

# Approved

## Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting January 10, 2022

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

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Finance Director Jennifer Allocca, Assistant To The Town Administrator Laura Bernard, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Road Agent Allen Brown, Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Fire Department Captain and Administrator Brian Dubreuil, Open Space Committee member Ken Lombard, Bill McFadden, Mark Suennen, Trustee of Trust Funds and C.I.P. Committee Chairman Fred Hayes, Safety Complex Committee members Frank and Joyce Welton, Brad Bingham, Kaleb Jacob, Jim Keyes 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.

### **Item 1: PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2022 Municipal Budget**

Presentation of entire 2022 Budget consisting of Operating Budget and Warrant Articles - (Handouts provided for the audience) David called the Public Hearing to order at 6:08 PM under the provisions of RSA 32:5(i).

**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 Thousand, Nine Hundred Twenty-seven Dollars (\$5,720,727)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Five Million, Four Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixty-two Dollars (\$5,418,862)**, 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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

David noted the CASA donation request was previously approved for \$500 in error, it should be \$750. Donna moved to restore the additional \$250 to the CASA donation to be included in the proposed operating budget of \$5,720,727. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Bill McFadden of Dane Road asked the amount of the 2021 operating budget. This information is included in the packet distributed to the public tonight. The 2021 operating budget amount is \$5,523,780.

Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road was present and thanked the Department Managers and town representatives for making reasonable budget requests that do not overwhelm taxpayers during a year when the town has an Interim Town Administrator who is also a Department Manager. He asked about the note of Twin Bridge Services under Technology budget lines in two department budgets. This is the town and Police Department IT service vendor monthly fee. The Recreation Department has a BJ's Membership and the town has a Sam's Club membership, could these be consolidated? Recreation Director Mike Sindoni was present and noted the Recreation Department formerly used Sam's Club but switched to BJ's after Sam's Club left the Manchester, NH location. Karen asked if the Sam's Club membership should be discontinued. Assistant To The Town Administrator Laura Bernard was present and noted the town has a group membership at a discounted rate that was offered to town employees who pay for their membership at a discounted rate. Laura offered to contact these employees at renewal time although she contacted BJ's when they opened the Manchester, NH location and learned they do not have a group membership. Mark asked about the spare insurance policy of approximately \$18,000 listed under Personnel Administration. Jim noted this is included in the budget in preparation for unknown personnel changes that may occur throughout the year.

Trustee of Trust Funds Fred Hayes of Bedford Road noted there is no reason to keep the Safe Deposit Box line under the Trustee of Trust Funds budget as the Trustees will never have a safe deposit box again because the original trust documents are now kept in a fireproof cabinet at the town hall. This line contains \$1 as it would be completely removed if reduced to \$0.

Mark Suennen asked the following about the Fire Department budget:

- New Per Diem line as it contains 50 hours per week for six months. Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present and noted the Fire Department has been successful in remaining a call department. He explained the history and current status of the Department as follows:
  - The number of calls has increased by 18% and member response to calls has decreased by 17%. Department members have personal lives, commitments and careers outside of the department causing the amount of time they can give to the Department to be a fixed number. Demand for services has increased with the population increase and COVID-19. The number of people responding to calls has decreased.
  - In 2015 the current situation was forecasted. At that time the department hired an Administrative Assistant who would provide daytime coverage to respond to calls. The hours for this position increased in 2018, at no tax impact as the additional hours are compensated through the Ambulance Revolving Fund.
  - In 2007 the Recruit program began, a new program that allowed the town to cooperate with people interested in working in the fire and EMS field. Recruits are available in the department during the daytime hours when most volunteers are out of town at their day jobs. In the past, this coverage was two people seven days per week, now there is one person at a time working three days per week as it is now difficult to find people interested. Through this program the recruits are

available to get experience, network and respond to calls. This program has trained approximately 60 fire and EMS personnel who now work all around the state.

- The Department is committed to the quality of service it provides, including response times. The Department is running out of members, there are times when members are not available to respond. Calling for mutual aid is an option but increases response times. In December 2021 the Department provided mutual aid to other towns 3 times and called in other towns for mutual 18 times. This situation occurred in the town of Weare in the past when they called for mutual aid for 25% of calls. It is a burden to other towns to respond for mutual aid and causes those other towns to subsidize the town calling for mutual aid. The New Boston Fire Department does not want to wait for the level of mutual aid called to be 25% to prevent this disservice to residents and proposes the Per Diem program along with adding an Administrative position to ensure there are at least two members available to respond to daytime calls each day. This would be extended to evening although there are no bedroom facilities. This need is anticipated to increase steadily in future years to maintain quality of service when called for emergencies.
- The Per Diem position would be a ten-hour shift, five days per week for twenty-six weeks at \$25.00 per hour as it is outside the call member roster in a competitive market. It is budgeted for half of the year in 2022 to allow time for the hiring process after voting day if the proposed operating budget is approved. This is a starting point for 2022, if the hire is successful it is anticipated for 52 weeks in 2023. This Per Diem need is anticipated to be filled by up to four people. They will be required to be firefighter/paramedic or firefighter/EMT-A.
- The C.I.P. Schedule calls for the Forestry truck to be replaced but the department budget contains \$1,500 for maintenance of the existing Forestry truck. Dan explained the Warrant Article is for refurbishment of the existing Forestry truck as it is in its fifteenth year of its thirty-year life expectancy. This is a \$185,000 truck that was awarded to the town through a grant saving the town all but \$9,000. The Fire Department does a half-life refurbishment of each fire truck as they have a longer life and are more expensive than trucks in other town departments. The department budget line for this truck is for unforeseen maintenance needs that may occur anytime.
- Emergency calls wages: The hourly rate is budgeted to increase from \$8.67 to \$16.00. Mark asked the plan to determine how these wages would be paid. Mark is concerned if seventeen members respond to a minor call needing only two members, they would all be paid \$16.00. Dan noted scheduling members could be an issue that would drive members away as the department is a volunteer organization and members join to help out when they are available. If members are scheduled for hours the organization may no longer be considered a volunteer organization and members would be driven away. Mark is concerned members may take advantage of the system if they know the call is minor and they may not be needed, they may drive to the station to earn \$16.00 as opposed to the \$8.67 which may have been less incentive. Dan noted the proposed new rate is the result of a survey of other towns done by Captain Dubreuil and Assistant Chief Cliff Plourde where they learned New Boston Fire Department members earned the least of these towns, including Mont Vernon who responds to fire calls only. Mont Vernon is paying approximately \$13.00 per hour including training time. New Boston does not pay for

training although members attend approximately 4,000 hours of training combined. Dan noted through actual experience and probability many members do not respond to each call. 70% of calls are rescue, prior to the pandemic in 2020 four to six members may have responded to each call, skill level of each responder would be assessed according to the needs of the emergency, some would be determined to stay, some would go home, and all would get the hourly rate for the time spent responding, minimum one hour. The proposed new hourly rate is more than the previous, but it is not the proposed per diem rate. The proposed new hourly rate is to make the compensation more acceptable situation for volunteers, to retain volunteers and the quality of service when emergencies occur. Mark endorses that as, if the town wants to keep a volunteer fire department, it must make it reasonable and feasible for members to continue to be willing to volunteer for calls that could occur at any time, day or night. His concern is the new rate would become an incentive to respond to calls when not needed. He encouraged the Fire Wards to monitor this concern and put a program in place to control that if needed. Dan noted the Fire Wards are monitoring this and if members are taking advantage of the system Captain Dubreuil will assign projects to be done around the station to make up for the compensated unearned time.

Fred Hayes asked about the Police Department Retirement System as the request was \$214,000 in 2021 and \$0 in 2022. Police Chief James Brace was present and noted this was moved to the Personnel budget along with all town employee benefit costs that were removed from individual departments and included in the Personnel budget.

Brad Bingham of Byam Road clarified that the benefits were removed from the Personnel budget approximately seven years ago to be included in each department budget to show the true cost of each department. He wondered why this change was made as it is not typical for the business world. Jim noted the change was made in approximately 2014 at the request of the former Town Administrator. Personnel costs, especially insurance are costs for the town to do business, are out of the control of each department. Department managers and their budgets were being judged for costs they could not control. Bringing these costs back to the Personnel budget gives one area to look at but the budget line is itemized by each department. Department managers review this information when determining needed staffing levels. Brad noted alternatively, fuel is also broken out by department in the individual department budget.

Mark Suennen asked about the \$11,000 line for Professional Assessing. Assistant to the Town Administrator Laura Bernard noted that is the charge for the contracted assessor who has been working for the town for approximately eighteen years. He works in New Boston approximately one day per week. He also works for approximately four other towns. The contracted rate increased in 2022 for the first time in approximately seven years. 2021 was a revaluation year as required by the state. Measure and list requirements for the revaluation were subcontracted and the contracted Assessor evaluated the data gathered.

C.I.P. Committee Chairman Fred Hayes was present and asked if the contracted Assessor duties completed during the revaluation should be paid from the Revaluation CRF. Laura noted the Assessor revaluation tasks were itemized and paid from the CRF and the budget line Mark questioned is for annual work.

Mark commented on the Highway Department budget as follows:

- He is in favor of the new Tree Trimming line.
- He asked about the increase in the clerical budget line from \$9,000 to \$23,000. Road Agent Allen Brown was present and noted the clerical line increased as the longtime department secretary was previously working very short shifts on a variable schedule two to three days per week, Tuesday through Thursday. When Allen became Road Agent, he preferred more stable clerical support to get more accomplished, increasing the hours from twelve to twenty-four hours per week. Tasks include dispatching, paperwork, filing, preparing books documenting culverts/roads and charts. This allows the small road crew to focus their talents on roads instead of handling office tasks. The new hire is a very valuable asset to the department, working 6.5 hours per day four days per week. Allen is considering increasing the hours to full-time if the need arises.

Mark asked about the Mileage and Conference budget line across all departments as these lines include hotel stays and exorbitant mileage allowances, especially in the Building Department where the Department now uses a town vehicle. He recommended these lines be decreased by 75%. Finance Director Jennifer Allocca was present and noted these lines include a two- and half-day conference in North Conway for some employees. Employees also attend one day conferences locally. Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett was also present and noted all Transfer Station employees are required to attend a conference in Concord, NH, staggering days of attendance along with a four-to-five-day conference he attends in VT although these have been affected by pandemic restrictions.

Bill McFadden also noted the town now has a vehicle for employee use so mileage may not be needed. Jennifer noted there is only one town vehicle for employee use that is still in the refurbishment stage and there are three town inspectors who will be sharing that vehicle when it is ready, causing them to continue using personal vehicles at times and incurring mileage reimbursements required by the IRS. The mileage line request was decreased according to an analysis of the actual use over two years. This need will continue to be assessed in 2022 when the town vehicle is used.

Brad noted the Highway Department Salt budget line decreased by \$10,000 and the School District added \$10,000 of salt to its budget. He asked if this decrease was offset by the School District. Road Agent Allen Brown noted this is the first year the town charges the School District for the salt and material it uses while plowing the property.

Brad commented on the Transfer Station as follows:

- The School District budget includes \$2,000 for the Transfer Station School Recycling Program. He asked if this charge to the School District will decrease once the federal free school lunch program, caused by the pandemic, ends. Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett noted the town does not charge the School District, but the School District budgeted \$2,000 for any tonnage over 10,000 tons in 2022. If the School District does not load more than 10,000 tons in 2022 it will not pay the Transfer Station. The federal free school lunch program begun during the pandemic caused the School District to load more than 10,000, the cost of which was previously absorbed by the town.
- Tipping fees decreased. Gerry noted tipping fees have decreased throughout the state as trash volume is decreasing. This is not affected by Transfer Station use; it is a national

trend of decreased packaging.

Donna moved Article 5 onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written. Karen seconded the motion. 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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Trustee of Trust Funds Fred Hayes was present and noted the language is incorrect as the Forestry Truck is not being purchased, it is being refurbished. Finance Director Jennifer Allocca was present and noted this will be changed in the Article and the Explanation.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

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No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 2-1, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road was present and asked if this amount will be enough to complete the project and further funds will not be requested in future years. Road Agent Allen Brown was present and noted this request was from a previous administration. C.I.P. Committee Chairman Fred Hayes was present and noted the original quote from years ago was \$70,000.

Allen noted this amount is anticipated to complete the project along with materials the Highway Department already has in its inventory. Karen requested a list of what is requested and details of the planned addition. Allen noted the addition will include room for vehicle parking, office and a breakroom. He will provide additional information to the Select Board for review at the January 19, 2022 meeting.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road was present and asked the amount being returned by this Article. Trustee of Trust Funds Fred Hayes reported approximately \$600 is being returned.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road was present and asked the amount being returned by this Article. Trustee of Trust Funds Fred Hayes reported approximately \$2,000 is being returned.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Bill McFadden of Dane Road asked the amount requested in a similar 2021 Article. Fourth of July Committee member/Finance Director Jennifer Allocca confirmed this request is the same as 2021 \$7,000 for fireworks and \$4,500 for police detail.

**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 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 and own net assets not in excess of \$94,500 excluding the value of the person's residence and the first two acres of land. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 and own net assets not in excess of \$94,500 excluding the value of the person's residence and the first two acres of land. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

**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 April 1st, and remain in effect until altered by a future vote of the town meeting. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0, Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

Mark Suennen of Twin Bridge Road asked if a financial impact assessment was done to propose changing the percentage of LUCT going to the Commission v. the town. Finance Director Jennifer Allocca noted the amount changes year to year depending on the amount of land removed from Current Use. The town received \$60,000 in 2022, in previous years it ranged from \$35,000 to over \$60,000. According to the RSA, it is meant to discourage development. Approximately twenty years ago the tax was shared 50/50 between the Conservation Commission and the town. Conserving land saves taxpayers by preventing development as each house built is a net loss, especially if school aged children live there. 70% of New Boston land is protected in current use, conservation or municipal use. Mark noted if this Article is approved approximately \$50,000 will be removed from the general fund annually and taxpayers will be charged more taxes if more properties are placed into Conservation Easement/Current Use and removed from the tax rolls. Open Space Committee member Ken Lombard was present and noted the Committee is a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission and typically does not purchase land, it typically purchases easements preventing development of large parcels of land and Current Use is a separate classification allowed by NH law. The most recent occurrence was

a donation from the Commission to the PLC to purchase a parcel, but this is not typical.

**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 3-0 and Finance Committee Recommend 7-0)**

No comments.

## **B. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Trustee of Trust Funds Fred Hayes was present and noted the Trustees were unable to meet in December due to the pandemic, but he has analyzed the Trust Funds and recommends the Expendable Trust For Employee Benefits started in 2001 be closed. It contains approximately \$4,000 for a longevity gift for longstanding employee retirements. It has never been used and cannot be placed in a CD as it has to be available in case need arises. Keeping this trust fund incurs costs to the town in his time and fees from the fund manager RBC. The Select Board agreed to consider this for 2023.

Donna moved Article 6 through Article 30 onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session as written except Article 7 and the Explanation that has been amended to reflect “refurbishment” not “purchase.” Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Item 2: Safety Complex Petition Warrant Article:** Safety Complex Committee members Frank and Joyce Welton announced a Public Bond Hearing is scheduled for January 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Library when the committee will be presenting the Safety Facility project and representatives from the architecture firm and construction management firm will be attending. It is planned to be live streamed and available to view anytime at [https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location\\_id=108&id=42788](https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=108&id=42788) (townhallstreams.com/towns/newboston). A motion from the Select Board is needed to hold the bond hearing. This is a petition Warrant Article signed by registered New Boston voters and submitted to the town January 7, 2022 as required. This process seems last minute but there was a time factor in completing all that needed to be accomplished as voting was delayed from March to June of 2022. The Committee held many meetings since June and formed a subcommittee to design a long-term solution that is anticipated to last forty to fifty years. This bond includes offering the current police station to the Recreation Department for a community center, turning the Recreation building into a conference room and demolition of the current fire station and leveling of the area to be used for parking or green space as determined by the Select Board. The petition Warrant Article will be forwarded to the Select Board.

Finance Director Jennifer Allocca reported that according to NH DRA, this Article needs to be placed on the Warrant before the Operating Budget as it is a bond.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive was present and asked the normal procedure of placing a petition warrant article on the ballot.

Jim reported this is complicated as a bond is attached. The signatures are adequate to place it on the ballot. A bond of \$100,000 or more requires the Select Board to hold a Public Hearing which is scheduled for January 18, 2022 according to timelines required by law.

David read the Article aloud as follows:

**Article 05:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Eight Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,900,000)**, for the construction of a **Safety Complex** in the Town of New Boston and to include funds for the repurposing/demolition of the present Fire Station, for the roof repair and renovation of the current Police Station to be used by the Recreation Department, and for the renovation of the current Recreation Department building to create a large town meeting room. Said sum to be raised by issuance of a serial bond(s) or note(s) not to exceed **Eight Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,900,000)** under and in compliance with the provisions of Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bond(s) and note(s), to determine the rate(s) of interest thereon and to take such other actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bond(s) or note(s) as shall be in the best interest of the Town of New Boston. **(3/5 ballot vote required) (Submitted by Petition)**

***Explanation of Article 05:*** This Warrant Article is requesting funding for the new construction of a safety complex that would combine all emergency services in one central location on the vacant lot next to the post office. The requested funding would also cover the demolition of the existing fire station, and the repurposing of the current police station and recreation department building to serve the current and anticipated needs of the Town. With funds allocated at the 2021 Town meeting, a new committee was formed to investigate the need for a safety complex and to develop a conceptual design for the new facility. This committee incorporated representatives from the Fire Department, Police Department, and Town boards as well as private citizens. As designed, this facility is expected to serve New Boston's emergency services needs for the next 40 to 50 years.

Fred Hayes of Bedford Road noted language “3/5 ballot vote required” should be added. This will be confirmed with NH DRA. He requested a schedule be prepared outlining the costs associated with conversion of each building. Joyce noted this is available.

The amount noted in the Article was discussed as follows:

Joyce reported as the Committee determined this is the most the project is anticipated to cost while working with Turnstone Corp. contractor and SMP Architecture. The amount decreased from original proposal of \$9.6 million. The amount included in this Article includes renovations to the current police station to make it a recreation center.

Jim noted this is less than the failed 2022 Warrant Article for police station renovations that included police station needs and a septic that the recreation department will not need. If any renovations are needed in the future, they would be covered by creation of the expendable trust that is proposed as a 2022 Article.

Joyce noted information sessions with the architect are also scheduled for February 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM (planned to be live streamed and available to view anytime at

[https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location\\_id=108&id=42798](https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=108&id=42798))

(townhallstreams.com/towns/newboston) and 7:00 PM (planned to be live streamed and available to be viewed anytime at

[https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location\\_id=108&id=42797](https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=108&id=42797))

(townhallstreams.com/towns/newboston) at the library.

Mark Suennen requested sample bond schedules be available at the Bond Hearing. Finance Director Jennifer Allocca has been gathering these with Jim. She reported with TD Bank the interest rate can be locked in now before the Article is passed, the bond bank cannot do that. TD Bank also offered other options to consider if the Article passes.

Bill McFadden requested the current assessed value of the police station. Jim noted this will be available at the bond hearing.

David moved the petitioned Article onto the Warrant and Bond Hearing January 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM as written. Donna seconded the motion. Discussion: Karen is not available to attend. The motion carried. 2-1

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

None.

David moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:36 PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

**Item 3: Possible Request for Non-Public-Per RSA 91-A:3, II(b):** Adjourned to the town hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:** David moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. Donna seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting:  
Public Bond Hearing Whipple Free Library January 18, 2022 (6:00 PM)  
Mont Vernon Road- New Boston, NH 03070  
Phone: (603) 487-2500-[www.newbostonnh.gov](http://www.newbostonnh.gov)  
Handicap Access available**