

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - January 6, 1992

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

In for his weekly scheduled meeting with the Selectmen was Road Agent Lee Murray. Representatives from Northeastern Timber Bridge were in to discuss the proposed replacement of the Depot St. Bridge. They had viewed the site and the engineer had examined the existing abutments. They did point out to the Selectmen that the proposal they would be presenting was based on the construction of an H20 capacity bridge. They made this distinction since Lee had stated the possibility, although he considered it remote, that an H25 capacity bridge might fit the location. Sketches were presented to the Board and it was stated that the bridge they had designed was constructed of steel stringers with a wood deck and wood guardrails and further that it was constructed in such a fashion that the surface could be hot topped. Discussion ensued on what was being proposed and the fact that a section had been built and had been brought along for inspection, the group stepped out to examine the sample section.

Upon their return discussion ensued on the proposed project. The Selectmen wanted assurance that should they accept a proposal from this company that once construction was complete the bridge would be approved by the State of N. H. The two gentlemen expressed confidence that their bridge would be approved and went on to state that they had built eight or nine existing bridges in the state, one in Moultonboro and an all timber bridge in New London; trying to give a site for the Selectmen to view within a reasonable distance from New Boston. They did note that the design they were presenting this evening would be the first of it's kind. They further stated that they had been the contractors who had done the controversial bridge in Deering.

The State criteria was reviewed by Selectman Dodge, who then asked for a ballpark figure of what the bridge they were proposing might cost, further explaining that he wanted to be sure that should this bridge should it be considered would be in a cost range that the Board of Selectmen were anticipating. The response was in the vicinity of \$120,000.; however, they went on to explain that since this proposed bridge was a "demo" conceivably the design could be eligible for up to a \$30,000. Federal Grant which they would be willing to offer to the Town should it be approved. Discussion ensued on the potential grant, the paperwork for which would have to be submitted by the end of February this year. This would mean that the warrant article presented to the Town would be for the full amount of the bridge with the possibility of this figure being reduced by the receipt of the grant.

Lee asked what was included in the price quoted and the response was that it was all inclusive, the Town would not be involved with the exception of the pavement, if they chose to do so and the possible of the use of the crane. Selectman Dodge asked if the Town would prepare the abutments and the response was that the steel would have to be removed, but in their opinion the granite abutments were okay as is.

Handwritten initials and signature in the bottom right corner, possibly "M" and "JHO" with a date "1-6-92".

Discussion turned to the necessity of complying with the State's construction requirements in order to qualify for 2/3 State aid and Selectman Dodge went on to present the necessary criteria. The engineer in attendance offered to be the consulting engineer on the project, this would have to be checked into since there were also specific qualifications for the engineer by the State.

In closing the meeting Selectman Dodge expressed support for the concept of the bridge that was presented and asked that a price be worked up for an H25 load capacity which might be considered if proved to be feasible for the site. The response from the representative of Northeastern Timber Bridge was that it would only be necessary to place the stringers closer together; however, they were not certain that the State would approve this measure.

The discussion continued on the bridge after the gentlemen left and Lee mentioned that he had been talking to an engineer he had met at the Road Agent's Convention and there is another type of bridge that should be investigated. This is a laminated structure and Lee was given three names, all of whom he has been in contact with and will be receiving information from.

The next topic for discussion was loam that is owned by Carl Houghton and is stockpiled on the land of Arnold Byam. Carl is interested in selling the material to the Town in order to pay back property taxes. Lee had been down to examine the material and found it to be of excellent quality, rich enough so that it would have to be split before using. Carl estimated that there was 550 yards of the material and Lee agreed that this appeared to be an accurate estimate. Discussion ensued of how the material might be used and from what budget the monies might come. It was decided to offer Carl Houghton \$4.50 per yard for the material, the total cost to be paid based on Lee's final load count when the material is moved. The expense of which would come from 1991 Summer Maintenance monies. Lee was also suggesting that the Summer Maintenance Budget be increased by 5% this year based on cost of living and other considerations.

It being a few minutes past eight o'clock, the time designated for a gravel hearing for John Neville who had purchased the pit of Donald Holt, John had also been managing the pit for Mr. Holt until the time he purchased the property. John Neville was the only one present, no abutters appearing for the hearing. Selectman Johnston reviewed the folder noting the notice having been placed in the newspaper and the notification of abutters.

John Neville stated that the operation would remain as it currently was and; further stated that he had brought in a cashiers check to open an escrow account as was required for guaranteed future restoration of the area. He presented the drawings he had of the site for review by the Board of Selectmen. He answered, when asked, with regard to the life expectancy of the present pit, that based on the present poor economy the operation could last three or four years. John inquired with regard to the potential blasting of boulders and was told that upon notification to the Board of Selectmen this could be done. The Board stressed keeping the lines of communication open would assure a mutual satisfaction with the

operation by all parties involved. The routes that would be traveled will remain as they are, the hours of operation would remain the same Monday thru Friday and John asked if he might institute Saturday hours. This was discussed and it was agreed that John could operate on Saturday mornings similar to other gravel sites in town and would be advised of the specific hours. A new addendum will be drawn up which will address the issues mentioned above.

John had some questions should he be interested in purchasing additional acreage from Mr. Holt for use a gravel pit and he was told that he would have a hearing as had been done this evening.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen for his regular monthly meeting was Police Chief James McLaughlin. Jim presented to the Board the revised Emergency Management Plan, stating that the amendments the Selectmen had suggested had been taken care of. It was being presented for their signatures. Jim stated that the Town is in compliance with State Regulations and now the plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The next topic Jim brought up for discussion which relates to the above document was the Civil Defense Budget. He noted for the past several years the budget had been set at \$100. and had been carried forward so that it appeared there was \$200. available. He is suggesting for the 1992 budget and an undetermined number of subsequent budgets be raised to \$500. He stated this would enable him to purchase necessary equipment that must be on hand should a disaster occur none of which would be perishable. He stated that he would meet with the Fire Department to create a list of necessities in order of priority. This increase was supported by Selectmen Johnston and Dodge. Discussion of this budget also brought up the need to install an electrical supply at the school for the large generator that the town owned and could be used in the event of a disaster. Funding for this would also most likely come from this budget.

Jim went on to tell the Board that a burglary had been solved on Joe English Road and the goods recovered, he also told of attempted burglaries being reported on Bog Brook and Christy Roads.

Jim commented that in closing his 1991 budget, it appeared the department would be turning back in the vicinity of \$6,000. These monies were left due to the date of hiring his secretary and the fact that they spent much of the summer with only one cruiser, thereby, saving on gasoline.

Jim told the Board that tomorrow would begin the use of the 1992 grant for radar enforcement and as of April 1 there would be additional patrols out under the DWI grant. Also discussed at this time was the speeds on the various roads and infractions noted by the Police Department especially on Bedford Road.

Selectman Dodge returned the discussion to the Emergency Management Plan, on which he noted that not much change had been made on the response list. Jim stated that this could be updated. Selectman Dodge reviewed the list and gave names and pieces of equipment which

he felt should be there and were not. He was concerned that since this was a public document some New Boston citizens would be offended as not being listed if they had a service or equipment that might be utilized. It was agreed that this section would be reviewed and update.

The next topic Jim brought up for discussion was the fact that he had heard unofficially that the DARE instructor they were expecting from the State Police was not going to be conducting the program in New Boston this year. Jim feels very strongly this is a worthwhile program at the school and is an effective tool in reaching many age levels. He contacted other Police Departments in the area who might be effected by this decision should it become official and found them not to be as concerned as himself. Jim has begun making calls to State level officials in an attempt to have the situation reconsidered, and reported that at least by one phone call he learned that New Boston is being reconsidered. During this discussion State Representative Betsy Moore-Whitman came in for her appointment with the Board and was drawn into this issue. Jim reviewed for her benefit what appeared to be taking place and continued to describe what his department had done to aid the trooper in instruction in the past. Jim had provided an officer to assist in the classroom and to his knowledge has been the only department to take this step and further through the community, the department has raised some \$500. for use by the DARE Program. Discussion ensued on the program and the age group that it benefited. Jim has wanted to see New Boston have its own instructor; however, when he proposed a candidate from his department he was told the course was already filled. He is looking to encourage the State to provide the necessary opening for a New Boston Officer to become a qualified instructor. In ending the meeting, Betsy also offered to make contact with officials involved in the program at the State level to encourage that an instructor be provided to New Boston since the program was slated to begin in January and insufficient notice was given that it might not be continued. Jim expressed his appreciation to Betsy for her willingness to help.

Betsy had requested to meet with Board to learn if there was any news from the committee established to investigate the potential of attracting a bank to the community. Since Selectman Olson, represents the Board on this committee and he was not present, Betsy was told she would have to contact him for an update. She also had come to discuss with the Board new proposed legislation of the Current Land Use Law, hearings for which would begin the next day. Discussion ensued and the Board offered their support in keeping the law as it presently is.

The two Selectmen present approved paying mileage (.25 going rate) to that person making the bank run on a given day.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Gendron, Administrative Assistant