

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - November 5, 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 for regularly scheduled meeting with the Board of Selectmen. The first order of business was a meeting with Tom White representing Brox Industries regarding the yet to be resolved matter of the paving on Joe English Road. Tom explained that it had been the intention of Brox to take some of the necessary corrective measures on the previous Friday; however, circumstances prevented it and now it is the recommendation of Brox that no action be taken until spring due to the onset of winter.

Discussion turned to what correction measures would be taken and how the problems created would be solved. Since Brox is proposing to overlay only portions of the project, Selectman Dodge asked Tom if they would be creating a second bump by overlaying just a portion of the project rather than the entire stretch of road. Tom explained how the operation would work and felt confident that the results would be acceptable. Discussion ensued as to the possibility of sharing the costs of overlaying the entire project between Brox and the Town. Tom expressed the willingness of Brox Industries to satisfy the Town of New Boston regardless of whether they receive future bids for the Town's work. Tom estimated the cost of overlaying the entire project to be \$10,000. Lee discussed what his time-frame might be as far as scheduling Joe English Road for resurfacing in the future. Selectman Dodge expressed his disagreement with the theory that the sections of the road could be overlaid and the surface remain bump free. Tom explained the process and, once again, expressed his confidence that it would be very difficult to detect the overlaid areas. Selectman Dodge did agree that quite possibly an agreement could be reached for the work to be done in the spring of 1991 and, once again, Tom stated that it was the desire of Brox to have the Town completely satisfied. Selectman Mansfield expressed his opinion that it would be in the best interest of the Town to have the complete job overlaid at an agreed to price and further stated that he felt both the Town and the company would be better off with this solution. It was agreed by all concerned that a gentlemen's agreement had been reached and the project would be overlaid in its entirety in the spring of 1991 at a substantially less amount than the previously estimated \$10,000.

Discussion turned to the \$9,000. being withheld by the Town from the total bill for the project. Naturally, as Tom stated Brox would like the money; however, the Selectmen still expressed their reluctance to release the entire amount since to date the project is not satisfactory. Lee offered the suggestion that Tom return to his superiors looking for suggestions knowing that the Town is going to withhold some amount of money. The Selectmen agreed with this suggestion and discussion ensued as to what a letter of agreement might contain. It was decided that such a letter would contain the cost to overlay the project as well as a price to patch so that the Town might retain enough money should anything unforeseen happen to Brox Industries or Tom White. Tom agreed to the aforementioned proposal and would make allowances for what both the costs to overlay and the cost to patch might be in the spring of 1991.

BJ
2/28/91
LWB

Lee remained with the Board to further discuss what remains in his 1990 budgets for various projects that need completion. The monies spent on the Gomes portion of the Joe English Project came from resurfacing and block grant funds with the \$9,000. still being retained by the Town remaining in block grant money.

Lee turned the discussion to how he might proceed to continue such projects as Tucker Mill Road and Clark Hill Road. He also questioned whether the payroll for his department should cease coming from his Summer Maintenance Budget as of 11-1-90. Selectman Dodge's response was negative feeling there was still some grading and related jobs that should come from the summer portion of the budget. Lee wondered if we should do the grading at all and quite possibly some money could come from Joe English Road. Selectman Dodge expressed his reluctance to spend Winter Maintenance for grading when we are usually running short in the spring of the year. Selectman Dodge asked if there was enough remaining monies in Block Grant to rough out Tucker Mill Road. Lee was quite confident that there was. If this could be done with monies this year, then the project could proceed in 1991 knowing what would be needed. Lee questioned using Block Grant monies for "roughing in" this project. The Board of Selectmen that it could be done. This being the case, Lee proposed hiring D. & S. Excavating since he has a machine large enough to do the job. The Selectmen agreed with Lee's proposal and Lee will schedule the job.

Selectmen Dodge had ridden over Clark Hill Road with Lee in an attempt to determine if some of the proposed projects for 1990 could be done before years end. Lee reviewed the budget stating that \$20,000 had been designated from Block Grant to use for work on Clark Hill Road. Lee proposed putting out a bid to use the designated funds and stated even if an unforeseen situation such as ledge should arise, there would still be monies available from the Messina Fund. It was decided to contact the local contractors and conduct an on-site inspection to see just how far the \$20,000. might go. Selectman Mansfield suggested that it might be considered to spend the Messina money first and then use the Block Grant money. He explained that although you are talking the same thing, the taxpayers can see the Messina money at work. Lee agreed with this thinking since Block Grant money can be used anywhere and the Messina money had to be used on Clark Hill Road. Lee assumed the responsibility for contacting the contractors; however, the Selectmen wished to review the project firsthand and a meeting was scheduled for Wed. 11-07-90 at 9:00 a.m. with the on-site inspection for the contractors scheduled for 11-09-90 at 9:00 a.m. The bids will be received at the Town Office no later than 4 p.m. on 11-14-90 and will be opened at the same time.

The next road issue was brought up by Selectman Johnston and this was in regard to the Towsley's on Christy Road. Selectman Johnston had contacted Mr. Towsley expecting a decision regarding a driveway issue that he had; however, it seemed to Selectman Johnston that now Mr. Towsley had a different story. Selectman Johnston reviewed the situation and, that is the culvert from the top driveway be moved to the lower driveway. Mr. Towsley feels that he has two culverts and this does not seem to be the case, what he actually has is two illegal driveways. No one ever stated that the Town would install

a culvert on the ROW. Selectman Johnston will call Mr. Towsley to state the facts that he can have two culverts where they are presently existing or one culvert at the turn around, there will be no other choices.

Police Chief James McLaughlin was next in to see the Board of Selectmen for what will become his regular first Monday of the month meeting with the Board. He updated the Board on current police activity in New Boston. There were no burglaries in October; however, they began again in November and seem to be prevalent in the entire area. There appear to be many similarities, they all are in the day time in residential areas, most of the items taken are electronics and jewelry. The Police have had vehicle descriptions. While discussing such incidents, Jim pointed out that the statistics surpassed those of 1989 in September largely due to the State Police referring many more of the incidents occurring in New Boston to the local department.

Discussion turned to the emergency lighting system in the new cruiser. A similar situation on the Blezer has been resolved since Officer Don Sims donated a light bar to the Town.

The next topic of discussion was the copier which has yet to be paid for. The cost of the new copier is \$2400.+. One of the options available is to finance the machine over a period of three years at an annual cost of approximately \$945. which would add approximately \$400. to the total cost. Selectman Mansfield wonders if we might lease the copier until Town Meeting and then purchase outright or lease over a period of three years and then purchase. Jim thought he could get the company to agree to a lease which we would begin paying immediately and then pay-off when funds were available. The Selectmen supported setting up a schedule of payments now and then propose the final pay-off for the 1991 budget, no firm decision was made.

At this point discussion turned to the 1991 budget of the Police Department. Jim was able to ascertain that the costs of dispatch would remain the same in 1991 as 1990; however, there are other areas of the budget that will need attention. Now that the department in full-time adjustments for such things as fuel, radio maintenance and others will need to be expanded. Jim expressed concern for the condition of the police radio equipment some of it being as many as twenty years old and much of it needing repair. The base radio is over twenty years old and needs repair, Jim is looking into options since he sees the need for replacement rather than repair. Selectman Dodge questioned Jim as to whether the Police Officers have radios in their private vehicles, Jim's response was that they do and Jim supports the need although originally he questioned this himself. Jim is concerned with the issue of liability, but the use of these radios has been worthy. Selectman Dodge recognizes the advantage as long as the equipment is used properly, but questions whether the Town would support this as necessary. Jim commented that it was his feeling if these radios were taken out of the officers vehicles, the department would loose some of its capability. Selectman Dodge questioned the use of quality portable units, rather than installed radios in vehicles; however, there is a limit as to range.

As discussion continued on the 1991 proposed budget, Jim did state that many of the line items could remain the same as in 1990 which still looks good as far as remaining within the bottom line barring any unforeseen occurrences. Discussion turned to potential increases in the salary of the chief and the fact that the officers would like some compensation for on-call time which currently offers no pay. Jim would like to propose a 5% increase in the hourly wage of the part-time officers. Jim would also like the Board to look at and consider hiring a second full-time officer. It is Jim's contention that it would not mean that much more money-wise. Jim would like to split the on-call time, most of which the present part-time officers feel is all to consuming and Jim feels would look favorably upon a reduction in on-call hours. Jim proposes that a second full-time person could work early evenings and then the on-call hours would be from midnight to 7:00 a.m. This would reduce the on-call hours for the present part-time to between 7 and 8 hours, Jim feels that the reduction in on-call hours would be sufficient incentive to the present part-time officers and monetary compensation would not be necessary at this time. Jim went on to explain that a full-time person would relieve some of the weekend shifts. Presently there is no patrol Sunday thru Thursday and another full-time person would give the town more coverage further allowing Jim to become more effective in his own position as Chief. Discussion ensued as to how Jim would propose to schedule another full-time person with his present part-time officers. Basically it would mean a cut in hours for the part-time officers; however, Jim feels that this would be beneficial to the department and he commented that this must be his first consideration. He further expressed that coordination had been lacking in the past, he is looking for the most possible service for his budget dollars. Selectman Dodge asked Jim if he felt he would get a negative response from his part-time officers, Jim expressed his thought that the part-time officers would accept this proposed change since it would mean more flexible hours and less on-call hours. Jim reviewed for the benefit of the Board what each part-time officer if willing to do. In further discussing the possibility of a second full-time person, Jim would like to see if there is any interest from within seeing this as a positive potential. Jim has received many calls from prospective part-time officers, Selectman Dodge supports the concept of hiring from within.

Discussion turned to the possible salary for a second officer which would be approximately \$21,500. with \$1,500. for retirement. Jim estimated that \$30,000 would cover the cost of the additional full-time position as well as the part-timers. Selectman Dodge would like to see a rough draft of the 1991 budget adding the second full-time officer.

Discussion ensued on Jim's need for clerical help and Jim expresses doubts as to whether he should pursue both positions, that of a clerical person and a second full-time officer. Selectman Dodge supports as necessary Jim's need for clerical help. Selectman Mansfield questioned whether the hiring of a second full-time man would create more need for clerical help or could he assume some of the clerical load. Jim's comment to Selectman Mansfield was that it would depend on the officers skills. Jim stated that he is fully aware of the need to hold the line on the budget, but he emphasizes

his need for clerical help.

Discussion turned to the Police Department vehicles, which Jim commented that the second vehicle looked o.k. for the future. Jim would like to see each vehicle replaced every four years on a two year rotating basis. It is his feeling that if a plan like this were to be followed the Town would get better trade-ins. Jim is keeping a maintenance book on each cruiser so that proof can be given at the time of trade-in as to care that the vehicle received.

Jim commented that he feels the department will survive the growing pains, presently the workload is just too much for one person. He is now doing the follow-up work to various situations that had not been done in the past.

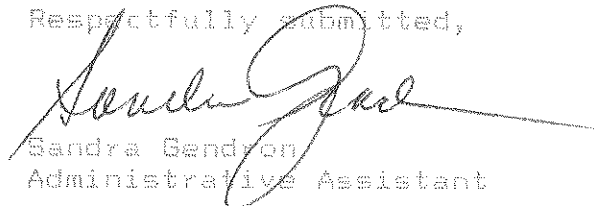
Jim would like to send an officer to the Police Academy in January. Rick Belanger has expressed an interest. Jim will get the details, the Town would not be paying for him to go and Jim has made Rick aware that New Boston sponsorship of him to the academy would not give him any advantage if and when New Boston were in a position to hire a second full-time officer. Jim will put in writing whatever agreement might be reached as far as Rick attending the academy so that there will be no misunderstandings regarding such things as salary. Selectman Dodge supported the opportunity of Rick attending the academy under the sponsorship of New Boston.

James Dodge, Fire Chief was in to report that the Fire Department had run out of fuel for the third time. Jim was very unhappy to say the least that this has occurred again. The Selectmen told Jim they were going to put the fuel oil for the Town Buildings out to bid and that a clause would be included in any contract regarding what the consequences would be should any town building run out of fuel.

Much discussion ensued regarding the situation, with the Selectmen supporting that Daniels Fuel Oil should be called to fill the tank and the bid would be put out. Jim was adamantly opposed to this approach and told the Board of Selectmen he had made other arrangements to have oil put in the Fire Department tank. The matter was left unresolved.

Checks were signed, mail was reviewed and the meeting adjourned at approximately midnight.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant