

# Approved

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting March 2, 2020

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

Road Agent Dick Perusse, Library Trustee Kate Fitzpatrick, Julie Kirklin, Kary Jencks, Girl Scouts Kate, Addison and Courtney; Bill McFadden, David Litwinovich, Joyce Arivella, Kaleb Jacob and two 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 reappointment of Fred Hayes to the CIP Committee, Marty Kelley to the Conservation Commission and Timothy Hey to the Open Space Committee. Christine 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: Kate Fitzpatrick-Discussion Regarding Little Free Library:** Library Trustee Kate Fitzpatrick was present with Girl Scouts Kate, Addison, Courtney and their moms to meet with the Selectmen for approval of building a Little Free Library in the old phone booth attached to the Old Engine House Recreation Department office building. Kate Fitzpatrick noted part of the Trustees' mission is to do community activities. She has taken on the Little Free Library and has one in her yard on McCurdy Road. The Girl Scouts are here as they are interested in taking on the project, converting the old phone booth on the Old Engine House Recreation Department office building into an air and water tight Little Free Library. The Girl Scouts will earn the Take Action badge. They all spoke noting they love reading and expect the Little Free Library to enhance the community. They have checked with Recreation Director Mike Sindoni who approved the idea pending Selectmen approval. Joe noted as a retired librarian he loves the idea.

Karen moved to approve the Little Free Library at the telephone booth in front of the Old Engine House Recreation Department building. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Girl Scouts thanked the Selectmen.

**Item 2: Dick Perusse-Road Agent-Discussion Re: Lease/Purchase of New Highway Dump Truck:** Road Agent Dick Perusse was present to update the Selectmen with options to replace the Highway Department 2006 dump truck/plow truck that caught fire while plowing the road. He has researched all available vehicles. He contacted the State Vehicle Auction in Concord and learned they have nothing yet but might have dump trucks mid-May but of unknown age and condition. Dick has been to the auction before and urges caution when buying there as many vehicles have been cannibalized and might have issues that are not apparent at time of purchase. It may take purchasing more than one truck to use parts from each to build one good one. He recommends a lease program for the chassis and all plow equipment with an International dealership in VT. A draft contract with Kansas State Bank leasing company includes a 3% interest rate due after one year of leasing. The truck would have a \$208,000 value with a fifteen-year cycle in New Boston. He will continue to consider and review the lease terms with Selectmen permission. Town Counsel will review the lease for clarification of 3% interest rate and exit terms/withdrawal clause/non-appropriation clause if CRF withdrawal is not approved by voters in 2021 as scheduled. In that case, it could be funded with the operating budget, unreserved fund account or return the truck in 2021. An e-mail from Town Counsel was reviewed. Dick recommends replacement at this time as the spare truck the Department is currently using has had maintenance needs since it has been transferred to a front-line truck. The Selectmen are interested in replacing in 2021 according to the CIP Schedule. Karen is concerned the lease would add \$6,000 to the price. Joe noted this could come from the insurance offer if acceptable to the auditors. The insurance adjuster is offering \$26,000 for the total loss. New Boston will keep the plow. Peter will check with the auditors to learn how the insurance offer would be handled toward the purchase of a new truck. The CIP Schedule calculates \$260,000 for the replacement truck in 2021, the current proposal is well below that amount, and therefore Christine noted the extra \$6,000 is not a concern as the current proposed total is \$208,000. The Selectmen requested more information before making a decision. There are concerns truck prices could increase in the coming year. Peter will continue researching and bring it to the Selectmen. Joe and Christine are in favor of proceeding with Dick's recommendation at this time with the proposed truck. Karen is against.

#### **D. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item 3: Approval of Public and Non-Public Minutes of February 19, 2020 and Deliberative Session Minutes of February 3, 2020 (Final Approval by The Moderator):** The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of February 19, 2020. Karen moved the Public minutes of February 19, 2020 be accepted as amended. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Deliberative Session minutes of February 3, 2020 with final approval by the Moderator. Karen moved the Deliberative Session minutes of February 3, 2020 be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes #1 of February 19, 2020. Karen moved the Public minutes #1 of February 19, 2020 be accepted as amended and sealed for five years. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes #2 of February 19, 2020. Karen moved the Public minutes #2 of February 19, 2020 be accepted as amended and sealed for

five years. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes #3 of February 19, 2020. Karen moved the Public minutes #3 of February 19, 2020 be accepted as presented and sealed for five years. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item 4: Discussion of Selectmen's Availability at The Polls on March 10th:** The Selectmen agreed that Joe would be at the polls 7:00 AM to noon, Christine will be there from noon to 4:00 PM and Karen would be there 4:00 PM to close.

#### **F. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Item 5: Resignation:** Peter reported the Selectmen received a letter from Road Agent Dick Perusse with two options, to resign in April or October 2020. He would like to stay until October 2020 to see completion of the Lyndeborough Road culvert project. The Selectmen agree. Joe moved to accept with regret the Road Agent resignation on the date given to Peter. Karen seconded the motion. 3-0 The Selectmen thanked Dick for all he has done for the Highway Department and noted it has been a pleasure working with him.

#### **Item 6: Town Administrators Report:**

- Recreation Bus Shelter: Contractor Ken Dionne is reviewing the project and plans to prepare a quote. Other quotes may also come in. The refund check from the previously contracted company has been deposited.
- Update on Record Retention Committee: None.
- Call for Committee and Board Applicants Including Renewals: As above.
- Town Bus Service from New Boston To Manchester/Bedford Areas: Peter, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni and Susan Carr have been attending meetings with SNHPC where an agreement was reached for fifteen trips per month funded 80%. If more money is needed for rides the town will consider additional funding availability.

#### **Item 7: Selectmen's Reports:**

- Joe reported the Forestry Committee has been busy with work parties every Sunday at the Lydia Dodge Forest doing sample plots and inventory. The Committee will continue this work and the public is invited to help.
- Karen provided a statement about an article published in the March issue of the New Boston Beacon:  
She was asked a couple times by one of the staff writers if they could interview her, she stated yes and when she got her issue she was excited to see what was written. Initially, she was pleased. Mary Constance interviewed her and for the most part accurately recorded what she stated. However, then it proceeded to go on. Karen wrote this statement down and posted it to several town Facebook pages and wants to make it public here because at one point after Karen's quote was stated Mr. Gould stated in the article that Karen never questioned anything at any of the Finance Committee meetings. Her reply to that is "Really?" He sat next to her at the table and she asked quite a few questions. She understands that Mr. Gould does not agree with her sense of responsible spending. She also understands that he did not approve of her nay vote relative to the

operating budget which is Article 6. However, to make a blatantly false statement to try to push forward his agenda and belittle her vote she felt is nothing less than disgraceful. The Finance Committee met six times from November through January. All six of these meetings were livestreamed and videotaped and can be found on the town website. She strongly requests anyone who wants to review them because if you take the time to review these videos you will see that she questioned several members about numerous different ideas regarding department budgets. She knows that Mr. Gould also submitted a response to her post on Facebook and stated that there was no contention during these meetings. To that she would have to say that she asked several questions. She had already objected across the board to step changes for salary changes and has also disagreed with adding a brand-new position to the Highway Department. No, she didn't sit here, stomp her feet, yell and to that she would have to say that she was brought up to respect other people's opinions. When debating a budget issue, she will ask questions and she will act as an adult. She didn't realize that she was supposed to fight and argue about things in order to get her point across. She would also comment that Mrs. Constance never verified information before reporting. As a member of the Finance Committee Mary was presented for the first four meetings. She did miss the last two and was not present for the final voting day. Karen would question Mary as to why she reported that Karen did not ask questions when she herself was present sitting two seats over. Karen finds it very disheartening that people would go to that point and make lies in a newspaper when there is videotaped evidence otherwise. Karen stands by her Article 6 nay vote for numerous reasons and hopes the public understands that while the vote did not come easily it is her vote. There are many areas within the operating budget that she personally feels could be trimmed. It was addressed at several Selectmen's meetings and during the Finance Committee meetings as well where she brought up concerns. She believes the town needs need to be addressed first and then address wants. She doesn't feel that stomping her feet and causing a scene is the way to go about it. She voted and that was her way of getting it out there.

Joe responded with the following statement:

First of all, he thinks the Selectmen's meetings really aren't a forum for those kinds of statements. Secondly, accusing people of lying is a pretty serious charge, particularly in this day and age. Finally, we have talked about this before on the subject of criticism, he thinks if there is criticism of the press or on a Facebook post, those are the places to respond thereto, not here.

#### **G. PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

- He requested more identifying details on the bank contract for the proposed dump truck lease.
- He asked what the Selectmen are doing to prepare New Boston for COVID-19. Peter reported no decisions have been made or meetings held. The state, Health Officer, CDC, FEMA and Emergency Management Director have been e-mailing but no special instructions have been given yet. Any outcome/information will be posted on the town website.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Christine moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on March 16, 2020 (6:00 PM)  
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070  
Phone: (603) 487-2500-[www.newbostonnh.gov](http://www.newbostonnh.gov)  
Handicap Access available**