

# Approved

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting December 20, 2021

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

Solid Waste Committee Chairman Jim Keyes, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald, Finance Director Jennifer Allocca, Town Clerk Kim Colbert, Bill McFadden, Lucy, Vince, Sara and Luke Iacoviello, Cathy and Peter Secor, Hayley, and one or more additional 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.

The Selectboard recognized Bo Strong for his years of service to the town and send condolences to the family. As a lifelong resident, he was a Selectman for twenty years, Planning Board member for twenty-two years, Fire Department member for forty-one years, Fire Ward for twenty years, served on the Road Committee and the Southern NH Planning Commission for forty years.

**Consent Agenda-** The Selectmen reviewed the December 20, 2021 consent agenda. Donna moved to approve the December 20, 2021 consent agenda items including payroll, Accounts Payable and other signed official documents. Karen 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: Formal Swearing Of New Police Officers – Hunter Secor and Gabriel Iacoviello:** Police Chief James Brace was present and introduced new officers Hunter Secor and Gabriel

Iacoviello. He reviewed the hiring process that began three months ago with a written and physical agility test followed by oral board interviews that resulted in their identification as candidates for the open positions. A thorough background investigation, psychological exam, polygraphic examination and medical examinations then took place over three months. Hunter and Gabriel surpassed expectations in all areas and the town recognizes these achievements and is very proud and excited to welcome them to the Department.

Jim introduced Hunter noting he is pursuing his Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration since obtaining his undergraduate degree in May of 2019. He has been working at Elliot Health Systems as a Security Officer for three years and previously worked as a Court Officer in the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. In his cover letter, Hunter wrote, "Policing is more than just law enforcement. It is about being engaged in the community and building relationships that keep a community close." The town believes his attitude exemplifies the Police Department mission. Town Clerk Kim Colbert then swore him in and all congratulated and welcomed him. His mother Cathy pinned his badge.

Jim introduced Gabriel noting he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management in May of 2021. He has been working in farming and construction for five years. In his cover letter, Gabriel wrote, "the thing that stands out to me about small towns is the community that it fosters, and this community is something I would love to be a part of as a police officer." The town believes his attitude exemplifies the Police Department mission. Town Clerk Kim Colbert then swore him in and all congratulated and welcomed him. His mother Lucy pinned his badge.

They were introduced to the Selectboard who noted their support of all involved in the Police Department.

**Item 2: Approval of the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Fire Chief Dan MacDonald:** Emergency Management Director Dan MacDonald was present to review the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan with a document presented for Selectboard approval. He has been working with all Department Managers and the School District over the past year to prepare an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan with a consultant. The plan is required by FEMA and the state and is updated every five years to enable the town to apply for grant funding. FEMA and the state have similar plans. The goal is to locally identify, prepare and provide funding to resolve hazards that could affect town functions or threaten citizens. The town has received \$473,000 to alleviate hazard exposures since 2011 including installation of a cistern and hydrants downtown, a Highway Department generator, updates to the Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operations Plans, and renovation of the emergency communications site resulting in improved communications for the Highway, Police and Fire Departments. The Emergency Operations Plan will be updated in 2022. It will then be presented to the state for final approval. The Selectboard reviewed the document in detail and requested revisions and further information prior to Selectboard approval. The revisions will be brought to the consultant for updating to be completed as soon as possible. The document will continue to be updated for accuracy once the state approves it. The plan itemizes specific items that would prevent/resolve hazards in the Mitigation Action Plan. Karen noted she disagrees the Powercot listed as it is not a hazard. Dan noted this is an asset to Fire Department members to prevent/mitigate injuries and is currently installed. The Selectboard thanked Dan for his efforts preparing and presenting this thorough document.

#### **D. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item 3: Reappointment To The Conservation Commission – Louise Robie/Barbara Thomson:** The Selectboard reviewed Louise Robie and Barbara Thomson's applications for reappointment to the Conservation Commission. They have both been serving for many years and are assets to the Commission. Louise has been spearheading the Rail Trail improvements and Barbara is always very involved, thoughtful and knowledgeable. Karen moved to reappoint Louise Robie and Barbara Thompson as members of the Conservation Commission for three years. Donna seconded the motion. The motion carried. 3-0

**Item 4: Select Board review and vote on Town of New Boston Warrant Articles:** The Selectboard reviewed the proposed 2022 budget and Warrant Articles as follows:

The Selectboard reviewed the proposed operating budget in detail as follows:

- Employee medical, dental, life, short and long-term insurance and retirement plan benefit amounts were moved from each Department budget to the Selectmen/Executive Administration budget. Phone amounts were moved to the Government Buildings budget.
- Tax Collector: The Mileage and Conferences line increased for 2022 as the cost was formerly split 50/50 with another town where the Tax Collector worked, but she only works in New Boston now who now pays the entire amount.
- Town Clerk office supplies: This line increased as the Clerks will need to purchase absentee envelopes for three elections in 2022. There was one election in 2021.
- Building Department:
  - The Dues and subscriptions line increased for 2022 as a new set of code books needs to be purchased. This occurs approximately every five years when the state adopts building codes.
  - The 2022 Miscellaneous requested budget is \$150 but the default amount is \$601. This occurred as some items were moved from Miscellaneous to Dues and Subscriptions where the default amount is \$0.
- Transfer Station:
  - A portion of the Telephone budget remains in this Department budget for cell phone charges.
  - Dues and Subscriptions contains mandated amounts. The requested amount is much lower than the default amount as the scale license fees were moved to be paid from the Transfer Station revolving fund in 2022.
  - This department budget decreased by approximately \$108,000 in 2022.
  - The 2022 Residential/Universal Waste Removal request is lower than previous years as many items were removed from this line to the new Municipal Projects/Illegal Dumping budget line, causing the requested amount is much lower than the default amount.
- Cemetery: There is a budget line for Cemetery Improvement where \$1,500 is budgeted for each year but none has been spent in several years. Karen moved to reduce the Cemetery Improvement budget line to \$1. Donna seconded the motion. The motion carried. 3-0

- Health Officer: The 2022 stipend request increased by 25% over three quarters. No justification has been discussed during budget review season. Finance Director Jennifer Allocca was present and noted this stipend has not increased since 2015 and during budget review the Health Officer suggested it may be time for an increase. The Select Board noted this should be reviewed with the Health Officer's supervisor to ensure it is justified. This has not yet occurred and there is no known data to support it. Donna moved to reduce the Health Officer Stipend to \$3,000. Karen seconded the motion. Discussion: The Select Board has a Public Budget Hearing on the approved proposed operating budget January 10, 2022. The Select Board will approve the proposed operating budget tonight. There are deadlines according to NH RSA the town must meet. The next Select Board meeting is January 3, 2022 which may not allow the town to meet the deadlines. The motion carried. 3-0
- Welfare: The 2022 requested amount for Casa changes according to Casa's request and will be decreased to \$500.
- Government Buildings: This budget now contains all town telephone charges that were previously included in each Department budget.
- Highway Department:
  - The 2022 Building Maintenance request increased from the 2021 request as interior and exterior painting is planned, estimated at \$4,000.
  - There is a budget line for Blasting/Rock Reduction where \$5,000 is budgeted each year but that has not been used since 2019 when it went overbudget. This line is needed as it is never known when blasting/rock reduction will be needed for planned highway projects. The Road Agent previously reviewed this budget line and decreased it to \$4,000 for 2022.
  - The 2022 Gravel request increased from prior years based upon current gravel prices and the number of yards per mile that would be needed. The currently stockpiled amount will be confirmed. Some is kept at an offsite location resulting in a monthly storage fee. This is anticipated to be entirely used by June or July 2022 at which time storage fees will no longer be incurred.
  - The budget request for sand has been \$1 for two years as the Department currently has plenty of sand stockpiled.
  - The Plow Blades/Hired Trucks budget line is to repair plow blades for Department trucks and for the trucks the Department hires for plowing. The Hired Trucks are paid for their trucks and their labor and if their plow blades are damaged while plowing town roads, the town fixes it with this budget line.
- Fire Department:
  - A Per Diem budget line was added for 2022. The Department will still have call personnel as well. This line is for daytime coverage when most call personnel are working at their professional jobs out of town. This request is for half of the year not the full year to allow for a hiring process after voting day. It will allow the Department to have coverage of two people, 50 hours per week from this position in addition to the Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant who are also planned to be covering during alternating days.
  - A Weekend Shift Coverage budget line was added for 2022 for Fridays through Sundays and holiday weekends. The Department will still have call personnel as

well. This request is for forty weeks the second through fourth quarters of the year not the full year. The rate to be on call is approximately \$2 per hour.

- Donna noted the Fire Department presentation to the Finance Committee made the Committee realize the situation at the Department as it is not getting call members that are needed such as cadets who are no longer interested in the arrangement New Boston offers and are going to other towns and full-time positions for more money. These new budget lines are part of the plan to fill the need for personnel coverage to allow the department to respond to emergency calls.
- The hourly rate for the Emergency Calls-Wages is budgeted to increase after voting in 2022. Karen suggested better oversight of the number of members who respond to calls to prevent abuse of the system as many may respond but not be needed but will be paid for one hour. Donna noted if there is abuse of the system the Select Board needs to know about it. David will prepare a letter on behalf of the Select Board to the Fire Wards asking them to address this issue/perception, review the procedure to ensure it is not occurring and report back to the Board. Karen noted the Chief is a Fire Ward, appoints himself Chairman of the Fire Wards and all Fire Wards are subordinates. She is concerned this system may represent a conflict of interest.
- The Select Board thanked all for their review and preparation of the impressive proposed operating budget. Jim noted The rollup of all department budgets, and total increase over 2021, stands at 3.61% (not including projected revenues), down from 5.74% due to continued careful review by the Interim Town Administrator, Finance Director and Department Managers. The goal is present a budget that is passable and reasonable considering the conditions the town faces. The current town portion of the 2021 tax rate is \$4.09 and when projected revenues are included in the proposed 2022 operating budget, it remains at \$4.09 for 2022. The proposed operating budget is responsible and takes care of town employees and departments without increasing the town portion of the tax rate.

**Article 01:** Election of officers:

**Cemetery Trustee for 3 years, vote for 1**

**Cemetery Trustee for 1 year, vote for 1**

**Fire Wards for 3 years, vote for 2**

**Library Trustee for 3 years, vote for 3**

**Selectmen for 3 years, vote for 1**

**Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years, vote for 1**

**Town Moderator for 2 years, vote for 1**

**Trustee of Trust Fund for 3 years, vote for 1**

No Select Board vote required.

**Articles 2 through 4:** Zoning Warrant Articles. These are out for legal review and a Public Hearing is scheduled with the Planning Board December 28, 2021. One is related to a workforce housing ordinance, one is related to prohibited uses within water resources conservation districts and one is related to clarifying town policy on using mobile/manufactured homes as accessory dwelling units.

**Article 05:** 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, Seven Hundred Twenty-two Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-six Dollars (\$5,722,976)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Five Million, Four Hundred Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty-six Dollars (\$5,408,566)**, 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. **(Estimated Tax Impact Net of Estimated Revenue \$4.09. No change from prior year) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

As above, the Select Board amended the proposed operating budget to \$5,720,727. The default budget is not affected. Karen moved Article 5 onto the Warrant with operating budget amount amended to \$5,720,727. Donna seconded the motion. Discussion: The projected town portion of the tax rate was reviewed with a rollup document. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 06:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000)** to be placed in the existing **Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.14) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 6 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 07:** To see if the Town will vote to raise from the **Fire Department Vehicles & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000)**, for the purchase of a **Forestry Truck**, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of said amount from the **Fire Department Vehicles & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the specified purchase is complete or December 31, 2024, whichever comes first. **(No current year tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 7 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 08:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)** to be placed into the existing **Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund** to maintain the Emergency Management communications and related system. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 8 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 09:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000)** to be placed in the existing **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.13) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

The Explanation of Article 09 notes the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund covers the replacement of three full-sized 6-wheel dump trucks, one 6-wheel water truck and four 10-wheel trucks with plows, the current fleet inventory. There are two other Articles adding equipment to the Highway Department inventory. If the other equipment is added to the inventory, they will be added to the Explanation of this fund next year.

Karen moved Article 9 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise from the **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund** and appropriate the sum of **Four Hundred, Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$420,000)**, for the purchase of **two 10-wheel dump trucks with plows**, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of said amount from the **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until these specified purchases are complete or December 31, 2024, whichever comes first. **(No current year tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 10 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 11:** 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**. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.05) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 11 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 12:** 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**. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 12 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise from the **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Six Thousand Dollars (\$106,000)**, for the **Howe Bridge Repair**, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of said funds from the **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund**. This will be a non-

lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2025, whichever comes first. **(No current year tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Non-lapsing Warrant Articles are allowed up to five years from the year of the Warrant. This date was proposed considering the anticipated length of the project.

Karen moved Article 13 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Eighty-five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000)** for **Road Improvements**. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the road improvements are complete or until December 31, 2025, whichever comes first. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.09) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 14 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000)**, the second of a two-year appropriation request for the purpose of **constructing a Highway Department Garage Addition** on Old Coach Road. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2026, whichever comes first. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Donna moved Article 15 onto the Warrant as written. David seconded the motion. The motion carried. 2-1

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to change the **Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund** by adding a Caterpillar CS44 vibratory roller to the existing inventory. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 16 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 17:** To see if the town will vote to change the **Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** by adding a 2018 Komatsu excavator to the existing inventory. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 17 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred One Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty-three Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$201,233.14)** for Town



road-related upgrades and other road improvements, to be offset by revenue from the State of New Hampshire **Highway Block Grant Program** estimated to be **Two Hundred One Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty-three Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$201,233.14)**. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the said funds are expended or until December 31, 2027, whichever comes first. **No funds to be raised by taxation) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 18 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Municipal Facilities Expendable Trust Fund** per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of maintaining, improving, and renovating Town municipal facilities and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)** to be placed in this fund, with the amount to come from taxes. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 19 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000)**, to be deposited into the **G.I.S. Mapping System Capital Reserve Fund**, for the first of three annual appropriations. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.06) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 20 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the **Police Details Expendable Trust Fund** created in 2014. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 21 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the **Transfer Station Machinery and Equipment Expendable Trust** created in 2011. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 22 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 23:** 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**.

**(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 23 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)**, the second-year funding request to be added to the existing **Record Retention Expendable Trust** for digitizing the Town of New Boston's records that require long term/permanent storage. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 24 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 25:** 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. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

This amount has not changed from 2021.

Karen moved Article 25 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the governing body to **Select Board** from **Board of Selectmen**. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

This Article was submitted by Finance Director Jennifer Allocca to reflect a gender-neutral name. Karen noted the proper name may be Board of Selectmen. Jennifer was present and noted many other town commissions and boards do not reflect a gender and many other NH towns and towns in neighboring states are moving toward "Select Board." The Select Board was not previously aware of this Article and did not submit it. They questioned if any person could submit an Article in this way. Department Managers are believed to be empowered to submit Articles, mostly monetary/financial obligations pertaining to their department, not to town business, and public can submit petition Articles. The Finance Committee reviewed this Article and had no issue although questioned if they should vote on non-monetary related Articles. The Select Board asked Jim to research with the NH DRA or town counsel if it is appropriate for a Department Manager to submit an Article such as this and include it on the Warrant, the process the Warrant is developed. An Article is required to change the name of this Board.

Donna moved Article 26 onto the Warrant as written pending assurance the process followed has been correct. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will modify the Elderly Exemptions from property tax in the Town of New Boston, based on increased assessed values, for qualified taxpayers as defined in RSA 72:39-b, to be as follows: for a person between 65 – 74 years of age, increase from \$88,000 to \$119,000; for a person between 75 – 79 years of age, increase from \$121,000 to \$163,500; and for a person 80 years of age or older, increase from \$176,000 to \$238,000. And further to increase by \$2,000 the maximum income allowed as follows: a single person from \$35,000 to \$37,000 and a married couple from \$45,000 to \$47,000. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 27 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will modify the Disability Exemptions from property tax in the Town of New Boston, based on increased assessed values, for qualified taxpayers as defined in RSA 72:37-b, to be as follows: for a person who qualifies, the exemption shall be increased from \$70,400 to \$96,000. And further to increase by \$2,000 the maximum income allowed as follows: a single person from \$35,000 to \$37,000 and a married couple from \$45,000 to \$47,000. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 28 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to change the percentage distribution on Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 **from 60% to 100%** for the New Boston Conservation Commission, in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted, this article shall take effect immediately, and remain in effect until altered by a future vote of the town meeting. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 29 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 30:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand, Four Hundred Sixty-five Dollars (\$2,465)** for funding the additional cost of **Police and Fire dispatch services** contracted through the Town of Goffstown. If Article 5 (Operating Budget) passes this article will become null and void. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.003) (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend x-x and Finance Committee Recommend 7-0)**

Karen moved Article 30 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Article 31:** To act on any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Karen moved Article 31 onto the Warrant as written. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

## **E. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item 5: Continued Review Of Meeting Polices:** Postponed to the January 3, 2022 Select Board meeting pending more information to be provided.

**Item 6: Approval of Public and Non-Public Minutes of December 6, 2021:** The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of December 6, 2021. Karen moved the Public minutes of December 6, 2021 be accepted as amended. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of December 6, 2021. Karen moved the Non-Public minutes of December 6, 2021 be accepted as presented. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen continued reviewing the Non-Public minutes of December 6, 2021. Donna moved the Non-Public minutes of December 6, 2021 be accepted as presented with the addition of the vote that occurred that night to seal the minutes for five years. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

## **F. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Item 7: Update-Year-To-Date Expenditures And Revenues:** Documentation provided.

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

- Town Administrator Hiring Process – Interviews will be scheduled for January 7th, 2022. Letters will be sent next week to the selected candidates.
- Jim attended the summary meeting with Town Engineer Kevin Leonard and Road Agent Allen Brown regarding Lyndeborough Road Bridge project. Some “final work” is required but payments are being made.
- Jim attended Final Town Budget and Warrant meetings – as previously discussed.
- Finance Director Jennifer Allocca was present and noted the Select Board received information about an encumbrance of 2021 funds that will be applied to complete the cement for the new gas pumps at the Highway Department once weather permits in 2022. Karen moved to encumber the \$4,500 required for MB Maintenance to complete the concrete pad at the Highway Department gas pumps. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

## **Item 9: Selectmen's Reports:**

Karen reported the following:

- The Road Committee met December 1, 2021 and plans to meet again in January.
- The Select Board continued to consider establishing a subcommittee to address the concerns relative to through trucking on Byam and Wilson Hill Roads as discussed at the December 6, 2021 Select Board meeting and considered members to ask to serve on the Committee who have knowledge to find the best solution to this problem within two to three meetings. Jim will contact potential members.

Donna reported the following:

- The Finance Committee has completed its work for this budget cycle. The Committee appreciates that the information provided was very well prepared by the Interim Town

Administrator, Finance Director and Department Managers.

- The group/unofficial broadband committee plans to meet again January 24, 2022 with a representative from Cell Coverage Mapping as they are interested in the services the company can provide. The Committee is considering how to gather more information from citizens of what they are experiencing such as a mailing to all New Boston households. Jennifer Allocca created an e-mail address specifically to gather information from citizens for the broadband project. It was published in the New Boston Beacon and the Committee looks forward to hearing from citizens. Consolidated Communications may present to the Select Board during a February meeting.
- Donna introduced Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chairman Jim Keyes who presented a recommendation from the December 6 Committee meeting for the Transfer Station Swap Shop to the Board noting the Swap Shop began in 1988, 33 years ago in a 240 sq. ft. building and it was only for clothing and shoes. In 1988 the town's population was 1900, 32% of what it is today. The Swap Shop is still 240 sq. ft. today. As the town's population has tripled, so has the activity and value of materials. Operation of the overall Facility needs that space to remain efficient. The overall quality of the merchandise being "donated" is most often not desirable or useable to others such as broken items, items that do not work, a box of toys with rat poison pellets, recalled items - such as cribs, car seats and toys, syringes, pharmaceuticals, unwearable clothing, items dumped that should have been paid for to recycle (e.g. TVs) Since the popularity of eBay and Craigslist the quality of items has changed. There is potential liability to the town for allowing recalled and potentially dangerous items to circulate in the community from the Transfer Station. There are costs associated with staffing the shop to assure people are not "dumping" items in this location and for staff time to clean out the "shop" of the contents that end up in the trash hopper. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Select Board to discontinue the Swap Shop. The time and effort of Transfer Station employees to keep the Swap Shop organized can be better utilized in other areas of the facility. The Select Board are disappointed to hear of the abuse of the Swap Shop and the need to close at this time. Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present and noted the facility will continue to educate the community about how to dispose of their items in the most beneficial manner such as donating usable items to programs such as Families In Transition, clothing and shoe bins, food pantries and the New Boston Facebook pages. The Committee will create a list of locations to bring usable items to share with interested citizens. Karen moved to close the Transfer Station Swap Shop/Good As New Shed as recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee with regret. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Select Board thanked Jim for attending.

David reported the following:

- The next Planning Board meeting will be December 28, 2021 when they will review an application for an outdoor event venue on Saunders Hill Road.
- The Safety Center Committee will meet tomorrow via Zoom where David will suggest these meetings become public. An informational article will be published in the January 2022 issue of the New Boston Beacon.

**Item 10: Department Manager Reports:** Documentation provided.

## **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 was present and noted the following:

- Article 20 discussed GIS Mapping. He asked if a similar Article passed in prior years. Jim noted in prior years the CIP Committee moved funding for this project to this year.
- Will the Safety Complex be added to the 2022 Warrant? Jim noted it is planned to be added to the Warrant as a petition Article. This was delayed as the vote to form the Committee was delayed from March to June, Committee formed in late July, then discussion changed from Fire Station to Safety Complex in August/September when the plan began. Phase 1 was to determine if a Safety Complex would fit on the planned location, when it was determined to fit then the plan continued and the Committee anticipates a quote will be received tomorrow. Karen noted the Committee was asked to make its meetings public from the beginning, this was not done but the Committee proceeded and plans to bring a plan and cost to the public. Jim noted this is a municipal project that addresses multiple needs, to build a building and address what will happen to existing town buildings. The Committee meetings have been time consuming with detailed discussions and Jim anticipates the public will be pleasantly surprised by the project as a whole that may be the best plan to meet town needs for many years. The Committee meetings were not secret, Fire Wards held separate meetings. A public presentation is planned and will be well prepared. Due diligence has been done but Committee members including Jim and David. Finance Director Jennifer Allocca noted she has learned from TD Bank representatives that interest rates are currently so low, loans are almost free and while making payments some of the funds can be invested to cover interest charges. These representatives are available to meet with the Select Board to discuss if desired.

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

**Item 11: 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 9:01PM. 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 10:12 PM and seal the minutes for five years. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: David-yes, Donna-yes and Karen-yes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Karen moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 PM. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room January 3, 2022 (6:00 PM)**  
**7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070**  
**Phone: (603) 487-2500-[www.newbostonnh.gov](http://www.newbostonnh.gov)**  
**Handicap Access available**