

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting February 19, 2019

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

NH Representatives Kat McGhee, Donna Mombourquette and David Woodbury, School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert, Police Chief Jim Brace, Planning Coordinator Shannon Silver, Lou Nixon, Jenny and Dick Dilley, Karen Scott, Kaleb Jacob and two more 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 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 reappointment of Bill Gould to the Finance Committee for three years; reappointment of Mary Koon to the Open Space Committee for three years; appointment of Wendy Lambert to the Trustee of Trust Funds until March 2019 to fill a position caused by a resignation and reappointment of Laura Bernard to the Conservation Commission for three years. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

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.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive asked if the Trustee of the Trust Funds is an elected or appointed position. The Selectmen said it is an elected position but due to a resignation the Selectmen have the authority to appoint someone to the position until March 2019 on an emergency basis.

Karen Scott of Dane Road asked the status of posting Selectmen's 2019 meeting minutes on the town website. This will be investigated.

Seeing no further public comment, Joe closed the first session of public comment.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: State Representatives David Woodbury, Donna Mombourquette and Kathy McGhee: General Introductions and Informational Discussion Concerning Legislative updates: Representatives David Woodbury, Donna Mombourquette and Kat McGhee were present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss proposed bills concerning municipalities. There are 1,000 bills in the review process. The representatives are closely watching the school funding issue that affects many towns because of its impact on property taxes. There is a Senate bill about School Adequacy funding. There is also a Senate bill for reinstatement of the stabilization rate to municipalities that don't have a tax base to fund schools. This was originally planned to be decreased incrementally to zero similar to what happened with the NH Retirement System. The Governor met with state Representatives to give his budgetary address indicating what he is in favor of. Bills will be brought to him to sign or veto.

Representative David Woodbury noted he sits on the Judiciary Committee that does not work on matters of much interest to municipalities. He discussed bills as follows:

- They are considering a bill that is intended to make nondisclosure agreements and nondisparagement clauses unenforceable in settlements against towns as many people feel that is an inappropriate way to do business and if public money is spent on something the public should know what it is. This will go to executive session next month but does not seem to be of much interest to the Municipal Association.
- Right to Know changes when there is a disagreement with a municipality that are not expected to pass the House at this time.

Representative Donna Mombourquette noted she sits on the Municipal and County Government Committee who have heard forty bills and have nine more to hear. Thirty bills were recommended to the house to pass. Ten bills were killed. Seven bills were concerning. She discussed the bills as follows:

- HB 210 for civil actions against public officials in cities and towns that was not recommended as there are other remedies people can use if they feel aggrieved by the town.
- HB 232 relative to enforcement of immigration laws and prohibition of sanctuary cities requiring towns to participate in ICE.
- HB 403 to allow towns to use credit unions that the banking industry was against.
- HB 581 disallowing public funds for membership dues for public officials.
- HB 641 to allow municipalities to collect occupancy fees for room rentals.
- A bill to adjust income levels for eligibility for property tax relief for low income property owners.
- HB 136 passed the House to increase the maximum period for zoning boards to hold public hearings from 30 to 45 days.
- HB 245 relative to Planning Board procedure on plats allowing municipalities to define a shorter filing period than 21 days prior to meetings.
- HB 334 passed the House relative to disposition of certain municipal records especially police records amending RSA 33-A:3-a.

- HB 407 clarifying non-taxability of certain telecommunication equipment such as antennas. The Selectmen said New Boston does not tax the antennas just the property it is on.
- Repeal of definition of contracts relative to default budgets and official ballots expected to pass the House.
- HB 102 relative to municipal ordinances regarding use of single source plastics to allow towns to make a decision to ban plastic disposable items such as bags, straws and bottles.
- HB 409 relative to the maximum optional fee for transportation improvements charged by municipalities when collecting motor vehicle registration fees.
- HB 312 relative to municipal regulation of tiny houses. SNHPC is holding an information session Thursday.

Representative Kat McGhee noted she sits on the Science, Technology and Energy Committee. She discussed the bills as follows:

- HB 616 relative to COLA for NH Retirement System employees pending discussion on the floor.
- HB 497 relative to reinstatement of 15% NH Retirement System contribution from the state to towns is being reviewed by the House and seems promising at the Senate level.
- There are many energy bills. The Committee is working with the Office of Strategic Initiatives and NH DES to take correct steps to invest in appropriate economic steps to help the environment.
- There is a bill to raise net metering cap.
- The Committee is discussing microgrids for municipalities to produce energy.
- The Committee has visited several energy source sites in NH.
- A bill is proposed to decommission NH energy plants.

Item 2: Lou Nixon-To Speak On Behalf Of Dick Dilley Re: Classification of Mountain

Road and Signage: Dick and Jenny Dilley were present along with their realtor Lou Nixon to meet with the Selectmen to discuss classification of Mountain Road. Dick and Jenny Dilley are no longer residents of New Boston but do own this property in New Boston. Rodney moved to allow non-resident Dick Dilley to speak at this meeting to discuss his New Boston property. Joe seconded the motion. The motion carried. (2-0) Dick noted he formerly lived in New Boston for many years, moved out of town, sold some property but kept some at Mountain Road. Mountain Road was formerly maintained as a Class 5 road but this ceased as no one lived at the property and the road is now maintained as a Class 6 road. One end of the road is in New Boston and one end is in Lyndeborough. New Boston recently put in a culvert but access is not adequate as Lyndeborough does not maintain their end of the road and New Boston voted to change traffic on the road to one way in 1979. New Boston sought a legal opinion on how to handle this and the Selectmen look forward to a further response from town counsel before making a decision on this matter.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: Approval of Public and Non-Public Minutes of January 28, 2019: There are no non-public minutes. The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of January 28, 2019. Rodney

moved the Public minutes of January 28, 2019 be accepted as amended. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 4: Acceptance Of Town's Investment Policy: Peter reported the Trustees of the Trust Funds recently met. They have an Investment Policy. The municipality also has its own Investment Policy that the auditors need. It is signed annually and has not changed for many years. Rodney moved to approve and sign the Investment Policy. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 5: Town Administrators Report:

- Recreation Commission Bus Shelter Update: The Recreation Commission met January 18 and made a decision to approve and pay for a steel shelter. Construction will start in the spring.
- Confirmation of Recreation Commission's Response Re: Old Fire Station Interest: The Recreation Commission sent written confirmation that the Department is not interested in using the current fire station for Recreation Department business or activities if the proposed fire station is approved. The Selectmen have the authority to determine this if they consider it appropriate.
- Railing In Front Of Town Hall: Dan Towne is ordering the railing and will make the repair.
- Completed Warrant: Completed and sent to the NH DRA and posted within the required timeframe, all resulting from the Deliberative Session.
- Auditors Explanation of Fund Balance: The auditors provided a written explanation to confirm the explanation given at Selectmen's meetings and the Deliberative Session. This will be posted on the town website and official Facebook page.

Item 6: Selectmen's Reports:

- The Planning Board cancelled their recent meeting so there is no report.
- Joe reported the Forestry Committee held a successful work day. They are ordering the Christmas trees for the current NBCS first graders to plant. An educational forest walk with the County Forester will be scheduled with NBCS sixth graders.
- Joe is available to volunteer for the Piscataquog Land Conservancy Advisory Committee unless another Conservation Commission member chooses to participate. Peter is working to confirm volunteers for this Committee.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

Item 7: Chief James Brace-Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)(c): Legal Issue. Rodney moved to enter into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a)(b)(c) at 6:46 PM. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0 Poll Vote: Joe-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 7:01 PM. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Joe moved to seal the minutes for 5 years. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Item 8: Possible Action Resulting from Non-Public Session: Rodney moved to hire Tanya Marie Bellmore as a full time Police Officer as of March 18, 2019. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

ADJOURNMENT: Rodney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 2-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on March 4, 2019 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available**