

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - June 3, 1991

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

Road Agent Lee Murray was in for his regular weekly meeting with the Board. The first item for discussion was the purchase of the lawn mover that was owned by Selectman Mansfield and had been tried out by the Highway Department. A price had not been agreed upon prior to Selectman Mansfield's untimely death and the Board agreed to offer Mrs. Mansfield \$500.00 for the machine which they felt would serve the needs of the department.

Lee next presented to the Board the paving prices he had received for 1991 paving and related paving projects. They included Pike at \$28.65, Lane at \$27.40 for McCurdy Road, all other paving \$27.90, and Brox at \$26.95. Both Brox and Pike prices held for all paving and included the fine grade on the Bedford and McCurdy Road projects.

Lee supported contracting with Brox despite the problems on Joe English Road which should be rectified this year. He further stated that the Town could stipulate that no subcontractors would be used, although most of Brox's work is subcontracted, Lee felt that the Town could insert pretty much what they wanted in the contract and Brox would agree since they were very interested in the Town of New Boston being satisfied with their work. Selectman Dodge repeated his displeasure over the Joe English Road Project; however, the Board agreed that the Highway Department would use the paving services of

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There was next discussion on the McCurdy Road project that had been put out to bid since the two low bidders would be meeting with the Board of Selectmen later in the evening for discussion of the bids they had submitted. Lee projected the base bank run gravel to be 5927 yards and the crushed gravel to be 4320 yards. Discussion turned to the grading of the project and all agreed that a grader would be required to do the shaping of the road, the crushed could be, if the contractor chose, placed with a dozer and as stated above the fine grading would be done by the paver. Lee estimated the bank run gravel would cost in the area of \$1.00 per yard and the crushed gravel at \$3.50 per yard. These figures were for the material in the pit and included no other related costs.

Police Chief Jim McLaughlin who would be the Board's next appointment stated when the subject of the purchase of the traffic counter came up, that he was pursuing funding from federal sources and the prospect looked good. Lee is interested in the purchase maintaining that it will be more beneficial for the Town to do its own road layout work for the Master Plan, having a better feel for what is necessary than an engineer would. If purchased, the counter would have multiple uses for several departments within the community. It has been previously discussed how the cost for this purchase might be divided between the various departments and that final decision is yet to be made.

Police Chief Jim McLaughlin was next in to see the Board for his regular monthly meeting. The first topic for discussion was the upcoming Police Chiefs' Convention to be held at the Balsam's located in the northern part of the state. The dates are June 9 - 12 and Jim will plan on attending pending approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Board supported Jim's attendance seeing many benefits that could

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progress of law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies that the program could be mutually beneficial to the Town and Hesser College where Mr. Debutt is enrolled.

Discussion turned to the progress being made by Jim in the hiring of a second full-time officer. Jim stated that the field had been narrowed to two persons and presently the background checks were being conducted. He commented that the top contender continues to look good. Discussion turned to the department's lack of step wage

-increments, Jim stated that the Town's starting pay was competitive; however, in order to encourage personnel to stay Jim is looking to implement a four or five step program. The Selectmen cautioned Jim that they would have to look at future budgets very carefully in order to maintain the support of the voters at Town Meeting. The Selectmen did see the need and asked Jim to put something together for their review and further supported the value of long range planning.

Jim went on to state to the Board that the two grants for which he had applied looked good. These grants were being requested in the area of specialized patrols for DWI and Radar checks. He further stated that there may be federal funds available for some schools.

The next topic for discussion was Jim's need for a computer. He feels he has exhausted every avenue trying to get some kind of system on a donation basis. Most sources have dried up due to the present state of the economy. He is looking to see how far he might go with the Board since, in his opinion, his need is great. He went on to remind the Board that the department is at least a decade behind in the equipment necessary to operate especially from a computer standpoint. Without a computer system in place his revision of the filing system will have to be done twice which he views as a waste. He presented to the Board the option of leasing the necessary equipment which he estimated to cost between \$2500. and \$3500. this would include the printer, Jim already has access to necessary software. Selectman Johnston would like to see what lease agreements might be available, having had Jim already state he felt he could afford the lease payment within his present budget considering he will only be dealing with the balance of the fiscal year. Jim estimated, when asked, the cost to be between \$65. and \$125. monthly depending on the length of the lease. Jim supports this option and his need as unique and necessary and fully realizes he must go through the proper channels before a decision of this nature can be made. The Board requested that Jim bring in hard and firm figures for their review.

Next in to see the Board of Selectmen was Robert Fehsinger, Dougherty Lane, whose name had been submitted to the Board by the Conservation Commission as a potential alternate member. The position had been vacated when Michael Weed was elevated to a full-time commission member upon the resignation of Jim Hawkin. Chairperson of the Conservation Commission Betsey Dodge had been advised that this elevation of an alternate member to full-time member should have been submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval and she will remember this for future consideration. Both Selectmen, when contacted, agreed with the elevation of Michael Weed.

Selectman Johnston stated that this interview would be brief and informal and asked Bob why he would like to become a member of the Commission. Bob responded that he had been a member of the New Boston Community for fourteen years and has always been interested in the conservation of nature. He described and showed with pictures he had brought along what he has done over the years with his own property in the creation of a pond stocked with a variety of fish. Selectman Johnston asked his views regarding hunting and fishing. Bob responded that his own property is posted; however, he related to the need for public land to be utilized to benefit the majority of the community. He believes that hunters and sportsmen can work with the Commission for the benefit of all. Selectman Dodge pointed out to Bob that the

Commission needs members who can be broad minded and will add balance to the Commission. When asked with regard to his time availability to serve the Commission, Bob responded that he was self-employed and governed his own time. His final comment was that he felt he could make decisions that would be in the best interests of the Town as a whole.

It was agreed by the Board, once contact had been made with Betsy Dodge relative to the above-mentioned elevation that, Robert Fehsinger would be appointed to serve as an alternate to the New Boston Conservation Commission and Sandra Gendron contacted Bob to notify him of his appointment.

Next in to see the Board of Selectmen was Skip Gomes along with Gardner and Paula LeBaron, who had submitted the second lowest bid for both the McCurdy and Beard Road Projects. They presented to the Board for their review a very detailed breakdown of how they arrived at their bid for both projects and the Board scrutinized the breakdown carefully. Skip stated that the compacting and grader costs were included in the price of the gravel and the anticipated amounts of gravel was reviewed as to total numbers of yards necessary for bank run and crushed gravel.

Discussion ensued of what areas of both projects could present unforeseen problems and time allotted for both projects was reviewed. When asked, both men agreed, they could start either job immediately.

Next in to see the Board was David Bowen, who had submitted the lowest bid for both projects, accompanied by his wife Holly. David stated, when asked, that the crushed gravel he would be using for the McCurdy Road Project would be coming from Byam's pit on River Road and the bank run gravel would be coming from a pit located on Russell Station Road in Francestown above the New Boston Transfer Station. David expressed the thought that even though the estimate for bank run gravel on McCurdy Road was 5927 yards, he felt the job could be done using approximately 4100 yards and based his bid on this amount fully realizing that he quoted price stands no matter how much gravel he has to use to complete the project to the Town of New Boston's standards and expectations. When asked about potentially problem spots, he expressed the thought that the area on McCurdy Road located in the vicinity of Laurel Lane looked gravelly and he did not anticipate a major problem. He estimated that he could begin the McCurdy Road Project the third week in June and considered the project to be about one months work.

Discussion turned to the Beard Road project which David estimated would take one week for the Beard Hill section plus four more days for the stumping, this time would complete the entire project.

Next discussed was David's payment schedule and since there was some clarification needed, the Board suggested that David go into the Conference Room to discuss the issue with his wife and the Road Agent while they proceeded to their next scheduled appointment who had been waiting.

Maurice and Elaine Grenier were in to see the Board along with their Real Estate Agent Shirley Sullivan regarding the fact that the porch of their home they were trying to sell on Bedford Road extended into

-the Town's Right of Way some .66" of 1'. This was complicating the final signing of their property, not from a legal standpoint, but from perspective of the new buyer who wanted a guarantee from the Board of Selectmen that the porch would never have to be removed should the Town wish to use the right of way to its full potential. At this point in the conversation it was determined that a portion of the living space of the house actually came out over the porch so its possible removal would be a major project and a loss of living space within the house.

The Selectmen reviewed the subdivision plan they had and were willing to have stated in the minutes that there was no current precedent for the Town to take such a small amount of area and they further were willing to state that they this small area would not make a difference no matter what the future intent of the Town might be regarding this right of way.

Shirley Sullivan would relay this message to the buyer and also state that the above discussion would be a part of the minutes of the meeting hoping that this would ease the buyers mind.

Before inviting the Bowen's back in to finish their discussion, the Board took the time to determine the fact that David would have been low bidder even if he took the Town's estimate of gravel necessary for the job into account and David's intent on transporting stumps to the landfill and have his gravel available on that side of town meant he could travel in both directions loaded thereby saving a considerable sum.

Upon the Bowens' return to the meeting it was determined if he were to be awarded the jobs for Beard Road he would receive \$2000. for mobilization, \$5800 when the hill was completed and the balance of \$2640 upon completion of the entire project, and for McCurdy Road he would receive \$5,000. for mobilization, \$25,000. for the grubbing and placement of the bank run gravel and a weekly percentage of the balance for the remainder of the job subject to Lee's approval.

The Selectmen asked David and Holly to step out while they made the decision for the award. The final decision being that David Bowen was awarded both jobs and Skip Gomes would be contacted and apprised of the Board's decision.

Before Lee left for the evening, he discussed with the Board prices he had received from three companies for fuel used for Town owned vehicles. It was decided after review of the prices received that Lee would contact Agway to determine if their price was the best they could do.

Selectman Johnston brought up for discussion the removal of waste oil from the Transfer Station that had been collected on the recently held Hazardous Waste Collection Day. The removal of which had been initially contracted by Mike Richard coordinator of the day for \$30. per barrel. The Selectmen questioned that someone who might burn it in a waste oil heater would be willing to remove the oil at no cost to the Town. Selectman Johnston had contacted Don Boisvert from Weare to see if he were interested, since he was, the Board agreed if he would signed a release relieving the Town of any liability regarding the contents of the barrels and haul the oil away he could have it.

The bid for the handicap access ramp to be constructed at the Town Office was awarded to low bidder Gary Chiccoine.

Selectman Dodge moved that Theodore Olson be appointed to serve on the Board of Selectmen until the Town Meeting of 1992 at which time there would be an election for a Selectman for a one year term to complete the term of Selectman Mansfield. This term would be in addition to the regular three year term which would be on the ballot. This motion was seconded by Selectman Johnston. Sandra Gendron would contact Ted Olson and if he were in agreement, he would be sworn in prior to the next meeting. Ted was subsequently contacted and agreed to serve in the above mentioned capacity for the above mentioned time.

It is to be noted in these minutes and a copy of this portion of the minutes place in all folders containing "Irrevocable Letters of Credit" that the Board of Selectmen contacted Town Counsel Leslie Nixon with the concern that if a person from whom the Town has accepted one of these letters files bankruptcy would the Town be in a position to collect. It had been the opinion of the bank when contacted and asked the same question that in fact the agreement was between the bank and the Town so there would not be a problem; however, at their suggestion an opinion was also asked of Town Counsel. Leslie Nixon agreeable with the banks answer.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant