

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting March 19, 2018

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

Police Chief Jim Brace, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Kary Jencks, Wendy Lambert, Steve Sears, Karen Scott, Keith Gentili, 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.

Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)(c): Joe made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a)(b)(c) at 6:04 PM. Christine 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: Joe made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 6:10PM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Rodney moved to seal the non-public minutes, seconded by Christine. All voted in favor 3-0.

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Joe moved to approve the consent agenda including appointments of Ed Carroll and Peter Hogan to the Planning Board, Roger Dignard to the Energy Committee, Louise Robie and Barbara Thomson to the Conservation Commission and Ken Lombard to the Finance Committee. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Reorganization of Board of Selectmen-Nomination and Election of a Chairperson: Christine nominated Joe as Chairman of the Board. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0. Joe then took over the meeting.

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Steve Sears of Carriage Road and as a member of the New Boston Taxpayers' Association noted concerns of the issuance of absentee ballots during the recent election. He noted other towns such as Rindge and Jaffrey handled this process differently than New Boston as the other towns issued statements that if voters were worried about the weather conditions on voting day they could get an absentee ballot before voting day. Steve noted he heard from elderly New Boston citizens that when they requested absentee ballots from the Town Clerk the week and day before the election they were turned down as the New Boston Town Clerk was not issuing absentee

ballots due to weather conditions. Steve said the law is the law but how it is enforced in New Boston separates New Boston from other towns. Steve noticed town vehicles having trouble driving the roads on his way home from the polls. He asked that if an elderly person cannot walk to the polls due to weather that be taken into consideration by the Town Clerks.

The Selectmen noted the Secretary of State and Town Moderator control this procedure along with the Supervisors of the Checklist and the Town Clerks. Any concerns should be filed with these entities. The Selectmen noted they observed the Town Clerks' procedure the day before the election and considered it appropriate. The Selectmen have observed the Town Moderator and Town Clerks consulting with the Secretary of State for points of order in election procedure law and said other towns may not do this to this extent. The Selectmen referred anyone with concerns to the Secretary of State and State legislature.

Karen Scott of Dane Road noted that the Selectmen's minutes posted on the website need to be updated. Peter noted minutes are not posted on the website until they are approved; they have been available and will be added to the website within a week. The Selectmen noted some Boards and Committees have not been diligent about getting their minutes in to the Selectmen in a timely manner and the Selectmen will follow up with them to get these in faster.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Gerry Cornett-Announcement of Increase in Fee at the Transfer Station: Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present to meet with the Selectmen to update them as follows:

- Peter noted last year the Selectmen gave the Transfer Station Manager authority to make fee increases based upon changes in disposal costs incurred by the town. Gerry is here tonight for public notification of the change. He said electronics disposal continues to increase as recycling avenues are closing. The cost to New Boston to dispose of these items has increased by \$200 per load. The fee to residents to dispose of these items has increased from 18 to 21 cents per pound to cover disposal costs. The Selectmen agreed the New Boston Transfer Station fees are fair.
- Transfer Station bathroom repairs including the water pump and contamination shower will go out to bid. This is a trust fund expenditure. Three bids are anticipated and will be brought to the Selectmen for review.
- Paper recycling is New Boston's largest commodity but the market has decreased to \$0. Paper is being stored at the Transfer Station until spring when the market is hoped to improve. It makes sense to continue recycling this material as recycling saves \$100 per ton in trucking.
- A company came in last week to assess New Boston's recycling practices and submitted a letter saying New Boston's products are top quality and highly marketable. The Transfer Station is hoping to collect \$80,000 in revenues by selling recyclables in 2018. A lot of towns recycle with single stream but this generates no revenue and costs \$123 per ton to truck away. If New Boston recycled with single stream it would cost \$1,000 per trip to the nearest facility in Charlestown, MA. Gerry noted New Boston made the right decision when it began its recycling system.
- A couple of companies are beginning to process glass and may begin taking this material away for free or even pay for it. New Boston currently pays to have glass hauled from

the facility but separating it from the trash saves \$70 per ton. New Boston generates approximately 130 tons of glass per year.

- The Selectmen thanked Gerry for the update.

Item 2: Second Reading-Public Hearing-Purchasing Policy Revisions: The Public Hearing opened at 6:30 PM.

Peter reported the first reading was held at the March 5th Selectmen's meeting where the Selectmen approved continuation of the process. Tonight is the second reading and Public Hearing. The Selectmen made adjustments to the policy at the March 5 meeting and these sensible and practical changes are included in tonight's draft. The definition of major purchase was changed from \$10,000 to \$15,000 throughout. Kary Jencks of Scobie Road was present and asked what brought about the change from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Peter noted this policy began approximately ten years ago and since that time the value of \$10,000 has changed and seemed low so it was changed to allow Department Heads flexibility in purchases. Rodney moved to waive the third reading. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Rodney moved to accept the New Boston Purchasing Policy as final as presented. Christine seconded the motion. 3-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: Adoption of Public Minutes of February 26, 2018 and March 5, 2018: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of February 26, 2018. Rodney moved the Public minutes of February 26, 2018 be accepted as amended. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of March 5, 2018. Rodney moved the Public minutes of March 5, 2018 be accepted as amended. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 4: First Reading-Discussion Re: Street Name Changes-Erik Dubowik: Peter noted Fire Inspector Erik Dubowik will attend the Second Reading. Eric prepared a list of three street names that could be affected by a request from the state 911 Emergency System reviewers. This came up due to confusion that can be caused if Mutual Aid responders can't get to a location in an emergency as they are unfamiliar with New Boston roads. These are Lyndeborough Road, Helena Drive and Cochran Hill Road. Rodney researched Lyndeborough Road and found the portion in question may be privately owned. The Selectmen requested this be confirmed and will discuss this with the Fire Inspector at another meeting. Rodney also spoke to the only affected property owner on Cochran Hill Road who noted they are not in favor of a change.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 5: Overview of Town Meeting Vote: Peter noted the voters voted for a default budget and asked how the Selectmen wish to proceed. Joe noted Peter should have already directed the Department Heads to review their default budgets and come back with recommendations to work within them. Peter noted he did not do that as he was waiting for further instructions from the Selectmen. The Selectmen also have recommendations such as salaries, cuts to services and repairing the old Transfer Station hopper instead of getting a new one. Rodney noted the Board is disappointed in not getting the Operating Budget but is encouraged by the support of the CRF and truck purchase Articles. Peter will meet with the Department Heads Wednesday.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 6: Town Administrators Report:

- Street Name and Number Project: As above. The Fire Inspector will meet with the Selectmen at their next meeting.
- Record Retention Update: Joe explained the history and purpose of this Committee that began two years ago. He will send a Letter of Intent to the NH State Library this week to let them know the town will apply for a grant for this project. Then the application will be prepared as required and submitted by June 15.
- Building Inspector Resumes: Approximately five applicants were interviewed last week. They were very good candidates with two that the interview committee decided to bring back for interviews within the next two weeks.
- Peter sent letters to New Boston's three State Representatives and Governor regarding the Selectmen's concerns about HB561.

Item 7: Selectmen's Reports:

- Joe reported he is not a member of the Forestry Committee but he takes minutes of meetings and helps in the field. He is an Alternate member along with Rick Kohler, Willard Dodge and Mike Constance, who do not vote on the Committee. The Committee met last week and discussed concerns of progress in the town forests and the requests of the County Forester who asked the Committee to make some changes to the paperwork as soon as possible and include detailed instructions for future members of how to deal with tree diseases. The Committee will meet with the School Board March 28 to discuss the Christmas Tree growing project discussed at the February 26 Selectmen's meeting and other potential cooperations between the Committee and NBCS. Communications with NBCS Administrators have been positive so far and the Committee is seeking School Board approval.
- Joe reported the Planning Board will meet March 27.
- Selectmen Committee Assignments: The Selectmen formerly rotated Planning Board duties every four months. Joe has been handling this for the Selectmen for three years. The Selectmen decided to return to the former schedule. Rodney moved to make the schedule rotating four month terms for Selectmen ex-officio member of the Planning Board. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Karen Scott of Dane Road asked if trees would be available to the public from the Forestry Committee/NBCS Christmas Tree Project. The Selectmen noted some extras for public purchase are expected.

Steve Sears of Carriage Road noted some line items of the default budget are the same or higher than the operating budget and asked about the cuts discussed above. Peter and the Selectmen noted some of those items are due to contracts entered into prior to voting day that have to be honored in default budgets.

Karen Scott of Dane Road noted the vote on a new Fire Station failed and asked if the Selectmen are aware of any updated plans. The Selectmen said they are not aware of any at this time.

Item 8: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)-Chief James Brace: Joe made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a) and (b) at 6:45PM. Christine 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 at 6:55PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Rodney moved that based upon Chief Brace's recommendation, that effective April 9, 2018, Charles Gauvin be named to fill a full time position vacated by Brandon Tucker. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0. A short ceremony will be held April 16, 2018.

Joe moved that based upon Chief Brace's recommendation, Stephen C. Case be promoted to Sergeant effective April 1, 2018. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

ADJOURNMENT: Rodney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on April 2, 2018 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available**