

# Adopted

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting January 13, 2020

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

Finance Director Jennifer Allocca, Selectmen's Assistant Laura Bernard, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Transfer Station Foreman Mike DePetrillo, Fire Wards Dick Moody, Brandon Merron, Firefighters Joe Segien, Brad Bingham, Liam Cashin, Cassie Mullen, Finance Committee members Bill Gould, Roch Larochelle, and Bill Schmidt, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Fire Inspector Mike Boyle, Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Police Chief Jim Brace, Mark Suennen, Bill McFadden, Keith Gentili, Rodney Towne, Marie MacDonald, Miriam Johnson, David Litwinovich, Kaleb Jacob, Debbie Brand and three more members of the public were 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. Karen moved to approve the consent agenda including the hiring of Michael DePetrillo as Foreman at the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility beginning January 27. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Joe then reviewed the rules for the Public Hearing.

### **Item 1: PUBLIC HEARING RE: BOND for Construction of Fire Station**

Fire Station Warrant Article - \$2,939,000

Joe called the Public Hearing to order at 6:02 PM under the provisions of RSA 32:5(i). He read the Article aloud.

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present and noted this is the fourth time this request has gone to town vote. Significant progress has been made and voter support has increased. It could be successful this year. It is not unusual for approval of these projects to take several years, it took six years in Goffstown. This project was presented to the Warrant to eliminate the safety, health and space issues at the current station and meet the future challenges of remaining a volunteer/call department if possible, and to avoid increasing construction costs of approximately \$100,000 per year.

Rodney Towne of McCollum Road asked if there was a bond schedule. The Selectmen noted not yet.

Christine moved Article 5 forward to the Deliberative Session as presented. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Joe closed the first Public Hearing at 6:07 PM.

**Item 2: PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2020 Municipal Budget**

Presentation of entire 2020 Budget consisting of Operating Budget and Warrant Articles - (Handouts provided for the audience)

Joe called the Public Hearing to order at 6:08 PM under the provisions of RSA 32:5(i).

Article 1 is for election of public officials.

Department Managers and the Town Administrator are present tonight to fully answer any questions.

Article 6: This is for the Operating Budget.

Discussion:

The proposed Operating Budget is \$5,832,204. The default budget is \$485,403 less at \$5,346,801. The town is an SB2 town which requires the town to vote on large operating budgets instead of on individual department budget items. The overall budget increase is 4.6% as the operating budget request increased 10% but the Warrant Article requests decreased 2.5% from prior years. This calculates to a 75-cent increase to the town portion of the tax rate per thousand dollars of property value. The Selectmen can also make final cuts to the budget before voting occurs or use some fund balance to offset any tax increase during tax rate setting. Revenues may also come in higher than projected. The tax rate is set in October each year.

Peter noted a budget breakdown by department is provided in tonight's handouts. He overviewed the budget noting the following:

- Increases are mostly due to additional employees and health insurance selection changes from single plans to double and family plans.
- New Boston is eligible for an insurance premium holiday of \$30,000.
- The NH Retirement System is required for only police officers at this time. Town employees have a 457-retirement plan. The Selectmen approved increased contributions to the plan this year.
- Raises for key employees in supervisory positions account for some adjustments in 2020. There are also fifty-three weeks of payroll in 2020, normally there are 52.
- Additional hours were added back to the Planning Department budget after this budget decreased by \$30,000 four years ago.
- Life Insurance costs increased according to full time employee salaries.
- The Town Clerk has four elections in 2020, contributing to an increase in that department budget. Elections vary yearly from one to four per year.
- Technology lines increases to purchase tablets for Selectmen and Planning Board members to use during meetings replacing papers in binders.

- In the proposed budget the Police and Highway Departments would be at full staff allowing them to work on outstanding projects and decrease overtime costs but cause most of the budget increase requests. This has been discussed extensively with the Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Debbie Brand of Page Lane was present and asked if the tax rate calculation includes the proposed fire station and the Selectmen noted it does not. She asked the tax impact of the proposed fire station. The Selectmen noted the first payment in 2020 would be a \$55,000 interest only payment, the second payment in 2021 is \$200,000 principal and interest. Debbie asked if the tax impact would be posted prior to the vote. Peter researched a fifteen-year bond schedule and presented it to the Selectmen showing it to affect the tax rate by 8 cents in 2020 and 46 cents in 2021, decreasing gradually as time goes on. The Selectmen could change the length of the bond schedule. Less interest would be owed if the bond is paid off sooner.

Bill McFadden of Dane Road was present and noted the proposed operating budget is \$539,546 higher than the 2019 operating budget, a 10% increase.

Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road noted the town approved \$9,000 in a Warrant Article to provide transportation for senior citizens, but the use of this service has been poor/limited. He asked if it should be included in the default budget calculation. Peter noted it is now included in the Welfare budget and would be used to continue the service. Southern NH Planning Commission is considering canceling the service and the money would not be used in that case. The budget request decreased in 2020 and may decrease further to 20% of the cost, down from 50%. The default figure would be adjusted in that case. Use of the service has been poor, New Boston is considering researching other services used by other towns for options. The Recreation Department van is not used to provide this service, it is provided by the Manchester Transit Authority.

Bill McFadden noted the street lighting budget increased by approximately \$2,000 and asked if the town has considered switching to LED bulbs. Peter noted the Selectmen or Energy Committee could be reinstated to research this equipment although there would be up front costs, but the cost to operate the lights could decrease.

Debbie Brand asked why it costs \$8,500 for street lights. Peter noted that is the projected cost from Eversource. There is no maintenance charge. The amount can be adjusted at the Deliberative Session if the amount is inaccurate. It costs approximately \$1,000 per month for street lights including blinking lights/school beacon.

Mark Suennen noted the Library requested \$12,000 in increased part time wages but this line was not entirely spent in 2019. Library Director Sarah Chapman was present and noted library salaries were down in 2019 as a full-time person took a leave of absence but her hours were not covered during that time. Library Trustee Bill Gould was present and noted the step and grade salary and benefits caused the increased salary request in 2020. There is no request for increased hours or staff. Any funds not used go toward tax relief.

Karen moved Article 6 onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Item 3: Selectmen's Acceptance of Additional Warrant Article(s):** Peter noted a former Article 31 has been withdrawn from the Warrant but replaced with a new Article 31 pertaining to different subject matter.

The remaining Articles were not discussed.

Karen moved to Articles 7-31 onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Karen moved to close the second Public Hearing at 6:36 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Item 4: Approval of Public and Non-Public Minutes of January 6, 2020:** The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of January 6, 2020. Karen moved the Public minutes of January 6, 2020 be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0 (Joe abstained) The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of January 6, 2020 and will discuss them in Non-Public session. Christine had a question but was satisfied with the response in Non-Public. Karen moved to approve the Non-Public and Christine seconded. Vote was 2-0 with Joe abstaining.

**Item 5: Selectmen's Action on Budget:** None.

**Item 6: Possible Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (a) and (b):** Christine moved to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3II (a) and (b) at 6:37PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: Christine-yes, Joe-yes and Karen-yes. Board then entered non-public session.

**Move to exit Non-Public Session:** Joe moved to exit Non-Public Session at 6:45 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Karen made a motion to approve appointment of River Marmorstein as part time per diem Police Officer for New Boston Police Department. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Karen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting: February 3, 2020-Deliberative Session  
New Boston Central School Gymnasium-7:00 PM**