

# Adopted

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting July 6, 2020

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

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Dana McLaughlin, Marilyn Taylor, Peter Kress and Sean Harris and 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 reviewed the consent agenda. Karen moved to approve the consent agenda including approval of full-time status for Christopher Frain and Peter Mickola in the Highway Department. 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 1: Dana McLaughlin-Concerns And Issues Of Maintenance Of South Hill Road:**

Dana McLaughlin, Marilyn Taylor, Peter Kress and Sean Harris of South Hill Road were present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss concerns and maintenance issues at South Hill Road over the past four years they feel were caused by former Road Agent Dick Perusse. They discussed this with the Selectmen October 7, 2019. Photos were viewed where Dana noted grass at the various properties that was there for approximately eighty years never harmed when the road was plowed or maintained. He said when Dick became involved the grass and properties were damaged by plow trucks with wings. Dana noted he has lost approximately 14 inches of his property; Marilyn lost a foot of her land and Peter lost four feet of his land due to this problem.

Joe noted he has been to South Hill Road for various issues including a washout from culverts. He is dropping in at the Highway Department regularly as there is no Road Agent currently and

is available to view the concerns tomorrow. He noted the town has a right of way that the Town Administrator will confirm with documentation.

Dana noted grading is a concern. Joe noted he will discuss this with grader Charlie Byam.

Dana addressed the washout saying it has occurred yearly since the Highway Department ground the road up and repacked it approximately two years ago. Photos were viewed of a washout that occurred last week that Dana said were caused by ditches. Photos were viewed of the maintenance done approximately two years ago that Dana said was not needed, not caused by a washout, useless and was a waste of money.

Joe noted it is a priority for the Selectmen to address ditching and erosion control issues in various areas of town where washing is occurring to clean out the culverts and that a new Road Agent will be hired. He and Karen plan to view the area of concern.

Dana explained plowing procedures in the area over the years and his preferred method.

Marilyn noted she has lost approximately 18-30 inches of her property since 2012.

Sean noted his concern is the road is now approximately nine or ten inches higher than these properties and when it rains the road does not go down the side of the road where the ditch is, instead it goes down a gully in front of his property down to Marilyn's property where he digs the dirt that is deposited there and puts it back in front of his property.

Peter Kress noted a lot of land was taken from his property for the four-foot ditch filled with nine-inch rock that was installed. He does not agree with this ditch and noted that putting more ditches or to cutting the road back more does not make sense. He said the road was widened eight feet, of which four feet came out of his property. He asked the Selectmen to view his rock wall where the Highway Department dug underneath it and now the area is eroding, and rocks are falling as the rock wall was not rebuilt and erosion control such as seed was not done. He does not want the whole rock wall to fall.

Joe noted he has been reading a manual to learn the correct way to maintain roads. He noted it will take time to repair any town road issues. The town is looking forward to hiring a Road Agent who will be expected to address certain road maintenance issues annually.

The neighbors thanked the Selectmen for making their concern and annual road maintenance a priority.

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

**Item 2: Approval of Public and Non-Public Minutes of June 15, 2020 and the Non-Public Minutes of June 26, 2020:** The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of June 15, 2020. Karen moved the Public minutes of June 15, 2020 be accepted as amended. David seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of June 15, 2020. Karen moved the Non-Public minutes of June 15, 2020 be accepted as presented. David seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes

of June 26, 2020. Karen moved the Non-Public minutes of June 26, 2020 be accepted as amended. David seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Item 3: Karen Scott-Selectman-Discussion Regarding the Federal Excess Property Program Co-operative Agreement- (Fire Department Trailer):** Karen noted she was given information of this program at the June 15 Selectmen's meeting and had several questions to be discussed tonight. Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present and explained the item is a trailer. The Department obtained an RTV fully paid for through a grant in 2011. At that time the Department had a trailer from the Air Force that was refurbished by Fire Ward and Department member Dick Moody. The trailer is old and at capacity with the RTV. Hilltop Station Lieutenant and Department Member Rick Todd serves as the federal surplus manager for NH Fire Services. Last year, Rick offered to help the Department obtain a trailer from the federal surplus due to concerns that the current trailer would no longer be efficient due to age. A larger trailer in good condition was found in Maine and offered to the Department. The other trailer currently houses the RTV, the new trailer is a backup/spare and used by town departments as needed. It is not replacing a current piece of equipment. It is housed outside at the Highway Department which satisfies numbers six and eight of the agreement. Through this program the town does not own the equipment, it is on loan at no cost and can be taken away or returned for any reason at any time. The state requires annual approval by the Selectmen to retain it as the state registers it each year on the town's behalf. The Selectmen noted the agreement states under number five that the town is responsible for the registration charges but Dan noted the state covers these charges at no cost to the town. He will ask Rick why this language is in the agreement. The only cost to the town is any insurance premiums for the trailer as noted under number two of the agreement. The Department was proactive in obtaining this trailer as it is a benefit to the town and saves the town money, preventing an approximate \$6,000 replacement cost when the current trailer can no longer be used. This program is a benefit to many Fire Departments throughout NH. Karen insisted in having the form revised so that #5 will say that the Town is not responsible for any fees associated with the registration before she would sign the agreement. No official action was taken.

At the end of the meeting Chief Dan MacDonald came back into the meeting and presented the Board with a registration form for the trailer which demonstrated that there was no cost to the Town.

**Item 4: Karen Scott-Selectman-Discussion Regarding Recreation Department Bus Carport:** Karen distributed a packet of information and reviewed options for a Recreation Department bus carport. The quote does not include unloading or installation. The Selectmen asked Peter to research more details. The Selectmen recommend the Recreation Commission consider the "Grand" option and review the information for final approval as a carport would be funded by the Commission. The Commission is meeting next week. The Selectmen are in favor of a carport and would like one installed before winter.

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

**Item 5: Review and acceptance of Organizational Chart:** The Selectmen reviewed a draft Town Hall organizational chart revised July 2, 2020 and suggested several amendments. This will be updated for Selectmen review.

## **F. OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

- Recreation Bus Shelter: As above.
- Highway Superintendent Position: This is advertised with a deadline of July 10. One application has been received.
- Organizational Chart: As above.
- New Highway Dump Truck Is Ready for Service: Peter registered and insured the dump truck and obtained the license plates as required. The truck will be picked up tomorrow.
- Continued Road Paving Plans: This is moving along and Town Engineer Kevin Leonard will meet with Tom Miller Wednesday to review a template of suggested annual paving contracts for road projects.
- Dana McLaughlin and Peter Kress previously met with Peter to discuss their concerns with South Hill Road as discussed above.

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

Karen reported the June 24 Road Committee meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for July 15. The Selectmen asked her to circulate an application document to the Committee.

David reported the Planning Board is scheduled to meet July 28.

## **G. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Joe noted the Board always welcomes public comment and feedback. There is one opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting by texting or e-mailing Peter. 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 public comment session.

**Item 8: Non-Public-Per RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(b)(c) Personnel and Legal:** Joe moved to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3II (a)(b)(c) Personnel and Legal at 6:47PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-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 7:40PM., seconded by Karen. All were in favor. 3-0

**ADJOURNMENT:** Karen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41PM., seconded by David. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on July 20, 2020 (6:00 PM)**

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