

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting June 20, 2016

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

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Road Agent Dick Perusse, Police Chief James Brace, Heidi Ackerman, Willard Dodge and Brandy Mitroff of the public were present.

A. CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Christine Quirk at 6:00PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Rodney moved to approve the consent agenda. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Heidi Ackerman-Discussion Re: Tax Obligation: Heidi Ackerman was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss payment arrangements of her unpaid 2013 taxes. She recently contacted the Selectmen by letter which they reviewed, in which she suggested paying all 2013 taxes due within ninety days. The Selectmen did not agree this was reasonable. Rodney noted she has been delinquent on these taxes for three years and has not done what a reasonable person would do to pay these taxes. Rodney suggested a thirty day extension past the July 11, 2016 deadline or the property would be deeded. This means all 2013 taxes are to be paid by August 11, 2016 and interest will continue to accrue until paid. Heidi agreed to this arrangement. Rodney moved to require Heidi Ackerman pay her 2013 taxes due to the town with 50% due by July 11, 2016 and the other 50% plus interest due on or about August 11, 2016. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 2: Chief James Brace-Requesting Appointment Of A Full Time Police Officer: Police Chief James Brace was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss Police Department staffing as follows:

- He is here to request appointment of a part time per diem officer to a full time vacant position. The August Police Academy is filling up and Jim wants to hire by July 3 to enroll the officer in the August Police Academy. He averages over 31 hours per week in the Police Department, is doing a great job, energetic and wants to take on this challenge. His salary before the Police Academy is \$18.92 per hour until September 5 when it

increases to \$19.32 per hour and will increase again once he receives his certification around the New Year. Rodney moved to appoint Brandon Tucker as a full time Probationary Police Officer. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

- Jim noted he has been trying to fill other vacant Police Department positions. He advertised successfully on Facebook for \$30 compared to \$500.00 with the Union Leader. He received twelve resumes. Initial physical and written tests took place yesterday, six candidates passed and all seem very qualified. Interviews will be conducted tomorrow and the selected candidate will attend the August Police Academy.
- The current officers have been filling in shifts and the department is in good shape.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: Third Reading-Selectmen's Decision Re: Increase in Fees for Television Screens: Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- The proposed fee increase for disposal of television screens at the Transfer Station. This was postponed from the last meeting as Joe had additional questions at that time. He has researched the matter and noted he was against the proposal when it came up last year but since then there have been two tipping fee increases and he is now in favor. Joe moved to adopt the fee increase as presented. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor 3-0. Rodney noted this increase was approved due to the desire to keep up with costs of disposing items, not to bring in revenue at the Transfer Station. Gerry noted this is per the SOP and also noted the price of disposing these items is expected to increase over the next five years.
- Gerry will post revenues and costs on a sign at the Transfer Station to keep taxpayers informed of this information on a regular basis. He noted a program begun by former Transfer Station Manager Bonnie and used since is very successful and has saved \$65,000 on the trash line so far this year.

Item 4: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of June 6, 2016: The Selectmen reviewed the public minutes of June 6, 2016. Road Agent Dick Perusse was present and noted an amendment. Joe moved the public minutes be accepted as amended. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 5: Discussion Re: Cutting Shrubs at the Island Approaching the Bridge: Peter reported he received an e-mail from Ellen Kambol regarding shrubs blocking the view of traffic coming from the other side of the triangle as traffic is approaching the bridge. He supports what she says, also noticed a visibility problem in the area and recommends trimming the shrubs for better visibility. Rodney noted he disagrees with the visibility issue but that the Board decided a few years ago that the shrubs should never be higher than the monument and the front of the bushes towards the bridge should be kept cut back. Therefore he supports trimming the bushes to an appropriate height and trimming this year's growth. Peter will arrange to have this done.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 6: Town Administrators Report:

- Footbridge Update: The Committee has decided to build this bridge strong enough to support horse traffic and is in the process of raising the additional funds needed. Peter is contacting the librarian and library trustees to confirm they approve of this change.
- Tax Waiver: A meeting between the parties and the attorneys is scheduled for June 27 at 1:00 PM.
- Bookkeepers Position Opening: Several applications have come in. Applications are being accepted until June 30. Christine suggested the position be advertised on Facebook.
- Expenditures and Revenues Update: The budget is doing well, several large items are now paid, and spending is expected to slow.
- A good department managers meeting was held recently.

Item 7: Selectmen's Reports:

- **Discussion Re: Notice of Intent to Excavate:** Rodney suggested that a legal opinion should be sought if the Selectmen should sign Intent to Excavate request as this involves a company that has one or two pits that have not been appropriately reclaimed and they owe taxes. The Selectmen agreed Peter should seek legal advice on this matter.
- Joe reported a sitewalk took place Saturday for a photography business on Mont Vernon Road. All looked good and the applicant will meet with the Planning Board soon.
- Rodney noted Willard Dodge had a tax bill question. Rodney spoke to Assessor George Hildum and Willard about it and learned George uses Google Earth to determine measurements to base taxes on. Rodney said it is appropriate to use Google Earth to discover something on a property, but not as a measurement tool to estimate tax bills. Use of Google Earth by the Assessor for measuring purposes should be discontinued as a policy. Willard Dodge was present and noted he has been working on a current use property issue with George as George noticed buildings on the property while using Google Earth. Willard noted he will pay the taxes in the amount of \$490 that should have been assessed years ago but not the penalty. Peter will work to resolve this. Willard also noted the time spent on this issue by himself, and small town resources such as George, and possible clerical staff with meetings and correspondence pertaining to the issue was unnecessary and the matter could have been resolved with a single brief phone call. He also noted the buildings were built under the appropriate building permits.

Public Forum:

None.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 PM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien