

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board

January 4, 2023

APPROVED

In attendance at New Boston Town Hall: Donna Mombourquette, David Litwinovich, and Jennifer Brown

Staff present: Paul Branscombe, Town Administrator

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

Consent Agenda- The Selectmen reviewed the January 4, 2023 consent agenda.

David Litwinovich moved to approve the January 4, 2023 consent agenda items including payroll, Accounts Payable and other signed official documents. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

Roll Call Vote: David Litwinovich – aye; Donna Mombourquette – aye; and Jennifer Brown – 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.

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

B. APPOINTMENTS

Item 1: GIS Mapping-Tim Fountain, CAI Technologies

Tim Fountain, Vice President CAI Technologies, explained that he will be addressing the Town's potential remapping of existing parcel data. This project deals with remapping the property line data for the Town using record research and a custom base map. This will show the correct size, location, and ownership for every parcel in Town. The primary use of these maps will be for assessing purposes. 80% of all local government decisions are property-based. This will allow for better decision-making for staff, the departments, and landowners. This is an investment which will appreciate over time. Parcel data is the foundation of local government information. He proposed a three-year project. This includes ground control and aerial photography in Spring 2023, compilation of the base map using record information, inventorying survey information, and reading all of the deeds available, compiling survey plans, processing in GIS, an informal public review, and delivery.

The Board thanked Mr. Fountain for the presentation and information.

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C. NEW BUSINESS:

Donna Mombourquette recognized Bruce McKim, Director of the New Boston Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), for his Spirit of NH Volunteer Service Award.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 2: Approval of Public Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2022

David Litwinovich moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 19, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

Item 3: Review and Vote On The [Proposed Operating Budget and Warrant Articles](#) – *The Board tabled discussion on this item to later in the meeting.*

Item 4: Consider Boston Post Cane Policy
The Board moved this item to a future agenda.

E. INTERNAL REPORTS

Item 5: Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator Branscombe stated that, on December 20th, Kelly Dyer of New York Life held an ‘open enrollment’ session in the Town Hall conference room. Shannon Silver and some of her staff members signed up for the whole life plan through payroll deduction. New York Life then contacted him to let him know the proposed enrollment is likely not yet enough. New York Life will consider presenting this proposal to the Fire and Police Departments as well.

Town Administrator Branscombe stated that the Holiday Party was held on December 21st, catered by members of the Select Board. Manager and Admin meetings were held on December 22nd and discussed warrant articles and year end encumbrances.

Town Administrator Branscombe stated that Matt Mercier, Acapella, met with Jennifer Allocca and himself on December 29th, to discuss and review the Town’s IT needs.

Town Administrator Branscombe stated that he traveled with the Road Agent to meet Al Bickford to discuss removal of trees, as previously discussed by the Board. On December 29th, he met with Administrator Jeff Reardon to discuss updated health plans for Harvard Pilgrim through Interlocal Trust. There was a Zoom meeting with Jason Lacombe and others to hear final numbers for a new Fire House. There was also a meeting on January 4th, via Zoom, to finalize the Emergency Operations Plan update.

Item 6: Health Officer Report

Town Administrator Branscombe stated that 8 new cases of COVID-19 were reported to DHHS in the last two weeks.

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Item 7: Select Board Reports: Donna Mombourquette, David Litwinovich, and Jennifer Brown

The Select Board reviewed the submitted reports.

Item 3: Review and Vote On The **Proposed Operating Budget and Warrant Articles** – *The Board retook this item at this time.*

The Board reviewed the warrant articles.

Donna Mombourquette read Article 05:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Seven Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,900,000), for the construction of a Fire / Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Facility in the Town of New Boston. Said sum to be raised by issuance of serial bond(s) or note(s) not to exceed Seven Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,900,000) under and in compliance with the provisions of t h e Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bond(s) and note(s), to determine the rate(s) of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to take such other actions or to pass any other vote relative thereto as shall be in the best interest of the Town of New Boston. (3/5 ballot vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend #-#)

Jennifer Allocca explained that the language for this article was provided by bond council. A bond hearing will be held on January 11, 2023, at 6pm at the Library.

Donna Mombourquette stated that this project will address the needs of the Fire Department and was carefully reviewed. Some of the construction materials are still being considered and there are potential additional savings if this project can be started in 2023.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 05 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

Town Administrator Branscombe noted that the Finance Committee will have a meeting just before the Deliberative Session to determine their recommendation vote for this article.

Donna Mombourquette read Article 06:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Six Million Eight Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$6,831,518). Should this article be defeated, the

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default budget shall be Five Million Eight Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$5,824,453), which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of New Boston or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 5-1)

The Board reviewed the proposed budget.

Donna Mombourquette explained that the Finance Committee recommendation for this article was 5-1. The objection comes mainly due to the staffing proposed for the Fire Department. The question was if the taxpayers should be charged for staffing at 100%, when there will not actually be 100% staffing come January 1st. The Fire Department thus cut the proposed budget amount by 20%. This number represents the 20% reduction. The Fire Department is assuring that there will be two people available to cover Fire and EMS 24/7. There has been much success lately in recruitment and no calls have been missed as of late. This proposed budget line seems to be poised to meet the needs of the Town.

Town Administrator Branscombe noted that the need to call mutual aid has also decreased.

Fire Chief MacDonald stated that the Department was 65% staffed in December. There are currently 20 applicants in the process of being considered. By February, or March 1, the Department will be fully staffed. This is due to the new staffing model.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 06 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

Donna Mombourquette read Article 07:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Eight Thousand Dollars (\$908,000) for the purpose of constructing and furnishing an attached addition at the Police Station located at 116 Old Coach Road, and furthermore to be raised and appropriated from the American Rescue Program Act (ARPA) funds received in the amount of Six Hundred Seven Thousand Dollars (\$607,000) and the balance of Three Hundred One Thousand Dollars (\$301,000) to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend #-#)

Donna Mombourquette explained that, given the discussion around the proposed Safety Center, this was determined to be a fiscally responsible approach to obtain some of the critical needs for the Police Department. This reflects an increase of approximately \$300,000 from the 2021 proposal. The plan and architectural drawings are the same. The hope is that some savings will be found during the process. She and Jennifer Brown visited the Police Station and saw some safety needs of the building which need to be addressed.

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177

178 David Litwinovich stated that he would like to see information included as to how long of a
179 solution this will be. Jennifer Allocca stated that she will work to include this information.

180 Donna Mombourquette stated that this has previously been stated as 30+ years.

181

182 Donna Mombourquette stated that, it appears a future expansion of the building could possibly
183 occur to one side of the yard. There is no plan for expansion at this time.

184

185 Town Administrator Branscombe stated that the Finance Committee has yet to recommend this
186 article. He explained that, when reviewing the Safety Complex proposal, with materials and
187 subcontractor wages, this today would be approximately \$11M. There is a large cost savings
188 proposed by separating the Fire and Police projects.

189

190 **David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 07 be placed on the ballot in**
191 **March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.**

192 **Roll Call Vote: David Litwinovich – aye; Jennifer Brown – aye; and Donna**
193 **Mombourquette – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

194

195 Donna Mombourquette read Article 08:

196 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five*
197 *Thousand Dollars (\$175,000), to be placed into the existing Fire Department Vehicle Capital*
198 *Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee*
199 *recommend 6- 0)*

200

201 Donna Mombourquette explained that this is a recommendation from the CIP Committee. The
202 discussion on this topic revolved around the cost of vehicles increasing. Thus, a suggestion was
203 made to increase the amount into this fund by \$45,000.

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205 **David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 08 be placed on the ballot in**
206 **March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.**

207 **Roll Call Vote: David Litwinovich – aye; Jennifer Brown – aye; and Donna**
208 **Mombourquette – aye; 3-0-0 motion carried unanimously.**

209

210 David Litwinovich read Article 09:

211 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-Nine*
212 *Thousand Dollars (\$339,000), for the purchase of a Utility Vehicle, and furthermore to authorize*
213 *the withdrawal of said amount from the Fire Department Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund. This*
214 *will be a non- lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the specified*
215 *purchase is complete or December 31, 2025, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required)*
216 *(Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)*

217

218 **David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 09 be placed on the ballot in**
219 **March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.**

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

David Litwinovich read Article 10:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000), to be placed into the existing Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund to maintain the Emergency Management communications and related system. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Donna Mombourquette explained that this is a recommendation from the CIP Committee.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 10 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 11:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000), to be placed into the existing Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 11 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 12:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000), to be placed into the existing Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 12 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 13:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000), to be placed into the existing Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

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Donna Mombourquette explained that this is a recommendation from the CIP Committee. She suggested a change in wording.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 13 be placed on the ballot in March, as amended. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 14:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Two Hundred Seven Dollars (\$331,207), which represents 100% of the engineering study, preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design, and bidding for the replacement of the Tucker Mill Road Bridge over the Middle Branch Piscataquog River NHDOT Bridge # 087/150. The Town will be reimbursed 80% (up to \$264,965) of the actual engineering costs approved by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Bridge Aid Program, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$66,242), from the Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund which represents 20% of the Town's share of total engineering costs. Construction costs are anticipated to be reimbursed 100% of actual qualified construction and construction engineering costs by the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Donna Mombourquette stated that the wording of this is confusing. The intention is to spend \$66,242 out of an existing CRF. Town Administrator Branscombe noted that this is NH DOT wording. The DRA suggested this language. Donna Mombourquette stated that she would like for the explanation to be clearer for residents. Town Administrator Branscombe explained that this will be made clearer during the videos explaining the warrant articles.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 14 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 15:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$362,856), which represents 100% of the engineering study, preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design, and bidding for the replacement of the Gregg Mill Road Bridge over the South Branch Piscataquog River NHDOT Bridge# 132/138. The Town will be reimbursed 80% (up to \$290,284) of the actual engineering costs approved by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Bridge Aid Program, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of Seventy-Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$72,572), from the Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund which

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represents 20% of the Town's share of engineering costs. Construction costs are anticipated to be reimbursed 100% of qualified actual construction and construction engineering costs by the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 15 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 16:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000), for Road Improvements. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the road improvements are complete or until December 31, 2027, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 16 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 17:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Nine Cents (\$207,465.09), for Town road-related upgrades and other road improvements, to be offset by revenue from the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant Program estimated to be Two Hundred Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Nine Cents (\$207,465.09). This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the said funds are expended or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 17 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 18:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), to be placed into the existing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

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David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 18 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 19:

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Contingency Fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise, and further to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), to be placed into this fund. This sum is to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #- #) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Donna Mombourquette all towns are allowed to create a Contingency Fund as a safety valve. Unanticipated expenses throughout the year could be funded up-to the amount in the Contingency Fund. The schools use a similar fund.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 19 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 20:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), to be placed into the existing Municipal Facilities Expendable Trust Fund. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Donna Mombourquette explained that the Town's municipal buildings have needs which have arisen over the years. This is an attempt to fix those needs, without tax impact.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 20 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 21:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000), for a Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) Mapping, the first of two (2) annual appropriations for a total of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$220,125). The sum of \$110,000 to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

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Donna Mombourquette explained that the Finance Committee discussed breaking this project into two payments instead of three, with \$110,000 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Town Administrator Branscombe stated that this issue has been going on for at least ten years and needs to be advanced.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 21 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 22:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000), the third-year funding request to be placed into the existing Record Retention Expendable Trust for digitizing the Town of New Boston's records that require long term/permanent storage. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Donna Mombourquette explained that this has been a successful project so far.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 22 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 23:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$11,850), for the purpose of supporting the New Boston Fourth of July Association, a non-profit organization, by funding a portion of the cost of the Fourth of July fireworks and cover the costs of mandatory police details for the parade and the fireworks events. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 23 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 24:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$3,573.26), for funding the additional cost of Police and Fire Dispatch Services contracted through the Town of Goffstown. If Article 06 (Operating Budget) passes, this article will become null and void. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

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David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 24 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 25:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$349,386), for the purpose of funding Per Diem Fire Department staffing. If Article 06 (Operating Budget) passes this article will become null and void. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 5-1)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 25 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 26:

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Town of New Boston Expendable Trust created in 2001 under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the expenditure of principal and interest when required to meet legal benefits obligations of the Town. Said funds, in the amount of Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Twenty cents (\$4,669.20), with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's General Fund. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 26 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 27:

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, previously adopted, for an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit at \$500 per year. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 27 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 28:

To see if the Town will vote to change how the Fire Chief is selected from "Elected by the Board of Fire Wards from among the Fire Wards." to "Appointed by the Board of Fire Wards."

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pursuant to RSA154:1 (e), IV. If passed, this change will take effect one year following the vote. (Majority Vote Required) (Select Board recommend #-#)

Donna Mombourquette stated that, in 1994 it was determined that the Fire Chief be named from the Fire Wards. This restricts the Town's ability to choose a Fire Chief from outside of the Fire Wards. This article deletes that requirement. A Fire Chief will thus be appointed by the Fire Wards.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 28 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 29:

To see if the Town will vote to change the sum of money that the New Boston Forestry Committee is allowed to retain in the forest maintenance fund for the management of town forests according to RSA 31:111, 112 and 113 from Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), as previously adopted in 1992 Article 15 and amended in 1996 Article 15, to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000). If adopted, this article shall take effect April 1st, and remain in effect until altered by a future vote of the town meeting. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#)

Donna Mombourquette stated that this allows the Forestry Committee to retain funds received from certain actions, such as cuts, to continue to do maintenance for the Town. This increases the amount able to be maintained.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 29 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 30:

To see if the Town will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article as per RSA 32:5, V-b. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

Donna Mombourquette stated that the State requires approval from the legislative body to allow for the inclusion of the tax impact of articles and the annual budget on the ballot. This will allow taxpayers to see all pertinent and important information. This would be in place until the Town votes to change in.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 30 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

David Litwinovich read Article 31:

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the New Boston Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan, which authorizes the Select Board to develop and implement New Boston Community Power as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7). The program would provide a new default electric supply and new renewable energy supply options for customers in New Boston. There is no cost to the Town budget, and no obligation to participate. Customers can opt out at any time and return to utility default service. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend #-#)

Donna Mombourquette stated that this project will allow citizens to potentially pay less on their electric bills, through the Power Aggregation. This is an opt-out program. Two public information sessions, January 15th and 23rd, will be held at the Library on this item.

David Litwinovich moved to recommend that Article 31 be placed on the ballot in March, as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

Town Administrator Branscombe noted that many of the proposed warrant articles are proposed to be funded using the Unassigned Fund Balance. This still leaves the balance at 7%, or approximately \$1.4M, which is higher than the recommendation from the DRA. Jennifer Allocca stated that using the Unassigned Fund Balance ahead of the tax rate setting is fiscally responsible.

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 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.

Mark Suennen, Twin Bridge Road, on behalf of the Finance Committee, thanked the Finance Director and Maralyn Segien for preparing and educating the Committee for the budget meetings.

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

G. Requests for Non-Public (if needed)

None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON
New Boston Select Board

January 4, 2023

APPROVED

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David Litwinovich moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Seconded by Jennifer Brown.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude

Next Scheduled Meeting: January 11, 2023