

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting October 30, 2021

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

Selectmen's Assistant Laura Bernard, Bill McFadden, Kaleb Jacob and one or more additional members of the public were present for all or part of the meeting.

A. CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by David Litwinovich at 8:30AM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1: Tax Rate Setting: Jim noted the preliminary assessment from the NH DRA came in yesterday at \$18.77. This was reviewed with a handout.

The recent revaluation process was reviewed as most property values increased by 35% this year. If a property value increased by more than 35%, the property taxes for that property are anticipated to increase, if a property value increased by less than 35%, the property taxes for that property are anticipated to decrease. The updated property values are based on recent local home sales.

Anticipated property taxes at sample properties were reviewed. The Selectboard considered options for lowering/stabilizing the town portion of the projected tax rate from NH DRA including the following:

1. Using ARPA grant funds for revenue loss caused by the pandemic in the past year that the Finance Director calculated at over \$100,000. The town has received over \$305,000 in ARPA grant funds so far, with an additional \$300,000 coming next year.
2. Using approximately \$150,000 of the unreserved fund balance as done in some past years.
3. Doing nothing

The 2021 budget status was reviewed as unused funds are anticipated at the end of the year that will be added to the unreserved fund balance.

The anticipated 2022 operating budget increase is approximately 3-3.5%. 2022 is hoped to be a good revenue year. The Finance Committee will begin reviewing budgets November 4, 2021.

Other options available to residents to lower their property taxes are exemptions such as the elderly exemption that was discussed at the October 18, 2021 Selectboard meeting.

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.

Bill McFadden of Dane Road noted that a substantial amount of revenues the town receives comes from motor vehicle registrations which are increased by new car sales. He noted new car sales are now decreasing due to low inventory which could impact revenues the town receives. Jim noted that is a danger of artificially lowering the tax rate too far, but the town can offset that revenue loss next year, if it occurs, with the 2022 ARPA grant funds. Bill asked if the school amounts on the handout are accurate, Donna noted they are, and the school has no revenues available to them.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive noted concern that his property taxes would increase as his property value increased. Jim noted if a property value increased by more than approximately 35%, the amount of property taxes would increase. Kaleb asked about the unreserved funds received from the school. Laura noted some of the school surplus was deposited into the Building and Renovation CRF. Kaleb noted he is discussing the additional school district unreserved fund balance. Bill McFadden noted the school district unreserved fund balance could have been significant as many of their budgeted items were not needed such as buses. Karen noted this will be researched.

Seeing no further Public Comment, David closed the session.

The Selectboard is in favor of options 1 and 2. David moved to decrease the tax rate from \$18.77 to \$18.50 with the understanding that approximately a little more than \$100,000 will come from the ARPA grant funds and approximately \$150,000 will come from the fund balance. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectboard thanked Jim and Laura for the information prepared for the meeting.

Item 2: 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(c) at 9:16AM. Karen 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 10:40 AM. David seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Donna-yes and Karen-yes.

Donna moved the Non-Public minutes of October 30, 2021 be sealed five years. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

ADJOURNMENT: David moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:41PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

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