

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - February 11, 1991

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

The first meeting of the evening was with Bruce Fillmore who presented the Selectmen a copy of a plan with regard to Greenfield Road and the Ivy Group proposed subdivision. The plan showed the lack of sufficient space between the existing stone walls needed in order to meet town specifications. The existing space would not accommodate 4' shoulders as required. Discussion ensued and Selectman Dodge contended that this is not the first time this situation has existed and has had to be dealt with. He suggested that Bruce contact Road Agent Lee Murray for his suggestions; however, the situation would probably be resolved by having less than the 4' shoulder in order to preserve the stonewalls. Bruce questioned whether it was necessary to have cross-sections every 100' and Selectman Johnston suggested that they be made at the normal widths of the road and then in the narrow sections. Selectman Dodge suggested that Bruce have the plan reviewed by the Planning Board for suggestions even though he is well aware that the Board of Selectmen has the final authority over roads. It was determined that the bottom line of the matter would be to keep the road between the existing stonewalls.

Member of the School Board Maureen Brown was in at the request of the Board, she noted the other two members of her Board had been unable to attend this meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the two Boards to discuss the issue of Certificates of Insurance which had become part of the School Board policy requirements for groups to use the multi-purpose building at the Central School. Maureen explained that the School Board was trying to minimize the liability risk for the school and further that it was common practice to request certificates; however, the situation in New Boston was somewhat different since the multi-purpose room was for the use of all the townspeople. She also stated that the School Board had acted on the advice legal counsel and the insurance agent.

Selectman Johnston wondered why it was only the building that was causing concern since he questioned the school's liability if someone or a group of people were playing on the ball or soccer fields. He expressed the opinion that there was no more control for the outside of the building than what was going on inside. Again, Maureen explained that the School Board was only trying to minimize the risk and save money on the cost of insurance. Maureen went on to say that she had spoken to the Superintendent of Schools and that he had reviewed the policy and now is of the opinion that the policy might be lacking. He is arranging a meeting with the carrier for discussion of the policy that is currently in force.

Discussion ensued as to what might take place should the policy be found lacking and Selectman Johnston stated that he felt a definition of the word "facility" was needed in order to determine if the grounds surrounding the building were covered. Selectman Dodge expressed his concern that groups who were not able to meet the requirement of providing a Certificate of Insurance were looking to fall under the Recreation Department so that the Town's insurance would provide coverage. He questioned that in some instances the

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Town might be providing double coverage and ultimately the cost of the insurance for the school and the town does come from the taxpayers. He expressed the thought that the school might be able to get a better policy and if it proved to be more expensive then that issue could be looked at.

Discussion turned to the J.A.L. who had provided a certificate and Maureen expressed the opinion that they seemed to realize the need for additional insurance since they were dealing with large numbers of participants as well as spectators. Selectman Mansfield felt that the insurance on the school should be expanded, if possible, and then any additional costs might be realized from any groups using the building that might not be covered from another source. Selectman Johnston felt that "private resident groups" should be willing to donate towards any added expense. The Selectmen as a group did not feel that just anyone should come under the authority of the Recreation Commission for reasons of insurance especially since this would tend to enlarge the commission which in turn would escalate the costs of that department. Maureen did comment that currently New Boston is purchasing it's own insurance, that quite possibly, after some investigation it would be more cost-effective to join with the other towns in the S.A.U. when purchasing insurance.

Discussion turned to the issue of security at the school. Maureen stated that new security keys were being issued in an attempt to more closely control who had access to the multi-purpose building. She also stated that there was no alarm system in that portion of the building since it appeared that it had never been voted to purchase by the School Board. Discussion ensued as to the advantage of having an "on-duty janitor" who would assume the responsibility of the care, use and security of the building before, during and after it's use. The Selectmen support this concept as being a necessity and further expressed the thought that the cost of said janitor could, in part, be covered by the using groups. They also contended that this might reduce the cost of insurance.

The meeting ended with the Selectmen encouraging the School Board to schedule a meeting with the various user groups to discuss the issues. Maureen agreed that the School Board would reconsider the multi-purpose room policy with regard to insurance, that they would meet with the various groups and likely they were back to square one regarding the issue. Selectman Mansfield suggested that the School Board might consider having a representative of the Board of Selectmen included when the meeting of the groups was scheduled.

Before leaving Maureen wanted the Selectmen to know that the bottom line of the proposed school budget had to be increased by the amount of the first year bond payment if the completion of the upper classrooms was approved. She also agreed that waivers would be issued so that all groups who were accustomed to using the multi-purpose room could continue until more investigation could take place into the insurance issue.

Next on the evening's agenda was a meeting with the Cemetery Trustees who were being represented by Jerry Kennedy. The issue to be discussed was the proposed warrant article in the amount of

\$7800. which was being requested at the upcoming Town Meeting to have engineering work done on a piece of donated land adjacent to the existing cemetery which will eventually be used for a cemetery. The proposed amount had been submitted to the Cemetery Trustees by George F. Keller, Inc. an engineering firm from Merrimack, N. H. The letter described in detail how the \$7800. would be spent and essentially it would layout the entire project. This particular article was not endorsed by the Finance Committee mainly due to lack of information which the Selectmen agreed to investigate and will report back to the Finance Committee. The Selectmen agreed in order to properly prepare this site for the intended use all the issues that would be addressed by the \$7800. expense were necessary.

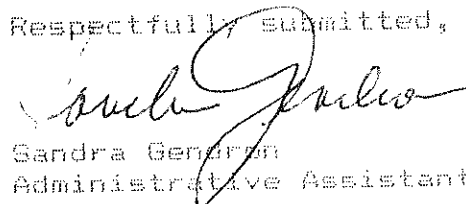
On another matter the Selectmen gave to Jerry for consideration of the Trustees a copy of a letter from the Coffin Family asking if the Town would have any interest in purchasing land they own near the cemetery. Everyone agreed it would be worth investigating and discussion ensued as to when additional land would actually be needed. Selectman Dodge offered the opinion that this could be viewed as another aspect of long range planning which is important to keeping a handle on property tax rates.

Discussion returned to the \$7800. Warrant Article and Selectman Dodge pointed out that potentially there would be fill available from various town projects and if a plan were in place then the fill would be utilized in the best possible manner. Selectman Mansfield also pointed out that if the plan was in place then lots could be sold. The meeting ended with the Selectmen pointing out to Jerry that the proposed operating budget for the cemetery for 1991 had been increased from \$800. to \$1000. the increase to be used for additional maintenance for the older portion of the existing cemetery.

The Selectmen discussed the building permit which had been issued to Dodge Farm for construction of a new barn and had been brought to their attention by the Building Inspector since the question of an occupancy permit or lack thereof had been raised in a phone call to Bob. The Selectmen instructed Sandra Gendron to have the Building Inspector contact Jim Dodge and arrange for an inspection and then report the status back to them. Selectman Johnston being the representative from the Board to the Planning Board would check the status of the site plan review. Discussion ensued as to work that is in progress at the farm, life safety codes as they relate to an agricultural business and extensions that had been granted to various individuals and the school for occupancy permits.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant