

1 **BOARD OF SELECTMAN MINUTES**  
2 **September 12, 2011**  
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4 Chairman Bruce Bowler called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. Selectman  
5 present: Tom Grella, George Infanti and Dwight Brew. Also present, Town  
6 Administrator, James O' Mara and Minute Taker, Beth Penney.  
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8 **Call to Order**  
9

10 Mr. Bowler called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.  
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12 **Pledge of Allegiance**  
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14 Mr. Grella led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
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16 **Citizens' Forum**  
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18 David Hanson, the new commander of the New Boston Tracking Station and also  
19 an Amherst citizen introduced himself to the board. He discussed the significant  
20 changes at the station in the last 52 years. The New Boston Tracking Station is  
21 now in charge of five geographic units all over world.  
22

23 Charlie Vars from the Lyons Club discussed how the Lyons Club bought the  
24 reviewing stand and a sound system. The Lyons Club used the rest of their  
25 budget to buy bags for the sound system. Mr. Vars showed the board the bags  
26 that were purchased. The sound system is available for use and is up to the  
27 selectman to make the decision to who can use it. The Lyons Club is buying  
28 another bag for the mixer and amplifier unit.  
29

30 Charlie Vars also brought forward a safety issue. He has witnessed many issues  
31 with the cut off from Jones Rd to Mack Hill Rd. He stated that Mr. Grella brought  
32 forward this issue to the DPW. He fears for the homes close to the cut-off when  
33 they back out of their driveway. He has also seen people drive the wrong way up  
34 the cut-off. Removing this cut-off has been brought forward to the board before.  
35 He stated that since the pavement on Mack Hill is ground already and the cut-off  
36 is too, this maybe the time to remove the cut-off. The cut-off has not been used  
37 all summer because it has been a staging area for the Mack Hill work. He  
38 suggested leaving the cut-off ground down and having the DPW put wood posts  
39 in front of the cut-off to prevent people from using it and bring the issue before  
40 the safety committee. The issue could be brought to the town's people in the  
41 spring and either way it would be easy to remove the cut-off or to hot top it in the  
42 spring.  
43

44 Mr. Bowler stated that no complaints have been heard about the cut-off being  
45 closed all summer. He also stated that this issue would be put on the agenda for

46 the 26<sup>th</sup> for further discussion. He stated that they could hold off till spring till  
47 voters decide and Continental would take care of it in the spring either way.

48  
49 Mr. Bowler asked Chief Lyon to discuss the issue with the safety committee in  
50 the next two weeks. He asked the public to come on the 26<sup>th</sup> if they disagree  
51 with removing the cut-off. This is a good place to eliminate pavement and add  
52 more green.

53  
54 Mr. Brew stated that the town has been moving away from intersections that are  
55 not 90 degrees. He would like to hear back from safety committee before the  
56 26<sup>th</sup>.

57  
58 Mr. Rowe stated that a safe intersection is a 90-degree intersection. A driver  
59 almost has to look 230 degrees to the left at end of cut-off to look at the four  
60 other places where cars can come from. He discussed the history of Mack Hill  
61 and Jones Rd. and that the cut-off was originally put in for horse drawn wagons  
62 to get into the barnyard. He stated this is an opportunity to increase the size of  
63 the green and put in a walkway. This would be safer and more attractive.

64  
65 Ken Miller stated he travels the cut-off 4 or 5 times a day. The intersection of  
66 Jones Rd. and Mack Hill may need to be an arc at the stop sign because school  
67 buses would have a hard time making the turn. It is mandatory to remove the cut-  
68 off.

69  
70 Steve Coughlan, the Town Moderator, introduced the Ways and Means  
71 committee to the board. He also stated that they are still looking for 2 alternatives  
72 for the committee.

73

74

### **Discussion Items**

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#### **Eagle Scout Project**

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78 Nancy McMillan introduced Ian Gowell to the board.

79

80 Ian described his Eagle Scout project where he made three gardens at PMEC,  
81 including a Three Sisters Garden with corn, beans, and squash. He also made  
82 raised gardens by the handicapped ramp.

83

84 Ms. McMillan stated that he started in late spring. She was impressed with his  
85 design plan, how he got the community involved and how he raised money for this  
86 project. He had about \$425 left over and she hopes the money will be reinvested  
87 into the gardens for next year.

88

89 The board and the Scout Master discussed when Ian would become an Eagle  
90 Scout.

91

92 **Administrative Business**

93  
94 **Mr Infanti moved to accept the minutes from August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Brew**  
95 **seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

96  
97 **Mr. Infanti moved to approve the payroll register in the amount of**  
98 **\$342,941.56. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

99  
100 **Mr. Brew moved to approve the accounts payable register in the amount of**  
101 **\$3,924,698.12. Mr. Infanti seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

102  
103 **Town Administrator Report**

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105 Mr. O'Mara stated that there have been 53 hearings for the assessments. He  
106 stated this is very light based on the changes. The hearings are scheduled  
107 through next Thursday. He will bring the forms to the next board meeting.

108  
109 Mr. Infanti stated that MRI and Vision said the hearings were light also. People  
110 are not scheduling hearings because the appraisals have gone down. He stated  
111 that their taxes would not go down because the tax rate will go up. People are  
112 pleased with the process and the majority of people are accepting of the  
113 responses they are getting.

114  
115 Mr. O' Mara stated that there is a request for the use of Cemetery Fields for a  
116 soccer tournament and they need board approval.

117  
118 **Mr. Infanti moved to allow the board chair to sign to allow the use of**  
119 **Cemetery Field for a soccer tournament. Mr. Brew seconded the motion.**  
120 **Vote: Unanimous.**

121  
122 Hurricane Irene - Overview

123  
124 Mr. Bowler thanked Mr. Berry, Chief Lyon, Mr. Gleason and the Fire Chief for the  
125 time they put in that weekend. He also stated that Mr. O'Mara was involved and  
126 they were well prepared and the citizens were well prepared.

127  
128 Mr. Gleason explained the After Action Report to the board. He described the  
129 Pre-Storm planning including the emergency preparedness plan, coordination of  
130 staffing for departments by adding additional people for the duration of the storm,  
131 having instant access to town website to post information, use of the electronic  
132 message board on Rt. 122, bringing in the CERT team, and having a HAM radio  
133 for the police on Sunday. This was a great resource because they had instant  
134 knowledge about the state EOC status. They also did Pre-storm Field  
135 Assessments of Parkhurst Place, Amherst Gardens, and looking at the  
136 Souhegan River levels. Steve Coughlan was a great asset because he posted

137 storm advisories on channel 20. Patch also had a live blog to give additional  
138 information.

139  
140 Mr. Gleason described the Damage Assessment and explained how Code Red  
141 worked for the 6,200 subscribers. He also encouraged residents to go on to  
142 www.Ready.gov for families to form pre-planning strategies.

143  
144 The board discussed the great job they did at being ready for the storm and how  
145 it was pro-active and professional.

146  
147 Mr. Bowler thanked Steve Coughlan for channel 20.

148  
149 Liz Overholt asked that the CODE Red messages have a date and time added to  
150 the message.

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152

### Action Items

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155 Unanticipated Revenue

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157 **Mr. Infanti moved to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of**  
158 **\$26.50 from the State of New Hampshire, Department of Corrections. Mr.**  
159 **Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

160

161 **Mr. Infanti moved to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of**  
162 **\$4,332.40 from the State of New Hampshire. Mr Grella seconded the motion.**  
163 **Vote: Unanimous.**

164

165 OHRV Ordinance Proposal

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167 John Harvey, Chair of Conservation Commission, stated that the ACC is seeking  
168 approval for this draft ordinance, and he is here to answer questions and discuss  
169 issues.

170

171 Mr. Harvey and the board discussed that this ordinance is only for town property  
172 or ACC property. The ordinance would require the operator of a snowmobile to  
173 obtain a permit from the town clerk each day they want to ride on town land.

174

175 Mr. Harvey and the board discussed the idea of a permit. They determined the  
176 town clerk would not be the best person to give out permits because the town  
177 hall is only open five days a week. The reasoning for a permit is to regulate the  
178 use of snowmobiles based on snow depth.

179

180 Mr. Brew reminded the board the reasoning for having this ordinance is to give  
181 police leverage to ask OHRVs to leave town property. The ordinance defines in  
182 advance where vehicles are permitted or not. In order to use the land by

183 snowmobilers they will need a permit or will not be able to use land. Permits are  
184 not always going to be issued because of the depth of snow.

185  
186 The board and Mr. Harvey discussed the use and issuing of permits. They  
187 discussed a seasonal pass, having the dispatch issue permits, posting on the  
188 town website when snowmobiles were allowed on town land and changing part of  
189 the ordinance to include a snow depth and not using permits. They also  
190 discussed that the ordinance is to control the use of snowmobiles on town land  
191 not only because of habitat destruction, but for noise control also.

192  
193 Mr. Brew and Mr. Harvey agreed to work on a new draft with rewording of the  
194 clause about snowmobiles for the next meeting.

195  
196 **Mr. Brew moved to table this discussion till the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr.**  
197 **Infanti seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

198  
199 Fire Department Grant

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201 Mr. O'Mara stated that the fire chief would like to apply for grant with 5% match,  
202 for the purpose of adding money to the capital reserve. The grant requires  
203 endorsement by the selectman and a signature. A 5% match would be \$21, 250.

204  
205 The Board discussed approval of this application and if grant would be awarded  
206 where the 5% would come from.

207  
208 **Mr. Infanti moved to support the fire chief in submitting the grant**  
209 **application. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

210  
211 Award Public Works Department Bids

212  
213 Mr. Berry discussed each of the 5 bids received for winter sand and recommend  
214 to Pike Industries for \$7.85 per ton of sand. Last year the town paid about \$7.40  
215 per pound.

216  
217 **Mr. Infanti moved to accept the bid from Pike Industries for \$7.85 per ton of**  
218 **sand. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

219  
220 Mr. Berry described the specifications for the Dump body with sander and plow.  
221 He described the four bids received and recommend EW Sleeper in the amount  
222 of \$74,796.

223  
224 **Mr. Infanti moved to accept the bid from EW Sleeper in the amount of \$74,**  
225 **796. Mr. Grella seconded the motion.**

226  
227 Mr. Brew asked about the two bids EW Sleeper provided for different dump  
228 bodies and asked if Mr. Berry was comfortable that it would meet our needs.

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Mr. Berry stated that yes the lower bid is actually of better quality.

Mr. Berry stated that this is part of the lease purchase agreement.

**Vote: Unanimous.**

#### Boy Scouts Common Use

Mr. O'Mara stated that Boy Scout Troop 316 would like to use the green for a fundraiser on Halloween night and has provided the appropriate documentation of understanding for responsibilities and they will have plenty of help.

**Mr. Infanti move to approve the use of the green by Boy Scout Troop 316 on Halloween night. Mr. Brew seconded the motion.**

Chief Lyon asked that the troop leader to contact him.

**Vote: Unanimous.**

#### Baboosic Lake Community Septic

**Mr. Infanti moved to approve the warrant for Phase 1 quarterly maintenance in the amount of \$5,386.20. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Infanti moved to approve the warrant for Phase 2 quarterly maintenance in the amount of \$5,782.40. Mr. Brew seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Infanti moved to approve the warrant for Phase 3 quarterly maintenance in the amount of \$5,973.51. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Infanti moved to approve the warrant for the Phase 3 Betterment in the amount of \$268.78. Mr. Brew seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Infanti moved to approve the warrant for Phase 4 quarterly maintenance in the amount of \$1,240.41. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Infanti moved to approve the warrant for Phase 4 Betterment in the amount of \$33.29. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

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### **Budget Timeline**

**Mr. Infanti moved to adopt the FY13 budget timeline. Mr. Brew seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Brew asked for a better understanding of the spread of percent change in people's re-evaluations of their assessments. He would like to see a town average and see how much or how little people will be effected by their taxes based on the new assessments.

Mr. Bowler discussed his past experience with reassessments.

Mr. O'Mara stated that Michelle would have those numbers for the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Grella stated that the road commission would discuss the Jones Rd. cut-off and a proposed road for the village area, as well as, drainage issues at the meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Bowler asked to record that meeting, but it does not need to be live.

Mr. Infanti stated there is not much going on with the Planning Board and that the Cemetery Committee would be coming in October to give an update and timeline for cemetery fields.

Mr. Brew asked for a picture of the Jones Rd cut-off for the on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bowler asked for the anticipated budget increases including numbers and percentages for the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> or sooner.

Mr. O' Mara discussed an insurance option with Edward Jones Pool. He stated the town is very limited with the number of venders and a pool system will impact the premiums.

The board discussed the timing of an RFP and the need to have numbers to work with for the budget, but that there is no need for actual numbers because the insurance change will not happen till July 2012.

**Mr. Infanti moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Mr. Grella seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**