

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - November 12, 1990

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

Bonnie Bethune, Manager of the Transfer Station was in to meet the Selectmen to discuss her 1991 budget. She began by stating that as of 10-31-90 approximately 78% of her 1990 budget had been spent. She further commented that the tonnage transferred to Bethlehem was down by approximately 30 tons, while the recycling tonnage was up to 20 tons, she presented a graph to illustrate to the Board her statistics. She is anticipating a 5% increase in the tipping fee being charged by Sanco; however, the administration fee which amounts to approximately \$600. annually is being eliminated. She proceeded to discuss her budget proposals which she presented to the Board individually.

Among her proposals for 1991, she is increasing her own hours to 30 per week from the 20 she has been working in 1990. Her presentation of her new budget to the Board gave three options, the Selectmen seemed to favor #2 as a beginning to her increasing her hours open to the public. This option, if adopted, would open the station on Thursday's during the summer months only from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In discussing her personnel, Bonnie told the Board how pleased she was with Claire Dane and the role she assumes in the operation of the station. Bonnie also told the Board that Paul Sizemore is considering adding a fuel surcharge which would amount to a 2.9% increase in his rate; however, this would be eliminated once the price of fuel dropped.

Discussion turned to the removal of tires and Bonnie stated that we are not even coming close in the amount of money being brought in as opposed to the amount of money we are spending to remove the tires. There seems to be no immediate solution to this dilemma. Bonnie pointed out it is costing the Town of New Boston \$1.50 to get rid of passenger tires, while we are only charging .50 to the New Boston resident. Bonnie would like to look into purchasing insulated coveralls for the attendants and will investigate the cost. All agreed this was a suitable notion.

The last topic for discussion was capital improvements. Bonnie sees nothing major in the immediate future that would qualify for the CIP. She would like to expand the pad and create a new bin for tin cans and she would also like to have some of the area around the building paved; however, these projects might be able to be handled in part with grant money. There was some discussion on the purchase of a waste oil heater with grant money. Bonnie wanted the Selectmen to also be aware that people bringing waste oil to the Transfer Station was still a problem.

Lee Murray, Road Agent was next in to see the Board. He made the Selectmen aware that Frank Fillmore was doing the work on the driveway on Dougherty Lane which had been a recent issue. It was reiterated among the group that the Palmer's would still have to move their driveway when they tried to do something with the lot that they owned on Dougherty Lane.

Next in to meet with the Board for their annual meeting was the Road Committee. Present were James Whipple, George Owen St. John, and

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George Daniels. Lee remained to meet with this group. Selectman Dodge opened the discussion by suggesting the first order of business should be to discuss any major road rebuilding projects which would fall under the CIP. Lee commented that McCurdy Road was the next major project according to the Master Plan. Selectman Mansfield explained the funding of the major rebuilding project for 1990 which was Joe English Road stating that \$75,000. had been voted at Town Meeting, the balance coming from Block Grant money. There will be monies turned back to the Town since the project was completed for less than the budgeted amount. Selectman Mansfield brought up for discussion whether a special article should be included in the 1991 Warrant. He also wondered if hot top for the rebuilt hill on McCurdy Road (commonly known as Sam Saul Leach Hill) should be a consideration. For general information he stated that the Town expects to receive \$80,171. from the state for Block Grant money for 1991 and that we are still spending 1990 Block Grant monies. Jim Whipple asked what an estimated cost to do the above-mentioned hill might be. Selectman Dodge wondered if we should consider a major road project this year or back off due to the poor economic climate, and discussion turned to the impact on taxes. In response to Jim Whipple's question regarding the estimated cost to hot top Sam Saul Leach Hill, Lee stated that 2000' had been rebuilt and he estimated that at 1990 prices the cost would be \$15,884. using 2" single coarse. Jim Whipple went on to question whether the entrance to McCurdy road to up beyond David Woodbury's should be paved since it had already been widened. Jim further went on to ask Lee where the trouble spots were and Lee responded that the entire length of McCurdy Road was a problem, but most especially the hill. Jim commented that since there were no utilities from the bottom of the hill to the intersection by Sunday Driver Rock maybe the paving should begin in that area. Lee's response to this was that it was his hope that since there was still so much area in that vicinity to be subdivided we might receive some monies from a developer for road improvements; however, if the road were already paved then we could not recoup any of the costs. Selectman Mansfield commented that if a similar amount of money was requested in a warrant article as last year then quite possible both above-mentioned areas could be paved and then other work such as grubbing could also be done on McCurdy Road. Lee further commented that there would be the need to install a couple of culverts on the road. The Selectmen went on to think that maybe with some Block Grant money, the entire length of the road could be done.

Discussion turned to the bids that had gone out to do work on Clark Hill Road in the area of Monbouquette's. Discussion ensued on ways to improve the area around the Monbouquette's and the property presently owned by the Lee's. The Board also pointed out to the committee that the Messina Road Improvement money was being spent on Clark Hill Road in addition to town monies.

The Road Committee appeared to be in favor of raising the same monies in 1991 that had been raised at Town Meeting in 1990 for a major road project.

Selectman Dodge asked if anyone had any other ideas for road projects. At this point Lee stated he would like to reclaim the area around the Grenier House on Bedford Road. Discussion ensued

as to Lee's proposal which would entail re-doing the hill. Lee did not have any monetary estimates, but knew he would need to provide for drainage in addition to the reclaiming process.

Lee stated for the benefit of the Road Committee that Thornton Road and Valley View did not get the intended pugmill mix in 1990; however, they would be finished in 1991. Returning to the subject of the reclamation process mentioned above, the Selectmen favored Lee's idea knowing the hill in question was in very poor condition and Lee will investigate potential costs. Selectman Dodge suggested that Lee might talk to Louis Rumore, landowner in the area of the hill in question regarding straightening the corner and the removal of ledge. Discussion continued as to the danger of the corner in the area. If the project proved to be at all feasible it was speculated that funding would come from resurfacing money and Lee also commented that some might come from Block Grant money. Selectman Mansfield asked Lee if this project were scraped what might be contemplate using resurfacing money for and Lee responded that he would propose to use it for Molly Stark Lane and the older part of Bedford Road.

Discussion turned to what amount of money might be placed in the 1991 budget for resurfacing bearing in mind that there would not be any remaining 1990 funds to carry forward. Lee supported requesting \$96,000 as a minimum (an amount that had been raised in prior years when no balance was available to be carried forward.) so that much needed attention could be given to various areas in town. Selectman Mansfield expressed his opinion that operating budgets in general should be maintained and that if cuts appeared to be necessary they should be in the purchase of new equipment. Lee stated that the Highway Department would be submitting to the CIP the purchase of a one-ton truck for 1991; however, would hold off on the addition to the highway garage indefinitely. Selectman Mansfield supports the request for the resurfacing budget and expresses reluctance with regard to the purchase of the one ton truck, Selectman Dodge was in agreement. Selectman Mansfield suggested that the resurfacing amount presented in the 1991 budget be \$95,000 to which all agreed and discussion returned to the purchase of the truck. Lee feels this truck would become an essential piece of equipment since it would replace his pickup which now rakes and plows and would potentially do so much more that it would pay for itself in a short span of time. Selectman Dodge expressed support for the thought that the town should own equipment that is used year round. Jim Whipple along with Selectman Johnston expressed support for the purchase of a one ton truck.


In general discussion it was stated that work would continue on Beard Road as long as Block Grant money was available. It was also stated Tucker Mill Road would be the next to be looked at once work was completed on McCurdy and Clark Hill Roads. Lee asked where monies would come from for Saunders Hill Road, would it come from summer maintenance and this thought received support.

Selectman Dodge reviewed for the benefit of the Road Committee the Prouty situation and the line controversy, a solution to which has been negotiated by the Town.

In summary, Selectman Mansfield reviewed the evenings discussions with regard to roads commenting that the summer and winter maintenance budgets still had to be dealt with, but it would be the general attempt to hold these at current lines as well as that of the General Highway Expense Account. Obviously summer and winter would have to be increased due to wages increases and added road miles to be maintained. He stated that the Selectmen will meet with the landowners on certain areas of Clark Hill road to determine work that needs to be done and how it will be accomplished. In conclusion he stated that all agreed to the raising and appropriating of \$75,000. in 1991 that along with additional funds would do as much to complete McCurdy Road as possible. Finally, Selectman Dodge stated that the 4-H Foundation is interested in the Town becoming part of that gravel operation and this might be attractive to the Town since we own no gravel of our own.

Mail was reviewed, checks were signed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately midnight.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant