

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - February 4, 1991

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Mansfield and Dodge with Sandra Gendron taking minutes. Selectman Johnston was representing the Board of Selectmen at a Public Hearing for the Planning Board and would attend this meeting as soon as he could.

Chief of Police James McLaughlin was in for his regular monthly meeting with the Board of Selectmen. He stated that his department had been very busy, although nothing too out of the ordinary was happening; he reviewed his workload with the Board. He also stated that there had been no burglaries reported for the month of January. The subject of a Dog Officer was raised by Jim for discussion. Jim explained that he did have someone in mind who was currently working for the Animal Rescue League. He went on to relate how Goffstown handles dog complaints; whereby, they have an officer meet the citizen bringing in a stray dog at the Rescue League. They claim this is less demanding on the officer and the Chief of Police also claims that it reduces the number of complaints. Discussion ensued on the fact that New Boston does not have a serious problem nor do we have a dog officer so that all complaints are handled by the Police Department. The person that Jim referred to above as being a candidate for the job also works for the Town of Weare for an hourly wage. Jim suggested that we might approach this person and offer \$10.00 per incident if they would respond to New Boston's periodic needs. The question of a tetanus shot was raised and Jim stated that he would contact the Weare Police Department to see if the cost of this preventative measure might be shared by both towns. Jim would create the policy procedure that would be used by dispatch, he does have monies in his budget for such occurrences and the Selectmen approved Jim's suggestion that the Town of New Boston offer \$10.00 per incident for the above-mentioned service.

Next to be discussed by the group was the firing range that Jim is presently using for the department. Currently he is using the entrance to the Transfer Station on the west side. Jim asked the Selectmen's permission to improve the site for continued use by the department. Discussion ensued as to where in the immediate area they could continue to target practice. The Selectmen suggested that Jim contact Road Agent Lee Murray to determine what Lee might have in mind the future use of the gravel in the area. The Board agreed that between Lee and Jim and with a little effort from both, they could come up with a permanent location for a firing range.

Jim was looking to the Selectmen for input with regard to Town Policy relating to N. H. Municipal Trust rules that can be defended in court should action be taken against the Town. For example, the policy might concern disciplinary action. The Selectmen stated that there is nothing in place at this time, but are interested in knowing what these rules might be.

Jim stated that he was still working on the Emergency Management Plan. He will be meeting this coming week with a representative from Concord. The group discussed the large generator that had been purchased by the town. Discussion ensued as to whether representation from the Tracking Station should be sought since that installation is potentially a targeted area. Selectman

PM

Mansfield asked Jim to try to ascertain whether the bridge that crosses the river from Route #13 to the Police Station is considered necessary in terms of a civil defense disaster. Jim agreed to investigate.

On another matter, Jim asked if the Board was considering a meeting with the Playground Association to discuss specifics with regard to the building now housing his department and the Board agreed that this meeting must take place.

Jim brought up for the Board's consideration the added hours that he works for special duty such as the Fair. He would like approval from the Selectmen to offer his services to the Fair Association and be paid extra for the hours involved. He stated that the Town would still get his regular hours for the period involved. He further stated that when he was employed by the Town of Hopkinton, he would take the week of the fair off; therefore, in his opinion, not taking away from his regular duties. Selectman Dodge expressed the hope that Jim would not change his regular shift in order to pick up extra details and Selectman Mansfield expressed similar concerns. Jim assured the Selectmen this would only be for the exceptional event such as the fair. On the subject of extra details, Jim stated that he would like to adjust the present \$15.00 hourly rate and increase it to \$25.00 which is being charged by surrounding communities. He would further like to add an additional \$3.00 per hour for certain details to cover the costs related to the use of a cruiser. These charges would be receipts to the Police Department Budget. Selectman Mansfield expressed concern that these proposed increases would adversely affect certain Town functions such as a Monte Carlo Night. Jim explained how it was presently being handled and stated it would not effect these events directly. Jim stated that he charges normal hourly rates for town functions and certain functions such as the Halloween Parade the Police Department covers at no charge. Jim took this opportunity to express his concern regarding the serving of alcoholic beverages at town sponsored functions due to the liability issue created. Jim is opposed to this continuing and feels that the Town has been very fortunate not to have legal issues raised thus far. No firm decision was made on the subject of the rate changes referred to above and the matter will be subject to further review.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen was Dr. Susan Peterson, President of Ecological Engineering Associates out of Marion, Ma. She works with communities to provide a waste water treatment service. She presented a very interesting program of operations that are currently on line and explained how more are being contemplated and built.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant

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2/4/91