

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting September 17, 2018

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Joe Constance	Selectman
	Rodney Towne	Selectman
	Christine Quirk	Selectman
	Peter Flynn	Town Administrator

Selectmen's Assistant Laura Bernard, Solid Waste Advisory Committee member Floyd Guyette, Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Transfer Station employees Glenn Martin, Dave Jolicoueur and Elaine Wells, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Bill and Jane Rearick, Terry Harkins, Bill McFadden, Steve Sears, Keith Gentili, Don McGinley, Kaleb Jacob, Karen Scott, Susan Carr and one more member 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. Rodney moved to approve the consent agenda including provisional appointment of Michael GiConte as part time laborer at the Transfer Station, Floyd Guyette and Roch Larochelle as a member of the Finance Committee. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 1: Public Hearing -Authorizes the Selectmen to accept the \$170,950 FEMA Firefighters Grant from the Federal Government through the State of NH: The Public Hearing opened at 6:03 PM. Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present to request the Selectmen accept this grant award. The Fire Department has been applying for this grant for a couple years including a compressor. The grant was awarded this year but does not include the compressor. The grant is 95% federal government/5% town. \$162,810 will be received from the federal government and the town will be responsible for \$8,140. The entire amount was previously part of the CIP Schedule but will now be removed along with the hose truck that was removed from the CIP Schedule per vote of the Fire Wards in August, relieving \$702,000 from the tax burden. Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive said the hose truck was planned for replacement for many months and Dan said never. Rodney moved to approve and accept the grant as written and presented and to close the Public Hearing. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Public Hearing closed at 6:06 PM.

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Susan Carr of Roby Road said she was present representing senior citizens and asked if the Selectmen are interested in starting a senior citizen transportation program to appointments similar to what other towns have. She said a meeting is scheduled in Goffstown and asked if she

can attend and bring information back to the Selectmen. The Selectmen agreed and asked her to research interest in this in New Boston.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 2: Bill Rearick-Discussion and Review of Thru Trucking Ordinance Enforcement and Ramifications: Bill Rearick of Bedford Road was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss and review the Thru Trucking Ordinance enforcement and ramifications. He has discussed this with the Police Department and Road Agent. He has lived in New Boston three years and noticed trucks not following the ordinance. He discussed this with the Police Department and learned tickets have not been issued according to the ordinance. He has concerns that trucks are not following the ordinance, damaging the road and throwing rocks creating a safety hazard. He gave a three step proposal to the Selectmen. The Selectmen thanked him for his presentation and for getting the information to them before this meeting. The Selectmen agreed to consider this and take action with the Police Chief and Road Agent. The Road Committee has not been active and there is a Highway Safety Committee that could consider this as well. Bill thanked the Selectmen.

Item 3: Steve Sears-Recommendations for the Transfer Station Recycling Operations: Steve Sears of Carriage Road was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss a proposal for trash and recycling disposal in New Boston. He thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity to present. He said this is not an attempt to replace the Transfer Station, but to supplement it. He has lived in and out of the New Boston area since 1967. He has done feasibility studies in the past, one for a landfill that was close to capacity in another community he lived in. He spoke about how waste stream management is handled in New Boston as it is only handled by the Transfer Station not including municipal curbside pickup. It is not unusual not to have all the services everyone wants through the town government, such as outsourcing high school and not having a ladder truck. These items are not necessary for a community to be suitable to live in. Residents make a choice when decide to live in New Boston but should always consider how to improve quality of life.

He discussed his proposal as follows: New Boston is almost a perfect square in shape, 43 square miles with decent arteries that can be used as lines of demarcation for proposal. There are 100 road miles in New Boston of which 50% are dirt that create a challenge in the spring when it is wet. He reviewed the town website to obtain information for this presentation. The population is 5500 people, 124 people per square mile, a rural community. Over 10% of the communities are people over 70 years old. There are approximately 1800 single family homes in New Boston. He said the Transfer Station operating budget is approximately \$411,000 per year that he calculated to be approximately \$228 taxation per single family home. He then added \$676 mileage at 65 cents per mile for some families it is a 20 mile round trip to travel to the Transfer Station weekly. He formed a coop for trash pickup and gas delivery in his neighborhood at decreased rates. He then discussed the reasons New Boston residents use curbside pickup including convenience for working families and senior citizens, savings of vehicle and road wear and tear, less traffic, less motor vehicle accidents and less hassle following Transfer Station policies. There has been activity on social media showing residents are not happy with the Transfer Station. He proposed that every homeowner be given an annual \$228 tax abatement representing their portion of the Transfer Station budget to put toward curbside pickup or a

sticker system where Transfer Station users would buy a sticker for each of their trash bags at the town hall or sell a yearly vehicle sticker at differing prices based on Transfer Station usage. He said these changes would encourage increased recycling. He also said residents who want to could use alternative disposal resources such as curbside pickup or a dumpster at work. The haulers would bring bulk items, white goods and electronics to the Transfer Station on a pay as you go fee system similar to what is currently in place. He proposed townwide curbside pickup with contracts with the four current curbside trash haulers. There would be no town equipment involved to haul; this would be similar to the contracts the town uses to plow snow. There could be four zones based on major arteries or density of homes. This would create competition to engage and continue servicing the town and would mean less traffic going to the Transfer Station and more safety on roads. He referred to his biography provided to the Selectmen and included in the public information packet. An RFP could be used v. a bid request. A study committee would review the RFPs and present to the Selectmen who would consider and award the contracts.

The Selectmen noted each New Boston family uses the Transfer Station a different amount per year using different types of vehicles that get varying gas mileage. They requested accurate calculations. The Selectmen noted if a citizen has a concern with personnel they should write to or meet with Peter to create a record and begin an investigation after which it would be brought to the Selectmen if necessary. They said Transfer Station employees are in the enforcement business to make sure items are disposed of properly.

Dan MacDonald said the proposal sounds similar to the argument that if homeowners don't have children in school they should get school tax abatement, but by paying school tax they are contributing to a better community. Steve said he considers paying taxes for school services to be similar to paying taxes for police services that a homeowner may not use but are for the betterment of the community.

Terry Harkins of Jessica Lane asked for details about Steve's usage of the Transfer Station, the New Boston population percentage consisting of people over 80 years old, and cost to the town of printing and distributing stickers. He said he uses the Transfer Station occasionally and some of these questions would require more research to answer.

Selectmen's Assistant Laura Bernard was present and explained the town has mandatory recycling that generates revenues. This lowers the tax burden because that comes back to the general fund that is part of what makes up the tax rate and should be considered in the calculation of cost of the Transfer Station per year per household. Steve said that could easily be determined if it was an enterprise fund. He said enterprise funds are used by municipalities for various services, pay as you go, with a budget set up based on revenues. Laura said this is not the way New Boston budgets but the Transfer Station revenues are clear offsetting the budget for tax purposes.

Don McGinley of Lyndeborough Road was present and said he has lived in New Boston for 20 years and has used the Transfer Station since he moved here, his car gets good gas mileage and he lives close to the Transfer Station so his yearly cost to use the Transfer Station is probably low. He was a former production manager living in Massachusetts, the company sold and was able to move to New Boston that he loves. He prefers the Transfer Station over the curbside

pickup he had in his former community. He said curbside pickup will cost more than using the Transfer Station and fees for large items will add to this cost, the haulers will likely charge more for large items than the Transfer Station does. He noted his daughter lives in a community smaller than New Boston where they have curbside pickup with bag stamps costing approximately \$4 per bag with recycling separated. Don said he is in favor of considering new proposals but the Transfer Station budget is not growing as fast as the New Boston population and the Transfer Station is a bargain for rural taxpayers that most are happy with. He recommends a complete proposal be presented and expects it will be determined to be more expensive than the current procedure.

Bill Rearick of Bedford Road was present and noted one reason he chose to move to New Boston three years ago instead of another community was to avoid trash cans sitting on the side of the street. He noted residents have a choice to hire a private hauler or the Transfer Station. He said this proposal is probably about taking away tax dollars, not using services the town provides and he is not interested in the proposal.

Rodney expressed concern that Steve's calculations are inaccurate but are being presented publicly. He said the current system with multiple parts works and if a piece is taken out something will likely get lost and there are more savings in the Transfer Station and other budgets such as the school budget as a result of how the Transfer Station runs. Outside agencies reviewed the Transfer Station operations for the Selectmen approximately nine years ago and it was reported that the Transfer Station runs very efficiently. Changes have been made over the years to improve efficiency at the Transfer Station. The Bedford Transfer Station manager has indicated that he is interested in visiting the Transfer Station to get ideas of how he can improve his Transfer Station. Christine noted she is very satisfied with the efficient method of how the Transfer Station is run.

Steve said he is not proposing closing or replacing the Transfer Station. His proposal is to give residents a choice to use curbside pickup and asking that they get a refund of the taxes they pay toward the Transfer Station to use toward curbside pickup. The Transfer Station would continue to change the current fees for large items and possibly change methods such as charging per bag.

The Selectmen said residents already have a choice to use curbside pickup at an extra cost or the Transfer Station that their taxes are used to provide the service New Boston has according to NH law. If the method changes it will likely cost more to run the Transfer Station.

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was present and noted he is responsible for the Transfer Station and takes great pride in what he does. When he considers the Transfer Station budget each year he does not calculate the budget per household, he uses a trending budget. The budget has decreased over the past nine years. Recycling is good for the town. The budget stabilized but is expected to increase as the town grows. The percentage of households using the Transfer Station has not changed since the 1980s. A rebate as Steve proposes does not exist as the Transfer Station is not budgeted per household.

Steve gave the Selectmen a handout of his conceptual proposal.

The Selectmen said Steve's conceptual proposal is speculative and based on presumptions that are not supported. The town has considered changing the method used at the Transfer Station many times but the Selectmen and Town Administrator are pleased with Gerry's management of the Transfer Station budget and waste disposal. The Selectmen noted they would post the following document of backup material on the town website and official town Facebook page this week:

Transfer Station vs. Curbside Pickup Comparison

With recent discussions about alternatives to the current Transfer Station operational model, it seemed important to provide residents with accurate information and a clear cost comparison. With that being said here are some of the facts:

- The Transfer Station has to stay open per (RSA 149), for all residents to provide a means for disposal of Municipal Solid Waste, Universal Waste and recycling. Other items processed at the Transfer Station like brush, construction debris, tires, metal, electronics, freon items, furniture are services provided by the town are not covered under RSA 149.
- The town of New Boston currently has 2,200 residential family units. These include: Single family, Duplexes, mobile homes and Multi units. New Boston is 42.3 square miles, with 102 miles of roads of which 50 are dirt. New developments are being added annually. A majority are on the south east side of town on the Bedford side of Town.
- Under current rules, as long as the private hauler meets the current recycling standards of the Transfer Station and signs a compliance agreement with the town of New Boston, the hauler can access Transfer Station. There are fees levied for not meeting the recycling percentages. Currently there are no private hauler companies using the facility. If that changes, it would add to operating costs, but is not part of the current assessment.
- The award winning New Boston Central School / Transfer Station recycling program that started in 2010. The current annual cost is \$850.00 with recycling revenues returned to the Student Counsel for special school programs. The last contract for trash and recycling removal at the Central school in 2009 was \$8,000.00. It is estimated that reinstatement of a Solid Waste contract now would be between \$10,000.00 and \$12,000.00 per year with no revenues returned to the Central School.

The 2017 Transfer Station budget was approximately \$414,000.00. Revenues collected in 2017 brought a respectable \$62,760.00 and a cost avoidance of \$60,000.00 for a total value of \$122,760.00. After revenues and cost avoidances, the facility has operated between **\$245,000.00 - \$330,000.00** for the last 13 years depending on Solid Waste contract pricing and the recyclables market conditions.

It is estimated that between 300 and 500 homes use private contracted haulers at any given time. Even with private pickup, some residents bring recyclables to the Transfer Station for the benefit to the Town and the environment. Those items not collected by private haulers are still brought to the Transfer Station for disposal.

The following are estimates of Town-wide curbside pickup of trash and recyclables only. All other materials are accepted and processed at the Transfer Station.

Currently one of the pickup services charges \$9.00 per week which covers the disposal of 8 kitchen trash bags and no charge for recycling (according to their website). Another company quoted \$ 5.50 to \$6.00 for trash and recycling per stop with limitations on trash, recyclables and charged overage fees. Additional charges for large items and cannot accept hazardous materials, demolition, tires, refrigerators, metal, oil recycling, electronics or many of the items processed at the Transfer Station. With curb-side pickup, revenues from the sale of recycled materials are not credited back to the Town of New Boston's general fund.

Company #1	Company #2
\$6.00/wk x 2,200 \$13,200 Per Week**	\$9.00/wk x 2,200 \$19,800 per week**
\$13,200 x 52 weeks = \$686,400 annually **	\$19,000 x 52 weeks = \$1,029,600 annually**
+Lost Revenue / Cost avoidance \$122,760.00	+Lost Revenue / Cost avoidance \$122,760.00
Total tax impact \$809,160	Total tax impact \$1,152,360

The savings from the Central School program is not included in the data above.

The \$10,000 to \$12,000 solid waste contract cost would be returned to the annual School Budget.

**Surcharges for fuel, additional pickups, and volume overages, contamination are not included in the estimates.

Fees collected at the Transfer Station cover charges for disposal and trucking of user-fee items. In the 2017 fiscal cycle, \$43,323.00 was collected and deposited into the general fund to offset user-fee disposal costs.

New Boston's recycling program has a Carbon offset value of **2,091** metric tons. This would be lost with Town-wide curbside pickup.

The Transfer Station budget is **not** determined by the number of households in New Boston. The budget line for Solid Waste collection and Solid Waste Trucking is estimated based on actual annual tonnage from the previous years' volume - trending up or down with growth and/or usage. You can see evidence of this over the last 15 years of budget cycles (see attached 1988-2017 Municipal Solid Waste volume record).

2017 Transfer Station tax impact with current usage:

\$413,932.00 Budget
 -\$62,760.00 Recyclables Revenue
 \$351,172.00
 -\$43,323.00 User Fees
 \$307,849.00
 -\$60,000.00 Cost Avoidance
\$247,849.00 Expense to Taxpayers

Item 4: Mike Sindoni-Halloween Events Review and Update of Recreation Department

Activities: Recreation Director Mike Sindoni was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss Recreation Department updates as follows:

- The Recreation Department plans the Trunk or Treat Halloween event this year.
Halloween is a Wednesday this year and the Town Clerk's office will be open until 7:00

PM. Mike requested using 12 Town Hall parking spaces from 4:00-9:00 PM for the event to allow open spots for Town Clerk customers. The Selectmen approved.

- Scarecrow Alley is beginning September 28.
- Carved pumpkins will be on the gazebo Halloween night. The Recreation Department will find a way to dispose of them that night.
- The minibus will be delivered September 26.
- Mike is working with Susan Carr as discussed above.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 5: Approval of Public Minutes and Non-Public Minutes of August 20, 2018: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of August 20, 2018. Rodney moved the Public minutes of August 20, 2018 be accepted as amended. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of August 20, 2018. Rodney moved the Non-Public minutes of August 20, 2018 be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 6: Concord Fire Department 'Intercept Agreement' For Medical Services: Peter reported signature for the annual agreement for intercept services with Concord is necessary. Rodney moved to accept the Intercept Agreement for medical services and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the document between the Concord Fire Department and the Town of New Boston. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 7: Report On Munici-Pay Credit Card System for Transfer Station: This was postponed to the next meeting pending more research after security concerns were brought up during a meeting with the IT company last week.

Item 8: Town Administrators Report:

- YTD Expenditures and Revenues: Provided to the Selectmen. Adjustments were made as needed. Revenues are expected to surpass 2017.
- Update on Building Inspector Position: More applications came in for this open position.
- Web Page: The new website is up and running. It is very successful with changes implemented as hoped.
- Update Re: Record Retention: A productive meeting was held last week with scanning and filing demonstrations. There is funding available in the budget to begin. The Committee will determine how to begin the project. The Committee should learn the status of its grant request October 1.
- Computer Server: A meeting was held with the IT company this week. A budget and financing options will be discussed during Finance Committee meetings.
- CIP Schedule: Attached. CIP meetings begin October 3. The Public is welcome to observe the meetings but comments will not be taken.
- The Road Agent reported to Peter that Clark Hill Road will be paved next week.

Item 9: Selectmen's Reports:

- The September 11 Primary was not well attended but attendance was typical at approximately 1,200 voters. The Primary went smoothly. Former Selectman Willard Dodge was sworn in as Selectmen Pro-Tem for the day as Christine and Joe were out of town and Rodney attended the Fire Department 911 Remembrance Ceremony that morning.
- The Fire Department 911 Remembrance Ceremony was well attended this year.
- Rodney was unable to attend the September 11 Planning Board meeting due to attendance at the Primary.
- The Planning Board is reviewing the final draft of the Master Plan and a Public Hearing on the Master Plan will be held during the next Planning Board meeting.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Steve Sears of Carriage Road noted Gerry's comments earlier seem very positive as far as revenues and savings and the trend to going to curbside pickup has not changed in many years. He said the Selectmen seem afraid of alternatives. The Selectmen said Steve's conceptual proposal is speculative and based on presumptions that are not supported. The town has considered changing the method used at the Transfer Station many times but the Selectmen and Town Administrator are pleased with Gerry's management of the Transfer Station budget and waste disposal. The Selectmen noted they would post the above document of backup material on the town website and official town Facebook page this week.

Karen Scott of Dane Road said Steven made a presentation and should be respected for that. She said the Selectmen knew Steve was coming in with a presentation and the Selectmen's document could have been provided to Steve tonight. Everyone agreed there was no need to be rude.

Item 10: Possible Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b) and (c): Rodney made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a)(b) and (c) at 7:21 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: Joe-yes, Christine-yes and Rodney-yes. Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session- Rodney made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 7:20 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Joe Moved to adjust the pay of the Finance Director, Elisa FitzGerald, to be calculated from Grade 8, Step 6B at \$58,109 to become effective on December 1st, 2018. Rodney seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Joe moved to seal the non-public minutes for a period of 25 years. Christine seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on October 1, 2018 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available