

Adopted

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting September 5, 2017

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Joe Constance	Selectman	
	Rodney Towne	Selectman	Absent
	Christine Quirk	Selectman	
	Peter Flynn	Town Administrator	

School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Road Agent Dick Perusse, Energy Commission Chairman Susan Carr, Energy Commission members Ryan Nealley, Cheryl Christner and Mary Koon, Library Trustee Bill Gould, Patrick Burke, Forestry Committee member Kim DiPietro, Kaleb Jacob, Eric Merrill, Frank Woodward and Robert Fehsinger 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 Joe Constance 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. 2-0

Item 1: Public Hearing-Authorizes The Selectmen To Accept \$172,728.33 In Unanticipated Funds From The NHDOT For Local Highway And Bridge Aid Projects: Joe opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 PM, read the Public Hearing announcement aloud and said this is money received through revenues raised by the state, not the federal government. There were no questions or comments from the public. Joe moved to accept \$172,728.33 in unanticipated funds from the NHDOT to be used in New Boston for local highway and bridge aid projects. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0 The Public Hearing closed at 6:02 PM.

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive was present and asked when the Bedford Road project is expected to be completed. The Road Agent was present and said if the project continues as planned and weather cooperates it is expected to be complete by September 15. Kaleb asked if the Bedford Road project is still on budget and the Road Agent said yes.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 2: Bill Gould and Library Trustees Request For Approval of Solar Project At The Library Property: Library Trustee Bill Gould was present to discuss a proposed solar project at the library property with the Selectmen. He said the Trustees have kept the Selectmen informed and updated on this project that began approximately one year ago with help from Energy Commission Chairman Susan Carr and the Energy Commission. They propose working with Revision Energy after checking the company's references that all came out very positive. A

proposal was provided to the Selectmen. This will save approximately twelve tons of carbon from going into the atmosphere every year. There is no cost to the town/taxpayers for this project. The contract stipulates the library electricity be purchased from ReVision Energy at a rate a little less than the library currently pays to Eversource. If bought equipment today it would be \$75,000 but there is an option to buy the equipment at year seven for approximately \$29,000 that is planned to be paid by library fundraising, no cost to the town. Joe asked what the lifespan of the equipment is and Bill said forty years. After panels purchased in year seven, power for the library will be acquired at no cost to the taxpayers, free for the next thirty-three years. The trustees need permission to erect solar panels on library town land behind the shed across the library parking lot. A diagram was reviewed. Energy Commission member Ryann Nealley explained equipment has expected lifespans and the current lifespan is forty years, average repair cost \$500 per year. Joe asked about rate of acceleration in technology for the panels. Ryan said it averages ¼% every five years, it took ten years to go from 14-16%. Bill said ReVision is responsible for installation, maintenance, insurance and warranty while they own it, there is no costs or obligations to the town during this time. Eric Merrill of Mont Vernon Road asked the square footage the equipment will take up. Ryan said 12-15 watts per square foot, a 19.2 kW solar array is proposed. Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive noted twelve years ago he installed solar equipment at a property in Maine at a cost he considers to be a better deal than is outlined in this proposal. Christine moved to approve the library solar project as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0 Bill noted the contract was sent to Peter this afternoon, town counsel will review it before the Selectmen sign. He also noted the net metering cap was removed June 1, the value of banked energy decreased on September 1 but this project is grandfathered at the higher banked energy rate with no cap. Eversource will pay for banked extra energy. This is expected to be installed in the spring and operational by August 31, 2018.

Item 3: Gerry Cornett-Request To Temporarily Eliminate The Brush Pile Services From The Transfer Station: Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the status of the Transfer Station brush pile. He said the market to remove chips is difficult now and he has to ask on a weekly basis if brush can be taken. The market has dried up since closure of the PSNH chip to energy program. He asked the Selectmen for permission to post the storage area, once it is full, for approximately one month at a time to allow time for removal due to this difficulty. The Selectmen asked if there was any other location where brush can be placed and Gerry was not sure as the area would have to be secured. Residents can also make an area on their property, if room allows, to place brush where it would eventually disintegrate naturally. Gerry is looking for an alternate method to dispose of brush if possible. He said the lumber market is not great now, but Joe noted the recent cut at the Old Coach ballfield and Transfer Station area did well for the town. Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive asked if the Transfer Station can burn the brush. Gerry said it can be burned but there is additional cost to burning brush as the ash needs to be tested and then kept in a secure area per regulations. Patrick Burke of Cedar Drive asked what time of year brush is primarily brought to the Transfer Station and Gerry said spring. Kaleb asked if leaves are added to the brush pile and Gerry said they are kept in the compost pile, a separate area of the Transfer Station. Joe moved to suspend the brush pile for thirty days and then revisit the issue. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Item 4: Kim DiPietro-Requesting Selectmen's Consent To Rename O'Rourke Town Forest: Forestry Committee member Kim DiPietro was present to meet with the Selectmen to

request consent to rename the O'Rourke Town Forest. She said the town purchased the Forest for \$340,000 in 2000 according to Warrant Article 26. It was purchased to protect the town from potential contamination from underground pollution as it is across the street from the Transfer Station. This was a concern as the O'Rourke family planned to develop the land. The town did not vote for the name, it was named O'Rourke at the time as it was purchased from the O'Rourke family. Joe noted many property names around town have been arbitrary with no donative or historic value. He also noted the Forestry Committee has been working very hard over the past year to bring town forests into compliance with the American Tree Farm System. Kim agreed and said the Forestry Committee would like to recognize Bob Todd at this time by renaming the Forest the Bob Todd Town Forest (not Robert per his family's request) due to his involvement in every forest in town, forest management advice, gifts from his collection and services provided to the town throughout his lifetime, often at no charge. Joe moved to approve the Forestry Committee's request to rename the O'Rourke Town Forest to the Bob Todd Town Forest. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 5: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of August 14, 2017: The Selectmen reviewed the Public and Non-Public Minutes of August 14, 2017. Christine moved the Public minutes of August 14, 2017 be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0 Christine moved the Non-Public minutes of August 14, 2017 be accepted as presented and sealed for five years. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 6: CIP Recommended Approval Of Submitted Item From The Selectmen's Office- From Peter Flynn: Peter reviewed a memorandum dated August 20, 2017 containing three items to be submitted to the CIP Committee pending Selectmen approval. Joe moved to authorize the Town Administrator to bring these items to the CIP Committee. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Item 7: Request For Revision Of Selectmen's Meeting Schedule For December: Peter reviewed a memorandum dated August 20, 2017 requesting the Selectmen change their meeting date from December 18, 2017 to December 20, 2017. Joe moved to accept the change. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Item 8: Discussion Re: Replacement Of Tree On Village Common: Peter reported the former tree was cut down due to illness. The town has been considering its replacement. Many in town have said they like the way the area looks now and a Christmas tree in the gazebo was suggested. Joe is in favor of a tree in the gazebo, Christine wants the former live tree replaced and Rodney has indicated in the past that he would like a living thing on the common in the winter. The Selectmen will wait to vote on this and will research public opinion.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 9: Request For Consideration Of Abatement On Ridgeview Lane: The Selectmen reviewed a request for tax abatement at 78 Ridgeview Lane. Assessor George Hildum also

considered the request and submitted an opinion to the Selectmen. The Selectmen support the Assessor's position as they consider him to be very fair. Christine moved to deny the abatement request and uphold Assessor George Hildum's decision for 78 Ridgeview Lane. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Item 10: Award Of Fuel Contract-Heating Oil: Requests for bids were sent and one company responded, the current heating oil vender, Putnam. Peter then negotiated the price lower to \$1.79. Peter recommended the Selectmen accept the contract with Putnam for heating oil due to their familiarity with the town, reliability and great service over the years. Christine moved to accept the contract with Putnam for heating oil as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Item 11: Town Administrators Report:

- Update on Ridgeview Lane Tower-Landscaping/Air Conditioning: the Police, Fire and Highway Departments have been working on issues brought by the neighbors in the Ridgeview Lane tower area including landscaping. The Selectmen complimented the Highway Department for working out the landscaping and the Highway Department finished work in the area today. The last meeting was held with the neighbors and these issues are now totally resolved.
- One Side of Painting at Town Hall: Peter expects this to begin next week now that the weather has cooled.
- Cleaning of War Memorial Monument: Peter booked this project for definite cleanup.
- YTD Expenditures and Revenues: Peter reported the budget is in good shape but caution is being taken with the Appraisals line. This line may be over by a couple thousand due to cuts in this line during budget season and the Assessor's workload due to the many building and construction permits that came in this year.
- Discussion Re: Town Administrator Performance Evaluation Form: The form was given to the Selectmen to begin consideration.
- Employees Appreciation Luncheon: The annual employee appreciation bbq put on by the Selectmen is scheduled for September 20 at noon.

Item 12: Selectmen's Reports:

- Forestry Committee: As above.
- Joe reported the Planning Board is beginning the Facilities Chapter of the Master Plan next week.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

Item 13: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) (b) and (c):

- A) Eric Merrill-Deeding discussion
- B) Frank Woodward-Complaint
- C) Other Legal Matters

Joe made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a) (b) and (c) at 6:37 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0-Poll Vote: Joe-yes, Christine-yes. The Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session: Joe made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 7:26 PM and Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Joe moved to seal the Non-Public minutes for a period of ten years. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on September 18, 2017 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available**