health Insurance budget line was reviewed. It contains the amount for one extra employee just in case an employee changes status during the year. The budget also includes a payout line to cover when an employee leaves that is used regularly, and is not extra money for the town to spend at the end of the year. The Selectmen thanked Peter and Laura and approved the proposal.

Item 7: Chief James Brace-Towing Services 2018 Fee Schedule First Read: This is a first read of the 2018 Towing Services Fee Schedule. A Public Hearing will be held at the next Selectmen's meeting and the Selectmen can vote at that time. Two drafts of the 2018 Towing Services Fee Schedule were reviewed. Joe moved to move the 2018 Towing Services Fee Schedule to a second read and Public Hearing. Christine seconded the motion. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 8: Town Administrators Report:

- Update on Expenditures and Revenues: Motor Vehicle revenues are \$150,000 more than what was projected for 2017. Spending is appropriate for this time of year.
- Peter reported he had bypass surgery three weeks ago. He was out of work for a month and thanked the Selectmen and all employees for their help during this time. He is impressed with how the Selectmen and town employees handled matters while he was out on medical leave. The Selectmen noted they are glad Peter is back to work and happy

with how Joe especially handled matters while Peter was out.

Item 9: Selectmen's Reports:

- Joe reported the Forestry Committee went to the Bob Todd Forest to do sample plots.
- Joe reported the Planning Board worked on a new part of the Master Plan about the potential for development and change on the east side of town as this is expected in the next few years. They will try to finalize that chapter at their next meeting. Planning Board member David Litwinovich was present and noted the Board reviewed Warrant Article proposals for zoning and building codes which will be reviewed with a Public Hearing Tuesday.
- Rodney noted he spoke to Kaleb Jacob and asked if the Air Force Tracking Station property should be zoned industrial with some zoned open space, wildland in preparation for the possibility it may close as these areas are being closed around the country. Joe and Planning Board member David Litwinovich noted the Planning Board has already considered rezoning it as there is also a large piece of land abutting it and this will be brought up again if and when the abutting piece is sold to private investors. However there are no town sewer or water services in the area.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

- School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert noted the School Board is still working on several alternatives for the school generator to find a long term solution for the school and town. She hopes to bring hard numbers to the Selectmen soon.
- Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Lane was present and noted he brought up the rezoning suggestion to Rodney after a suggestion from a former state representative from Mont Vernon. Kaleb said there is “ping, power, pipe” good internet and electrical services in the Tracking Station areas and suggested the town rezone it now to take advantage of its availability when the time comes. Rezoning will not cost the town anything.
- Kaleb also noted appreciation for the Selectmen, town officials and department managers running the town pretty well. On the other hand he noted taxes are breathtaking and paying them is painful for him and many others he talks to. He wanted to remind the Selectmen to keep this in mind for budget season, everything is going up, and the town employee health insurance plan is superb compared to what he offers to his employees, who paid \$30,000 this year in out of pocket costs. He is glad town can offer this to employees and appreciates the conservative mindset of the department managers.

Item 10: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) and (e) Legal and Personnel:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on December 20, 2017 (6:00 PM)

7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070

Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov

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