

# Approved

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting January 11, 2021

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Joe Constance	Selectman	
	Karen Scott	Selectman	via audio/conference call
	David Litwinovich	Selectman	via audio/conference call
	Peter Flynn	Town Administrator	

Planning Assistant Nadine Scholes, Finance Director Jennifer Allocca, Police Chief James Brace, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Finance Committee Chairman Bill Gould, Library Director Sarah Chapman, Finance Committee Member Roch Larochelle, Mark Suennen, Kaleb Jacob, Donna Mombourquette, Shannon Silver, Planning Coordinator and Fred Hayes plus other members of the public were present for all or part of the meeting via town hall streams/audio/conference call.

This meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor's Executive Order 2020-04 insuring compliance with RSA 91-A considering COVID-19 circumstances. Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that the public can access this live meeting by viewing it via a "live-stream" link on the New Boston NH website. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Select Board Chairman Joe Constance. Present virtually at the opening of the meeting were Karen Scott and David Litwinovich. Joe Constance read the meeting preamble as follows, 'MEETING PREAMBLE DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY' Good evening, as Chairman of the Town of New Boston Select Board, I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b) during the current State of Emergency. Governor Sununu has issued Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, that allows local government and this public body to meet virtually. I am declaring that conducting this meeting is imperative and required in order to continue vital Town government, services and operations. We have utilized the Zoom platform to conduct the meeting and all Board members will have the ability to communicate concurrently and the public has access to concurrently listen and, if necessary, will be given the opportunity to participate in the meeting when opened for public comment. If anyone has an issue connecting, they should contact Nadine Scholes, text or call 603-487-2500-Extension 142 or email [n.scholes@newbostonnh.gov](mailto:n.scholes@newbostonnh.gov). To help minimize background noise and provide privacy to everyone, we have started this meeting with all microphones muted and video cameras off. You do not need to turn on your camera to participate in the meeting and we ask that everyone keep their microphones muted unless you would like to speak. Any public comment will need to wait until the meeting is opened to the public and will need full name and address stated for the record. If anyone accessing this meeting is disruptive, they will be asked to cease the disruptive behavior. Should the disruption continue thereafter, that person will be automatically removed from the meeting. Please be

aware all votes taken during this meeting will be done by Roll Call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name, please also state if there is anyone else in the room with you during this meeting, under the provisions of the Right-to-know law.

Roll Call attendance, Joe Constance present with Peter Flynn, Karen Scott and David Litwinovich present via Zoom.

**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-**None.

Joe then reviewed the rules for the Public Hearing.

**Item 1: PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2021 Municipal Budget**

Presentation of entire 2021 Budget consisting of Detailed Operating Budget and Warrant Articles

The Selectmen reviewed the Warrant Articles as follows:

Article 02 was read aloud in its entirety:

**Article 02:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **five million five hundred twenty three thousand, three hundred eighty dollars (\$5,523,380)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **five million four hundred forty-two thousand, nine hundred forty two dollars (\$5,442,942)**, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of New Boston or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 6-1)

**Explanation of Article 02:** The operating budget includes routine, and for the most part, recurring expenses related to staffing (including salaries and benefits), supplies, utilities, vehicles, maintenance, repairs, and the like required for the day-to-day operation of Town departments.

Discussion:

Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road was present and confirmed Article 02 is the only Article being reviewed at this time, the budget. He asked about the Police Officer full time wages line as 2020 default budget was approximately \$576,000 and the 2021 request is an increase to approximately \$687,000, a significant change.

Peter noted in 2020 the Police Chief sought similar funds for staffing the department. The default budget occurred and was short from what he said he needed. He approached the Selectmen in 2020 as Selectmen requested to review areas that could be decreased to meet the default budget. There was much discussion after voting to see if other town departments could decrease their budget to help the Police Department meet the default budget. After voting there may have been staffing resignations and a couple positions that were not filled and the department was able to keep the staffing budget low. For 2021 the Police Chief is requesting this amount for full staffing that is needed.

Joe noted there is a proposal to rearrange some positions as discussed at the October 19, 2020 Selectmen's meeting.

Police Chief James Brace was present and noted the salary increase is a result of a Board motion in July 2019 that went into effect in the 2020 fiscal year, although there was a default budget in 2020. The amount that was budgeted for in 2019 and carried into 2020, the wages were approved by the Selectmen. The default budget was able to be met by not filling a couple positions and a couple resignations that occurred in 2020. The requested increase is a result of the wage scale adjustment and directly related to the loss of an employee in July 2019 and trying to keep department wages competitive with area departments. Some part time hours were merged into a full-time position and these part time wages were added to the full-time wage budget line. The 2019 part time wages line was over \$100,000 and the 2021 request is \$62,000.

Mark Suennen noted the documents provided indicate the 2020 default budget was \$22,000 for part time wages and \$51,000 was spent, the 2021 request is \$62,000 with a default budget of \$35,000 possible. He asked about the number of officers included in the full time and part time wage requests.

Police Chief James Brace noted the 2021 request includes ten full-time positions plus two part-time positions that includes one weekly patrol shift to cover when the Sergeant/Prosecutor is at court and hours to cover for vacations/holidays/trainings as current staffing does not allow the department to cover those hours.

Karen asked about if the step and a half step salary proposal is included in the request.

Police Chief James Brace noted the salary request does include this proposal and raises take effect according to date of hire in the Police Department.

Articles 03-08 are regarding Capital Reserve Funds. These were reviewed together and summarized:

**Article 03:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)** to be placed in the existing **Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article 03:** Based on the replacement cost of each vehicle plus

equipment for the year of replacement or refurbishment, \$150,000 must be allotted to the fund each year to ensure enough money is available at the time of scheduled replacement/refurbishment. The department has 6 trucks with a life expectancy of between 15-30 years.

**Article 04:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000)** to be placed in the existing **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article 04:** The Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund covers the replacement of a small dump truck plus the three regular 6-wheel and four 10-wheel dump trucks. The smaller truck has a life expectancy of 10 years and the larger trucks 15 years plus.

**Article 05:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the withdrawal of **one hundred eighty-one thousand eight hundred twenty-six dollars (\$181,826)** from the **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund** for the purpose of payment for a replacement dump truck destroyed by fire in 2020. No tax impact. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article 05:** In 2020 one of the Town's dump trucks caught fire while being used on a road project. The truck was declared a total loss and the insurance company returned a small claim amount which was for scrap. The Town has purchased a new replacement truck whereby the payment is due in March 2021. 2

**Article 06:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the withdrawal of **sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000)** from the **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund** for the purchase of a 4x4 pickup truck with plow attachment. No tax impact. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0).

**Explanation of Article 06:** The C.I.P. recommends that the pickup truck fleet have a cycle of ten years. The new truck will replace a truck that is over ten years old and due to continued need for repairs is in dire need of replacement in 2021. If prudent, one pickup truck may be kept offline for back up and to plow snow. The pickup truck is listed for replacement on the 2021 C.I.P. schedule.

**Article 07:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000)** to be placed in the existing **Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article 07:** This fund allows for the replacement of the loader, grader and the backhoe on a 12-15-year replacement cycle.

**Article 08:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty thousand dollars (\$40,000)** to be added to the existing **Town Bridge**

**Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.** (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article 08:** The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. Committee recommendation and scheduling for bridge repair and replacement projects. To keep up with the high cost of bridge repairs in the future, the Road Agent has a long-term plan for upkeep and construction. In order not to spike the appropriation for some years, the C.I.P. Committee spread the Capital Reserve funding to be consistent each year.

**Discussion:** None.

Articles 09 through 19 were read aloud in entirety:

**Article 09:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000)** for its share of costs for the reconstruction of the **Lyndeborough Road Bridge**. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2024. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article:** This project has been planned for a couple of years and funding previously approved was used for preliminary engineering. The Town was awarded a grant in the amount of \$250,000 of which the Town must appropriate a matching fifty percent (50%) either in cash or in-kind services. This project will entail replacing a failing culvert with a pre-formed concrete bridge.

**Discussion:** Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road was present and noted the total does not equal the \$250,000 matching funds the town is required to provide.

Peter noted \$94,000 was encumbered in a separate account from the 2020 budget to commit to an advance for precast concrete culverts and other items for this project. This grant requires 50% matching from the town. This request for \$120,000 is most of the remainder of the matching funds required. The town has to have \$250,000 available.

Joe noted the town was awarded a matching ARM grant that is a cooperative grant from a couple state agencies. The project was anticipated to cost \$500,000, therefore up to \$250,000 was anticipated from the grants and the town was responsible for the remainder. He said a prestressed concrete piece was obtained for the bridge (\$94,000). The request for \$120,000 is an estimate of the remainder of the matching funds the town is required to raise. Less may be needed as the town can contribute in-kind matching such as materials the town has stored reprocessed concrete, sand, gravel and other items. Therefore, the request does not add to the total \$250,000.

Karen asked for clarification of the Explanation wording.

Joe noted the grant is up to \$250,000 and if the project costs less, which is anticipated, the town will not receive \$250,000. The Explanation will be revised for clarification.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **two hundred one thousand, seven hundred eighty-nine dollars and forty-three cents (\$201,789.43)** for Town road related upgrades and other road improvements, to be offset by the State Highway Block grant. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, IV. No money to be raised by taxation. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation for Article:** This amount was previously placed in the Highway Department operating budget. It is customary in the State of NH to place a separate warrant article for Highway Block Grants. Placing this as a separate warrant article increases transparency and ensures that the funds will be spent for the right purpose.

**Discussion:** Joe noted these funds are not raised by local taxation, they are provided to the town by the state, and provided to the state by the federal government. New Boston plans to continue this new process of the electorate requirement to formally accept these funds each year with a Warrant Article to bind town administration to use it directly for road improvements and some equipment.

David asked if the phrase “Raise and Appropriate” is required to be included in the Warrant Article although the town is not raising the funds.

Peter and Joe noted this language is recommended by the NH DRA who provided a sample Article for the town to use.

Karen asked about the wording.

Peter and Joe noted the key phrase is “offset” as the Article goes on to say the funds raised will be “offset by the State Highway Block grant.”

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum **of six hundred five thousand dollars (\$605,000)** for the purpose of constructing and furnishing an attached addition located at the Police Station on Old Coach Road and furthermore, to withdraw **three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)** from fund balance and the remaining **three hundred five thousand dollars (\$305,000)** coming from taxation. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 5-2)

**Explanation of Article:** The Police Station is following a report from the Town’s 2018 Master Plan as well as one item from the 2005 Master Plan (a Building Sprinkler system). The addition will provide improvements for safety and space including secure booking and holding rooms, increased space for evidence and storage, a female locker room, increased security monitoring, as well as much needed roof

**Discussion:** Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road plans to confirm this was contained in the 2018 Master Plan and noted this has not been included on the CIP Schedule in 2020 or 2021, not carried for the required six years. He asked why this is coming up as an Article in 2021 with requests for \$305,000 from taxation and \$300,000 from a fund raised through the regular CIP Schedule for other town projects.

Police Chief James Brace noted the Police Department never introduced this to the CIP Committee as it was discussed as part of the 2017 discussion of the Master Plan update that was completed in 2018. Several recommendations are included in the 2018 Master Plan. The Department is trying to address those recommendations with this project. It was not brought to the CIP Committee as a safety center has been discussed in town for the last four years but the Police Department was not involved in those discussions but were waiting to see if there would be a safety center or if the Police Department would approach it on its own. The Department moved forward with this project to address building issues when it became clear a safety center was not going to happen. The Police Station is almost thirty years old, has issues that were brought forth years ago as part of the 2005 Master Plan, before he became Chief. This was a sprinkler system that has yet to be addressed and the other issues are outlined in the 2018 Master Plan. The town is not currently moving forward with a safety center, it seemed appropriate to bring this forward to address building needs from age and preexisting issues raised in the most economical way. This includes establishing separate holding rooms for the ability to hold multiple parties sight and sound separated. The Department currently does not have holding rooms. However, they are needed in certain situations. The current procedure is to supervise juveniles with separate officers. This has been manageable over the years but with the advanced cases the Department has been handling, the need should be addressed.

Mark noted items were identified over time for Police Department needs, including long overdue maintenance needs and operational needs identified in the Master Plan. Mark's issue is there has never been discussion of a safety center, it has never been brought to the CIP Committee or Planning Board. This tells him it must have been an internal department discussion.

Police Chief James Brace noted the Police Department has been observing voter opposition over the years to the Fire Department proposal for a new fire station. The safety center was discussed openly at town meetings. Some community members seem to feel funds would be better served in a safety complex instead of fire station only. The Police Department waited for direction from the Selectmen that the town wanted to pursue options for safety facilities. No discussion occurred and the Department is now bringing this proposal forward for the police station as it seems clear the town is not interested in discussing a safety complex or other options.

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present and noted this was discussed in Project Inform meetings that took place in 2019. At that time the Police Department indicated adding the Police Department to the safety complex would add millions to the proposal and all the police station needs is \$200,000 of improvements. Over the past four years the safety complex was considered early on and this statement was made by the Police Chief in 2019 and 2020, denying the need for a safety complex and stating the need for \$200,000 for building maintenance that would last ten years. Both Chiefs discussed the possibility verbally and agreed.

Police Chief James Brace noted that at the Voter Information meeting March 6, 2019 he

indicated it was more economical to spend only a few hundred thousand dollars to upgrade the current police station rather than spend a couple million additional dollars to double the size of the proposed fire station to include the Police Department facilities. The Police Department can get by with what it has. The Department has been observing voter opposition to the Fire Department proposal over the years and noted voter recommendations to consider a safety complex, but this was never discussed. He defended that position to avoid a larger bond and at this time the Police Department is bringing forth a plan for less money to address all the needs at once and avoid delay. These needs have been present for years.

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald noted the police station has not had a fire alarm or sprinkler system. Early on in this project there was no indication the Police Department was interested in a safety complex; the Police Department was interested in saving taxpayer funds by improving the current police facility.

Police Chief James Brace noted the Police Department has been observing voter opposition over the years to the Fire Department proposal for a new fire station. The safety center was discussed openly at town Deliberative Sessions and the Voter Information Forum when voters asked about the possibility. The Police Department waited for direction from the Selectmen that the town wanted to pursue options for safety facilities. No discussion occurred and the Department is now bringing this proposal forward for the police station as it seems clear the town is not interested in discussing a safety complex or other options.

Mark noted this discussion answered his question of safety complex discussions among town officials. He is still concerned that this proposal includes necessary building maintenance and an addition for necessary operational facility improvements. He is concerned with the proposed funding in this Article, with requests for \$305,000 from taxation and \$300,000 from a fund raised through the regular CIP Schedule for other town projects. He feels this is inappropriate and the project should have been included in the CIP Schedule according to the town procedure to plan.

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Transfer Station/Recycling Center Revolving Fund** pursuant to RSA 31:95-h. All revenues received by the Transfer Station Recycling Center from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or service supported by the fund will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. And furthermore, the Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the revolving fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created which include repairs, equipment, supplies, building needs and all costs incurred for designated operations. This authorization will stay in effect until rescinded. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article:** This article is to authorize the Transfer Station to retain income for deposit into a special fund for the purposes detailed in the article. It is estimated that



the future operating budget for the Transfer Station would be reduced by approximately \$40,000 per 12-month period if the Revolving Fund is approved.

**Discussion:** Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road was present and asked how the Article language is defined “only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body.”

Joe noted the governing body is the Selectmen and the legislative body is the voting procedure under SB2.

Mark clarified the language means the Selectmen decides how to appropriately expend the money collected in the revolving fund.

Joe agreed that the Selectmen would make this decision in line with the purposes specified.

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present and noted this fund would provide long term benefits by decreasing the Transfer Station operating budget and cover additional costs of scales, replacement of demolition containers, increased trucking fees, scale upgrades and licenses. This will allow the Transfer Station to be substantially funded by users and not general taxpayers which taxpayers have been asking for.

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000)**, the first of a two-year appropriation request for the purpose of **constructing an attached garage addition located at the Highway Department facility** on Old Coach Road. This is a nonlapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2026. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 5-2)

**Explanation of Article:** This is a two-year funding project approved by the C.I.P. Committee to add an attached addition to the current highway garage building. By providing shelter from the elements, this will extend the life and decrease the amount of downtime of frontline highway equipment.

**Discussion:** None.

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)** to be added to the existing **Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article:** As required by State Law (RSA 75:8-a), and the New Hampshire Constitution, the Town must reappraise all real estate so that all assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year. A total amount of \$160,000 is the final estimated cost to complete a full revaluation including the measuring and inspection of all properties.

**Discussion:** Peter noted the total cost estimate decreased by \$5,000 from \$165,000 to

\$160,000.

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$9,200)** for the purpose of **converting all 42 existing streetlights to LED**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article:** The LED lighting monthly rates will be reduced by approximately 50% - 62%. Currently the Town budgets \$7,000 per year and this conversion would reduce the annual budget by between \$3,000 and \$3,500. A rebate for installation will be awarded by Eversource in the amount of \$4,150. (Original Cost - \$13,318).

**Discussion:** Peter noted the Article language may be revised after NH DRA review. This will not affect the amount the town will raise.

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute easements and power purchase agreements that they deem to be in the best interest of the Town to establish a solar energy installation on Town property at the Transfer Station with the intent of offsetting power for that and other Town facilities in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee Recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article:** This article is placed on the Warrant to allow time for the exploration and refinement of options and solicit proposals from multiple vendors. The terms and financials of a potential Power Purchase Agreement may not hold for an extended period waiting for another Town Meeting. Flexibility is needed to potentially enter into a favorable agreement in a timely fashion. If the Selectmen don't see a favorable agreement, then it will not be acted upon. This Warrant was brought forth to the Selectmen by the New Boston Energy Committee.

**Discussion:** None.

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a non-lapsing **Record Retention Expendable Trust** and raise and appropriate **twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)** for **digitizing the Town of New Boston's records** that require long term/permanent storage and to authorize the Selectmen as Agents to expend. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article:** This article is to fund a multi-year project which entails the scanning of Town records from all departments. It is estimated to cost approximately \$80,000 for this 4-5-year undertaking. This will ensure the long-term security of the records, free up valuable space, especially at Town Hall, and make this information more readily accessible to employees and where appropriate, the public.

**Discussion:** Peter noted this request decreased from the 2020 \$100,000 request.

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **eleven thousand seven**

**hundred dollars (\$11,700)** for the first of a five-year appropriation request for providing **body cameras for the Police Department**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 6-1)

**Explanation of Article:** This Warrant Article reflects a five-year commitment for a total cost of approximately \$58,500. The purpose is self-explanatory as this is a national topic throughout our law enforcement community.

**Discussion:** Police Chief James Brace was present and noted a similar Article was brought forth as a 2020 Warrant Article that was defeated. This request would add a lot of protection for the town and the officers and bring a lot of transparency to what they do.

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eleven thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$11,850)** for the purpose of supporting the New Boston Fourth of July Association, a non-profit organization, by funding a portion of the cost of the **Fourth of July fireworks** and cover the costs of **mandatory police details** for the parade and the fireworks event. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

**Explanation of Article:** The Town's portion of funding in support of the Fourth of July celebration has traditionally been part of the operating budget. Due to the possibility of a default budget, it was determined that this funding would be better served as a separate appropriation placed before the voting public.

**Discussion:** Joe noted the Fourth of July celebration was cancelled in 2020 and funds were not spent on the celebration.

## **Item 2: Selectmen's Acceptance of Possible Warrant Article(s):**

The following proposed Article submitted by petition was read aloud in its entirety and plan to add it to the ballot if the necessary amount of voter signatures have been obtained:

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$38,000)** for the development of a conceptual design package for a new Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management (EM) facility in the Town of New Boston.

**Explanation of Article:** This Warrant Article is requesting funding to develop a conceptual design for a new fire station. A research and deeds study was completed by the fire station building committee over seven years ago. As a result of public opinion by the voters and most recently by the Board of selectmen, the Board of Fire Wards heard the message and will revisit the design of the proposed station. To accomplish this part of the project, the first step is to develop a new conceptual design package. This package will include an updated needs assessment, conceptual design and presentation graphics. The completed plan will enable the project to be put out to bid once again and bring a new proposal back to the voters for consideration at the 2022 town meeting. A new committee will be formed to manage the process through completion of the project. The

committee will incorporate representatives from town boards, private citizens and representatives from the fire department. Because the previously proposed warrant article planned for the 2021 town meeting did not get on the warrant, this petition warrant if approved, would be a prudent action to eliminate a lost year, subjecting the project to further increases.

**Discussion:** Karen asked the cost of the previous design.

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald noted the design work was done pro bono at that time by Architect Roger Dignard.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive was present and asked if there was an Article in previous years for \$19,500 for fire station design.

Joe noted that may have not been for a study, there was a previous Article requesting \$40,000 that was defeated and did not have to do with any engineering or architectural studies.

Joe closed the first Public Hearing at 6:59 PM pursuant to the applicable NH RSA.

### **Item 3: Possible Selectmen's Action on The Budget:**

The Selectmen moved Article 02 the Operating Budget onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written. Poll Vote: Joe-yes, David-yes, and Karen-no. All were in favor. 2-1

The Selectmen moved Articles 03 through 12 onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written. Poll Vote: Joe-yes, David-yes, and Karen-yes. All were in favor. 3-0

The Selectmen moved Article 13 onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written. Poll Vote: Joe-yes, David-yes, and Karen-no. All were in favor. 2-1

The Selectmen moved Articles 14 through 19 onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written. Poll Vote: Joe-yes, David-yes, and Karen-yes. All were in favor. 3-0

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

Peter noted the NH DRA is reviewing Article language in all Articles and they may be revised but this will not affect the amounts the town raises.

### **G. 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 approach the podium and state your 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 session of public comment.

**Item 4: Non-Public-Per RSA 91-A:3, II:** Joe moved to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3II at 7:09 PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Joe-yes and Karen-yes. The Board then entered non-public session.

**Move to exit Non-Public Session:** Joe moved to exit Non-Public Session at 7:20PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Joe-yes and Karen-yes.

Joe moved to seal the minutes for non-public for 5 years. All voted in favor 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Joe-yes and Karen-yes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** David moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Joe-yes and Karen-yes.

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting: February 1, 2021-Deliberative Session  
New Boston Central School Gymnasium-7:00 PM  
Handicap Access available**