

# Approved

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting July 1, 2019

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

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Police Chief James Brace, Road Agent Dick Perusse, Bob McKinnon, Keith Gentili and Bill McFadden 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 hire of Brett Malcolm who was interviewed by the Road Agent and expected to meet all qualifications, is in the process of obtaining his commercial driver's license and will be hired at grade 5 step 1 at \$19.24 per hour. 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 Peter beforehand. Seeing none, Joe closed the first session of public comment.

### **C. APPOINTMENTS:**

#### **Item 1: A. Fire Chief Dan MacDonald-Update on Fire Department and Rescue Activities:**

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present to meet with the Selectmen to update them on Fire Department activities as follows:

- The department has responded to many fire and rescue calls so far in 2019 which is on pace with 2018 which had a record number of calls at 600. There was a lull in service needs but the pace has picked up again with three or four calls per day. The department has been able to cover the calls without requesting mutual aid which would add 15-20 minutes of response time. The department has fantastic volunteers that are doing a great job.

- Membership: 3 recruit members lost in June but 2 joined. The program is currently stable.
- NH DES report: The Department spoke to NH DES who approved a two-pronged solution, a temporary solution while gathering RFPs and a more permanent solution to be brought to voters in March 2020.
- Tanker 1 delivered Friday. Stored at the highway Department pending driver training with a company representative and placing it in service. It will be a front-line piece of equipment permanently housed at Central Station. Vehicle placement will be reconfigured as has been done periodically since 2005 to make the small station work. The utility truck and ambulance are planned to go out the side bay.
- Engine 2, approved by voters in March 2019, is now ordered and expected to arrive in 2020.
- Exhaust system: Approved by voters in March 2019, went through the bid process and a vendor is selected. Installation is expected to begin approximately August 12.
- Partnering with American Red Cross on smoke detectors after a New Boston resident complimented the department on WMUR for installing a smoke detector in her home that subsequently saved her life. Five residents have requested smoke detectors in 2019 so far, if anyone needs a smoke detector, contact the Fire Department for a smoke detector provided free of charge and installed by a Fire Department member.
- Provided a program for Police Department officers on fire, wire and CO2 detector safety as officers are usually the first to respond to emergency calls.
- Emergency Management department has been working with the Rose Meadow Care group for two years. Recently completed a drill with them and state safety representatives who noted the New Boston Departments are leading the state in these efforts, working together for the benefit of the town.
- FEMA approved a SCBA grant submission last year, avoiding \$171,000 from the tax base. The compressor to refill the bottles at \$45,000 was not included in the grant award but the Department recently learned that cost will be approved.
- Joe noted Scott Hunter came to the Planning Board last year and he learned a lot about cisterns and sprinkler systems. He learned sprinkler system inspections cannot be mandated but the Department can inspect the sprinkler systems upon request. Every two years the Department sends out a flyer to all homes with sprinklers reminding residents to keep their system maintained and to call Fire Inspector Eric Dubowik to make sure that is done. Sprinklers save lives. Joe asked about fees involved. There is no charge if the New Boston Fire Department inspects the systems. There may be a charge if another company is called in. Dan said the Department is open to any type of consulting to any resident in town, all they must do is call the phone numbers on the town website and the Department will respond at no charge. Joe also asked about cisterns placed in dry areas of town and asked if any changes have occurred since he has served with the Planning Board. Dan noted Eric has worked with Town Planner Mark Fougere to redesign the water supply/cistern ordinance as New Boston does not have a hydrant system, but residents should not have to bear the burden of providing water as the town grows. If there is a new development the contractor should bear this burden.
- Summer Recreation Program: The Fire, Police and Emergency Management Departments are working to ensure New Boston children are as safe as possible. They

have begun working with the Recreation Department to develop a training program that will begin this week with Camp Coolio.

- The Department is working for innovation and optimization to control costs that cannot be reduced and make the most of every tax dollar that is contributed to the Fire Department and town safety.
- Karen requested Fire Wards begin regular meetings. Joe noted any citizen has a right to call a Fire Wards meeting. Meetings are required to be posted 24 hours in advance.
- The Selectmen request periodic updates from each Department Manager including the Fire Department. Dan noted any citizen can call him anytime with any questions about the Fire Department.

**B. Police Chief James Brace-Presented a Proposal for Consideration for Adding No Parking Signs on Mill Street for Further Discussion Re: Noise Ordinance:** Police Chief James Brace was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss no parking signs for Mill Street and a proposed noise ordinance.

Chief Brace requested parking restrictions for both sides of a 240' section of Mill Street allowing emergency vehicles to maneuver in and out of the Fire Department side bay to avoid potential delays in responding to emergencies. The New Boston Parking Ordinance was reviewed, and amendment proposed. A second reading will take place at the next Selectmen's meeting. Joe noted he is concerned with parking for Fire Department staff when other events are occurring downtown causing the Town Hall parking lot to be full. He requested a proposal by the end of August to use the land purchased behind the fire station for Emergency Personnel parking. Dan noted 4 to 6 spaces would be needed for an average call and approximately fifteen spaces would be needed for a major emergency. The Board is interested in reviewing a proposal. Signs for Byam Road according to the No Through Trucking Ordinance will be ordered. The Selectmen noted through trucking continues to occur including reckless driving and citizens continue to complain to them about this issue. Jim also noted this ordinance could be revised.

Randy Parker of Mill Street noted he agrees with the proposal to limit parking for emergency vehicles and that the curve at the other end of Mill Street is narrow and would be difficult for an emergency vehicle to travel that way if a vehicle was parked there. He asked if a resident could post no parking along these areas. He also noted parking is a problem in this area and asked for overall solutions. Jim said residents can't post "No Parking" but if vehicles would have to travel onto the resident's property the property could be posted "No Trespassing." He also noted he could consider posting No Parking for Mill Street entirely. The Selectmen asked Jim to research this possibility. The Selectmen will consider Jim's original request first and the possibility of posting Mill Street entirely as "No Parking" will be discussed at the August 19 meeting.

**Noise Discussion:** Jim continues to get e-mails and correspondence in support of a noise ordinance. He has not received any correspondence against it. The ordinance defines what is unreasonable and how it would be handled, and that it would be the result of a citizen complaint verified by police, other than vehicle noise. The proposed ordinance is not ambiguous and keeps enforcement at a local level with a ticket instead of the current procedure of making a criminal arrest, charging them and taking the person to court. The ordinance states tickets would not be issued until after a warning has been given to the person causing noise and they refuse to cease.

Christine noted she met with Jim and still has concerns if another Chief comes in with a different viewpoint than Jim's intention with this ordinance. Jim noted he has no immediate plans to leave but if another Chief came in and did not follow the intent of the ordinance as currently discussed with the Selectmen, citizens now have the town hall streams recordings they can reference and bring that before the Selectmen.

Karen noted she understands the purpose and appreciates the details of the ordinance, appreciates Christine's concerns and prefers the ordinance be presented to voters as a Warrant Article.

Bob McKinnon of Carriage Road was present and expressed concern with vehicle noise traveling New Boston. Jim noted there was a muffler statute that has since been repealed preventing police from enforcing vehicle noise unless the vehicle equipment was defective. He also noted the town has grown and traffic is at a level it has never been before, including more vehicle noise.

Joe asked the Selectmen to consider this further. He agreed with what Jim said about a future Chief. He noted setting definitions as written in the ordinance is based on intuitive knowledge New Boston Selectmen and citizens now have and could be enforced in a reasonable manner. He does not agree with presenting the ordinance to voters as a Warrant Article as ordinances are the preserve of elected representatives to make these decisions for the best interest of the town. He suggested the Selectmen continue considering this proposal for another month and asked Jim to bring forward any further information he learns about noise ordinances in surrounding towns.

Randy noted residents of the center of town may consider vehicle noise the most bothering. He asked if the state could help on the state roads with motor vehicle regulations. He noted muffler systems may be modified and remodified at times of inspection.

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

**Item 2: Approval of Public Minutes of June 17, 2019:** The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of June 17, 2019. Christine moved the Public minutes of June 17, 2019 be accepted as amended. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

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

**Item 3: Acceptance of Resignation from Police Department-Sergeant Ryan MacLean:** Christine moved to accept Sergeant Ryan MacLean's resignation as of June 30, 2019 with regret. Karen seconded the motion. The motion carried. 3-0

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

##### **Item 4: Town Administrators Report:**

- The Selectmen are invited to the Air Force Tracking Station tomorrow morning for the changing of the guard.
- Handicap Ramp: Town Hall handicap railings are fixed.
- Road sweeping of downtown area will take place tomorrow.
- New sign for island made of steel installed.

- Flowers in flower pots on bridge and around the common looking good for the holiday.
- The Recreation Department painted the grandstand.
- Interviews are taking place for the two open positions on the Highway Department.
- Half Year Expenditure and Revenue Report: Provided.

**Item 6: Selectmen's Reports:**

- Karen noted she met with Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett for a tour of the Transfer Station and was impressed.
- Christine noted the Fourth of July sign at the triangle by the bank needs to be moved back for traffic visibility.

**G. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Bill McFadden of Dane Road was present and asked the status of the siding repair at the Fire Station. Peter reported this is expected to be completed before the next Selectmen's meeting.

**Item 7: Possible Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)-Personnel:** Karen moved to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A: II(a) at 6:58PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor, 3-0. Poll Vote: Joe-yes, Christine-yes, and Karen-yes. Board then entered non-public session.

**Move to exit Non-Public Session:** Joe made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 7:19PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0.

Christine moved to adopt, effective July 1, 2019, the salary proposal as presented by Chief Brace including the tweaking of the benefit package (Longevity and Additional Holiday-applicable to all employees), effective in 2020.

The motion carried 2-0 with Karen being undecided at that time.

Christine moved to compensate Elaine Wells (Transfer Station) and additional \$3.00 per hour while acting as foreman while Glenn Martin is out on medical leave. Joe seconded, and the vote was carried 3-0.

Joe moved to adjourn at 7:20PM, seconded by Karen. All voted in favor 3-0

Joe moved to seal the minutes for 5 years. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**ADJOURNMENT:** Karen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on July 15, 2019 (6:00 PM)  
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070  
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov**