

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting August 16, 2021

PRESENT: Karen Scott Selectman
David Litwinovich Selectman
Donna Mombourquette Selectman
James Brace Interim Town Administrator

Senator Denise Ricciardi, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Bill McFadden, Joyce Arivella, Kaleb Jacob, Bruce and Lorraine McKim, Dan Garrity, Chris and Kathryn Hall, Susan Carr and two other 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 David Litwinovich at 6:00PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda- The Selectmen reviewed the August 16, 2021 consent agenda. Karen moved to approve the August 16, 2021 consent agenda including payroll, Accounts Payable and other signed official documents. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

David 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 comment as per the rules for live meetings 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, David closed the first session of public comment.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Senator Denise Ricciardi-State Budget Impact On New Boston: Senator Denise Ricciardi was present to meet with the Selectboard to discuss the state budget impact on New Boston as follows:

- She introduced herself as District 9 Senator representing New Boston. She is here to discuss the first session and the budget. She offered her resources and assistance to residents.
- She noted the first session was a challenge due to social distancing required during the pandemic, but she was on a mission to keep a promise she made to voters to do something about property tax relief. She is also a Bedford Town Councilor. The Meals and Rooms Tax became important to her. She explained the history of the Meals and Rooms Tax as funds promised by statute to towns by the state, but the funds were

suspended by the state and not sent to towns for over two decades. She introduced SB 99 that passed with 30% of Meals and Rooms Tax going to towns and an amendment that the state can no longer put the funds in its general fund where they can be suspended. Instead, the funds can be put into a separate account that 30% of the Meals and Rooms Tax would come to towns. As a result of this bill, New Boston is anticipated to receive over \$102,000 in the first year and over \$115,000 in year two.

- The state budget is sending \$180 million back to cities and towns for property tax relief, an increase of over \$55.5 million over the last budget. The budget sends \$100 million back to property taxpayers. The state increased education spending by \$102 million over the state law, increasing state education funding by to \$242 million over the past two years. New Boston will receive a \$358,000 increase in education funding in the next two years. She noted the budget is good, NH has a strong economy. She noted small businesses are a big part of the NH economy and these were affected significantly by the pandemic. This budget lowers the business enterprise and tax enterprise and business profits tax that will result in more services offered in NH. She noted the budget also helps senior citizens by phasing out the interest and dividends tax over time. NH also has a rainy-day fund over \$158 million.
- The Senate created a relief funding plan to bring over \$35 million of additional funding to schools that need it the most by creating Education Savings Accounts (Education Freedom Accounts) to help low-income families consider more education choices for their children. There is an income limit for eligibility. Denise is also on the Senate Education Committee.
- NH has one of the lowest poverty rates in the nation and has one of the highest livable rates. She plans to help the state stay in this position. She is honored to serve residents and here to help.
- Bill McFadden of Dane Road was present, thanked Denise and noted with the Meals and Rooms Tax coming to communities, it is intended for tax relief, but communities can also use these funds for needs and not charge taxpayers.

Item 2: Chris Hall and Dan Garrity-Mill Street Flooding Concerns: Mill Street residents Chris Hall and Dan Garrity were present to meet with the Selectboard to discuss Mill Street flooding concerns.

Dan noted ground levels changed when Mill Street was paved. Mill Street residents experienced flooding in the July 18 and 19 storm as the pavement created a substandard road, pipes in the road clogged and water over the road went to properties. Many experienced flooding. A surveyor reviewed the area. Dan met with the Road Agent who suggested catch basins and curbing pending Selectboard approval. Dan also has leachfield concerns that could be caused by flooding. He is concerned for possible future damage. He learned the catch basin between the Fire Department and the Town Common was filled in and this is a concern as it causes rainwater to collect in the road. Jim recommended this be investigated.

Chris noted it has been a rainy summer and many residents have had issues. He wants to come to a common solution to improve this downtown area. He is working to improve his home and property to prevent further flooding damage. His property is one of the lowest areas in town, but this could occur in other downtown areas such as along River Road. He is also concerned if

there is a fire in the area, water from firefighting could damage these homes with water that is more destructive than rainwater.

Dan reported he did not live in the area during the 2006/2008 floods, but he reported he learned from Randy Parker the road and pipe washed out at that time and eventually the town repaired it. He has pictures that he will e-mail to the Selectboard. He would like to get the curbing in place as a first measure as this is a time sensitive issue, flooding could occur again at any time. He has made improvements to his property to prevent damage from rainwater. This is the second time since Dan moved to the area that he has had damage at his property from flooding. He requested Selectboard permission to allow he and Chris to pick up the granite curbing from the Highway Department offered by the Road Agent and place it in front of Chris' house as recommended by the Road Agent. The water is coming down the ravine from the cemetery between the barns at map 19 lot 17 and map 19 lot 16. The proposed curbing would send water down the road instead of to the properties. David and Donna proposed having the solution approved by an engineer such as the Town Engineer to confirm the right-of-way and curbing.

Chris noted this storm caused the most damage to his property he has experienced from flooding although there is often erosion around his foundation due to rainwater collecting there.

Karen is concerned placing curbs along the road could prevent fire apparatus from getting into the station on the Mill Street side. She would like to view the area. Dan noted he already has a curb along his property that has not been an issue for fire apparatus or winter plow trucks.

Dan also recommended Mill Street become a one-way street as it is very narrow, and two cars cannot pass each other in some areas.

Donna moved to direct the Interim Town Administrator to contact the Town Engineer to determine potential solutions with Dan Garrity and Chris Hall for the water problem on Mill Street. Karen seconded the motion. Discussion: The Selectboard wants to accomplish a temporary solution. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 3: Zoning Board-Recommendation From The ZBA To Appoint Lorraine McKim As An Alternate Member: Lorraine McKim was present to meet with the Selectboard to discuss her interest in volunteering for the ZBA as an Alternate member. She has lived in town for three years and has previous experience in the town of Hudson serving on the Zoning Board for approximately three years and helping to update their Master Plan. The Selectboard thanked her for volunteering and noted training offered by the NH Municipal Association could be very helpful to her service. Donna moved to appoint Lorraine McKim as an Alternate member of the ZBA for three years. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 4: Jason And Skye Lyons-Request To Purchase Town Owned Land: Jim reported the Assessor confirmed the value of town owned land at map 8 lot 68 to be \$100. Karen moved to sell town owned land at map 8 lot 68 to Jason and Skye Lyons for \$100 plus associated transfer fees. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 5: Approval of Public Minutes of July 7, 2021 and July 19, 2021 and Non-Public Minutes Of July 2, 2021, July 7, 2021 and July 12, 2021: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of July 7, 2021. Donna moved to table approval of the Public minutes of July 7, 2021 to the September 1, 2021 Selectboard meeting. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of July 19, 2021. Donna moved to table approval of the Public minutes of July 19, 2021 to the September 1, 2021 Selectboard meeting. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of July 2, 2021, July 7, 2021 and July 12, 2021 and deferred approval pending discussion during non-public session.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 6: Discussion On The Selectboard New E-mail Addresses: The Selectboard announced they have new town-issued e-mails and can be reached by clicking their name on the town website. Jim noted there are issues with the current e-mail vendor platform. The town plans to transfer its e-mail service to Outlook by the end of August. All town employee e-mail addresses will remain the same.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 7: Update-Year-To-Date Expenditures And Revenues: Documentation provided. Expenses and revenues look good at this point in 2021.

Item 8: Town Administrators Report: Jim presented the Town Administrator's report as follows:

- On 7/29, he met with Road Agent Allen Brown regarding the paving. Tier 1 is complete, and costs are being finalized with a plan (based on remaining funds) to continue with additional roads this year. Allen is on vacation through the end of the month.
- Two Bids were received for the LED street light conversion. No Energy Commission members were available on August 6, so the bid openings were delayed to the week of August 16.
- Building Inspector Dan Kramer has been out and will continue to be out for a few more weeks due to a medical issue. The Town of Goffstown has provided support and Fire Inspector Eric Dubowik has agreed to assist where he's qualified and receiving training. Services have been relatively unaffected. Building Assistant Sonya Fournier has done a great job with the scheduling and continues to improve the appearance of the office.
- He met with Selectman Scott regarding the Gas Pump update. As Allen was going to be out on vacation, she was asked to be point on the project. Karen reported she received updated quotes that she will provide to the Selectboard. NH DES is planning to review the area to determine what is required. This project may be required to be completed by October 13, 2021.
- Recreation Building: George St. John completed the roof as authorized at the July 19 Selectboard meeting, and the interior remediation of the mold began on August 6. Primex reviewed the potential insurance claim. Acceptance of the claim has not yet been determined. Primex recommended the remediation company.

- Town Administrator Search Update: Eight resumes were received, and initial interviews are being scheduled during the week of August 23rd. If all goes well a recommendation could be brought to the Selectboard by its September 1 meeting.
- Attached to the monthly report for the transfer station, Gerry sold the old 1995 International Truck for \$3,500. This truck was used over the years to move the bins, reducing the number of hauls we paid for. As our investment to purchase the truck in 2007 was \$6,000, over the subsequent fourteen years, the net cost was \$2,500 and resulted in over \$436,000 in tax savings. Gerry should be recognized for this and the tremendous savings that resulted for our taxpayers. The Selectboard thanked Gerry.
- Gas/Heating Oil and Propane Pricing. Laura spoke with SAU Business Administrator Scott Gross who believed the town may be able to partner with the SAU buying group on its RFP for 2022.
- Highway Department Culvert Assessment: He spoke with Highway Department Foreman Charlie Byam who explained the Department has reviewed almost all town culverts and categorized in a binder with colored folders “Red” meaning needs repair, “Yellow” meaning some work needed, “Green” meaning good condition and “Blue” meaning needs a flush. This year to date the Highway Department has repaired culverts on McCurdy Road, Hooper Hill Road, Cemetery Road and Second NH Turnpike.
- Rules and Order Of Selectboard Meetings: The Selectboard have been reviewing this. Jim recommended rules from other towns be reviewed and incorporated into the rules of the method New Boston governs to be adopted as Selectboard rules moving forward. A draft will be reviewed for approval at the Selectboard’s September 1 meeting.
- Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald sent an e-mail to Jim updating him of a possible FEMA reimbursement for severe damage that occurred during the July 18 and 19 storm to the Fire Department heating system boilers and sump pumps and roads including Thornton Road, Cemetery Road, Old Coach Road and \$10,000 of Highway Department expenses including removing a tree from Route 136. Primex has reviewed the damage at the Fire Department and a claim is opened to ensure the heating system is repaired before cold weather. FEMA would reimburse for insurance deductibles and documentation of costs incurred were submitted to FEMA along with state costs to determine if the town is eligible for reimbursement through emergency management funds. Dan noted the Highway Department did a great job ensuring the damaged roads were repaired and passable in a short time frame.
- He spoke to School Board member Wendy Lambert about the historical New Boston High School bell as discussed at the July 19 Selectboard meeting. She noted the Board will discuss it at its August 18 meeting and is interested in it.

Item 9: Reports From Departments: Documentation provided and will be added to agenda items posted on the website.

Item 10: Selectmen’s Reports:

Karen reported the following:

- She has been researching gas pump replacement and will forward the information she has received to the Selectboard and work with Jim to schedule a meeting with NH DES to discuss potential requirements to be accomplished during the replacement.

- The Road Committee plans to meet in September.

Donna reported the following:

- She is working with Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett to reinstate the Solid Waste Committee. She requested information about the purpose of the Solid Waste Committee. If none is found, one will be created.
- She met with Finance Director Jennifer Allocca, Bill McFadden, Lyndeborough Town Administrator Russ Boland and Francestown Town Administrator Jamie Pike about the possibility of expanding broadband in New Boston. Two Requests For Information are prepared for New Boston residents as this is the only way to obtain the available grant funding.

David reported the following:

- The Planning Board will meet August 17.
- The Fire Station Planning Committee met for the first time recently where there was a lot of discussion about the possibility of a safety complex in New Boston. Some Committee members plan to meet at the end of August/beginning of September to discuss safety complex options.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

David 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 to comment as per the rules for live meetings 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.

Bill McFadden of Dane Road noted the following:

- He is concerned about liability if town residents volunteer to install curbing on Mill Street and requested a waiver of liability be executed if this arrangement is made as discussed above.
- He requested Bedford Road be line striped before winter.
- As an Energy Commission member, he requested the LED lighting bid opening discussed above be rescheduled to August 19 due to posting requirements.

Seeing no further Public Comment, David closed the second session of public comment.

Possible Request for Non-Public-Per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)(c): David moved to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3II at 7:12PM. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Donna-yes and Karen-yes. The Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session: Karen moved to exit Non-Public Session at 7:50PM. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Donna-yes and Karen-yes.

The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of July 2, 2021. Karen moved the Non-Public minutes of July 2, 2021 be accepted as presented and sealed five years. Donna seconded the August 16, 2021

motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of July 7, 2021. Karen moved the Non-Public minutes of July 7, 2021 be accepted as presented and sealed five years. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Approval of the July 12, 2021 Non-Public minutes was deferred pending revision.

ADJOURNMENT: Karen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52PM. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room September 1, 2021 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-2500-www.newbostonnh.gov
Handicap Access available**