

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - April 1, 1991

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectman Johnston and Mansfield with Sandra Gendron taking minutes. Selectman Dodge was away on business.

The only scheduled appointment for the evening was Police Chief Jim McLaughlin's regular monthly meeting with the Board. Jim began the meeting by updating the Selectmen on Police Department activities. He stated that Richard Belanger, the only in-house applicant for the full-time position on the force had completed his physiological and polygraph testing and an oral interview with Jim. Jim recommended to the Board that he be hired and proposed that a Saturday date be set so that Rick might be sworn in. Discussion ensued on the advisability of hiring Rick prior to his becoming certified, his training for certification having just begun at the Police Academy. Jim commented that he saw no benefit in waiting for Rick to complete the course since he was well aware that it was a requirement of the position and he further stated that Rick knew that there was a one year probationary period that would also have to be completed before the full-time position was permanent. Jim contended that there would be no savings of money by waiting which he felt would not be an appropriate course of action; and he went on to state that by hiring Rick, in his opinion, it would give Rick moral support to know he had a job to look forward to. Selectman Mansfield remained reluctant and asked if Jim had made a prior agreement with Rick Belanger. Jim stated that he told Rick he was not the hiring authority, but made recommendations to the Board of Selectmen who did the hiring. Jim expressed the thought that he felt most Town's hired Police Officers in this manner and he would make the same recommendation if the position were being filled from outside the department. More discussion ensued as to what would be expected of Rick at the Academy and the fact that Jim would like to use him on the weekends while he was becoming certified. It was stated by Jim, when asked, that the probationary one year period would start from the date he was sworn in. Again, discussion continued on what might occur if Rick did not complete the certification course. The question was raised as to whether Rick would revert back to part-time status should he not become certified in this session at the Academy. Jim stated that should this happen, he would question his capability of remaining with the New Boston Department. When Selectman Mansfield still expressed concern should the above situation occur, Jim stated he would have to investigate thoroughly the reason why Rick did not become certified, this would include meeting with the staff at the Academy and then if the situation were deemed correctable, Rick would be given the opportunity to do whatever were necessary.

The Selectmen agreed to having Rick sworn in and Jim commented that the entire force had been assisting Rick in his pursuit of certification; and further, if Jim felt there was a reason to tread slowly in this matter he would not recommend hiring.

On another subject, Jim told the Board that interviews would begin the next day to fill the newly funded position of full-time clerical help for the department. Administrative Assistant Sandra Gendron would be involved in the interview process. He commented that he had received a good cross-section of applicants to date with varied experience. The majority of the applicants were from the general area. The

Jim
PM
Wood

field would be narrowed down and the two or three deemed to be most qualified could be scheduled for an interview with the Board of Selectmen, who would make the final decision.

The next item to be discussed was that of paid details. This had been previously discussed by Jim and the Board and Jim felt that all agreed there would be an increase. Currently New Boston is charging \$15.00 per hour for such details and Jim recommended that this be increased to \$18.00 per hour with a portion of this rate being retained by the Department, which is not part of the present procedure, since there were costs involved above the wage of the detail officer. Jim further proposed that this \$18.00 rate would increase to \$20.00 per hour if the use of a cruiser were involved. Jim went on to state that the above charges were broken down as he was proposing commonly by surrounding communities and further that these proposed rates were still well below what some surrounding communities were currently charging. Chairman Johnston expressed the desire to make a final decision on this rate increase until the entire Board of Selectmen was available and it was agreed that Jim would remain with the current rate schedule until this could occur.

Jim related to the Board that he was working with the Fire Department and the Highway Department regarding the purchasing of the radio equipment, the funding of which was voted at the 1991 Town Meeting. He stated that he had prices from three or four different companies trying to get the best available price. Presently, buying directly from Motorola looked like the better deal.

Jim informed the Selectmen that he had told Ellen Ruggles on the Board's decision to back Jim in his not taking any responsibility for damages to her answering machine, a matter that had been brought to the Board's attention by Administrative Assistant Sandra Gendron at Jim's request. Since Selectman Mansfield had not been present for the original discussion he was brought up to date. Jim stated that it had been determined that Officer Rick Belanger had not touched the machine and; therefore, Jim felt the department had no financial responsibility in damage to the machine. He told the Board Ellen Ruggles was not happy with that decision.

Jim would like to start replacing the handguns carried by the officers on a rotating basis. The new guns would be semi-automatics. This was also a matter that had been previously discussed by Jim and the Selectmen. Jim proposed to replace three or four each year for two years. He described the weapon he was interested in purchasing as a 10 millimeter, 40 caliber gun that would be easier to fire than the guns currently in service. Jim stated that he had taken into consideration Selectmen Dodge's concerns when this subject had previously been discussed, which dealt with the town owning the gun rather than the individual officer. Jim recommends the above procedure stating that each gun will cost approximately \$430. with a trade in value of approximately \$150. on the currently owned guns. He also stated that this money is in his 1991 budget. It was subsequently decided that this was another decision that would be made by the Board when all three were present.

Jim had been asked by Road Agent Lee Murray, from a law enforcement

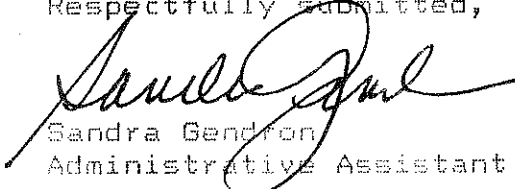
standpoint, what would be the effect if he should stripe some of the existing paved roads with a single yellow line rather than the presently used double. Jim stated that enforcement of traffic violations would not change and he could see no problem even though current state law quotes single lines as being illegal. Jim called the State Highway Department where he did not receive any support for striping with single lines again having present state law quoted; however, when Jim asked that a specific RSA be noted none could be given. The State Highway Department seems to shy away from Federal guidelines where an attempt is being made to standardize the country. Jim does recommend using a double line where the road width can accommodate both lines.

At Jim's request, a motion was made by Selectman Johnston and seconded by Selectman Mansfield, with both voting in favor of entering an Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. for discussion of a Police Department personnel matter.

At 8:05 p.m. a motion having been made and duly seconded and so voted by the Board of Selectmen the Executive Session was exited.

Mail was reviewed, checks were signed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant