

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board Meeting

September 25, 2023

APPROVED

In attendance at New Boston Town Hall: Donna Mombourquette, Kary Jencks and William McFadden

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

Consent Agenda- The Selectmen reviewed the September 25, 2023 consent agenda.

Bill McFadden moved to approve the September 25, 2023 consent agenda items including payroll, Accounts Payable and other signed official documents. Seconded by Kary Jencks.

Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Donna Mombourquette – aye; and Bill McFadden – 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 Maralyn Segien, Executive Assistant, who will contact the Select Board to answer your concern, or potentially schedule your appearance before the Board at a later date. The Board appreciates your understanding and cooperation.

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

Appointments

Item 1: Town Counsel-Joint Board Meeting with Board of Fire Wards

Assistant Fire Chief Plourde asked for clarification regarding the roles and responsibilities, especially regarding budgetary items, between the Select Board and the Fire Wards. Donna Mombourquette explained that RSA 154 authorizes the Fire Wards to manage the Fire Department, but it does not give authority for independent approvals of expenditure for municipal monies. The Department should follow the municipality's rules for this. Assistant Fire Chief Plourde stated that the Department adopted the Town's purchasing policy.

Donna Mombourquette explained that the Ambulance Revolving Fund has specific requirements. Per legal counsel, the Fire Wards should follow the procedures as set forth. The Select Board has no access to this account, but authorization is needed to approve expenditures from it.

Kary Jencks explained that the wording for the per diem employee warrant article will be reviewed in order to understand the options. Once determined, there are funds from other departments that can be transferred in order to handle the concerns in the Fire Department budget.

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board Meeting

September 25, 2023

APPROVED

The Board requested specific information regarding the shortages for PPE and per diem employees.

Donna Mombourquette stated that the necessary expenditures will be taken care of. The Select Board will not leave Department personnel unprepared to respond to an emergency.

Item 2: Broadband Matching Grant Initiative Comcast Representatives

Monica Thibault and Brian Christensen, Comcast, presented to the Board regarding the Broadband Matching Grant initiative. This will bring broadband to customers where it is not currently available. If the grant is received, the project should begin within 6-12 months.

Bill McFadden noted that this was previously brought before the Energy Commission, and all were in favor of it moving forward.

Bill McFadden moved that the Town of New Boston endorse the application of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC (aka Comcast) to the New Boston Broadband Matching Grant Initiative (BMGI), to provide broadband service to unserved locations in New Boston; whereas, the Town of New Boston finds Comcast to be technically managerial and financially capable of meeting the obligations of the BMGI fund request; whereas, Comcast has the operational capacity and experience to extend its network to additional locations; New Boston hereby votes to select Comcast as the agreed upon BMGI provider. Seconded by Donna Mombourquette.

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

Item 3: Conservation Commission Land Purchase Proposal

Laura Bernard and Gail Parker, Conservation Commission, presented to the Board regarding a potential land purchase at 7 River Road. The proposal is to purchase the land to become open space. This is an important access point to the river. There is potential to make this area into a living classroom.

The Board expressed concern regarding the existing septic system/leach field and Town liability. It was noted that this would be reviewed by legal counsel. The Board discussed parking on the site. It was explained that the intention is not to allow parking on the site, but to allow for boat/kayak launches. The Board requested that Laura Bernard contact Town Counsel and also contact SNHPC and the Pathways to Play program.

Laura Bernard explained that the offer made to the owner was less than the appraised price. The hope is to start a fundraiser for the amount as soon as possible.

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board Meeting

September 25, 2023

APPROVED

New Business

Item 4: Authorize Gerry Cornett to sell 2013 Black Ford Taurus “Town Car”

**Bill McFadden moved to allow Gerry Cornett to put the 2013 Black Ford Taurus “Town Car” on the market. Seconded by Donna Mombourquette.
Roll Call Vote: Kary Jencks – aye; Donna Mombourquette – aye; and William McFadden – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

Old Business

Item 5: Approval of Public Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023

The Board tabled discussion of these minutes to a future meeting.

Item 6: Town Administrator Search

Kary Jencks explained that three candidates were interviewed earlier today. The process went well, and good feedback was received. There will be a non-public session tomorrow with the facilitator to discuss and potentially make a decision. Donna Mombourquette commended everyone involved on a very inclusive process.

Item 7: Thank You Note For Ice Rink and American Flag Donations

It was noted that Donna Mombourquette would write the Thank You card.

Item 8: Draft Timecard Policy

The Board discussed running this by the Policy Committee to provide input on the proposed changes. Donna Mombourquette stated that she would check with Maralyn Segien regarding this agenda item.

Reports

Item 9: Select Board Reports

Kary Jencks explained that she worked on the Town Administrator Search process. She also continues to work with Rita Donaldson regarding Department budgets and Ms. Donaldson will present to the Board on October 9th. She was named the Board’s liaison to the Fire Department regarding the Fire Station grant. There has also been some movement with regard to the Recreation Department play space grant.

Bill McFadden stated that there was a bid opening for the Police Station on the 12th. The bids were a little shy financially, but the engineer/architect for the project will help navigate this. There was a Road Committee meeting on September 13th and an Energy Committee meeting with Comcast on September 17th. There was a Fire Station Committee meeting on September 20th.

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board Meeting

September 25, 2023

APPROVED

Donna Mombourquette stated that she attended a meeting with Standard Power remotely. Standard Power will now meet with the entire Board in the non-public session regarding the community power program, as previously voted on by the Town.

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 Maralyn Segien, Executive Assistant, who will contact the Select Board to answer your concern, or potentially schedule your appearance before the Board at a later date. The Board appreciates your understanding and cooperation.

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

Bill McFadden noted that he was unaware there was a Zoom meeting with Standard Power. Donna Mombourquette stated that the Board would discuss this more later in non-public session.

Karen Scott, 110 Dane Road, asked why a non-public session was called for Standard Power. The Chair explained it was to present confidential competitive rates.

Karen Scott made another comment that was ruled out of order by the Chair.

Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A: 3, II (j)

Donna Mombourquette moved to enter into Non-Public per RSA 91-A: 3, II (j) at 7:20pm. Seconded by Bill McFadden.

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

Kary Jencks moved to exit Non-Public session at 8:03pm. Seconded by Bill McFadden.

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

Donna Mombourquette moved to seal the Non-Public meeting minutes for five years. Seconded by Bill McFadden.

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

Bill McFadden moved to authorize Standard Power to supply an energy rate for New Boston at least a penny per kilowatt hour lower than the Eversource rate. Seconded by Donna Mombourquette.

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board Meeting

September 25, 2023

APPROVED

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

Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A: 3, II (b)

Bill McFadden moved to enter into Non-Public per RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) at 8:05pm. Seconded by Donna Mombourquette.

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

Donna Mombourquette moved to exit Non-Public session at 8:30pm. Seconded by Bill McFadden.

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

Kary Jencks moved to seal the meeting minutes ad infinitum. Seconded by Donna Mombourquette.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Donna Mombourquette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30m. Seconded by Bill McFadden.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 9, 2023