

MINUTES SELECTMEN'S MEETING - January 2, 1990

Present for this Tuesday evening meeting at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Mansfield, Dodge and Johnston with Sandra Gendron taking minutes. New Year's Day falling on Monday necessitated the change in the regular meeting night.

Discussion for the most part of the beginning of the evening centered around ending the 1989 books and the meaning of the various computer print-outs for the budgets, this being the first year everything has been done on a computer.

Fire Chief James Dodge was in to relay to the Selectmen that the Fire Department had purchased a new L9000 Ford chassis from Grappone in Concord on which there would be a tank mounted to replace their present tanker truck. Jim wished to share with the Selectmen the thinking that had gone into this purchase since it is unusual to make an actual purchase prior to a vote requesting funding at Town Meeting.

This chassis had been ordered for another government agency for fire fighting purposes; however, subsequent budget cuts had eliminated the funding for the purchase. Several other towns were interested since the vehicle has been specifically set-up to be used as a fire fighting piece of equipment. The New Boston Fire Wards checked with several other dealers before making the commitment to purchase. It appears that the savings by purchasing this chassis and financing it through Ford Motor Credit for three years will mean a savings of \$7,000 to \$8,000 on the chassis alone. Three payments will have to be made prior to Town Meeting. The Fire Department is well aware that the Town might not support the purchase of this piece of equipment and in the event that funding is not made available at the 1990 Town Meeting they will either put the truck up for sale or make the payments for one year from the monies of the New Boston Fire Association, a legal non-profit organization and then request the funding for the vehicle at the 1991 Town Meeting.

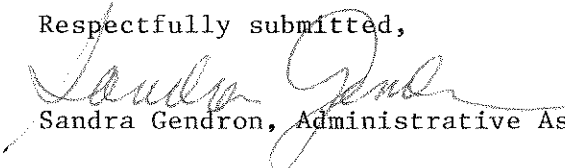
Jim went on to further describe the vehicle and why this course of action was pursued. It is a 300 Cumings Diesel with an automatic transmission, the specs are perfect for what the Nbfd wishes to use the truck and the color is already red. By purchasing the vehicle now and putting out to bid the specs for the tanker body assuming the funding does come from the 1990 Town Meeting, the truck will be available very soon after Town Meeting; thereby, replacing a truck that is in extremely poor condition and is currently not recommended for road use. Another savings could be realized by the department if they can offer the body work for the tanker to be done in February which is a slow season for such work. Once again, if funding does not come from the 1990 meeting then this body could be sold to another town by the manufacturer.

Discussion ensued on the financing of said vehicle through Ford Motor Credit for three years at 8.5% with no penalty for prepayment. The Fire Wards were in agreement that this course of action would mean a great savings to the Town for the purchase of this much-needed vehicle and the end request for money would be far lower than the \$93,000 which had been projected in the CIP report.

The Selectmen returned to discussing the computer print-outs and their meanings and agreed that meetings would be set-up over the next two Monday evenings with the various department heads to discuss their 1990 budgets before the Selectmen have their final meeting with the Finance Committee for discussion and recommendation.

Mail was reviewed and due to the closing of the 1989 books checks were not ready for signature and the Selectmen would stop by the following day to sign.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra Gendron, Administrative Assistant

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1/5/90  
Ward