

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - April 16, 1990

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Mansfield, Johnston and Dodge with Sandra Gendron taking minutes.

Road Agent Lee Murray was in to review the lowest four bids on the Joe English Road Project, those bidders having been invited in at fifteen minute intervals to discuss their bids as presented.

H. A. Scott and Sons were the first bidders in representing the company were Bud Scott and his two sons John and Herb. The Selectmen explained that they had invited in the four lowest bidders for discussion and the fact that their's was the fourth lowest bid received. Bud described how he intended to do the job and stated that the gravel would come from his own pit. He estimated that the rough work would take approximately three or four days. Further discussion ensued regarding the need to add on to some of the existing culverts and work to be done to existing driveways, Bud was aware that the Houle Driveway was bid separately due to necessary blasting. When asked by Selectman Dodge about the possibility of having to install some method of siltation, Bud responded that if this were necessary he would use hay bales. He realized that some rip rap was available behind one of Selectmen Mansfield's houses on Joe English Road if it were needed. The time estimated to complete the entire project from start to finish by Bud was two and one-half to three weeks, obviously weather would be an important factor in that time estimate. Discussion turned to the traffic flow, Bud planned on allowing the traffic thru and Lee suggested that traffic might possibly be re-routed only having to allow residents thru. The only equipment the Scott's would have to hire that would be necessary for the project and which they did not own was a vibrator. When asked about a starting date, Bud responded that he could start immediately once the poles were moved. In final discussion Bud stated that the crushed gravel would also come from his pit and that he expected to have to provide the labor to extend the culverts and that Lee would provide the materials.

Next in to meet with the Selectmen as one of the four lowest bidders were August Gomes and Gardner LeBaron. The bid submitted by Gomes and LeBaron was the third lowest and it was also explained to them by the Selectmen why this meeting was taking place. Skip Gomes planned on starting the project if he were awarded the bid around June 1st, estimated that the job would take three or four weeks and he planned to stay with the road until completed. Equipment that the two men would have to hire that they did not already own was a vibrating roller and the hydro-seeding. Skip stated that they were eight driveways to be dealt with and not four and his bid included work to be done on all eight. He had decided that he would buy the rip rap rather than use what was behind Tom Mansfield's property feeling the material behind Tom's was not easily accessible. He planned to touch up at the end of each day's work with his dozer or grader. He felt that the gravel trucks would do all the necessary daily compacting and he would compact with a roller at the end of the rough portion of the project and once again at the end of the installation of the crushed gravel. The gravel will come from Skip's own pit and will be transported to the job site over Meadow Road to Joe English and then thru the village. Skip and Gardner estimated that it would take approximately 7 -1/2 ten hour days with the excavator and two trucks to do the rough portion of the project.

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Neither man anticipated a problem with the flow of traffic and would use "Pass at your own Risk" signs and further stated they felt any waits would be brief. The payment schedule for the bid was reviewed and in closing Skip stated that he did feel there would be any problems with the Houle driveway which had been bid separately.

The next bidder to meet with the Selectmen was Peter Beers who had been the second lowest bidder and once again the Selectmen explained the reasons for the meeting. Peter stated that his bid had included the Houle driveway. When asked when he could begin the project he responded that he could start in approximately two weeks and estimated the job to be four or five weeks in duration including the seeding which he felt he would be doing no later than the first week in July. There was some confusion in his time estimates and he stated that he felt the job could be completed in six weeks and he would stay with the project once he started until it was completed. When asked how long he expected the rough portion of the project to take, he stated that he intended to use his loader to create the slopes and that it would take approximately five days. He was questioned by the Selectmen as to how he felt he could do all the rough-in work with a loader and responded that he might have to hire an excavator. The gravel he would be using will come from Carl Houghton's pit, this would also include the crushed. Peter was asked if he felt the quality was available from Carl's pit that was necessary for the project. He responded that he felt it was, that it would not have to be mixed and that there was a considerable amount of 6" minus available and further that he would have to crush some gravel. He estimates that he will need 6500 yards of bank run and 10,000 yards for the job. Selectman Dodge asked Peter for a breakdown of his bid. Peter responded that the bank run gravel which he had estimated would be 6565 yards at a cost of \$11,488.75, \$10,800.00 for the trucking (9 days using 4 trucks) with an additional cost of \$2,520.00 for the dozer the total would be the bank run in place. He had estimated he would need 3283 yards of crushed gravel for the job at a cost of \$18,056.50 (5.50 per yard) with an additional \$5,040.00 for trucking and \$1,400.00 for machine time, this total represents the crushed in place. When asked what equipment Peter expected to have to hire should he be awarded the bid, he stated he would be working with John Staiti (Mr. Staiti would be meeting with the Selectmen after they had concluded their meeting with Peter as the lowest bidder for the job.) and they would be pooling their equipment, but would still have to hire a compactor and a grader. Peter plans to hand seed the job. He explained that he had originally estimated he would need 800' of loam, but after talking to Lee realized he would not need as much. He was planning on 100 bales of mulch hay and had estimated \$150.00 for the seed. He stated he understood the culvert work and when asked about his previous road construction work, he responded that this would be his first road project, that he had only done long driveways up to this time. Regarding the traffic flow, Peter intended to keep one lane open and would taper at the end of each day during the entire project. The trucking route he would propose would be over Hooper Hill Road loaded to the job site and exit onto Meadow Road. Once again, the Selectmen reviewed the payment schedule as submitted per the bid and asked if his start-up fee would be negotiable. Peter agreed that it would be, he offered his opinion that his lack of experience would not be a problem and offered the Selectmen refer-

ences if they so desired. Discussion ensued as to the fact that Peter intended to work with John Staiti and they discussed some of the problems John has had on another road job in another community. Peter claimed to be aware of these issues. Discussion turned to the estimates Peter had used as to the amounts necessary to complete the compacting and grading, Peter estimated \$750.00 for the compacting and \$500.00 for the grading. He further stated that he would be using the trucks to do most of the everyday compacting and again stated that he had estimated 9 days for the bank run to be placed and 5 days for the crushed to be placed.

The last appointment with regard to the bids received for the Joe English Road Project was with John Staiti who had submitted the lowest bid. Again, the Selectmen explained the reason for the meeting and the fact that they may or may not award to the lowest bidder, this meeting would have a bearing on their final decision. Selectman Mansfield asked why Mr. Staiti did not mention 12" of gravel in his bid, but only the inches for the crushed. John replied that he had based his bid on 1' of gravel and Selectman Mansfield then asked how many yards of gravel he intended to use John responded that he did not seem to have those figures available at this time. Selectman Dodge questioned John on the cost of the gravel he would be using and the necessary trucking. John explained that he had estimated 234 yards would be trucked per day taking fourteen days in his estimation to put in place, he further estimated that the bank run gravel would be \$24,500. in place and the crushed gravel he estimated to be \$23, 752. in place. John indicated that he would work according to the Selectmen's time-frame, he figured the job to take approximately 30 days with the preparatory work taking approximately one week. The Selectmen indicated that they were looking for the job to be completed in approximately three to four weeks and were not looking for the project to last for the entire summer. John again stated that he would follow the Selectmen's mandates and that he would stick to his bid price. He felt he could propose a bid such as he had because he now owned his own crusher and would realize a savings in this regard.

John pointed to his road job which was in progress in Lyndeboro and indicated that in his opinion this was a more difficult job than was being proposed in New Boston.

Selectman Dodge questioned the bid as being as low as it was and wondered if John would be able to meet the obligations of the project. Discussion ensued as to the compacting required, the length of the project and John's projections of hauling the specified numbers of yards of gravel per day. John indicated that it was his intention to install the bank run gravel in a push and go fashion to keep the traffic flowing, then compact before installation of the crushed, and once again upon completion of the road. He stated that the gravel he would be using would come from Carl Houghton's pit, which he maintained was close to the job site and this factor played a role in his ability to bid the project as low as he had. His intention was to haul the gravel over Cemetery Hill and the return route would be determined by the Selectmen. Once again, John wanted to impress upon the Selectmen that his bid was for real and further that he intended to hand seed

the project where seeding was required, and had allowed \$500. for this portion of the job. When asked about the equipment he would have to hire he responded that he would need to rent a compactor and a grader. Before leaving John reiterated his ability to do the job according to desires and specs that had been presented at the on-site inspection prior to the bidding of the job, his payment schedule was reviewed, and he indicated that he was open as to how the schedule would be met by the Selectmen.

In closing the Selectmen stated that the bidders would be notified in writing as to who was awarded the bid for the job.

Guy Camire was next in to see the Selectmen regarding a house he had built on George Drive for which he was not granted an occupancy permit due to the state of the driveway. He had been made aware of the problems that existed by Road Agent Lee Murray. It was his opinion, bearing in mind that we had just experienced a fairly severe winter, that the concerns of Lee had not come to pass; and, therefore, he proposed that he be granted his occupancy with the driveway being left as is. Discussion ensued as to the installation of the culvert being shallow enough as not to allow a negative grade which was a requirement of the driveway permit so that ice would not be allowed to build up and cause a flow of water over the road thereby complicating the matter. Lee, present for the meeting, indicated that the culvert could have been installed lower had it been done properly at the beginning and maintained that the bottom line was the culvert was not installed according to the instructions of the driveway permit. Mr. Camire admitted to being responsible for the situation as the landowner, but had relied on subcontractors who supposedly knew the expectations of the Town of New Boston; however, he feels that the pitch of the driveway is sufficient enough to allow for drainage.

Selectman Johnston supported the need for the negative grade and stated that the pavement on the driveway is higher than the road and this was not acceptable. He indicated that the possibility was that the grader could catch the pavement on the driveway and just because it had not happened this past winter did not mean the potential problem did not exist. Selectman Dodge stated that Mr. Camire must correct the contractor's error and the Town would issue an occupancy until this had happened. Lee added that if this matter were allowed to drop for the first house built on the subdivision then the entire subdivision would be jeopardized. Mr. Camire's response to this discussion was that there had been no problem this winter and he hesitated to cut into the pavement of the driveway knowing that it would never look the same. Selectman Johnston again stated that the Town could not depend on the weather, the driveway should have been done as directed and the subcontractor should be held responsible.

Mr. Camire left knowing that the driveway would have to be repaired before an occupancy permit would be granted.

Lee remained to discuss with the Selectmen the status of the old tanker now that it had been replaced by the Fire Department. He has received a quote for dust control, but he would need this truck for application. He would be purchasing a concentrate for approximately

.18 per gallon and he felt that for \$2,000.00 he could cover twice the area that he had done last year. He was told that this would last all summer with light grading and raking, that it was a calcium solution with a penetrant that could be re-wet and would rejuvenate itself. The mix was a 50-1 solution. The Board asked Lee to check the truck out mechanically paying specific attention to the brakes and the condition of the frame. They supported Lee in realizing the need for some form of dust control was necessary.

Kenneth Belanger, Chief Technician for Showcase Cable, along with Andrew Belanger and Mike Fletcher were in to see the Selectmen regarding the establishment of a committee who would be charged with the responsibility of overseeing the use of the Community channel which has been made available to the Town by Showcase Cable. Kenny and Mike had come in at the invitation of the Selectmen and Andy had come in because he was interested in introducing a commercial aspect to the channel. Presently, Showcase Cable is inputting the public announcements of events that have been appearing on the channel to date. The Selectmen indicated the purpose for the meeting was that the Board was looking for direction with regard to the operation of this channel. Andy went on to explain he was looking at the operation of the channel as a potential commercial venture. He went on to indicate that the Town information would always be shown free of charge, but possibly advertising could be sold to off-set some expense of the channel depending on what ultimately the channel might be used for. He further offered that the franchising monies could then be used for some other purpose should the Selectmen be considering using these monies for whatever ventures this channel might be used for. Selectmen Dodge questioned the need for commercial involvement and felt that these are the issues and ideas that the committee should be looking into. Discussion ensued as to who would inputting information and it was stated the the Town Office staff expressed a willingness thus facilitating the ease of which someone could get an announcement on the air. It was decided that the committee would probably consist of five people, two of whom would most likely be Kenny Belanger and Mike Fletcher.

Richard Messina was in to discuss with the Board of Selectmen the status of his gravel permit which had not been renewed in more than a year due to his inability to reach an agreement with the Selectmen. The purpose of this meeting was to determine if his permit might be renewed at this time under the same agreement as the one that had expired in 1987 and the gravel would only be used for the needs of his pursuing his subdivision, i.e. roadways, driveways and septic systems and further for whatever the Town's needs might be. Mr. Messina felt the only area that might be an issue was where the sand pit is located there not being the 200' required for a buffer zone between the pit and the abutter. The Selectmen indicated that they usually go along with an agreement that might be reached between the landowners when a buffer zone becomes an issue. The Selectmen further indicated that a new permit might be required once lots were sold should Mr. Messina no longer be the owner of the lot where the gravel was coming from. Discussion ensued as to what Mr. Messina would need in order to renew his expired permit. The Selectmen agreed to review the matter and decide whether a new public hearing would have to be scheduled or whether this would be a renewal of a lapsed permit.

Discussion turned to Mr. Messina posting a bond in the amount of \$14,000. designated for reclamation of the area. Mr. Messina stated that he certainly did not want to, but obviously if this were a requirement then he would have to. Mr. Messina questioned the need for this bond if he were taking the gravel for the building of the Town's road, but agreed that he would do what was necessary. The meeting ended with the Selectmen stating that they would be in touch with Mr. Messina regarding the matter.

Clifton LaBree and George St. John were in representing the Forestry Committee. They had brought with them paperwork that had been found on the Lydia Dodge Lot in the County Foresters Office and left it for the records of the Selectmen. They also had with them aerial photos of the landfill area that were not very clear and did not seem to depict the region. They presented to the Selectmen a Forest Management Report and showed how it would work on a five year basis and could be used as a guideline, yet remain very flexible. Discussion ensued as to the poor timber market at this time and it was the recommendation of the Forestry Committee that nothing be done with regard to cutting timber on town-owned property at this time.

The matter of Police Chief was discussed with no conclusions reached at this time and further discussion would be a topic for another meeting.

Mail was reviewed, checks were signed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Bendron,
Administrative Assistant