

Approved

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

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

Fire Chief Dan MacDonald, Fire Wards Dale Smith, Wayne Blassberg, Dan Teague and Dick Moody, Susan Carr, Mary Constance, David Litwinovich, Keith Gentili, Kaleb Jacob, Bill McFadden and Karen Scott 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 acceptance of \$779.69 matching 50% Grant from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership and Capital Assets and Depreciation modification as requested by the Auditors. Christine 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:

Item 1: Fire Wards-Re: Warrant Article Proposal for Restructuring Fire Department Chain Of Command: Fire Chief Dan MacDonald and Fire Wards Dale Smith, Wayne Blassberg, Dan Teague and Dick Moody were present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss a proposal for restructuring Fire Department chain of command. Dale noted the Fire Wards are here to change Fire Department governance per RSA 154:1. The Fire Department currently operates under (e) and proposes to change to (a) to streamline the reporting structure as the Fire Wards may not be the appropriate group to manage the Fire Chief in the future. This process may take one or two years.

Dan Teague noted the Chief position is the primary driver for this proposal as Dan MacDonald will not be Chief forever and the next Fire Chief may not come from within the New Boston Fire

Department. The Fire Wards are not available to supervise a full time Fire Chief. This proposal will bring the Fire Chief position in line and consistent with other town departments, the Selectmen and Town Administrator would hire a Chief after an interview process and put a step and grade program in place.

Dick noted he is the only Fire Ward that does not agree to disband the Fire Wards. He has been a Fire Ward for thirty-seven years and noticed varying support of the Fire Department from the Town Administrator and Selectmen over the years. They are currently supportive of the Fire Department but he is concerned that they may not always be in support. He has been on the Fire Department forty-nine years total. There are currently seven Fire Wards and all are on the Department but they don't have to be on the Department to be a Fire Ward. He thinks it is worthwhile to continue the Board of Fire Wards. New Boston has had Fire Wards since 1846. It has done a wonderful job and it is not time to end especially if things at the Department change.

Dan MacDonald noted the Department has drastically changed and is now one of the biggest and busiest call Fire Departments around. It is not an easy job to run the Department. It takes a lot of time. He does not expect a part time Chief to commit to these needs in the future and be successful. He serves by choice as a part time chief but spends a lot of time doing the work he inherited from New Boston Chiefs that served before him.

The Selectmen noted the Fire Wards duties are now more technical than they were in the past and asked if seven Fire Wards are too many or if this is a personnel management issue. Dan Teague said the issues are personnel management regarding the Chief position and the possible makeup of the Board. His concern of disbanding the Fire Wards is giving too much power to a Chief who might make demands that would not make sense for New Boston. The current Fire Wards are concerned about expectations on them to hire a Chief as there is a lot of liability involved in the Chief position and qualifications needed.

Wayne noted over the past few years some of the tactical tasks the Fire Wards did were taken over by Fire Department Officers. The Fire Wards now focus on personnel and budgets. Committees do research on Department needs and bring proposals to the Fire Wards for approval. The need for the Fire Wards has decreased.

Dick noted Dan MacDonald has done a phenomenal job and saved many tax dollars with the Fire Department and it is one of the most successful Fire Departments around. He noted surrounding towns who were formerly volunteer departments similar to New Boston hired Chiefs who then hired paid members. The New Boston Fire Department is still a call department with fifty members. At some point New Boston will need paid firefighters.

The Selectmen asked what the transition expectation is.

Dan MacDonald noted it will happen eventually based on call volume and motivation of the Chief. The New Boston Fire Department is fortunate due to the efforts of many people involved with the Fire Department. He said infrastructure and leadership are important to motivating volunteers. The current personnel are inspired to do whatever it takes to make the Fire Department environment work. This is not expected to continue in future generations. The

future Fire Department leadership would be the same as other town departments with sophisticated leadership.

The Fire Wards propose a Warrant Article for 2019 with a new leadership model to begin in 2020 according to the RSA. The Fire Wards approved this proposal with a 6-1 vote at a recent Fire Ward meeting. The Selectmen directed any public inquiry to the Fire Ward meetings that are posted. The Town Administrator will help the Fire Department draft a Warrant Article. Dan MacDonald noted all the Fire Wards have served the Department for many years and this was not an easy decision for them but they did so to better serve New Boston.

The Selectmen asked the Fire Wards to consult with other towns that have made this transition to learn the appropriate way to identify areas of change and ensure duties are legally transitioned.

Item 2: Susan Carr: Discussion Re: Community Transportation Funding Possibility:

Susan Carr was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss transportation for senior citizens with the Mobility Management Initiative grant. The Selectmen agree there is a need for this service in New Boston and there are no known similar services in New Boston. Susan is working on this with the Southern NH Planning Commission. She is requesting a 2019 Warrant Article for \$15,000 to show the town has made a commitment to this purpose to help the town be eligible for the grant. The grants continue every year. The Selectmen are concerned the grant would not continue every year and this service would then cost the town more money. The Selectmen asked for more information on the grantee, cost per year and if the town could commit less than \$15,000. The Selectmen are interested in the proposed Warrant Article pending more information. Peter will work with Susan to draft the Warrant Article.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: Approval of Public and Non-Public Minutes of December 3, 2018: The Selectmen reviewed the Public minutes of December 3, 2018. Christine moved the Public minutes of December 3, 2018 be accepted as presented. Rodney seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 There was no non-public session on December 3, 2018.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 4: Review The Proposed Department Budget Summaries And Warrant Articles To Be Submitted For Finance Committee Vote At The January 10th Meeting: The Selectmen will prioritize the Warrant Articles at their first January meeting before the Public Budget Hearing. The Selectmen reviewed the draft Warrant Articles as follows:

- Article 8 for a fire station is pending. The Selectmen requested Article language by the end of this week.
- Article 11 is for a change of purpose and does not have to do with the fire station building. A legal opinion was obtained on this article stating that it could not include any building construction use.
- Article 12 for dispatch services has not changed since the December 3 Selectmen's meeting.
- Article 17 for the salt shed was previously consisting of three Warrant Articles when reviewed at the December 3 Selectmen's meeting but is now one Article.

- Article 19 is a new Article as discussed with Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett at the December 3 Selectmen's meeting.
- Article 27 for Mill Pond Walking Footbridge may not be needed as funds may be able to be placed in a trust fund without Town Meeting approval according to Fred Hayes, Trustee Chair. These are funds were previously received through donations and the auditors requested an account be established. Peter is still seeking verification of whether to create a warrant article.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 4: Town Administrators Report:

- Budget Status and Update: Expenditures and revenues continue to be monitored. The Town is operating within the 2018 budget.
- Record Retention: No update.
- Recreation Commission Bus Shelter Update: Peter and Joe viewed various styles of shelters at Friendly Beaver Campground and came back with ideas of affordable possibilities at approximately \$2,000 to be placed between the Recreation building and the concession stand. The Recreation Commission is interested in this choice and can raise money if they want something more. The proposed \$2,000 shelter could be transferred to another town department at that time.
- Laurel Lane Pond and Drainage: Peter contacted NH DES who referred him to several other agencies that might be able to help with regulations covering these issues.
- Revision of Selectmen's Calendar: February 18 is a holiday so the Selectmen's meeting was moved to February 19. There was a mistake in September that should read Tuesday September 3. The Selectmen agreed to these changes.
- Transfer Station Inquiry Re: Glass Recycling: Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett is obtaining information on how to dispose of glass. He has been in discussion with a local company who might be interested in taking the glass off the town's hands. The Selectmen suggested he hold a meeting with the Road Agent and Town Engineer to discuss options.
- Master Plan: The Master Plan is now complete and concise. The Selectmen thanked the Planning Department and Board for their work on this.

Item 9: Selectmen's Reports:

- Rodney reported the Planning Board met last week and discussed the following:
 - Planning and zoning ordinance amendments.
 - Ecosmith Recyclers located on Byam Road requested placement of additional containers. The Board is in favor pending a scale drawing.
 - The Fire Wards and Fire Inspector have been working on amendments to water supply rules. The Board is in favor and asked if the Selectmen want this to go to public vote. The Selectmen will review the information to determine if a public vote is necessary. They also requested that the information be stated clearly. The Planning Board can implement the change without a public vote if the Selectmen decide a public vote is not necessary. Rodney and Christine are in favor of the proposed amendments. Joe will review them and decide tomorrow. Planning Board member David Litwinovich was present and noted Town Attorney Bill Drescher

reviewed the proposed amendments and suggested not making a change as the state has not changed the law. The proposed change would have significant cost to developers and subdivisions.

- Joe reported the Forestry Committee will hold a work day tomorrow at its American Tree Farms. Forestry Committee member Kim DiPietro brought in two certificates designating two town forests as American Tree Farms and asked that they be framed and hung in the Town Hall. The Selectmen approved.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Drive was present and noted he and others attended the recent Fire Ward meeting where they discussed restructuring the Fire Department chain of command as discussed above. He stated his opinion at that meeting and posted a recording of the meeting on You Tube.

Item 6: Possible Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(b)(c): Personnel and Legal. None.

ADJOURNMENT: Rodney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on January 7, 2019 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
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Handicap Access available**