

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - March 18, 1991

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

In for his regular weekly appointment with the Board of Selectmen was Road Agent Lee Murray. Also attending this meeting were representatives from the 4-H Foundation Rodney Stark, Brent Armstrong, John Currier owner of the crusher and dozer which were currently being used at the Foundation gravel pit, David Wilson and Robert Rheault currently the contractor for gravel removal at the pit to discuss the possibility of the Town purchasing gravel from the 4-H Foundation. Rodney Stark spokesperson for the Foundation stated they would like to reach an agreement whereby the Town of New Boston might purchase gravel at a mutually agreed upon price between the contractor at the pit and the Town. He expressed concern that there might be a breakdown in communication with regard to the Town purchasing gravel and it was the intent of the meeting to come to terms, if possible. Selectman Dodge questioned whether the terms of the contract between the Foundation and Mr. Rheault allowed for the sale of gravel to the Town. Lee asked if the Town might be able to use their own loader should the price of loaded gravel per yard be prohibitive and further stated that the Town of New Boston had used 7612 yards of gravel on various projects in 1990. Selectman Dodge offered the thought that the Town would have to have access to the gravel and have the option to load the material if necessary; which obviously would mean there would have to be a bond of trust between the two parties.

Mr. Rheault questioned that the Town should have the ability to come and go at will and Selectman Dodge responded that in other pits in Town this was precisely the arrangement. Mr. Rheault expressed reluctance. Selectman Dodge contended that the Town would need this type of agreement if gravel were to be purchased. Mr. Rheault commented that the Foundation pit was unique because shaping was taking place as the material was removed. Already he had a large stockpile of crushed gravel which represented a substantial personal investment and he expressed reluctance at having someone else bring in a loader. Rodney Stark asked Bob Rheault what sort of controls he would deem necessary. Bob expressed concern for the load count and whether the honor system would work and then asked what kind of numbers did the Town have in mind. Lee contended that the loader operator and the truck driver would always be the same and he had never experienced problems in other pits with accurate load counts. Once again, Selectman Dodge stated if trust could not be extended to the Town, then maybe the discussions should end, seeing no other way to handle the situation.

Bob Rheault asked what might happen if he and John were working in the pit and the Town was looking for gravel, would they be expected to load the material. Lee responded that should the Town be looking for only a couple of loads then they would expect to pay the loaded price, if they were looking for more then they would like the option to bring in the Town loader. Lee further stated that the Town generally uses bank run gravel that they are currently paying \$1.25 per yard for. John Currier contended that it was not possible to sell the material from the Foundation pit for that price stating that since much of the material is sand that needs to be mixed to proper consistency and handled more than once the cost is more. A statement to which Bob Rheault agreed. Selectman Dodge inquired what the stockpiled cost might be and depending on the amount the Town still might be in position to purchase.

Discussion turned to who would be financially responsible for preparing the 4-H grounds when the area needed to be made ready for parking at fair time. Bob Rheault stated that the gravel could not be given away and further he had costs that must be met in order for him to comply with the terms of the contract he has with the 4-H Foundation. Selectman Johnston stated that he did not think the Town of New Boston should pay top dollar for the gravel. Bob Rheault once again expressed concern as to who would police the situation should problems occur. Selectman Dodge does not see that a problem would arise since the Board of Selectmen expressed complete trust in the Road Agent. Bob Rheault defends his concerns as having been "burnt" in the past. However, Selectman Dodge countered that Lee would know what was expected of him and would act accordingly. Selectman Johnston offered the contention that since Lee would not be selling the material he would have nothing to gain by not acting in a manner in which everyone expected he would. Selectman Dodge stated that any issues that might arise could be taken up with Lee and they would be tended to. He went on to say that the Town of New Boston would be customers and either agreement could be reached on a price per yard or it could not. Discussion continued as to the type of material that Lee might need. Lee has been paying \$2.00 per yard for crushed gravel on site and quite possibly a financial agreement might only be reached for the purchase of bank run gravel, which once again it was stated that this is what is most used by the Town. Lee has no estimates as to what he will be looking for in 1991.

The meeting ended with Rodney Stark asking the contractor if the final price will be related to the quantity of gravel to be sold. There seemed to be no definite answer; however, Rob Rheault felt quite comfortable that they could not meet \$1.25 per yard for bank run since there was so much work involved. The contractor