

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting February 26, 2018

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

Police Chief Jim Brace, David Litwinovich and Karen Scott 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 acceptance of three donations for the Recreation Department Mini-Bus, presentation of Proclamation to Woody Woodland and appointment of Mary Koon to the Local River Management Advisory Committee. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Karen Scott of Dane Road asked if there was a new interest rate or bank found that would be able to provide a bond to the town with an agreement for no prepayment penalty for a fire station. Peter said he has been working on this but learned from the proposed agency that the town would not be able to pay off a bond early without a penalty. The town has not started the process yet but plans to shop around with other agencies to get the best rate if the fire station Warrant Article is approved in March. Karen said information was given out at the recent Fire Department Informational Night that the interest rate is lower and some information about a prepayment plan. The Town Administrator and Selectmen said they are not aware of that and will check on it.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Representative Gerald Griffin-Discussion of Vote on HB 413: NH State Representative Gerald Griffin was present to meet with the Selectmen to update them on what the NH House of Representatives is working on as follows:

- HB 413 is a bill that was introduced to have the state become reinvolved in contributing to the NH Retirement System for professions such as police officers and teachers. The bill failed but the House may reconsider it. The Selectmen sent a letter to New Boston's three State Representatives supporting reconsideration. Gerald thanked the Selectmen for the letter as feedback is welcome. He noted the bill probably won't be reconsidered. He reviewed the Selectmen's letter and how they itemized New Boston's contributions to the state. He noted a lot of this money is raised through motor vehicle fines and the state

uses the Penalty Assessment to run the courts and NH Police and Fire Academy. The Selectmen asked for confirmation of how the money is used and want money from motor vehicle fines generated in New Boston to be returned for use in New Boston. Gerald and the Selectmen reviewed the history of the state's contribution to the Retirement System and abuses of the System. Gerald noted he also works on the state Finance Committee and that Committee realized last year that the towns are suffering as they have to contribute more to the Retirement System now that the state has stopped. The Committee then proposed \$50 million in the state budget for its contribution to the Retirement System to ease the burden on towns but that budget failed. The Selectmen said New Boston wants the state to begin contributing to the Retirement System again. Since the state does not see fit to support the towns in the retirement system, we feel it would be fair that a portion of or all of the \$100,000 the Police Department raises on an annual basis be returned to the town.

- HB 1381 was discussed. The Selectmen and Gerald are opposed to it.
- The Selectmen thanked Gerald for coming in.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 2: Adoption of Public Minutes of January 16, 2018 and February 5, 2018: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of January 16, 2018. Joe moved the Public minutes of January 16, 2018 be accepted as presented. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of February 5, 2018. Joe moved the Public minutes of February 5, 2018 be accepted as presented. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Item 3: Discussion Re: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Position-Peter Flynn: Peter submitted all applications received so far to the Selectmen. An interview committee will be formed. The Selectmen asked Peter, Building Inspector Ed Hunter, Planning Coordinator Shannon Silver, Fire Inspector Eric Dubowik and the Planning Board to review the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Job Description before interviews begin and Peter will work on this in preparation for the March 5 Selectmen's meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 4: Review And Adoption Of The Town's Investment Policy: Peter noted the auditors require approval of the town Investment Policy annually. The policy has not been changed in years. Joe moved to accept the Town of New Boston Investment Policy as presented. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 5: Discussion Re: Polling Assignments For Board Members: Joe will attend from 6:30 AM- noon, Rodney will arrive at noon and all Selectmen will be present at the end of the voting day.

Item 6: Town Administrators Report:

- Street Name and Number Project: Peter and the Fire Inspector are working together and

will report to the Selectmen in a couple weeks.

- Record Retention Update: The Committee jointly met with the Department Heads to participate in a dialogue where a presentation was made by representatives from Ricoh. No final decisions have been made as the Committee has not had another meeting. Joe will write a Letter of Intent from the town to apply for a grant for this project once the deadline is known. He will speak with Committee Chairman Cathy Strausbaugh Wednesday for an update.
- New Appointments: Requests and reminders were sent out to Committee Chairmen regarding members with terms expiring in 2018. Many are expected in coming weeks.
- Building Inspector Resumes: As above under Building Inspector Position.
- Fairpoint Abatement Case: A letter came in from Fairpoint saying they withdrew their appeal for abatement. This is very good for towns and cities.
- Final Ballot: Now printed and attached to Selectmen's meeting materials.

Item 7: Selectmen's Reports:

- Joe reported the Planning Board worked on the Master Plan at its last meeting. They discussed the Town Engineering contract and reviewed a new RFP format. The RFP will be finalized and an interview committee will be considered at a future meeting. The Planning Board held a Hearing and a sitewalk at McCollum and Meadow Roads where no issues were found. Joe has been researching Impact Fees that the Planning Board will consider as a possible goal. Rodney asked if building fees could be used in this way as well.
- Joe reported the Forestry Committee will meet with the School Board to discuss a Christmas Tree Farm project. The County Forester looked at the work done at the Town Forests and recommended some changes to the paperwork so the Town Forests can become part of the American Tree Farm System. The Committee is discussing reforestation around town. The Committee is dealing with tree diseases in hemlocks and white pines around town as well. The Committee's Alternate members Rick Kohler, Mike Constance and Willard Dodge are a great help to the Committee.
- Rodney met with State Representative Keith Ammon about HB 413 after Keith received the Selectmen's letter. Keith noted the three reasons he did not support the bill were it was introduced by a democrat, unsponsored by anyone else and he felt towns and cities should stand on their own on this issue. Rodney told him he wants money from motor vehicle fines generated in New Boston to be returned for use in New Boston. Keith was concerned more tickets would be written in this case but Rodney said that pertains to the community responsibility Keith noted as reason three. Joe supported Rodney's position.
- Cleanup of toxic waste and a trailer with glass, metal, wood and other materials at a property on River Road is pending. Town Counsel will send a letter regarding status of the project to the property owner. The project should be ready for final inspection once these tasks are complete.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Karen Scott of Dane Road asked for the RSA regarding Impact Fees and the Selectmen will get this to her.

David Litwinovich of Beard Road asked who the Local River Management Advisory Committee is under the jurisdiction of. Peter noted he received a letter requesting a representative a month ago. He provided it to Gail and Randy Parker who suggested Mary Koon for the position and Mary agreed. Peter will e-mail any further information to David.

Police Chief James Brace noted the Selectmen's position is accurate pertaining to the state Retirement System. The state stopped contributing to the Retirement System in 2011 and this caused a 10% increase in the amount the town was paying toward this program. He noted the Penalty Assessment no longer goes directly to the Court Victim Witness Program and Police Academy, instead it goes to the General Fund. He noted the state used to contribute a significant amount to the Retirement System but now doesn't and asked where that money is being used now. Chief Brace said there were no abuses of the System as State Representative Gerald Griffin noted earlier, the actions of the people who retired under the System were allowed as the System was written. New Boston hired two officers that were considered retired under the System in 2008 as they were allowed under the System to work part time. HB 561 now seeks to limit that option and will limit towns. Rodney noted concern about these limitations on the town's ability to hire a Fire Chief once the current Chief retires. The Selectmen will write a letter to the legislators and governor on this issue. Chief Brace also discussed HB 193, a bill that would require each town to write its own ordinance for road flaggers. The Selectmen will also write a letter to the legislators regarding HB1381.

Karen asked if all committee meeting minutes are posted. The Selectmen said yes and most committees send their minutes to the Selectmen for information purposes. Karen asked how to request minutes and the Selectmen said through the Town Administrator or each committee chairman. Most committee minutes should be posted on the town website.

Karen asked how to get information about the case involving cleanup of a River Road property. The Selectmen said an article will be published in the March issue of the New Boston Beacon and there is a folder of public documents in the Selectmen's office. There are non-public aspects as well as it is a pending legal matter. The Selectmen have been working on this for 47 years and it is coming to an end. Rodney invited Karen to look at the folder and they can talk about the case at that time.

Item 8: Possible Request For Non-Public Per RSA 91-A:3, II, (a)(b)(c): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on March 5, 2018 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available**