

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board Meeting

March 25, 2024

APPROVED

In attendance at Town Hall: William McFadden, Kary Jencks, Joe Constance

A. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Lee Nyquist, Moderator, at 6:30PM with a Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1: Appointment of Officers

Lee Nyquist asked for nominations for appointments of officers.

Joe Constance moved to nominate Bill McFadden as Chair. Seconded by Bill McFadden.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – nay; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 2-1-0 motion carried.

There was discussion regarding if a vote should be taken for the positions of Vice Chair or Secretary. There was agreement that these positions would not be appointed at this time.

Sign Consent Agenda

Bill McFadden moved to approve the Consent Agenda dated March 25, 2024. Seconded by Joe Constance.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

1st Public Comment

The Board always welcomes public comment and feedback. There are two opportunities for public comment, one at the beginning of the meeting and then another at the end. If there is any need for extended dialogue, a request should be added to the agenda with supporting documentation and sent to the Executive Assistant beforehand.

Karen Scott, 110 Dane Road, thanked the Board for reverting the public comment period process to the way it was historically handled.

Seeing no additional public comment, Bill McFadden closed the public comment session.

Appointments

Item 2: Road Agent Benji Knapp – Review and Approve Bedford Road Culvert Bid

Benji Knapp, Road Agent, reviewed the Bedford Road culvert bid with the Board. He explained that approximately six companies attended the pre-bid meeting and three of those submitted bids. Kevin Leonard, Town Engineer, reviewed the bid and completed reference checks. The recommendation is to award the bid to Neil H Daniels.

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There was discussion regarding the cost differences between the bids. It was noted that the differences were likely due to companies that own their own cranes versus renting them.

Bill McFadden moved to award the Bedford Road culvert bid to Neil H Daniels, per the provided documentation. Seconded by Kary Jencks.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Item 3: Review and Approve Groundskeeping Quote

Bill McFadden stated that he has checked with all Department heads who interacted with the groundskeeper and there were no issues. He asked that the groundskeeper review the rates and it was agreed to reduce them for certain areas around Town.

Gerry Cornett, Transfer Station Manager, stated that the groundskeeper is very professional and would like to continue a long-term relationship with the Town. He believes the groundskeeper will take good care of the Town.

Bill McFadden moved to continue services with Allatt Land Management for the 2024 groundskeeping maintenance. Seconded by Joe Constance.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Ex-officio Committee Appointments:

- CIP Committee – Bill McFadden
- Finance Committee – Bill McFadden
- Forestry Committee – Joe Constance
- Highway Safety Committee – Bill McFadden
- Planning Board – Kary Jencks
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee – Bill McFadden
- Road Committee – Joe Constance
- Energy Commission – Bill McFadden
- Fire Station Advisory Committee – Kary Jencks
- Economic Development Committee – Kary Jencks

Item 5: Liaison Appointments:

- Police Department – Bill McFadden
- Facilities & Grounds – Bill McFadden
- Library – Joe Constance
- Transfer Station – Bill McFadden
- Community Development – Kary Jencks
- Fire Department – Kary Jencks

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- Recreation – Kary Jencks
- Finance – Bill McFadden
- Highway – Joe Constance
- Emergency Management – Joe Constance
- Executive Personnel – Joe Constance

Item 7: Landfill post-closure report

The Board reviewed the report and agreed that it should be signed and submitted to the State.

Old Business

Item 8: Approval of Public Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2024

Bill McFadden moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 4, 2024 as amended. Seconded by Kary Jencks.
Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – abstain; and William McFadden – aye; 2-0-1 motion carried.

Item 9: Town Administrator Search

Kary Jencks explained that the four candidates will be interviewed tomorrow in a Non-Public Session with the Board members and six Department Heads, in collaborative with a representative from MRI. After the interviews are complete, the Board will enter into Non-Public Session again and attempt to make a decision.

Internal Reports

Item 10: Select Board Reports

Kary Jencks explained that most of her time has been spent with the Town Administrator search. She noted that the Community Economic Development Committee has been doing a lot of outreach in Town and is creating tracking materials for local businesses. She noted that there is a Planning Board meeting tomorrow evening. She explained that there is an ongoing project to update approximately 10,000 property files so that the public can access them online. This will also be a timesaver for Staff.

Bill McFadden stated that he recently attended a Highway Safety Committee which discussed speed issues on Route 77 and Weare Road. The Committee will reach out to the State to recommend reduced speeds and no passing zones in this area. A speed study found a high speed in that area of 91mph on a weekday evening. There is also some vegetation that blocks visibility from the side streets in this area. He noted that the State approved the Town's request to fix the intersection at Hooper Hill and Mont Vernon Road. This will be completed by the Highway Department this year.

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Bill McFadden explained that the Fire Station Committee meeting saw the Clerk of the Works hired. This project will soon go out to bid for contractors. At the Energy Committee meeting, the group reviewed past activities and came up with additional items to work on.

Joe Constance stated that there will be work parties coming up in the spring through the Forestry Committee. There are three major tree diseases that need to be considered throughout Town. There will be a walk on April 3rd at 9am to survey some plots of land and make damage assessments regarding these diseases. There will also be Christmas tree plantings in May on the hillside near the landfill.

It was agreed that Joe Constance would attend a mediation at NHMA regarding the litigation between the Town and Eversource sometime between May 20-22.

2nd Public Comment

The Board always welcomes public comment and feedback. There are two opportunities for public comment, one at the beginning of the meeting and then another at the end. If there is any need for extended dialogue, a request should be added to the agenda with supporting documentation and sent to the Executive Assistant beforehand.

Seeing no public comment, Bill McFadden closed the public comment period.

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

Bill McFadden moved to enter Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (e) at 7:06pm. Seconded by Kary Jencks.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

Bill McFadden moved to reconvene Public Session at 7:29pm. Seconded by Joe Constance.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

Bill McFadden moved to seal the meeting minutes of the Non-Public Session for five years. Seconded by Joe Constance.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

Bill McFadden moved for Gerry Cornett to be compensated for his bid work, to be paid at his standard hourly rate. Seconded by Joe Constance.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

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**Kary Jencks moved that the merit and COLA implementation begin on January 1st.
Seconded by Joe Constance.**

**Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden –
aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

**Bill McFadden moved to approve the contract for Fire Chief Frank Fraitzl as
written. Seconded by Joe Constance.**

**Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden –
aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

**Bill McFadden moved to approve employment, pending background checks, for the
part-time Records Clerk at the Police Station, for Gloria Gidari. Seconded by Kary
Jencks.**

**Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden –
aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

**Bill McFadden moved that the Board reach out to Plodzik & Sanderson, P.A., to
conduct a follow up financial audit at this time, and to delegate the Chair to follow
through. Seconded by Joe Constance.**

**Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden –
aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

Adjourn

Bill McFadden moved to adjourn at 7:34pm. Seconded by Kary Jencks.

**Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Joe Constance – aye; and William McFadden –
aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude

Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024