

Adopted

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting November 18, 2019

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Joe Constance	Selectman
	Karen Scott	Selectman
	Christine Quirk	Selectman
	Peter Flynn	Town Administrator

Police Chief James Brace, Sergeant Stephen Case, Officer Matthew Sullivan, Susan Carr, Sally Moss, Caroline Brenner, David Litwinovich, Patrick Burke, Marie Grella, Kaleb Jacob, Bill McFadden and one more member of the public was present for all or part of the meeting.

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

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

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Joe noted the Board always welcomes public comment and feedback. There are two opportunities for public comment, one at the beginning of the meeting and then another at the end. Anyone with a comment is asked to state their name and address for the record and that comments be respectful and thoughtful. The Board will listen, but public comment is typically not back and forth. If there is any need for extended dialogue a request to be added to the agenda and supporting documentation should be sent to the Town Administrator beforehand. Seeing none, Joe closed the first session of public comment.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Marie Grella-Acceptance of The New Boston Purple Heart Proclamation: Marie Grella was present to meet with the Selectmen for acceptance as New Boston is now a Purple Heart Community. The Selectmen thanked her for her efforts and read the Proclamation aloud. New Boston Purple Heart recipients were recognized including Howard Towne, Bo Strong, and Dwight Lovejoy. Marie gave the Selectmen an information sheet with contact information and details for signs to be installed around town. She noted it will not cost the town any money if donors pay for the signs that cost approximately \$555. The Highway Department would install the signs.

Item 2: Police Chief James Brace: Police Chief James Brace was present to meet with the Selectmen to update them as follows:

- **Appointment of Records Clerk:** Allison Vermette has started as the new Police Department records clerk. She came highly recommended, is a New Boston resident, has

a bachelor's degree and works for the IRS. The Police Department looks forward to working with her. Christine moved to appoint Allison Vermette as Police Department part time records clerk at \$18.31 per hour. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

- **Officers Commendations:** Officer Matthew Sullivan: A letter was read aloud commending him for his work on case number 19-90F that he began investigating in January. The case involved fraud that evolved from a legitimate purchase from a legitimate website. Over the subsequent months his thorough and detailed investigation identified a suspect and referred the case to the US Secret Service for possible federal prosecution. The fraud involved twelve transactions, seven cities, two states, four police departments, eleven identities, six individuals receiving payments, seven communication companies, four financial institutions, five commercial businesses and a media company. His actions to protect the victim are commendable, the Police Chief and Selectmen recognize him and congratulate him on a job well done. This is an important step in stopping fraud.

Officer Andrew Vollaro and Sergeant Stephen Case: Officer Vollaro was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled vacation. Sergeant Stephen Case was present to accept the commendation on both of their behalf. They were recognized for investigative efforts for case number 19-1020F after Officer Vollaro received a complaint from a victim and his daughter involving a fraud that derived from a call from the "Department of Homeland Security" saying the victim's e-mail was involved in illegal activity that could be resolved through a payment process in the form of Best Buy gift cards. The victim purchased the \$3,000 in gift cards as requested and granted access to his computer to resolve the issue. Officer Vollaro investigated and learned the gift cards were used in five states and secured digital images of the in-store purchases. He also learned some of the purchases had been shipped back to NH. He and Sergeant Case issued a search warrant and worked with the Nashua Police Department to recover the items before they were shipped to Hong Kong. This investigation involved multiple transactions, five states, four fake identities, and recovery of all the items. Sergeant Case worked with Best Buy who agreed to accept the return of the items and refund the gift cards. Their actions to protect the victim are commendable, the Police Chief and Selectmen recognize them and congratulate them on a job well done. Joe commended Sargent Case and noted a time when Joe worked with him on a welfare check that resulted in saving a life. Joe noted New Boston is fortunate to have these young men on the Police Department.

New Boston Police Department fraud investigations were discussed generally. Jim noted the department may have few cases of fraud per year but the amount of time each investigation takes varies. He brought files of three fraud cases investigated in 2019 to the meeting to demonstrate the amount and time, effort and patience these cases involve. Fraud is highly time consuming for officers and they are doing a great job balancing patrols and investigations. The above are two examples of many. Many police agencies don't have time to dedicate to these complaints. This is a service to New Boston residents.

- **Parker Road Speed/Traffic Complaint and Jamar Radar Recording Equipment-Use Re: Traffic Complaints:** The Jamar equipment capabilities were explained as it

attaches to telephone poles, records speed and counts vehicles passing the area. This is beneficial to the Department as it allows the Department to use resources and officers ideally. The software tells the Department the best time to enforce. Handouts were distributed of the speed study on Parker Road obtained through use of the Jamar Radar Recording Equipment after a resident wrote to the town about a concern of speed and traffic safety on Parker Road that she has had for some time. Statistics were reviewed, verifying her complaint. Residents in other areas also complained and the device was used in their areas, also verifying their complaints. The device will be placed in other areas to learn statistics in those areas. Lowering speed limits is another global discussion Jim could take up with the Road Committee and/or Selectmen. This could cause more traffic tickets as the threshold would lower.

The Selectmen noted enforcement and staffing is a concern. Jim noted staffing is an issue, officers cannot be everywhere at the same time. They could write more traffic tickets but there is a threshold. The Department tries to educate drivers with a warning at their first stop. Some will get a ticket at their first traffic stop and reckless drivers will be arrested. 90% of traffic stops in 2018 were not New Boston residents, they were people traveling through New Boston, such as commuters. New Boston contains several state roads. The Department is currently managing and working to keep the small town feel but need the tools and the staff to do so. Each officer holds five to ten directed patrols in rotating locations each day in addition to responding to calls for service (4,000-5,000 per year) and investigations. Officer patrols are rotated every six weeks.

Patrick Burke of Cedar Drive was present and asked what the intent is. To catch or deter speeding? Jim noted the intent of placing the Jamar device was to respond to a citizen complaint. Information was learned that validated the complaint and was given to officers to address the complaint. Patrick noted deterrence costs less than overt action and was concerned officers may be chasing around trying to deter which might be inefficient. Jim noted they are always chasing/trying to deter traffic violations and crime and having the data from the Jamar device helps the Department focus on where and when need is greatest. Travel and traffic are expected to get worse.

The Selectmen asked if methods such as caution lights could be used. Jim agreed these are good as are solar powered radar boards used in other communities.

The Selectmen also noted concern that someone could get hurt due to traffic violations which is why these police efforts are important.

Sally Moss of Parker Road was present and asked if Parker Road could be changed to No Through Trucking due to safety concerns. Jim noted this would be a global discussion with the Road Committee and/or Selectmen.

Karen noted she drives an ambulance for a living and responds to traffic accidents daily as it seems driving has gotten worse.

Caroline Brenner of Parker Road asked if the road could be posted No Through Traffic or Trucking. Jim and the Selectmen agreed this is unlikely as posting the road could prevent

established gravel pits in the area from operating. Truck weight limits are established by the state and the town could not post the road “No Through Trucking” due to truck weights.

- **Towing Policy:** Kent’s Towing requested to be added to the New Boston towing rotation list. New Boston rotates towing companies used weekly. Joe moved to approve adding Kent’s Towing to the New Boston towing rotation list and to waive the second and third read of this policy amendment. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: Approval of Public Minutes of October 30, 2019 and the Public and Non-Public Minutes of November 4, 2019: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of October 30, 2019. Karen moved the Public minutes of October 30, 2019 be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0. The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of November 4, 2019. Karen moved the Public minutes of November 4, 2019 be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of November 4, 2019. Karen moved to accept the Non-Public minutes of November 4, 2019 as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 4: Affirmation of Consent Agenda-Hiring of Finance Director Position: The Selectmen signed a Consent Agenda provisionally hiring Jennifer Allocca as the Finance Director a few days ago. Christine moved to confirm the hire of Jennifer Allocca as Finance Director at a pay of \$24.34, Grade 8, Step 1. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 5: CIP Results from Planning Board Voting on November 12th-New Tables Approved: Christine served on the CIP Committee on the Selectmen’s behalf this year. She reviewed the revised CIP Schedule. GIS Mapping System was pushed out as the Committee didn’t want to begin spending earlier than the typical six years. An exception was made for the Fire Department command vehicle that was moved forward one year. A typo was noted. The GIS Mapping System is important for the town to confirm property borders and is expected to save employee time but adhering to schedules is important. The Selectmen can make a final decision on this such as submitting it to voters as a Warrant Article in March after the Planning Board reviews and approves the schedule. The Selectmen approved the CIP Schedule. The next Selectmen’s meeting is December 2 and the Finance Committee will be meeting December 5 to review Warrant Articles. Christine will be unavailable to attend but Peter requested she be available by video.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 6: Town Administrators Report:

- Veteran Monument on Town Common: Peter is obtaining a quote and funds will be encumbered from the 2019 budget to add eligible veterans to the monument.
- Fire Station Parking Potential Parking and Town Hall: Peter is obtaining an engineering

quote.

- Update on Record Retention Committee: The Committee will meet November 21 to discuss the proposed Warrant Article.
- Recreation Bus Shelter: The refund has not yet been received. The Selectmen asked Peter to call the Attorney General or town counsel for resolution.
- New Finance Director: Jennifer will begin working full time in this position on December 2. She came in twice to work with former Finance Director Elisa Fitzgerald and once to work with Peter and he is very impressed.
- Reminder Employee Holiday Potluck Lunch: The Selectmen are invited to the employee potluck with yankee swap planned for December 11 at 11:30 AM. Karen noted she will try to rearrange her schedule to attend.
- Revised Meeting Schedule: The Selectmen reviewed the revisions as discussed at the October 21 meeting. An additional change was noted for a typo.

Item 7: Selectmen's Reports:

- Karen reported the Road Committee meeting November 6 went well. The December meeting is scheduled, and all members were assigned a task.
- Joe reported the Forestry Committee scheduled another work party at the Lydia Dodge Forest. The Committee will begin publishing monthly articles about town forests in the New Boston Beacon.
- Christine reported she attended the Planning Board meeting where zoning changes to be voted on in March were reviewed.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Bill McFadden of Dane Road was present and asked the following:

- Was the Fire Department command vehicle added to the CIP Schedule last year and how was it moved up on the schedule. Christine noted she remembered at the Committee that it had been discussed five years ago but inadvertently left off the Schedule so the Committee added it as reported above. Bill asked if it would be presented as a Warrant Article. The Selectmen noted all CIP items are presented to voters as Warrant Articles.
- It is possible to add speed humps to Parker Road to deter speeding as other municipalities have done? The Selectmen noted this can be considered.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive was present and asked the following:

- Is the CIP Schedule is reviewed at a Public Hearing? The Selectmen noted the Planning Board held its Public Hearing on the CIP Schedule last week and this can be reviewed again at the Public Budget Hearing the Selectmen hold in January each year. Kaleb also noted concern that the Fire Department command vehicle was added to the CIP Schedule last year but has been moved up sooner than the typical six years.
- Kaleb asked if the Police Department still has its radar trailer. The Selectmen noted it needs maintenance.
- Kaleb also noted concern about the refund for the Recreation Bus Shelter and suggested the town contact the Attorney General.

Item 8: Possible Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(b)(c): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Karen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on December 2, 2019 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov**