

APPROVED JAN 25 1999

**TOWN OF ANTRIM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 1999**

6:00 p.m. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Chairman Carol Cote-Smith called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Chairman Carol Cote-Smith, Selectman Tim Seeger and Town Administrator, Kelley Collins.

ABSENT: Selectman Denise Dargie

6:00 p.m. MEET WITH ROAD AGENT, BOB VARNUM

- **Town Hall Trash Removal** – The Selectmen thanked the Road Agent for removing the trash from Town Hall during this transition period. The Road Agent doesn't mind helping out temporarily.
- **Transfer Station Plowing** – The Board of Selectmen thanked the Road Agent for helping out with the plowing at the Transfer during the recent ice storm. The Road Agent noted that a regular pick-up truck with a plow would have had trouble breaking through the ice.
- **Sidewalks leading to the School(s)** – The Road Agent explained that there may have been some misunderstanding with the maintenance of the sidewalks. He originally believed that the school was concerned about the sidewalks to the school, which are their responsibility. After meeting with Mr. Jim Aborn, the Road Agent was able to clarify that the concern was actually the sidewalks at the corner and the way plowing operations affects them. He believes this has been cleared up to everyone's satisfaction.
- **Increase in the price of sand** – Mr. Harriman has increased the price of sand from \$1.50 a cubic yard to \$2.50/cubic yard. The Selectmen have no problem with this since the Road Agent pointed out there has been no increase in years.
- **Safety Inspection of Highway/Transfer Station Facility** – The Road Agent noted that he has placed a stop sign at the entrance/exit to the facility. He also stated that he had to mount it on the existing sign post as the ground has been frozen for some time. In addition, the Road Agent notes that he has completed the items sited in the safety inspection that he is capable of completing and suggests the Selectmen may want to hire an electrician for the ground fault interrupters, etc. The Road Agent also suggested that the Board may want to invest in some vision and hearing protection.

7:30 P.M. – MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MILLENIUM COMMITTEE, AT THEIR REQUEST

The Selectmen met with the members of the Millennium Committee. Co-Chair, Sarah Edwards made the Selectmen aware of some of their pending ideas including a First Night Celebration on December 31, 1999, a parade in August, 2000, the possibility of a masquerade ball, etc. The Committee is also running a logo contest where the winner will receive a \$50 savings bond from Granite Bank. The Town Administrator suggested that the Committee contact the Recreation Coordinator, Shelly Gardner, to see if the

APPROVED JAN 25 1999

**TOWN OF ANTRIM – BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 1999 – Page 2**

Recreation Department has planned any events and whether the two groups can coordinate any activities. The Committee presented the Selectmen with a Warrant Article that they would like placed on the 1999 Warrant requesting that the Town raise and appropriate \$7,500 for their activities. The Millennium Committee also asked about their non-profit status. The Town Administrator noted that they are non-profit as an association of the Town. It should be noted that this is not the same as a 501-c non-profit organization.

**8:30 P.M. – MEET WITH ROBIN & RICHARD SMOLAG REF: THEIR
ASSESSED VALUE**

The Board of Selectmen met with Mr. & Mrs. Smolag who own a manufactured house on Jameson Avenue. Mr. Smolag met with the Town Administrator this summer regarding the fact that he had to go through the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance, at considerable expense because the Building Inspector told him the home he wanted to build was a trailer. Mr. Smolag disputed this issue at the time saying that just because the home comes in two pieces doesn't make it a "trailer". This manufactured housing unit is 68' long and 28' wide. Considerable discussion took place regarding the fact that property is assessed based on its "highest & best use" and that the home now is assessed as a dwelling. This is based on square footage, grade, etc. Mr. Smolag thinks it is unfair that when it is to the Town's advantage we considered it a trailer and then when it comes time to assess it for tax purposes it is a dwelling. Mr. Smolag has been told by several people in Town that trailers (mobile homes) are taxed at a lower rate. The Selectmen denied this. Everyone in Town pays \$35.34 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The only thing that changes are people's assessed value. The Town Administrator made the Smolags aware that generally speaking, manufactured housing depreciates at a faster rate than stick built buildings.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Review and discuss 1999 Budget** – The Town Administrator supplied the Selectmen with additional budget information as well as questions pertaining to over-expenditures within the Building Inspector's budget. It was noted that the current Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen have utilized the code enforcement officer more than their predecessors. General discussion took place regarding general government buildings, salary increase for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and the direction of A.R.T.S. for the coming year.

- **Review & discuss Fire Chief's request to serve alcohol at a function at the Town Gym on Saturday, January 16, 1999**

Chairman Cote-Smith noted that the fire department used to have a dance to honor retirees of the department annually but it has been a couple of years since the last one. The Board unanimously approved the fire department having alcohol at this function.

- **Review, discuss and approve the job description and employment ad for A.R.T.S. Director** – General discussion took place regarding the job description for a full-time Antrim Recycling/Transfer Station (A.R.T.S.) Director. The Town Administrator asked whether it would be wise to bring this item to Town Meeting. The

APPROVED JAN 25 1999

TOWN OF ANTRIM – BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 1999 – Page 3

Selectmen agreed that it would normally be something they would solicit Town Meetings’ feelings on but with the ever-escalating costs and Mr. Lang’s wish to take a less administrative role at the facility the Town is faced with a time dilemma. The Selectmen agreed unanimously to place the advertisement in (1) issue of the *New Hampshire Sunday News*, *Sunday Sentinel*, *Sunday Concord Monitor*, and *Peterborough Transcript* and (2) issues of *The Villager*. The closing date for acceptance of resumes will be Tuesday, February 16, 1999.

- **Review and discuss current dental insurance benefits** – The Town Administrator made the Board of Selectmen aware that the current dental insurance does not include any orthodontia coverage. She has taken the liberty of calling our carrier to get a price on the additional premium for this coverage and the annual increase is \$695. It is her opinion that for this expense the coverage is an attractive incentive for employee recruitment. The Selectmen discussed the premiums vs. benefits. Selectman Tim Seeger made a motion to add this coverage, Chairman Cote-Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Review, discuss and approve two alternate members to the Recreation Committee per the Recreation Coordinator’s recommendation** – The Selectmen reviewed the Recreation Coordinator’s memo recommending the appointment of two alternate members to the Recreation Commission, Becky Bergeron and Robin Mansfield. The Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Becky Bergeron and Robin Mansfield as alternate members of the Recreation Commission and to authorize the Town Clerk to administer the oath of office.
- **Discuss process for Antrim Scholarship Program** – The Town Administrator pointed out that she is not aware of the appropriate process for the Antrim Scholarship and asked Selectman Seeger if he would be willing to call a former Scholarship Committee member, Ray Cote, and get some background information for the upcoming year. In addition, a scholarship check has been returned by a parent whose child is taking a semester off.
- **Review minutes of the Aiken Project Advisory Committee’s January 7, 1999 meeting** – The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the January 7, 1999 Aiken Project Advisory Committee. The Board is troubled by several items. First, the Selectmen agreed unanimously to appoint four members to this committee rather than the seven originally requested. The committee is asking for an expansion of members after their first meeting. Secondly, Selectman Seeger specifically noted that members of this group assured him at the November 30, 1998 informational meeting, that the Architect and Cost Estimator would have plans in 4-6 weeks or the middle of January. It appears from the minutes that this is not even close to happening. Thirdly, the Board of Selectmen spoke to Mr. Bernstein at their meeting of December 21, 1998 and reiterated this in a memo to the Advisory Committee that the Grant Administrator does not and will not answer to this Committee but rather will deal directly with the Board of Selectmen who will share the appropriate information with the Administrator. Finally, the Selectmen are concerned that if they do not have plans to present at the Public Hearing for the Budget they will not be able to forward this project until the year 2000 Town Meeting. The Selectmen discussed meeting personally with the Committee to discuss these items but due to

APPROVED JAN 25 1999

TOWN OF ANTRIM – BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 1999 – Page 4

budget deadlines they will be unable to schedule a meeting until February 22 or later. The Board does not want to wait that long and will send a memo as soon as possible.

The Board of Selectmen signed the following documents:

- (1) Letter to Mr. Hardwick re: his concerns over downtown sidewalk plowing, (4) originals of the Tri-Town Landfill Excavation Agreement

Selectmen’s Meeting Agenda(s) for the next two meetings

The Town Administrator and Selectmen discussed the timeline for the Public Hearing on the 1999 Budget and Town Meeting. Due to serious time constraints, the Selectmen have asked the Town Administrator to keep their agenda clear for 1999 Budget issues, only, for both the January 25 and February 1, 1999 meetings.

Planning Board Issues

- **Marion Noble’s Resignation** – The Selectmen and the Planning Board have received a written resignation from Planning Board member, Marion Noble. The Planning Board discussed, at their most recent meeting, tabling this item until April 1999. The Selectmen noted that since they have been made aware of this vacancy in an elected position, they feel compelled to have the Town Clerk include this position on the official ballot for the 1999 Town Meeting elections.

- **Judy Pratt Memorium in the Town Report** – The Planning Board suggested that the Selectmen’s Office use the information in the December Limrik to prepare a bio on Judy Pratt for the Town Report. They also noted that Great Brook School may be a source for a photo.

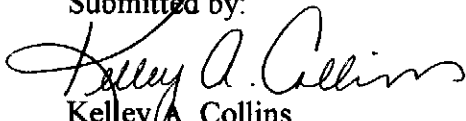
- **Planning Board’s budget recommendation of \$1,200 to Monadnock Business Ventures** –

General discussion took place regarding the merits of making a \$1,200 payment to MBV in 1999. The Selectmen temporarily tabled this item and will discuss it again as part of the worksession on the 1999 budget .

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting it was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Submitted by:


Kelley A. Collins
Town Administrator