

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board Work Session

April 17, 2023

APPROVED

In attendance at New Boston Town Hall: Donna Mombourquette, Jennifer Brown, and Kary Jencks
Staff present: Paul Branscombe, Town Administrator, and Jennifer Allocca, Finance Director

A. CALL TO ORDER: A work session of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chair Donna Mombourquette at 6:30PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda- The Selectmen reviewed the April 17, 2023 consent agenda.

Jennifer Brown moved to approve the April 17, 2023 consent agenda items including payroll, Accounts Payable and other signed official documents. Seconded by Kary Jencks.
Roll Call Vote: Donna Mombourquette – aye; Jennifer Brown – aye; and Kary Jencks – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

1st PUBLIC COMMENT:

Donna Mombourquette stated that this is a business meeting of the New Boston Select Board. Comments and feedback are welcomed but because this is not a public forum or public hearing, comments will be on the agenda items only. Dialogue or answering of questions will not be part of the meeting. Should you have an issue you wish to discuss, please communicate with the Town Administrator who may resolve your issue or potentially schedule your appearance before the Board at a later date. The Board appreciates your understanding and cooperation.

Karen Scott, 110 Dane Road, asked for additional information to be provided on the Consent Agenda topic #9 “Other Tax Business.”

Seeing no additional public comment, Donna Mombourquette closed the first session.

B. APPOINTMENTS

None at this time.

C. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 1: Default 2023 Review

Town Administrator Branscombe stated that the Department budgets were reviewed, and suggestions have been made. Jennifer Allocca, Finance Director, stated that the Department Heads made some changes to get to the total.

The Board reviewed changes made to the Facilities & Grounds Department. It was requested that information on the line-by-line items removed from the budget be presented in order for transparency. Jennifer Allocca stated that the Department Heads determine what to remove. Donna Mombourquette stated that she would like to see their proposed items to remove line-by-line and rationale in order to determine if that was the best course of action. Kary Jencks agreed

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that a detailed report would be most helpful. It was noted that this Department's budget still needs to be reduced by approximately \$13,000.

Jennifer Allocca stated that she did not believe this was an exercise in reorganizing each line. Donna Mombourquette stated that this likely needs to be done in order to show transparency of what exactly is being cut from the budget. Town Administrator Branscombe suggested tabling this item to a later date.

Kary Jencks stated that she believes it would be helpful to have the line-by-line spreadsheets in front of her to review, instead of hearing a summary.

Donna Mombourquette stated that her concern was making sure staff can be paid during the default budget. Subtracting that from the default line should give each Department an amount to filter into the other line items. Jennifer Allocca stated that the difference between the default and new totals was used by the Department Heads to review the amount and make up the difference. This was not necessarily done line-by-line. The difference was covered but the entire budget was not overwritten. Donna Mombourquette stated that the default budget was a significant difference for some Departments, and it needs to be transparent to the community where cuts are proposed to be made. This may not have been done in the past but should be a practice moving forward. It needs to be made clear what a default budget impacts in the operating budget.

Town Administrator Branscombe suggested having each Department Head come in to explain to the Board proposed budget changes. The Board agreed. Kary Jencks stated that she would like to see each budget to review line-by-line.

The Board agreed to have future work session on this topic.

Item 2: Review Exemption Publishing Procedure

Donna Mombourquette stated that, per RSA 72:40b, publishing is prohibited meaning that person's names will not be printed for certain exemptions under the Consent Agenda items. If the public would like this detail, it will be available through the Town Administrator's office.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

E. INTERNAL REPORTS

None at this time.

F. 2nd PUBLIC COMMENT:

Donna Mombourquette stated that this is a business meeting of the New Boston Select Board. Comments and feedback are welcomed but because this is not a public forum or public hearing, comments will be on the agenda items only. Dialogue or answering of questions will not be part of the meeting. Should you have an issue you wish to discuss, please communicate with the

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Town Administrator who may resolve your issue or potentially schedule your appearance before the Board at a later date. The Board appreciates your understanding and cooperation.

Karen Scott, 110 Dane Road, stated that she asked to have the Consent Agenda read into the record. Reading names into the record is not necessary but she would like for the Consent Agenda to continue to be read at Board meetings, as it has been.

Seeing no additional public comment, Donna Mombourquette closed the second session.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Seconded by Kary Jencks.

Roll Call Vote: Donna Mombourquette – aye; Jennifer Brown – aye; and Kary Jencks – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude

Next Scheduled Meeting: April 24, 2023