

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - August 26, 1991

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Johnston and Dodge, Selectman Olson was scheduled to work this date. Sandra Gendron took minutes.

Road Agent Lee Murray was in for his regular weekly meeting with the Board of Selectmen. The first topic for discussion was the McCurdy Road Project which was running behind schedule by contractor Dave Bowen and Sons. Lee went on to explain that David had suffered major equipment breakdowns. The Selectmen expressed dismay at the situation since after reviewing the contract the completion date was listed as "on or about" August 9, 1991. The Board went on to state that David would have to hire trucks. Lee will discuss the situation with David Bowen and report back to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Johnston offered the thought that David be given a date by which the crushed gravel would have to be in place. Lee did not feel that this would be an effective alternative. Selectman Dodge suggested that Lee speak to David as mentioned above and strongly suggest that he hire additional trucks further telling David that material is to be moved on a daily basis. Selectman Dodge also suggested that Lee report back to the Board if no progress had been made by Friday of this week. Lee wants to suggest that David will need at least four trucks on the job to get the gravel in place for paving this fall which is absolutely mandatory. All agreed that this course of action would be pursued.

The next topic for discussion was a piece of equipment which Lee had purchased as surplus from the State of N. H. and kept for the mandatory amount of time before it could be considered saleable. Lee explained that a portion of this equipment could be sold still leaving Lee with a useful portion. Lee proposed to the Board of Selectmen that the funds realized from said sale be used to purchase a lap top computer which would be used in conjunction with other equipment owned by the Highway Department for such things as updating the Master Plan as it relates to the roads and measuring and listing the various roads in Town. The Board of Selectmen were in unanimous agreement that Lee proceed with the above described plan.

Discussion turned to the placement of the road vehicle counter which had been moved to Clark Hill Road from Wilson Hill Road. Lee proposed that he continue to move the counter and place it on the next five roads which have been prioritized on the Master Plan as needing reconstruction; he further proposed that he place the counter on roads other than those on the priority list to determine if the list needs to be rearranged depending on the counts he attains. Selectman Dodge suggested that he use the same days of the week on each road so that readings taken are consistent. Lee expressed concern regarding the time this might involve and suggests that a Monday thru Wednesday and a Thursday thru Saturday schedule for rotation be used; however, the Selectmen contended that the same days should be used for each road for purposes of accuracy when priorities were placed. It was agreed that the counter would be placed from Monday to Monday on each road chosen.

It was decided by those present that the bid would not go out for



Wilson Hill Road until the cutting has been completed, which Lee estimated would take a week or less.

Ken Marvell was next in to see the Board of Selectmen regarding a recent Yield Tax bill he had received and had taken issue with. He went on to explain his unhappiness centered around the rate that had been used to calculate his tax. He contended that his situation was unique and he had previously sent in a letter trying to explain why he felt his cutting operation should be considered for a lesser tax. He considered the timber cut from his property to be of poor quality thereby not warranting the rate used. He went on to state that in operating a tree farm he was working to regenerate trees and was not cutting for personal gain. He proposed using the wood chip price for the poorest quality of the material cut would be fair. Discussion ensued on the quality of the material taken and the bill that had been sent to Ken as it related to what he actually received for the trees cut.

Ken reiterated his tree farming program and his work with county foresters as well as his public tours made available to interested parties including the public schools, with this in mind, he expressed his desire to be able to say that the Town is also working with him in an attempt to accommodate what he is trying to accomplish.

The Selectmen agreed to review the slips provided by Ken for the amount he received for the poorer quality material and will make a decision with regard to the Yield Tax bill. As an end note to this portion of the minutes, it was the decision of the Board of Selectmen to use the wood chip price for the poorer quality of materials and the appropriate adjustment would be made to the bill.

Next in to see the Board of Selectmen was Joel Daniels who wished to discuss with the Board the need of the JAL for baseball fields. He stated that the group has been invited to enter a prep league which involves 13-15 year olds, but they are in desperate need of a place to play. He further stated the JAL is looking into the possibility of a piece of Town-owned land being available for such a purpose. He went on to say that the JAL would assume all preparation costs and maintenance costs. He continued by stating if there were no Town-owned land available, then there would be the need to solicit the use of a privately owned piece of land and mentioned the possibility of offering a tax reduction to make such a solicitation more attractive. He stated that he really was meeting with the Board looking for ideas.

While discussing the amount of land that might be necessary, Joel stated with a five acre piece two baseball fields could be constructed, with a regulation size soccer field in the middle. Before turning the discussion back to the Board of Selectmen, Joel asked about the Town-owned piece of land across from the Transfer Station and offered assurances that if something were available the JAL would assume the responsibility for clearing the necessary area.

Selectman Dodge responded to the issue of the use of the land across from the Transfer Station by stating that someday it was hoped that something of this nature could be done on this property; however,

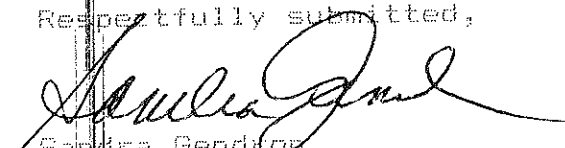
based on the reasons why this land had been purchased in the first place this type of use was premature. Discussion turned to the possibility of using a portion of the Follansbee Land which the Town owns on Tucker Mill Road. The tax maps were pulled out to facilitate discussion for the potential use of this land. Joel Daniels did state that the JAL can enter the program without having our own field as long as it can be shown that there is action being taken. Selectman Dodge suggested that the JAL might meet with Conservation Commission who have been working on using the Follansbee Land as a natural preserve to ascertain if a co-existent use of the land were feasible. It was also suggested that Joel contact Tim Cady, the resident engineer who could discuss the present condition of the and the future use of the town-owned land across from the Transfer Station. Before discussion of the potential of any Town-owned land being available ended, it was pointed out that there was a possibility that land located on the same side as the Transfer Station might be considered.

Discussion then turned to what the JAL might do in order to become a Town Organization. Joel stated that it was becoming more obvious that a merger between the JAL and the Recreation Department was not going to happen especially after the last meeting between the two groups when some of the JAL supporters for a merger backed away. Joel sees the two groups as having two very different philosophies. Selectman Dodge offered the comment that the issues seemed to involve personalities to which Joel responded that at first he was in agreement with this; however, has since changed his mind. He went on to name communities such as Milford and Merrimack who successfully run two town-sponsored organizations. Joel commented that the New Boston JAL is completely self-sustained and that all merger attempts have been stalled. Selectman Johnston stated that he would like to see harmony among the two groups and discussion ensued on what might have to happen to still have one major commission. Joel envisions the structuring of such a group as having one person on top with one person under running the recreation programs and one person of equal status running the athletic programs. Joel asked the Selectmen what it might take to have a study done, should JAL members submit a proposal. Selectman Johnston stated that, in his opinion, the two groups recreation and athletics need to be identified and defined. Joel's parting words were that he would like to work with the Town.

The Selectmen were made aware that the Planning Board questioned under what authority Styles Road was maintained last winter since the road has not been accepted. Selectman Dodge, Board representative to the Planning Board, would further discuss the issue with the Planning Board.

Mail was reviewed, checks were signed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra Gendron  
Administrative Assistant