

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2015 – 7PM**

**Present:** Lorn Buxton, Chair, David McGuckin, Selectman, Bill Stewart, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

**Also present:** State Rep. David Borden, Treasurer Tom Smith.

**1. Approve Select Board Minutes of December 7, 2015.**

As not all members had reviewed the minutes, approval was tabled until the next Select Board meeting.

**2. Public Q&A.**

**a. Term of office for Treasurer.**

Tom Smith explained that currently he is serving a one-year elected term of office as Treasurer. He noted that at the 2008 Town Meeting, the voters changed the term of office for the Tax Collector to a three- year term. Citing NH RSA 421:26 (6), he requested the Select Board consider submit a warrant article changing the position from one year to three. He expressed his willingness and interest in serving in this position for an extended time, as the prior Treasurer did, providing consistency and avoiding disruption. After discussion, the Select Board agreed to place this item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**3. Items.**

**a. Rep. Dave Borden- Rte. 1 B sidewalk extension.**

Rep. Borden spoke about the status of the first section of the Safe Path project which initially was very controversial, but currently is fine. The planned extension from Wild Rose Lane to the Common remains an issue. This extension was in the process of being negotiated with the property owners, when both Mr. and Mrs. Baker passed away. Rep. Borden is continuing to have discussions with the heirs as they have expressed interest in going forward the necessary property transfer. A trust was established as a result of the vote at the May 2015 Town meeting. The agreement was contingent upon no public funds being used for the extension. In response to questions from the Board, Rep. Borden stated it is not clear is the Baker property is still on the market, but it is expected to be for sale in approximately one month. The sellers would have to disclose the pending property transfer to any potential buyer.

The Select Board continued discussion of various issues relating to the extension including right of way, possible movement of the stonewall, and a possibility of extending the path to the entrance by the firing range. It was agreed to consult with the Town's legal counsel and to double check the cost estimates by Rye Landscaping. Three issues were identified for legal counsel: The potential for future sidewalks; ongoing negotiations with the property owners; and property deed restrictions. Selectman McGuckin stated that Phil Marcus and Norman Rice have volunteered to help in fundraising. The original cost estimate with the original plan in October of 2014 was \$28,000. With the revised plan, the estimate as of November 1, 2015 was \$24,000. The Board discussed public versus private funds, and

agreed that no Town funds could be used presently, but future sidewalks should be part of the CIP plan, as well as future extension beyond the current plans.

It was the sense of the Select Board that they are in favor of Safe Path, and agreed with Selectman Stewart about including this issue in CIP discussions.

**b. Sign Health Trust Resolution.**

Chair Buxton presented two authorizing resolutions pursuant to NH RSA 5-B regarding the selection of a health insurance plan for the Town employees:

RESOLVED: That Town of New shall participate as a Member in the Health Trust pooled risk management program for the provision of group medical and/or other benefit plans in accordance with the "Application and Membership Agreement" and NH RSA 5-B.

RESOLVED: That Lorn Buxton, Chair of the Select Board, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to Health Trust, on behalf of Town of New Castle, the "Application and Membership Agreement" in substantially the form presented to this meeting.

Chair Buxton made the Motion to Adopt the Authorizing Resolutions, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried.

**c. Appointment of Rich Landry to the Planning Board.**

Upon Motion, which was seconded, the Select Board appointed Rich Landry to the Planning Board.

**d. Abatements - 18 Harborview Drive and 37 Walton Road.**

After discussion of one elderly lien and one abatement, the Select Board agreed to forward both requests to Avitar for decision.

**e. NH Public Works Mutual Aid Society.**

After discussion, Selectman McGuckin agreed to review the proposal with Police Dept., Public Works and Fire Department, and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

**4. Other Old Business.**

**a. Health Trust.**

Selectman Stewart stated the Town will be staying with the current plan for the next six months, at which time the Board will review whether to change plans. At least 60 days lead-time is required for a change. Chair Buxton stated the Cadillac tax has been postponed until 2020.

**5. Other New Business.**

**a. FEMA; America's Preparathon Campaign.**

Selectman Stewart stated there is an April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the Board discussed the need to have a Select Board member attend. After discussion, Selectman Stewart stated he would check with Fire Chief Blanding who has the most expertise in this subject.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.