

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - November 26, 1990

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Johneton and Dodge with Sandra Gendron taking minutes. Selectman Mansfield arrived later in the evening.

Road Agent Lee Murray was in for his regular meeting with the Board. Discussion began on what road projects might be completed in 1990 with remaining budgets. There was discussion on blasting that might be needed for Saunders Hill Road which Lee will tend to and there was discussion on the condition of Hopkins Road. Lee pointed out that there was sand at the end of the parking lot at the school which would impede plowing this winter. Selectman Dodge suggested that Lee might contact Brian Towne or talk to Selectman Mansfield to determine how the sand got there in the first place and what might be its appropriate disposal. Lee will check the Beard Road project so that the final payment to Tim Trimbur can be released. Discussion continued on the subject of Beard Road with regard to how the project would continue in front of property owned by Doris MacDermod. Ms. MacDermod appears to be in agreement with the necessary proposed work. Lee is of the opinion that the Selectmen should review the project and all agree an on-site is a good idea. The telephone company will also need to be contacted, but it is anticipated that the telephone company will be anxious to co-operate with the Town since they will not want to tamper with the underground cable in place in the area.

Lee brought up one more time for consideration by the Board, the possible purchase of a computer which would be used in the field by the Highway Department for the measuring and listing of roads. This is an item which has been previously discussed; at one point, Lee estimating the cost of the computer and related equipment to be approximately \$2500. Lee now feels, after further investigation, that the cost more realistically would be approximately \$3500. Lee contends that the monies for such a purchase, if approved, will be available in his General Expense Budget. A decision is yet to be made.

The next item on the agenda for the evening was the opening of the fuel bids for the Town Buildings which had been advertised. Bids were received from Lafayette Oil, Agway, Lorden Oil, Whalco and Daniels Oil. The bids submitted were confusing to the Board since they had been submitted as a varying number of "cents" above a daily price quote, in most instances, from the port of Boston. Discussion ensued as to how the invitation to bid might have been presented to avoid some of the confusion. Dan Lorden from Lorden Oil having submitted a bid, had come in for the opening and had helpful information to offer for discussion purposes with regard to the bid process. No decision on the oil bid was rendered, more review would have to take place.

David Rowen along with a Mr. Thomas was in to discuss a situation that had developed whereby Mr. Thomas, the building contractor for

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the Skupien's, had discovered the garage that was being built on the Skupien home would infringe on the 50' front setback required by New Boston Zoning Regulations. The footings had already been poured and both David and Mr. Thomas wondered how to handle the dilemma from here. Selectman Dodge offered the thought that ZBA approval would be needed; however, he further commented that the Board of Selectmen would be hard pressed to support a variance in a situation that could have and should have been avoided. More investigation into the matter was needed and the Board suggested that the two continue to work towards a resolution, certainly not continue construction until such a resolution was found.

Next in to see the Board was Frank Fillmore, who had discovered a similar problem on a newly constructed house he was selling on Butterfield Mill Road with regard to an improper setback off a Class VI road. Frank was requesting a temporary occupancy permit until the matter could be resolved. The Selectmen will review the matter with the Building Inspector, suggesting that the Fillmore's plan to deal with the ZBA and were doubtful that a temporary occupancy could be granted.

John and Heidi Palmer were next in to see the Board of Selectmen to express concern with regard to the general deterioration of the property of Almus Chancey located across from their real estate office on Clark Hill Road. They feel that their parking lot has become an extension of Clark Hill Road since Almus is parking vehicles on the side of his house causing traffic to veer into Palmer's lot. The Palmer's are concerned with the possible liability should an accident occur. The Board of Selectmen immediately stated that they would speak to the Chief of Police with regard to parking vehicles in the traveled way. Heidi commented that she did not wish to make a formal complaint and her husband agreed with her; however, the Board pointed out that there was little they could do if they did not wish to formally complain. John went to state that the potholes on Clark Hill Road also caused the traffic to veer into their lot; and, further, the rocks that were washed down the hill during heavy rain storms caused a problem in their lot. Heidi stated that the Road Agent was aware of the problem with the rocks. Discussion continued on the increasing debris accumulating on the Chancey property. The Board explained to the Palmer's that a meeting had been held with Almus, at the Board's request, since other complaints had been received. They related to the Palmer's that Almus contended he were only working on his own equipment, which consists of all registered vehicles. Almus stated that neither he nor members of his family were buying and selling vehicles from the property. The Palmer's, once again, stated that they did not want their property to become an extension of Clark Hill Road.

Discussion with the Palmer's turned to the issue of septage seeping onto their lot, an issue which is not new. The Selectmen were under the impression that the situation had been resolved, the Palmer's did not agree. They stated that the State could not determine through testing where the problem originated. Two of the closest abutters have new systems, so the mystery remains. Discussion of this subject continued with the Palmer's stating that Almus has a chronic problem with his septage overflowing causing an accumulation

of flies during the warm weather months. John Palmer stated he will contact the office when the problem recurs. Heidi admits and agrees that they have pursued the problem as they should have. The meeting ended with the Board of Selectmen stating that they can deal with the traffic issues, with the vehicles on the Chancey property protruding onto the roadway and with the rocks washing down Clark Hill Road; however, as far as noise or other disturbances to the Palmer's might be concerned, this is an issue that the Palmer's would have to pursue themselves with a formal complaint to the proper authorities.

Next to meet with the Board of Selectmen was the School Board at the invitation of the Selectmen to informally discuss business at hand for both boards. The School Board indicated the largest concern at present for was the 1991 budget. The Selectmen stated that they were just beginning the same process. The Selectmen indicated to the School Board that they would be supporting 4% increase for Town Office employees, who did not receive a percentage wage increase in 1990, and their benefit package will be maintained. They further stated that the Highway Department follows the State pay scale, which at this time any changes for the upcoming year have not been determined. The Selectmen offered the overview that it is their intent to maintain operating budgets for 1990 in 1991; further stating, it would be their preference to see cuts made in capital expenditures rather than operating budgets. Rick Austin, member of the School Board, asked what effect, if any, the above mentioned thoughts would have on the CIP and Selectman Dodge stated the two items the Town would be considering for this program were the purchase of the new fire truck and the purchase of a one-ton truck for the use of the Highway Department. He also stated that the town would be supporting a major road project.

Discussion ensued on the School Board's plan to look into the recommendation to finish the second floor of the elementary school as well as repairing the roof on the oldest section of the school which is in very poor condition. The costs for both the projects are being gathered, the upper classrooms look like they will cost in the vicinity of \$100,000. The final decision of the need for space has yet to be made, a public hearing will be held on January 16, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. Rick Austin expressed his concern for what the added space, if proposed, could do to the operating budget of the school.

The next topic for discussion was the process by which the School Board will be expanded from three to five members (the expansion had received an affirmative vote at the 1990 Town Meeting). The election process is being reviewed by School Board Counsel Douglas Hatfield and they will, most likely, follow his recommendation. Controversy had arisen when there appeared to be a discrepancy between the presentation of the expansion of the Board on the written ballot and that appearing on the School Warrant.

The establishment of a proof of liability insurance policy is being developed by the School Board and they wanted to make the Selectmen aware of this pursuit. It was their hope that they would have the wording in place and the policy ready for placement and approval on their December agenda.

The possible leasing of the two lower buildings to the Little People's Depot was discussed, with the Selectmen cautioning the School Board regarding the length of this potential lease. The Selectmen's thinking was based on the still vast potential for subdivision in New Boston should the economy change and the need for the school to once again use those buildings. Discussion on this topic also included State mandates both past and future and their impact on the local tax rates.

Selectman Mansfield encouraged continuity among the two Boards as being a positive effort in helping the system progress peacefully. Discussion turned to how the School Board would operate with an increased number of members. It was questioned whether the increased number would actually lessen the burden of those School Board Members presently serving and would there still be only a few members who would be willing to work as needed. It was stated that few people probably realize the commitment it takes to serve on the School Board especially the amount of time necessary to be effective and contributing member.

Discussion turned to the decision that is pending relative to the Town of Bow withdrawing from the SAU, this being the same supervisory union that serves New Boston. If Bow is successful in withdrawing from the union this will mean a potentially 30% higher financial cost to New Boston since those Towns that are members financially support the operations of these unions. It is Bow's contention that they can operation on their own for the same monies as they are now contributing to the union and want the opportunity to try. This is becoming a growing line of thought among communities other than Bow and the decision, when reached, could have some far reaching effects. Discussion went a little further on this subject as to how a community might operate without benefit of an SAU. The principal would most likely act as an assistant Superintendent. Another concern expressed regarding the present situation is that the member School Board's vote collectively on the operations of the SAU and Goffstown, with the largest School Board membership can effectively outvote the other member communities. Again, it was expressed that the decision with regard to Bow could have many ramifications. The most obvious advantage a town like New Boston would receive outside an SAU is more local control. It was pointed out that when the SAU was originally formed it served a useful purpose to those member towns in allowing them to share the costs of administration of school; however, times have changed with towns having more resources.


The Public Hearing to present the School Budget was discussed as well as the meeting the School Board will be having with the Finance Committee.

Selectman Mansfield ended the meeting by stating there are individuals or groups of individuals in this town that feel the Board of Selectmen should put pressure on the School Board to do certain things; however, it is the opinion of the present Board of Selectmen that the two boards function in an equal manner and it should be kept that way. Selectman Mansfield further commented that he did not necessarily know the legalities of the situation, but was

only offering an opinion. Rick Austin offered his support for meetings such as the one that had just taken place as having a positive effect on the community as a whole.

Checks were signed and the mail was reviewed with the meeting being adjourned at approximately 12:30 ~~p.m.~~

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Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra Gendron  
Administrative Assistant