

Adopted

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting January 28, 2019

PRESENT: Joe Constance Selectman
Rodney Towne Selectman
Christine Quirk Selectman via phone
Peter Flynn Town Administrator

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Road Agent Dick Perusse, Town Clerk Kim Colbert, Bill Gould, Joyce Welton, Keith Ammon 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 9:00AM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe noted the Selectmen are here to finalize things before the Deliberative Session. No changes are expected to the current Warrant unless NH DRA has further changes after a final review.

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Rodney moved to approve the consent agenda. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Joe 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 state their name and address for the record and that comments be respectful and thoughtful. The Board will listen but public comment is typically not a 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 Peter beforehand. Seeing none, Joe closed the first session of public comment.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

None.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 1: Approval of Public Minutes of January 7, 2019 and January 15, 2019 (Public Hearing): The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of January 7, 2019. Rodney moved the Public minutes of January 7, 2019 be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of January 15, 2019. Rodney moved the Public minutes of January 15, 2019 be accepted as presented. Joe seconded the motion. The motion carried. 2-0-1 (Christine abstained)

Item 2: Final Budget Recommendation for Deliberative Session: The Selectmen reviewed some Articles that were discussed at the Public Hearing as follows:

- Article 30 is for Police Department Portable Radios. It was suggested at the Public Hearing to encumber the funds from 2018 as Peter Flynn explained that there were enough funds available in the 2018 surplus.
- The Selectmen now agree the money should be encumbered. Rodney moved to remove the current Article 30 and encumber \$21,000 for Police Department portable radios from the 2018 budget. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0
- Article 24 is for Doherty Lane Bridge Repair. It was suggested at the Public Hearing to change the Article language to take \$130,000 for this from unreserved fund balance to have no effect on taxation. The Selectmen were concerned that if the money is spent now it would not be available to stabilize the tax rate in bad years of the economic cycle. This is still Joe's concern and he would rather use the unreserved fund balance then. New Boston has more than the state recommended minimum balance of 5%; New Boston has 9% with approximately \$1,657,000. This can be used to reduce the tax rate in some years but the tax rate would increase the next year. For example, the entire fund balance could be used to reduce the tax rate now by \$2.00 but next year the tax rate would increase \$2.00. Rodney and Christine are in favor of taking \$130,000 for this Article from the unreserved fund balance. This would bring the unreserved fund balance to \$1.4 million. The unreserved fund balance also includes unpaid taxes that are owed to the town and therefore covers property owners who are in default on their taxes. Rodney noted the only reason to spend off the top of the unreserved fund balance is because there is more money in there. This has been done before when the town used the unreserved fund balance to purchase land for the proposed fire station. The account earns interest. Rodney moved to change funding in current Article 24 to come from unreserved fund balance. Christine seconded the motion. The motion carried. 2-1

E. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 3: Town Administrators Report:

- Record Retention: The Committee met last week to prioritize copying to be done after Town Clerk records. Welfare records are expected to be the next to be copied.
- Recreation Commission Bus Shelter Update: The Recreation Commission approved shelter funding to come from the Recreation Revolving Account. The shelter will be a style similar to the ones at the Friendly Beaver Campground and expected to be built in the spring between the Recreation building and the concession stand.
- Laurel Lane and Drainage: This will be revisited in the spring with site visits with appropriate state agencies.
- Transfer Station Inquiry: Re: Glass Recycling: Rodney and Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett are discussing this. Rodney is researching options and it will take a while to determine what to do. Gerry has a plan for glass recycling until a decision is made. Gerry, Road Agent Dick Perusse and Town Engineer Kevin Leonard will meet to

consider if New Boston can use it as proposed as it is possible the proposal could save the town money for glass disposal that has been difficult for years.

- Hours of Building Department to be discussed in non-public.
- Deliberative Session Preparation: Peter prepared the binder for the Selectmen and will meet with the Town Moderator this morning as they do each year.
- Preliminary Results of Equalization Survey: Assessor George Hildum has prepared this but it is confidential pending Selectmen review.
- Appearance before the Legislature: Peter appeared before an Administrative Committee last week on behalf of the New Boston and Henniker communities to speak in favor of HB497 relative to reinstating state contributions to the NH Retirement System at 15%. This is worth \$23,000 to New Boston. The town sends \$100,000 per year to the state through penalty and fine assessment and no longer gets any back from the state for this police work. It is fair that some be returned to the police involved in the NH Retirement System that are doing this for the state.

Item 8: Selectmen's Reports:

- Joe reported the Forestry Committee will hold a work day tomorrow.
- Joe reported he spoke with NH Representatives that are keeping constituents well informed about proposed legislative bills that will affect municipalities. Joe attended a legislative session given by Andru Volinsky and John Tobin about the issue of school funding in NH. They have been giving presentations to NH towns and may come to New Boston to give a presentation.
- Rodney reported the Planning Board met with the new owner of the former Napa Auto Parts building who plans to convert the property for vehicle maintenance for his business. This is not an approved use so he will have to go to the Zoning Board for a variance. He does not need a new site plan but may need to update the current site plan. The Planning Board also held a Public Hearing for the Warrant Articles it is submitting. The Articles are submitted for numbering and final drafts are expected to be completed today.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Keith Ammon of Byam Road asked how long the Selectmen typically seal their non-public minutes. The Selectmen said they typically seal their non-public minutes for five years and there may be legal limitations to sealing minutes for eternity.

Item 5: Possible Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)(c): Legal.

Rodney made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a) (c) at 9:25 AM. 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: Joe Constance made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 9:35AM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36AM. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: February 4, 2019-Deliberative Session
New Boston Central School Gymnasium-7:00 PM**