

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting October 21, 2019

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Joe Constance	Selectman
	Karen Scott	Selectman
	Christine Quirk	Selectman
	Peter Flynn	Town Administrator

Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, School Board Chairman Kary Jencks, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Patrick Burke, Keith Ammon, Keith Gentili, David Litwinovich, Kaleb Jacob and Bill McFadden and several other 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. Christine moved to approve the consent agenda. Karen 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 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.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive read aloud the Selectmen's Meeting Procedures III-G that was included in tonight's meeting packet. He felt a member of the audience was allowed to criticize Selectman Scott at a previous meeting. Joe noted it was not a criticism but a question. Kaleb asked Karen if she felt the same as Joe. Karen noted she does not.

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

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Mike Sindoni-Proposal to Relocate Monument in Town Common and Discussion of a New Fundraising Proposal for Brick Walkway: Recreation Director Mike Sindoni was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- Proposals for the Town Common: Architect David Ely of Windy Hill Associates prepared a drawing of the proposal that was reviewed. Mike reviewed the history of the proposal from the Recreation Commission. He noted the gazebo is twenty-five years old

and in good shape. No major renovations or repairs have been needed, it is powerwashed and painted every couple years. The steps and handrails were repaired about six years ago due to damage from winter conditions. The roof tiles are starting to come off. The roof is in six sections and some that get direct sun are getting damaged and those in the shade are growing moss. It may need to be replaced in the next couple years. To replace in the current style may be costly, it may be replaced with something less costly but still a nice style. Some have suggested fundraising for future gazebo maintenance with a brick walkway as some have asked to get a brick and some of the current bricks are damaged, some would be replaced. The new bricks should match the current bricks that would stay. A new walkway to the parking lot and brick or paver area in front of the gazebo is proposed. Lighter bricks or pavers could be added around the monument probably without names, and the monument could be moved to remind visitors to the town common to be more respectful of the monument. Moving the monument would open the common more and the flag poles would be moved to keep the flags from getting caught in the trees. Requests for quotes are out and this would be covered by the fundraising. It would not be moved too close to the road to prevent damage from possible accidents, winter plows and sand and salt road treatments. Mike plans to bring more details to the Selectmen.

Patrick Burke of Cedar Drive noted the monument is paid for and that should be considered when moving it is proposed. Joe noted he suggested the bricks around the monument not have names out of respect, keep the area clean but enhanced.

- Recreation Bus Shelter: TNT Carports indicated two weeks ago they would be delivering orders to New Hampshire this week, with installation within a week after delivery. Mike will contact them tomorrow to get an update on our order. At the last Selectmen's meeting, the Selectmen asked Mike to find a space for winter storage if the shelter was not installed in time. Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett approached Mike and offered an area at the Transfer Station to park the bus during winter storms.
- Eagle Scout Candidate Sean Hunter met with the Selectmen a few months ago with a proposal to build a winter ice skating rink at the softball field. Mike met him last week where they measured a 65'x95' area that would cover most of the ballfield. Sean met with the Recreation Commission last week, is finalizing measurements and will continue working on this after November 3. He has been fundraising and the project is expected to take place weather permitting. The public is expected to enjoy having this in town. Mike and Sean will meet with the Selectmen again to update them.

Item 2: Dan Macdonald-Fire Chief-Review of FEMA Grant And Request for Acceptance:

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald was present to meet with the Selectmen to request FEMA grant acceptance and proceed with compressor installation. Dan reported the Fire Department applied for a \$207,000 grant in 2017 to replace all SCBAs and compressor. In 2018 FEMA granted \$168,000 for SCBA replacements, \$161,000 from FEMA with \$7,500 town match requirement. The total cost was included in the CIP Schedule and this cost was avoided for the town. The Department applied for a grant for the compressor in 2018 and that \$47,800 was awarded, \$45,238 from FEMA with \$2,276 town match. The current procedure to refill air in SCBA tanks is to send a Department member to Weare or Bedford where they spend about five hours filling them on their own time. With the compressor the tanks can be easily filled at the New

Boston station. Christine moved to accept the \$47,800 FEMA grant. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: Approval of Public and Non-Public Minutes of October 7, 2019: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of October 7, 2019. Christine moved the Public minutes of October 7, 2019 be accepted as amended. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of September 16, 2019. Karen moved the Non-Public minutes of September 16, 2019 be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the Non-Public minutes of October 7, 2019. Karen moved the Non-Public minutes of October 7, 2019 be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 4: Second Reading-Cell Phone at Municipal Meetings Policy: Angela Sullivan presented a letter to the Board at the September meeting. Peter researched New Boston policies and found the suggestion in the letter could be added to the Selectmen's Meeting Procedures. The Selectmen reviewed the drafted revision at this second reading and Public Hearing. Joe opened the Public Hearing at 6:24 PM.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive asked how this suggestion came about as he has attended meetings for three years and has not noticed any issues with cell phone use. He asked if there was an issue. The Selectmen noted there was not an issue, but Angela Sullivan brought a letter to the Board expressing concern about cell phones on the table. The Chairman instructed Peter to deal with it and it was a first reading at the October 7 meeting. Joe noted it has not been a problem but could be and this is a good preemptive move. The policy is for the Board, not the audience and allows for emergencies. Kaleb asked if it covers Selectmen skyping at meetings via iPad and if that would be a concern as the device has capability to record, ring and text. The Selectmen decided to limit this to cell phones for now. The Selectmen are expecting to use iPads more in meetings to reduce paper. If any issue with iPads becomes more prolific, it can be considered for the policy.

Keith Ammon of Byam Road asked who this applies to and the rules. The Selectmen noted it applies to the Board and the rules are outlined in the Procedures, the cell phone language is section I-E.

Patrick Burke of Cedar Drive asked who would make an exception for emergencies. The Selectmen noted the Board would make the exception and it would be transparent to the audience.

Karen moved to accept the addition of Section I-E to Selectmen's Meeting Procedures and waive the third reading. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 5: Approval of Selectmen's Meeting Schedule For 2020: The Selectmen reviewed the proposed 2020 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule as follows:

- Karen noted the Public Budget hearing date has changed. Peter noted it was moved to January 21 to prevent two back to back meetings if the Public Budget Hearing was kept to the original date of January 13. Karen noted she is not available on Tuesdays. Some Selectmen's meetings are scheduled on Tuesdays if Mondays are a holiday. The Selectmen moved the Public Budget Hearing to January 13.
- Karen noted there is a Selectmen's meeting scheduled for February 18 and she is not available that night. The Selectmen moved this meeting to February 19.
- Karen noted there is a Selectmen's meeting scheduled for September 8 and she is not available that night. The Selectmen decided to meet only once in September, on September 21.
- Joe moved to approve the amended 2020 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 6: Approval of Selectmen's Holiday Schedule For 2020: The Selectmen reviewed the 2020 town Holiday schedule prepared as it is every year. Karen moved to approve the 2020 Holiday Schedule as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 7: Acceptance of Funding of Recycle Truck At NBCS-\$19,995: The auditors, Finance Director and School Board requested this be accepted again as the motion is not found in the minutes. Joe moved to reiterate the Board's support and accept funding for Recycle Truck at NBCS for \$19,995. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 8: Disposition of \$56,627 Municipal Aid Received from State Of NH: Peter reported New Boston received a check as did all NH communities awarded because of compromising in the legislature on the budget. New Boston received \$56,627. The state and NH DRA have given the town options of how to use the money such as apply it to offset the next tax bill, apply it to an upcoming budget item or add to the fund balance. Peter recommends applying it to offset taxes. The Selectmen agreed and noted it is not the only funds being applied to offset taxes and the School District is also applying funds received from the state as well. Karen moved to apply the \$56,627.00 to offset taxes. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 9: Acceptance of Resignation-Finance Director: Peter announced Finance Director Elisa Fitzgerald is resigning to accept a position in another town for a substantial amount more than she would earn in New Boston, it is closer to her home and they participate in the NH Retirement System that New Boston does not (New Boston offers a 457 Plan for Retirement purposes). Peter noted Elisa began working in New Boston three years ago after two previous Bookkeepers had left the position and Elisa brought the position to a higher level and the new candidate is hoped to continue this. Joe noted Elisa was able to make full use of the Finance computer system and leave instructions for the next person on how to do that. Elisa loved working in New Boston, but the town of Jaffrey sought her out and November 14 is her last day. The position has been advertised on the NH Municipal Association ad list. The Selectmen propose advertising it once in the Union Leader to attract qualified candidates. Joe moved to accept Elisa Fitzgerald's resignation with regret. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 10: Town Administrators Report:

- Recreation Bus Shelter: As above.
- Update on Record Retention Committee: The Committee will meet again after gathering more budget information.
- Status on Rear Firehouse Lot: The Selectmen asked this be considered for Fire Department personnel parking when events are going on downtown. Peter is reviewing this with Town Engineer Kevin Leonard. Environmental and wetland aspects may be involved, and Peter will continue to update the Board.
- Special Donation Account for Village Sign: Peter set up an account to accept donations toward the New 'New Boston' Sign at Village Triangle proposed by Gail Parker at the October 7 Selectmen's meeting.
- Doherty Lane Bridge: Road Agent Dick Perusse recommended the funds be encumbered for 2020 due to issues beyond his control causing delayed bid requests and ability to complete the project in 2019.
- Transfer Station Foreman Position: Elaine has been processed to fill this position and this is in order.
- Fire Station Siding: This project has begun and expected to be completed soon.

Item 11: Selectmen's Reports: Karen reported the following:

- The Road Committee meeting is scheduled for November 6 at 5:30 PM to get the group together to come up with solutions to several road problems and develop ways to resolve future problems.
- She noted there appears to be a common theme in questioning Karen's methods and reasons for voting in the manner she uses as follows:
 - She noted being a Selectman is new to her, she did not go to school on how to be a Selectman. She attended meetings for a couple years before running for election and found that what happens in the audience is different from what happens in the Selectman position. She was told in the beginning if she had any questions, just ask as everyone is accessible to answer questions. She has asked questions and found that many people are very helpful. She asked Town Administrator questions and has been told many things, some helpful, some confusing after the fact.
 - At a recent Selectmen's meeting many people attended to discuss the proposed Noise Ordinance. After that meeting Karen was accused of inciting bad behavior on the part of the citizens that attended. She disagrees. From the beginning, she insisted the public be aware of the meeting and allowed to voice their opinions and concerns, in favor or against. She was asked 'do you really want to do this' and her answer was a resounding yes. When she ran for Selectman, she told the citizens that when big topic items came forth she would make sure they had a voice and they would help in the decision-making process, and she will keep her word. She does not and will not belong to the good old boys or girls club. She was elected to represent all citizens and is doing her best to represent the best interest of all citizens and not a select few. She will never vote on an issue or sign off on something without understanding what she is voting on or signing.
 - At the October 7 meeting she was asked why she voted no on salary changes. She explained she had not received information she was seeking to make an educated and informed decision. The Town Administrator denies receiving such a request

but e-mails and phone conversations state otherwise. She will not dispute this but will note she has not received some of the requested information.

- Previously, she was accused by resident Susan Carr about being rude to town employees when she stopped, talked to them and asked a few questions. Karen has met with the employees since and all agreed she was not rude but there are still discrepancies and another meeting has been scheduled.
- At a Selectman's meeting Bill Gould suggested Karen not speak to town employees without speaking to the applicable Department Manager because she is a Selectman. She is also a citizen and will speak to the people she pays taxes to support.
- Some employees feel she does not care about them because she was unable to attend the Employee Appreciation Cookout sponsored by the Selectmen. Karen recommended coordinating the date with the Selectmen to ensure they are available. She was instructing CPR classes that day that could not be rescheduled to adjust her schedule.
- She is new to this position and may and will make mistakes but is working as hard as possible to ensure the citizens are represented fairly and justly. She will not just vote "yes" or "no" because that is what everyone else is voting. She will vote for what she believes in. Anyone is free to ask questions, including her.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Keith Ammon of Byam Road thanked the Selectmen for applying the \$56,627 municipal aid from the state to offset taxes. He noted this is only half the money and asked what the Selectmen plan to do when the next anticipated municipal aid donation is received from the state. The Selectmen noted this is not guaranteed and cannot be planned for at this time. Keith suggested begin planning for it now, especially if there is a real need as it is a one-time donation and cannot be used for an ongoing project that would create a burden on taxpayers that would not already be there. The Selectmen noted this was discussed at the October 7 meeting where it was noted the FY21 donation is not assured. Keith noted his suggestion also applies to the School District.

Patrick Burke of Cedar Drive noted he watched the video of the October 7 Selectmen's meeting, saw what happened at this meeting and noticed infighting among the Board that does not need to be made public.

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive noted the following:

- Asked if the Selectmen know the amount of aid the School District is getting from the state. School Board Chairman Kary Jencks was present and noted she is unsure of the exact amount. This was discussed at the October 7 Selectmen's meeting where a letter from Senator Dietsch to the Selectmen dated September 26 was read aloud that said, "Over the biennium, New Boston will receive \$108,458 in this unrestricted revenue distribution, plus \$885,632 in additional education funding, for a total of \$994,090 in municipal aid over the FY 2020-21 biennium."
- He has noticed Karen has been researching and digging over the past three years and he is proud of how she represents citizens by looking at all sides and not coming to a quick vote, takes restraint and that may cause her to not get along with some people. He is

sorry for that, knows it is hard for all Selectmen and noted the citizens elected Karen and expect the Selectmen to get along and make it work.

Item 11: Possible Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(b) and (c) Legal and Personnel: Joe moved to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A: II (c) at 6:50PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Poll Vote: Joe-yes, Christine-yes, and Karen-yes. Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session: Christine made a motion to exit Non-Public Session at 6:55PM. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0.

Joe moved to seal the non-public minutes for five years with Christine seconding the motion. All voted in the affirmative 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Karen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

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