

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

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Johnston and Olson with Sandra Gendron taking minutes. Selectman Dodge arrived at approximately 9:00 p.m.

To be noted, the Board of Selectmen, along with the Road Agent, met with Paul Aiken at his residence as had been previously scheduled. Paul was told that the Town would not pave his driveway. It was the hope of the town officials in attendance that Paul had been talked out of installing the two culverts, but rather would allow the town to redefine the upper swale. The Town will also grind a stump that is presently in the ditch line which should allow the water to pass by Paul's driveway.

The only scheduled meeting for the evening was with the School Board. This is an annual meeting between the two boards just to keep everyone abreast of the goings on with the individual boards.

Representing the School Board was Maureen Brown, Gordon Carlstrom, John Walker and Roger Dignard. Betty Borry was absent due to the death of her mother.

Discussion began with the School Board stating that Bow was once again requesting withdrawal from the SAU, a request which this time will be supported by Goffstown, Dunbarton and New Boston. The Board went on to explain that last year when this same request was denied by the State, the School Board from Bow went to the townspeople and in their support. The statement was made that the SAU structure was no longer effective and it was inevitable that Bow would withdraw. The three remaining towns, as named above, are all very concerned with regard to the impact this withdrawal will have on the SAU budget as a whole. The Board feels there will be a push to restructure the SAU. Bow is looking for local control and eventually it appears they will get approval from the State to withdraw. The Board does feel that the State will be careful with their final approval being very aware of the financial impact on the three remaining communities. The Board stated that they are currently looking into what the financial impact would be to New Boston. Presently it would appear that the New Boston portion of the SAU budget could increase by 13% just by virtue of the Bow withdrawal not including 12% that was originally being proposed for 1992 by the SAU. A revised proposal has been submitted with a lesser increase. Discussion ensued on the budgets proposals and cuts for the SAU. The Board stated that the Goffstown Budget Committee is pushing the Goffstown School Board for a restructure of the SAU.

Discussion continued on what the withdrawal of Bow from the SAU would mean. The first year would be a transitional one with consultants fees to be paid; however, without Bow the SAU would be able to operate with less staffing. Roger Dignard was of the opinion that one of the benefits that would be derived should Bow be allowed to withdraw would be that the remaining towns would receive a greater share of the services provided by the SAU. Gordon Carlstrom expressed the opinion that presently Bow lends nothing to the SAU since they wish that they were not even there. Maureen Brown feels that if the state refuses the proposal to withdraw this time the issue will end. She supported this opinion by contending

That when the State is giving consideration to this withdrawal they may be reluctant to set a trend that will be reviewed statewide. Maureen went on to express her feeling that the present SAU staff is more credible than past staffers and maybe the office can work well with three towns.

Discussion turned to cuts that have been made by the Superintendent in Goffstown, Maureen detailed these cuts and why they had been made as explained to the School Boards by the Superintendent. The intent being to try to save the proposed school budgets from being brutalized at the annual School Meetings.

The next topic to be discussed was New Boston's share of tuition as it relates to the new Middle School that is now in operation in Goffstown. Maureen stated that she has questioned some of the numbers submitted and is of the opinion that this will be a hot issue. In discussion finances, Maureen asked if the Board of Selectmen felt it would be valuable to have representation present from the SAU when the New Boston School Board presents their 1992 budget to the New Boston Finance Committee. The superintendent is willing to attend the meeting and this is what is being done in Goffstown. Selectman Johnston stated this should be discussed with Finance Committee Chairman Elliot Hersey, but feels that it might be a welcomed addition. Sandra Gendron was instructed to contact Elliot Hersey with the idea and in turn he can contact Maureen Brown with his opinion. Roger Dignard supported the idea offering the opinion that personnel of the SAU would have first hand knowledge of the goings on in surrounding communities. Maureen Brown felt it would add positive feelings where now negative feelings might prevail. John Walker stated that he personally has had negative feelings with regard to the SAU; however, some of these feelings have turned positive upon presentations made by the Superintendent. He specifically felt that the Superintendent had been very "statesmen-like" with regard to the decision to propose zero raises for the SAU staff and set a precedent to be viewed by the member communities.

Discussion continued on the workings of the SAU and how, in the past, New Boston School Boards have "rubber stamped" the operations of the SAU. This Board is confident that this attitude has changed and hopes the New Boston public will see the change. There was more discussion on how in the past the SAU viewed themselves as "all-powerful"; however, under the current administration this attitude appears to be changing. The discussion ended on the subject of the SAU and related topics with Maureen Brown stating she wanted the Board of Selectmen to be aware of the situation in Bow before reading it in the newspapers.

Selectman Johnston asked how the policy that had been established for the use of the multi-purpose room was working disregarding the fact that he knew there were some issues involving the Recreation Department. Roger Dignard stated that Principal Rick Matthews has reported that the policy is working well and further stated that he has not heard from any user groups. Selectman Johnston stated that he was of the opinion that the Recreation Commission being the heaviest user of that facility should have been more properly represented at the meetings when the policy was formulated. He then

ent on to state his understanding of how the Recreation Commission could work with the Custodian and the Kitchen personnel as required by the policy. He felt that terms could be negotiated with the proper individual and stated he was of the understanding that the event most concerning the Recreation Commission was the Winter Carnival which runs over a three day period. Discussion ensued on what arrangements might be made regarding the Winter Carnival and yet comply with the policy. There was general agreement that there is flexibility built into the policy. Selectman Johnston stated that the policy had not be instituted to penalize any group, but only to protect the investment the Town had made in the building.

Selectman Olson inquired if payment was made directly to the personnel at the school for duties being performed as described in the policy. The answer he received was yes. Discussion ensued on this practice of direct payment. Selectman Olson relates that he recalls from the past that when Police Officers were paid directly by the group for whom they were providing protection, they were not covered by the Town insurance if they were not paid through the Town. Roger Dignard agrees that this should be investigated. Maureen Brown brought up the point as to whether the user groups should pay or should the building budget be increased accordingly and then review the policy. Selectman Johnston supported leaving the policy as is realizing that any monies received would be minuscule, but felt there was principle involved. He feels that the users should pay with the exception of the Recreation Commission and supports this opinion by stating that once the security system is in place then the janitor would be the only one with access to the building and he will have to make himself available.

Discussion continued on the Recreation Commission and its use of the building and Maureen Brown stated that Sandy Gallup, Recreation Director contends that participants in the recreation programs are representative of the entire community and not just a small group. There was discussion on whether the Recreation budget should be increased to accommodate the fees prescribed by the policy, and again it was stated that if the Recreation Commission had had better representation on the policy writing committee, then these issues could have been worked out. Maureen Brown reminded the group last year when it was required that all user groups provide a certificate of insurance, the Men's Basketball presented legitimate objections and the requirement was reviewed and the Men's Basketball was accommodated. Her point was that in some respects the situation with the Recreation Commission is similar and consideration should be given. Selectman Johnston contended there should be the opportunity to negotiate and that the policy should be flexible enough to support this. Maureen stated that her point was only to show that in the past the user groups have been given special consideration. Roger Dignard stated that the policy regarding Certificates of Insurance had been loosened. Selectman Olson stated that he has some issue with the requirement of Certificates of Insurance by the various user groups since he is of the opinion that the building is supported by the citizens of New Boston and insurance for its use should be provided. The School Board responded that this type of insurance would be extremely expensive and there was nothing available to cover all scenarios, discussion ensued on this subject. Roger Dignard stated that the school is

covered for negligence and if organized groups have insurance the Board would like to have it on file; however, the Board realizes that there are groups who cannot provide such insurance and in these cases they are being asked to sign a waiver which satisfies the minimum requirements of the insurance carrier. This procedure seems to be working.

On another subject, Selectman Olson brought up an issue he felt needed review. He had been told that should the Town Truck have an accident while plowing the area around the school the Town insurance would not cover. It was agreed that this should be reviewed and the appropriate officials will be contacted for a determination.

Selectman Johnston brought up for discussion the issue of alcohol being served at various functions held at the multi-purpose building. The issue is presently on hold based on an ordinance having been passed at a previous Town Meeting prohibiting the use of alcohol on town grounds which include the grounds at the school. This ordinance is currently being upheld; however, there has been discussion to seek repeal of the ordinance at the upcoming Town Meeting. Maureen Brown was positive in her statement that alcohol could not be present on the school site; however, she was not certain if the building could be considered separate where the use of the multi-purpose room was concerned. She contended that the policy states New Boston Central School is a drug free school and questions if alcohol were to be served in the multi-purpose room might our state funding and federal grants be adversely affected. Discussion ensued as whether federal grants might be refused. John Walker questioned whether the insurance might be also affected. Roger Dignard contended that the carrier is aware of the circumstances and that is why the waivers are required. He went on to state that it was his understanding that only federal grants would be affected with regard to the alcohol and drug programs. He offered an estimate of \$5900, as being potentially involved, but alluded to there possibly being other ramifications.

Selectman Johnston contended that the citizens of New Boston could be upset by such a ruling. Gordon Carlstrom suggested that the ruling might be newer than the construction of the building. Roger Dignard will review the history and total the monetary effect. John Walker offered the opinion that it could not be both ways since the multi-purpose building is attached to the school. Discussion ensued. Selectman Olson contended he knew the use of the multi-purpose building would eventually become a problem since ultimately it is a school building.

At this point in the meeting Recreation Director Sandra Gallup came in with Chairperson of the Recreation Commission Karen Hall to discuss with both the Board of Selectmen and the School Board concerns she had with regard to the newly adopted policy for the use of the multi-purpose room. Sandy distributed a handout to the group describing her concerns. Discussion began with Sandy detailing what has taken place with scheduling for the building. She stated that she has been following the prescribed procedure and on more than one occasion a recreation program has been bumped to allow another event to take place and the Recreation Dept. only finds out about the

scheduling change by chance. These changes put Sandy in the position of having to cancel programs that participants have paid for. Discussion ensued on this subject, with Sandy stating that she feels Principal Rick Matthews should contact her directly with any scheduling changes as soon as they are known and then it would become the responsibility of the Recreation Department to contact their coordinators.

Selectman Johnston contended that heavy users of the multi-purpose building such as the Recreation Department must be flexible and commented that when the policy was established it was stipulated that scheduling of events would be done fourteen days in advance to allow for changes and this does not appear to be taking place. Sandy commented that the school officials know some of her programs are "pay for participation" and she questioned why something like men's basketball could not occasionally re-scheduled rather than the Recreation programs. Again, Selectman Johnston expressed his opinion that the heavy users must be flexible stating that men's basketball only use the building one or two nights per month.

Discussion continued on this subject with School Board Member Gordon Carlstrom questioning if each Recreation Program could have an alternate day. Sandy stated she has asked men's basketball if they could begin their play at 7:30 p.m. which would allow an aerobics class to be held on a different day, if necessary, she has not heard if this has worked successfully. It was suggested that an eight week program be given nine weeks in the schedule allowing for make-up sessions. Gordon Carlstrom also suggested a monthly review of the schedule might be helpful. School Board Member Roger Dignard contended that the school should have to give a fourteen day notice of a scheduled event as is expected of anyone using the facility. School Board Chairman Maureen Brown offered the opinion that it appeared communication between the school and other user groups was too casual. Sandy Gallup stated that if she knew a scheduling change had to be made the situation could be dealt with, but most of the time the changes were made without her foreknowledge. The discussion on this subject ended with all agreeing that the fourteen day notice for scheduling an event should be adhered to and Sandy considered the idea of building an extra week into her eight week programs for purposes of make-up to be a good one.

The next matter Sandy wished to discuss with the School Board that had an effect on the Recreation Department was the fee schedule that had been implemented along with the policies for the use of the multi-purpose building. Sandy began the discussion by noting that she was aware, but had not been at the time, that the representative from the Recreation Commission to the Policy Committee had not attended the meetings regularly; therefore, the Commission did not have as much input into the final policy as they would have liked. Sandy continued by stating that she had personally attended the last policy meeting and probably should have spoken up but did not. She expressed concern with regard to how the fee schedule would affect such events as the Winter Carnival.

Selectman Johnston contended that the Recreation Department could negotiate with those in charge of the custodial care at the school

and with the kitchen manager. He went on to comment that eventually there would be an operational security system at the school and the only access would be through the janitor. Sandy then questioned if she were misunderstanding the fee schedule by interpreting it to mean that the Recreation Department would be expected to pay \$10.00 per hour during the hours of the Winter Carnival which is a three day event for the Janitor plus a similar fee for the use of the kitchen when necessary. Selectman Johnston responded that in a case such as the Winter Carnival contact would have to be made with the School Board for special consideration. Roger Dignard commented that Rick Matthews had the authority to be flexible with the fees in events of this nature. Roger cited an example where Rick Matthews and School Secretary Mary Reeves volunteered their time to help an organization save the above-mentioned fees. Discussion continued and Selectman Dodge commented with regard to the security system that had been previously mentioned, he felt it only logical that the Recreation Department being such a heavy user would have access to the system. Selectman Johnston contended that it is not only the security system that would be involved, but also such things as the cleaning of the building. Selectman Johnston went on to state that the purpose of the policy was for the protection and maintenance of the building. Selectman Dodge once again contended that the Recreation Department was a responsible body and consideration should be given to their having access to the building once the security system was in place. He fully supported there being no more than one designated person with access and there was discussion on how this might work.

Discussion continued on the use of the building and the policy interpretation. Selectman Olson reviewed the history of what it was like to schedule and maintain the Town Hall which was used by the various groups before construction of the multi-purpose building and supported the need to protect the investment of the community by properly caring for the facility.

Sandy agreed after listening to the discussion that she had misunderstood the fee schedule and commented that they had always been responsible for the cleaning after various events.

In winding down this discussion, Roger Dignard stated that the day to day administration with regard to the building has been left to the Principal, if there is a problem then the School Board should be made aware and Roger offered to act as a mediator if necessary to facilitate a prompt solution. It was Roger's contention that problems can be solved without having to use the monthly School Board's agenda for such issues.

Discussion turned to the possible use of the lower school building that is currently being used for storage by the Recreation Department. Sandy explained that although this was very much in the beginning stages of discussion by the Recreation Commission, the thought was that this building might be used for such things as after school programs and senior citizen activities. Roger Dignard asked if this was intended to be a babysitting service and Sandy responded this was not the intention, that in her opinion controlled programs were more beneficial than having the children run wild. Her main thought was that this would be a place for children to go while they were

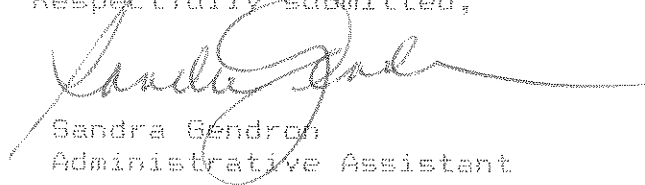
waiting for programs and lessons to begin in the multi-purpose building after school.

General Discussion ensued on Warrant Articles for the 1992 Town Meeting, on the Middle School Tuition and the increased number of students that would be going there in the near future, on the school bus contract that would be coming up next year and on the new roof that would be necessary on the older portion of the Central School. There was some discussion on the separation of the teacher's salaries from the other items on the school budget and all agreed that if done, this be well received at the annual school meeting.

The meeting ended with Selectman Dodge complimenting the School Board on doing a very good job.

Mail was reviewed, checks were signed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately midnight.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant