

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - March 16, 1992

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Johnston, Dodge and Olson with Sandra Gendron taking minutes. Patricia Peters, Ridgeview Lane, sat in on the meeting.

Michael Pimenta had been invited to sit in on the meeting since he had won the one year term to the Board of Selectmen. He would not be officially sworn in until the conclusion of the 1992 Town Meeting which was scheduled to be reconvened on March 24, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting began with Michael relating to the Board some of the phone calls he had received since winning the seat. The majority of these were warning him of the many indiscretions and illegal procedures that were allegedly being conducted currently at the Town Office.

Bonnie Bethune, Manager of the Transfer Station, was in to see the Board of Selectmen along with Solid Waste Committee members Bob Todd, Mike Richard, Martha Brooks, David Woodbury and Mary Carol Schaffrath. Bonnie stated that the Committee wished to meet with the Board to discuss the various directions they might be headed with regard to such issues as septage.

David Woodbury began the discussion with an update for the Selectmen of discussions held with Milford officials on the subject of septage disposal. David commented that the committee had spoken with several area towns on this subject, with Milford being the only receptive one. He stated that Milford is interested, since they are looking for funds to update their existing plant, and New Boston could potentially provide those funds. Discussion ensued as to the numbers of gallons estimated, and given to Milford officials, of septage generated by New Boston residents annually, and the fact that, in reflection, those numbers were most likely a low estimate. Milford officials quoted \$250,000. on a 15 year contract to treat 300,000 gallons of septage. The committee prorated the figure upward based on their estimated gallonage. Milford would expect to receive the entire amount of money at one time prior to beginning to accept septage from New Boston so that they might update their facility as mentioned above. Milford officials are requesting that New Boston put their intent in writing so that further investigation on their part might be justifiable.

Discussion turned to the fact that the State has already mandated that a community provide septage disposal for their residents. Discussion ensued on the entire issue, and David Woodbury commented that, to his knowledge, no other community is making a similar request of Milford and he finds this odd based on the State mandate. Selectman Johnston commented that he sees this issue as another example of how New Boston is usually ahead of other communities in most situations, citing the landfill closure as support of his point. Bonnie expressed her opinion, based on discussions with Milford officials, that if the Town of New Boston accepted the terms offered, it would be to the exclusion of all other communities. David Woodbury estimated that Milford is currently accepting 40% of bordering communities septage and went on to state that the real benefit of tying in with Milford is that New Boston would have a solution to the problem. He went on to comment that the entire technology with regard to septage disposal is in chaos and any community with a state permit in hand is better off than those

without. David continued by stating that Milford would not consider updating their facility without an expressed interest. With regard to the fact that septage from New Boston is currently being received by the City of Concord, David stated, as the Board of Selectmen were aware, the service could be curtailed at anytime.

Selectman Dodge stated that this may be the only viable option available to New Boston; however, in order to present a proposal to the Citizens of New Boston, the Board would have to be assured that other options had been investigated. David stated that the Committee could attest to the fact that Milford is the only area community interested in negotiating with New Boston. As discussion ensued, it was commented that Concord was most probably only looking for the leverage that the threat to shut off area communities gave them for whatever reasons they might have.

Selectman Johnston stated that this was a major investment for only a 15 year contract. David responded that these figures were very preliminary, and that should negotiations ever take place, these figures would tighten up. Mike Richards offered his opinion, stating that this proposal might be considered the Town's Plan B, with Plan A being constructing our own facility which, he estimated, would cost millions of dollars.

Discussion continued on the program that was presented to the Board of Selectmen last year which ultimately turned septage into usable water. Mike stated his opinion, contending that this entire concept hinged on acceptance by the State of Massachusetts with New Hampshire following suit. Selectman Dodge expressed surprise that a decision to be made by the State of New Hampshire would hinge on the State of Massachusetts. It was discussed that at one point there was the possibility that the State of New Hampshire would build a facility to accommodate Towns such as New Boston and the comment was made that this should still be a viable alternative. Mike Richard offered to contact State Officials and ask the question.

David Woodbury wished to get a sense from the Board of Selectmen as to the potential interest in the proposal made by the Town of Milford. The Board encouraged David to request that Milford wait for New Boston's expression of possible intentions until after the Town Meeting was concluded. Selectman Dodge agreed that a memo could go to Milford expressing the Town's interest; however, he also contended that the committee should investigate the potential with the State and the AWARE Program which is now operating in the Town of Hooksett, N. H.

Mike Richard explained a plan that had been proposed and defeated in the Town of Henniker, N. H. which would have cost a Town like New Boston \$90,000. Martha Brooks expressed confidence that New Boston would gain a certain amount of leverage with the Town of Milford once the initial contract had expired with regard to future usage of the facility should any agreement be reached between the two communities.

Selectman Olson suggested that our local State Representatives be contacted so that they might inquire as to what action the State might be taking with regard to this entire issue. Selectman

Johnston reminded everyone present that the State is not in a position to mandate something that it cannot fund based on current legislation and expressed agreement that our local State Representatives should be contacted.

Bonnie questioned the 15 year contract as being a lengthy obligation for the Town. Selectman Olson suggested that once it became known what New Boston might be doing, a bidding war could result and discussion ensued. Selectman Dodge offered the opinion that imposition of fines by the State on communities who had not addressed the issue at a local level would most likely not become a reality, basing his opinion on the number of communities who still have not closed their landfills.

Basically, the Board of Selectmen supported the writing of a letter to the Town of Milford stating our intentions so that further investigation might be pursued.

Selectman Dodge stated that the Solid Waste Committee should discuss the entire matter with State Officials, since he was of the opinion that the State would ultimately have to participate at some level, with so many communities facing the provision of a solution to this problem.

On another matter, Selectman Johnston suggested that the Committee look into recommending mandatory recycling and the implementation of tipping fees to commercial haulers based on the consensus vote taken at the first session of Town Meeting, further stating that a decision would ultimately be made in this regard by vote of Town Meeting. David Woodbury commented that the Committee was currently reviewing the recycling programs of other communities. Bonnie stated she would like to contact haulers in the area to see how they might work with the community in this regard. She went on to state that the Town of Weare would be implementing mandatory recycling as of 04-07-92 and she is interested in seeing the results of this implementation. She further stated that with the proceeds generated by mandatory recycling, much needed help at the Station could be hired, and she commented that the markets had continued to be favorable; on the other hand consideration would have to be given to the load that would be placed on our current set-up should mandatory recycling be implemented.

Mike Richards remained after the Solid Waste Committee had left to present to the Board contracts from three companies which would need review and ultimately one would need be chosen to conduct our annual Hazardous Waste Day which Mike suggested would take place on June 6, 1992. The date was agreed to by the Board and they would review the contracts.

Next in to see the Board were Clifton LaBree and George St. John, members of the Forestry Committee. Clif agreed to mark a few more trees to make up enough for a final load for logger Dick Foote who was completing an operation for the Town. The gentlemen stated that they had come in to request that the back line of the Lydia Dodge Lot, where the logging operation was taking place, be surveyed as it was currently unmarked. George St. John stated that Surveyor Art Siciliano had given an estimated cost for the above-mentioned

request as being less than \$150.00. Selectman Dodge suggested that the same request for an estimate be asked from local surveyor, Robert Todd and both gentlemen agreed to do so. The Board agreed that the survey should be done and paid for from the proceeds of the logging operation.

Clif wished to discuss with the Board the upcoming vote on the article as printed in the Town Report regarding the Follansbee Land and the proposals by the Conservation Commission to impose a conservation easement. Clif wanted it to be known that he was not necessarily opposed to the intent of the article but questions the potential of the Town losing control, if the article passed, which he would be opposed to. Clif also questioned the fact that the land may already be designated as a part of the Town Forest and, if so, questions the necessity of the article; further, questioning the potential effect of the proposed easement. He contended that Bob Todd agreed that this parcel was a part of the Town Forest.

The Selectmen reviewed the Conservation Commission's proposal. Clif stated that he did not oppose management by the Conservation Commission, but questions the easement proposed. He contended that the designation as Town Forest gave the parcel the same status that was being proposed. Selectman Dodge asked Clif what the drawback might be if the article, as printed, were passed. Clif responded that he could not pinpoint anything specific, only the possible loss of control by the Town. The Selectmen stated that they had spoken with Steve Ruddock, a member of the Conservation Commission and were satisfied that the article, if passed, would give only limited control. Selectman Dodge suggested that both Clif and George speak to Steve prior to the next session of Town Meeting to discuss their concerns and they agreed to do so.

The group reviewed the 1980 Town Meeting Minutes and did find mention of the Follansbee Land being placed under the Town Forest designation by a favorable vote. Selectman Dodge questioned that the findings referred to the same parcel and discussion on the subject ensued. Clif contended that this could be a duplication, and once again stated, if this were the case, then why was an easement necessary.

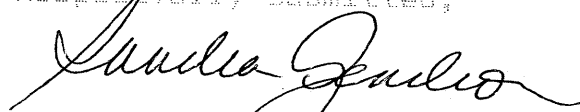
The meeting with the two ended with commendations for the work performed by Dick Foote, and the fact that Oliver Dodge's term on the Forestry Committee was expiring this year and a replacement will have to be sought. Along these lines, Selectman Johnston suggested that Jonathan Stout might be approached, expressing the fact the Jon presented himself well when he had submitted a bid to the Board for the work currently being done on the Lydia Dodge Lot. Clif stated that he had spoken with Jon suggesting the possibility and Jon had responded with interest.

Selectman Olson suggested that Selectmen Dodge and Johnston might want to attend the upcoming Planning Board meeting since the Marden matter was going to be discussed in detail. Selectman Johnston noted that he would be the next Selectmen's representative on the Planning Board and would plan to attend.

Mail was reviewed, checks were signed and the meeting was adjourned

at approximately 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Gendron".

Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant