

works on trees, bookkeeping and contracts. He is not in the field much but knows how if needed. Joe moved to approve appointment of Carter Brown to the Forestry Committee. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 2: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of March 7, 2016: The Selectmen reviewed the public and non-public minutes of March 7, 2016 Joe moved they be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 3: Overview of Town Meeting Approved Articles and Discussion ‘Default Budget’ Adjustments: Peter reported the voted default budget brought new challenges to the Departments, Selectmen and Town Administrator. All met after the election to determine how to proceed. All worked to recreate certain line items to make sure they aligned with the default budget. Another meeting took place to review it and the plan is complete. It is a workable budget. The projected tax rate for this year’s tax rate is \$5.46 on the municipal side compared to \$6.50 projected previously. This will be confirmed in October. Peter thanked the Selectmen for meeting with the Department Heads. Joe complimented the Departments for working with this. Brandy Mitroff was present and asked if the cost of living increase is in the default budget. Peter said it is to a smaller degree as any increased town employee pay is delayed until September. Brandy asked about a salary change that was discussed during budget preparation that was planned to align similar positions in different departments with similar pay and Peter said that is also delayed. Brandy asked if the Planning Coordinator increase was delayed as that was an employee that was promoted to that position and Peter said the salary is commensurate with the position and that increase was not delayed but the new Planning Coordinator is paid at a lower rate than the previous Planning Coordinator that resigned, a significant decrease in the Planning Department budget. Brandy asked about the Police Department pay scale and Peter said that will be handled by the Police Department with Selectmen supervision. This was reviewed at the recent meetings discussed above.

Item 4: Recommendation for Landfill ‘Post Closure Monitoring’ Services: Peter reported he found a new company that could do the same job as GZA for less money. He is bringing this forward to the Selectmen to consider switching companies. The insurance mentioned in the contract is standard. Rodney moved to approve the contract with Envirotrac for landfill closure monitoring. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 5: Correspondence From SAU#19 Re: All Boards Meeting: Peter reported he spoke with Superintendent Brian Balke about a meeting with school district representatives and town departments and boards to improve communication and consider expanding the tax base. The Selectmen agreed this is important and worthwhile. Planning Board member Mark Suennen was present and requested the meeting be scheduled at a time when volunteers that work during the day can attend.

Item 6: Town Administrators Report:

- Highway Safety Committee/Foot Traffic Safety Committee: The Footbridge project is progressing. RFQs were sent out for site clearing and tree removal. The Committee has been successful in fundraising. Contracts for bridge installation and supervision were executed.
- Town Hall Basement: This project is almost complete. The stairs need painting. The furnace room is dry. Selectmen's Assistant Laura Bernard and her husband helped out this weekend. Contractor George St. John mentioned an old pipe would need to be replaced. This will be evaluated further as it may not need to be replaced now that the basement is drier. Insulation and the floor need to be done as well. The floor portion is being reconsidered.
- Tax Waiver: A business in town, a large taxpayer with three buildings (Rose Meadow), approached Peter for a three year tax break for a fourth building they want to build to help them cut expenses. This is allowed under a new RSA. These facilities do not house schoolchildren. The requester will meet with the Selectmen at their next meeting to discuss.

Item 8: Selectmen's Reports:

- Rodney thanked the voters for voting for him and hopes the Selectmen can work together doing good business, move forward and continue to make things better for the town.
- Christine said the Selectmen have power as a Board and the members should work together not individually.

Public Forum: Brandy Mitroff was present and said she volunteers on town committees such as the CIP and Finance Committees and does not like to see the items the committees worked on were voted down, but she considers this a wakeup call and hopes the people that voted "no" join committees and attend meetings as the public is welcome and encouraged to attend all meetings, make comments and ask questions. She thought about the outcome of the vote and thought part of the issue was the cost of living increase and explained the history of the old employee raise system that included a step and a cost of living increase some years until Peter began a new step system for town employee salaries. She thought that step system was taking the place of any cost of living increase and asked the Selectmen to discuss this before budget preparation begins again in September. Peter noted this is a grade system and reviewed the history of the plan saying it was planned to review cost of living every three years. He also noted other NH towns are giving cost of living increases of 3-4% but Peter surveyed national statistics and found 1.9% but recommended 1.5% for New Boston employees. Brandy noted many town employees have come from non-municipal jobs and shared that those companies did not usually give cost of living increases and town officials should consider this as town employees are paid pretty well, with good benefits and costs for them are down as many live and work in town. She said taxpayers may be considering this when they pay their taxes if they don't getting cost of living raises themselves. Christine compared the old and new system and said the Selectmen will consider Brandy's suggestion.

Kim DiPietro was present and noted she is a former member of the Finance Committee and at the beginning of each budget preparation season the Committee would discuss what the federal government was doing for cost of living for social security. She noted this year the federal government did not make any cost of living change for social security and taxpayers in that age

bracket considered this aspect hard for them. Rodney and Christine said the federal government did make a change for cost of living last year but town employees did not get a cost of living increase last year so the town cannot consider just one year when making this decision or consider cost of living year to year instead of every three years. Rodney said the Finance Committee and Department Heads have done a good job over the years. Rodney said part of this issue is the town's fault as residents are not attending meetings and the town could try to find another way to communicate.

Joe noted the demographic in town has changed and the town could find a better way to communicate.

School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert thanked the town for the use of the Town Hall conference room for the recent Article 2 recount.

Brandy noted she used the New Boston Bulletin in the past to get information out to voters and she plans to go back to that format next year. She also said the New Boston Taxpayers Association used social media and it worked and brought people to the polls, the highest turnout since 2010. That is the medium to get people's attention in a short succinct way.

Joe said that is probably not appropriate for town boards, more citizens and interested voters need to become involved and then get the facts out.

Rodney noted several budget hearings were posted and held and not many people attended, another way to communicate with taxpayers could be "meet the department head" nights. Brandy said that would be the perfect type of thing to put on social media. Joe noted specific informational meetings such as what the Road Agent did for the Old Coach Road project seem to be very successful.

Kim said an issue with social media is there is no way to know if the information on it is true or not. She agrees the Selectmen should never use social media.

Item 8: Possible Request for Non-Public Per RSA 91-A:II: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien