

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting March 16, 2020

PRESENT: Joe Constance Selectman
Karen Scott Selectman
David Litwinovich Selectman
Peter Flynn Town Administrator

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Police Chief James Brace, Keith Ammon, Brad Bingham, Bill McFadden, Joyce Arivella and Kaleb Jacob 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 Peter Flynn at 6:00PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1: Reorganization of Board of Selectmen: Nomination and Election of a Chairperson: David nominated Joe as Chairman of the Board. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Joe then took over the meeting and introduced David as the new Selectman.

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen reviewed the consent agenda. Karen moved to approve the consent agenda pending signatures including the reappointment of Betsy Whitman and Rebecca Balke to the Conservation Commission, Edward Boyle as an Alternate to the Conservation Commission, Ryan Nealley to the Energy Commission and Lynn Wawrzyniak to the Recreation Commission. David 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 2: Chief James Brace-Introduction And 'Swearing In' Of Newly Hired and Rehired Police Officer(s): This will be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Item 3: William McFadden-Applicant for Energy Commission (Appointment Vote): William McFadden was present to introduce himself to the Selectmen as he is interested in becoming a member of the Energy Commission. He became interested during Finance

Committee meeting attendance when he learned what the town is paying for electricity. He is interested in helping the town switch to LED lights for 50% savings in electricity charges. He noted he has worked for Barlo Signs in Hudson for twenty-five years where they often work with energy efficient lighted signs. He noted this background and experience could be a benefit to the town. Peter noted he has experience with this switch in another town and expects savings could be reached. David moved to appoint William McFadden to the Energy Commission for three years. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 4: Daniel O'Brien-Applicant for Recreation Commission (Appointment Vote): Daniel was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Joe introduced him saying he grew up in New Boston, went to St. Anselm College where he played football and now works as a Nurse Practitioner. Recreation Director Mike Sindoni was present and noted Dan's perspective is welcome on the Recreation Commission as a young parent with children participating in Recreation programs as many on the Commission are in a different demographic. Dan has attended Commission meetings and the Commission is eager for him to join, replacing Kim Borges who is moving on from her years serving on the Commission. Joe moved to waive the in-person interview given the circumstances. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Joe moved to appoint Daniel O'Brien to the Recreation Commission for three years. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 5: Approval of Public Minutes of March 2, 2020: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of March 2, 2020. Karen moved the Public minutes of March 2, 2020 be accepted as presented. David seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 6: Selectmen's Representative to Various Boards and Committees: The Selectmen agreed to serve on various Boards and Committees as follows:

- A) Planning Board: David
- B) Finance Advisory Committee: Karen
- C) Highway Safety Committee: Joe
- D) CIP Committee: David
- E) Road Committee: Karen
- F) Forestry Committee: Joe
- G) Conservation Commission: Joe

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 7: Town Administrators Report:

- Update on Record Retention Committee: Article failed at the polls. No further action until 2021.
- Town Bus Service from New Boston To Manchester/Bedford Areas/Commitment Letter to the MTA: This is approved in the Welfare budget with 80% funding from a state grant. The town portion is \$2,900. Rides are available by appointment.
- RFQ's For Air Conditioning at Police Station and Recreation Building: RFQ's will be

drafted and sent.

- Contracts for Engineering for Drainage at Town Hall: This Article passed at the polls.
- Update on BMSI Training: This was completed with Finance Director Jennifer Allocca and Finance Assistant Maralyn Segien.
- Trucking Thru Traffic Signs Placed in Designated Areas at Byam and Wilson Hill Road as Approved by The Board: Signs were placed as approved by Selectmen.
- Confirmation And submission of Lease Agreement for Dump Truck: Paperwork sent.
- Voting update: The town went into a default budget, \$529,000 less than the proposed Operating Budget. Peter recommended that an inquiry of a special town meeting could not be held under NH RSA due to the default budget. Budget areas will have to be adjusted for needs. Some annual budget items totaling approximately \$10,000 were not needed and the funds set aside for Fourth of July fireworks and police patrols and downtown flowerpot maintenance will be transferred to needs such as Town Clerk and Police Department election requirements. The Fourth of July Association will have to fundraise to put on Fourth of July events. There will be no new open positions. All positions are currently filled except one Highway Department position. Peter plans to discuss budgets with each Department Head. Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett presented budget changes to Peter today to fund Transfer Station needs. The Selectmen requested all Department Heads submit recommended changes in writing for the Selectmen to consider. Joe supports the changes Peter mentioned and requested supporting documentation be submitted before the next Selectmen's meeting. More revenues than anticipated may come in that would help the budget.
- The Transfer Station and Town Hall have begun operation changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upcoming Town Hall meetings will be held via conference call.

Item 8: Selectmen's Reports: None.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present and noted the following:

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, school closures and social distancing recommendations, he recommends the town be proactive for the public, staff and aging residents. He distributed handouts and noted vendors are now restricting acceptance of material. 1,200 vehicles visit the Transfer Station per week. In caution, he recommends temporarily limiting and suspending mandatory recycling. Transfer Station traffic will be limited and controlled, and time spent by the public at the facility will be limited. Staff will use disposable gloves as soon as they are available. NH DES has suspended all training until further notice. Gerry noted he welcomes suggestions and advice regarding the pandemic. Joe moved to adopt temporary emergency preparations and changes as proposed for Transfer Station operation until state and federal authorities advise it is safe to discontinue. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0
- He has worked for New Boston for many years and has noticed that when times get tough the town comes together to help each other. This is one of the reasons he has continued working for the town so long.

Recreation Director Mike Sindoni noted the Recreation Commission has not met to discuss budget items. Recreation Department activities have been cancelled for at least one month.

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

- He traveled dirt roads in town over the weekend and noticed the Highway Department did a great job maintaining them for mud season and it is a great improvement from last year.
- He is available to assist in emergencies due to the pandemic.
- He asked if the Selectmen could consider increasing fees for police details to bring in revenues. Police Chief James Brace was present and noted this revenue can only be applied to a revolving account for police cruisers and equipment. There is currently approximately \$85,000 in the account. It has not been entirely spent and does not cover the entire cost of a cruiser. Increasing detail rates or writing more tickets will not generate town revenues, it goes to the state. The only police activity that would generate town revenues is Fish and Game violations and red-light violations (New Boston does not have a red light).

Brad Bingham of Byam Road was present and noted he works for a tissue company. He brought half a case to donate to anyone who has need. Department Heads noted some town department buildings were not well stocked when the crisis occurred.

Police Chief James Brace was present and noted the town departments are forced by the pandemic to purchase emergency resources and supplies that were not included in the budget. He asked the Selectmen to take this into consideration and take action to authorize departments to spend in necessary areas although some assistance from the government may become available in the future. The Selectmen agreed and asked for a listing of unplanned expenditures, cleaning supplies and time spent on the issue. Peter will send a note to employees asking for this.

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

ADJOURNMENT: David moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

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