

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - December 2, 1991

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

Road Agent Lee Murray was in for his regularly weekly meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Lee told the Board of a scheduled meeting on Dec. 10th at 9:30 a. m. at the bridge site on Depot Street with Michael Kanik who had the lay-out of the proposed bridge. There was discussion on contacting Jim Moore at the State level to make certain that all the state criteria was known and was met so that New Boston would be eligible for state funds towards the replacement cost of the bridge.

Discussion turned to Wilson Hill Road where Leo Dumont was planning to hydro-seed and mulch that area of the road that he was bringing to Class V status so that it might be inspected for acceptance by the Town by the end of this week. Selectman Johnston did comment that he felt the pavement was ripply. Lee explained that presently on the road was a binder coat and when the 1" finish is applied this will help to alleviate that condition.

The next item Lee brought to the Board's attention was a phone call he had received from Richard Messina, the developer of the Dane Hill Road area, inquiring if the town might be interested in the lot he owned adjacent to the Transfer Station. This lot appears to have vast quantities of quality gravel, the purchase of which has been discussed before. Lee is of the opinion that the Town could very well be interested since at this time we have no gravel of our own. Selectman Olson suggested possibly touching bases with the Conservation Commission regarding the potential of opening roads in that area. The two Selectmen present stated it would have to be discussed with the full Board present and would want Selectman Dodge to dig test pits to determine the quantity of gravel on the lot in question.

Arnold Byam, speaking for the Morgan's, on Greenfield Road, asked how the Selectmen might feel with regard to the closing of a portion of Cochran Hill Road which is not used for travel since this is an area where people have been prone to depositing debris. Arnold was given the date and the details of getting a article on the 1992 Town Warrant which would address this situation.

Before leaving Lee asked the Board for a decision with regard to compensation time which he had proposed to the Board a few weeks previously. He would like a decision as soon as possible since it is during the winter season that this time could be accumulated if approved.

Police Chief James McLaughlin was next in to see the Board of Selectmen for his regular monthly meeting. He began discussion by presenting November statistics for his department which he stated were up traditionally due to the holiday season. He went on to state that similar events were occurring in surrounding towns.

Jim asked the Board if there had been any progress made regarding the proposal presented by the Playground Association as it relates to the lease of their building to the Police Department. He

questioned that the bank building might be something to look into since it appeared it would soon become vacant and the FDIC as owner might be interested in negotiating. He supported the building as being extremely desirable to be used by the Police Department for many reasons.

Jim presented to the Board his proposed budget for 1992 and discussions began. Jim explained that he tried to keep the budget down as much as possible and was open to discussion on any items presented. Jim stated that the proposed figures were actual costs and also included was a step scale for the three full-time employees of the department. He contended that there was "no fat" in the proposed budget which did cause him some concern since he would be running on a tight line; however, he was extremely cognizant of the present economy.

Selectman Johnston expressed concern for the step increases as well as the cost of living raises that Jim was proposing for his department and suggested that this year he might only look to one or the other. Jim commented that there is probably never a right time to make initial changes such as the above-mentioned program for full-time employees.

Discussion continued on the budget and Jim stated that he is proposing eight hour coverage for Sunday's commencing in July. Discussion continued on the availability of his part-time officers for such coverage. Jim also stated that in the interest of economizing on his training budget, Part-time Officer Tim Lamy has become instructor certified and FBI certified to keep department up to date on shooting qualifications. This is an area that Jim considers to be very important since educated and qualified officers lessen the liability for the department and the Town.

Jim pointed out to the Selectmen that he and his officers had donated some 771 hours during the year 1991 to date, most of which came as a result of attending classes at the Police Academy. Selectman Johnston questioned the number of hours alluding to the need for continuing education. Jim commented that these hours were not taken from their regular jobs and were not connected to their regular jobs. Discussion continued on this subject.

Selectman Johnston brought the discussion back to the proposed raises and expressed concern that the combination step and cost of living added up to more that he could justify in a given year. Discussion turned to the step program as it related to the Highway Department.

The budget would be reviewed once again when the entire Board of Selectmen was available.

Selectman Dodge having arrived reviewed the matter that Arnold Byam had brought before the Board as previously mentioned. The area that was proposed be closed was between Greenfield Road to Old Coach Road. Currently the road is passable and discussion ensued on the fact that there was a considerable amount of debris deposited there. The petition, as was previously mentioned, was discussed and the fact that the Board of Selectmen should walk the area so that they

might take a position should the petition to place an article in the upcoming warrant be offered. The Board looked at maps of the area and determined that it was very unlikely that this particular section of road would be utilized should the area be developed and they seemed to feel that the Morgan's would most likely agree to the use of the road by the Fire Department.

Carl Bryson was in to discuss with the Board of Selectmen the necessary procedure for him to place a temporary trailer on his lot while he builds his home. He was told to submit a letter of intent to the Board of Selectmen to begin the process.

Checks were signed, mail was reviewed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Gendron", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant