

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON  
New Boston Select Board Public Hearing

September 25, 2023

**APPROVED**

In attendance at Grange Hall: Donna Mombourquette, Kary Jencks and William McFadden

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** A public hearing was opened by Donna Mombourquette at 5:37PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing To Accept a Grant in the Approximate Amount of \$9.2 million for Construction of a New Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Facility**

Donna Mombourquette explained that the Department of Defense has offered the Town a \$9.2M grant to construct a new Fire and Emergency Medical Services facility. On behalf of the Board, she thanked Assistant Fire Chief Dubreuil, and Emergency Management Director MacDonald for their significant efforts toward this grant.

Donna Mombourquette reviewed the etiquette for public comment during the public hearing.

Assistant Fire Chief Dubreuil explained that this is a wonderful opportunity for the community. It was a team effort to submit for this grant. This is a Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program grant through the Department of Defense. It allows for funding to address deficiencies in community infrastructure, supportive of a military installation, in order to enhance military value, installation resilience, and military family quality of life. The grant requires a construction-ready project, and the Departments have been trying for this project since 2016. The application was due on June 23, 2023, and was submitted on June 22, 2023. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Department received a written request for a formal application, which was submitted on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Town was officially awarded the grant on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Emergency Management Director MacDonald explained that there are 17 of these grants awarded across the world. The Town was up against other large entities. The average size of the grants awarded was \$5.9M, and New Boston was awarded \$9.2M, or approximately 10% of the total grant funding available. The average population of the other entities awarded grants was 337,000, and these entities spent an average of \$20,000-\$30,000 to prepare the grant applications. New Boston spent no significant monetary cost on the application, but a large effort was undertaken. Since the Department initiated a cost-avoidance program in 2007, it has received approximately \$12M in grant funding.

Donna Mombourquette called for public comment at this time.

Karen Kersting, 540 Old Coach Road, stated that she respects the amount of effort it took to submit this grant application. She asked about the soft costs that are not included in this grant funding. Assistant Fire Chief Dubreuil explained that the Town Engineer and Hoyle Tanner are still examining the environmental and stormwater costs for the project. There is currently approximately \$300,000 available for this project through two non-tax sources. The Department will continue to work on determining other soft costs more exactly.

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Karen Kersting asked about reporting for the grant. Assistant Fire Chief Dubreuil explained that the grant includes funding for expertise in that area. He and Emergency Management Director MacDonald will continue to be involved from the Town side.

In response to a question from Karen Kersting regarding how the grant funds are dispersed, Assistant Fire Chief Dubreuil stated that the Town will submit invoices through a portal and funds will then be paid out. The Town will not receive any of the grant funding directly. Private donation or warrant article funding may be needed to cover some additional costs.

Steve Sears, 19 Carriage Road, explained that if every household in Town took stewardship in this project and raised \$100, the extra costs would be covered with no tax impact.

Karen Davis, 497 Weare Road, New Boston, NH, stated that she was proud to hear of this effort. The Department worked hard on this for the community.

Assistant Fire Chief Dubreuil answered a number of questions he has seen on social media. The plan is to build a Fire Station and the plans are available for viewing. The intention is to build this on Town-owned land next to the Post Office. While it would have been nice to pursue this as a safety complex, the Town previously voted to move forward with that item separately. The grant will cover all construction costs. The Town has 12 months to break ground on the project, leading to a date of September 1, 2024. The Town then has five years to complete the project, but it can likely be completed within 10-12 months. If the Town cannot raise any additional funds needed for the project, the grant would have to be forfeited. The grant includes contingency fees and two years of escalation fees. Regarding the cost to operate the new building, Assistant Fire Chief Dubreuil explained that the intention is to build a Net Zero building, if allowable through this grant program. The building will be more efficient than the current building. There are no immediate plans to move toward having a full-time Department, as the per diem program, continues to hold its ground.

Donna Mombourquette closed the public hearing at 6:06pm.

**Kary Jencks moved to accept the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program grant in the amount of \$9,285,576 for construction of a new Fire Station. 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 assign Kary Jencks as the administration officer of this grant, with the ability to sign all documents for the grant. Seconded by Bill McFadden.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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**Donna Mombourquette moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:09pm. 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**