

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - April 20, 1992

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Dodge, Johnston and Pimenta with Sandra Gendron taking minutes.

Road Agent Lee Murray was in for his regular weekly meeting with the Board. He began by reporting that he was pleased with the test run of the equipment that would be purchased to repair cracks in paved roads. Selectman Dodge who had witnessed the test run questioned that the employees would haul the bucket around. Generally he considered the procedure a good one. Lee responded that he did not think hauling the bucket would be an issue. Discussion ensued on the method and why it works well. Lee contended that the process would be very effective, and went on to state that the price quoted today seemed lower than the original and he would try to hold the company to the lower price.

Selectman Johnston supported the purchase and added that it was a plus to the road maintenance program, with Lee responding once more that this process will serve the needs of New Boston very well. Selectmen Dodge agreed that the process is needed to maintain the paved roads and contends the necessary equipment purchased will easily pay for itself. Lee listed some of the roads it will be used on and reiterated that the process will become part of the maintenance program, he went on to state that much is said at highway seminars he attends with regard to water damage under paved roads which this process will help to alleviate. The Board of Selectmen unanimously supported the purchase of the equipment necessary to use the above discussed process on New Boston roads with the monies coming from the Resurfacing account. Also discussed was the purchase of a traffic counter with a portion of the monies coming from the Planning Board under funds raised and appropriated for updating of the Master Plan, the balance of the funding coming from Highway Block Grant. Selectman Johnston, current Board representative to the Planning Board, will discuss the matter with the Planning Board.

Discussion ensued as to how the counter would be used and the fact that it would be useful to several departments, the entire subject having been discussed prior to Town Meeting. Lee was requested to get exact figures.

Lee wanted the Board to be aware that the entrance to George Drive had been broken up, most likely over the weekend. The first thought was that the damage might have occurred when Bud Scott moved a piece of equipment to the area; however, since Bud brought the piece of equipment over the road it was determined that he could not have caused the damage, Lee believes that Lou Rumore might have damaged the road maneuvering equipment into his own driveway.

Ken Rhodes, the engineer on the replacement of the Depot Street Bridge Project, was in during this time. He gave each Selectman a package of material that would be submitted to the attention of James Moore, State of N. H. D.O.T., along with a cover letter that had been typed after having been reviewed by Selectman Dodge. Ken apologized for not having recognized Selectman Pimenta in the cover letter, which was accepted by Selectman Pimenta.

Ken reviewed the contents of the package and stated that the time

Handwritten initials: "MSP" and "WAB" written vertically in the bottom right corner.

had come to submit this material to Mr. Moore. He went on to review what was contained in the cover letter with regard to the fact that neither the State nor the Town was interested in replacing the bridge with a steel structure. Ken went on to state that this submittal to Mr. Moore was intended to receive his support for the project to date; and, if this was achieved, then the project would continue with contractors submitting prices so that the replacement structure could be purchased. Ken expressed satisfaction for the final specifications stating that much responsibility for performance of the final structure would be placed on the manufacturer of the product. Discussion ensued on the final product especially with regard as to how the structure would be held together and the longevity of the structure; and further, the minimum required over the 50 degree limits of deflection on the bridge as live loads are crossing.

Selectman Johnston stated that it should be noted that the existing Bailey Bridge will be removed by the State so that contractors will not figure this cost into their bid.

Selectman Dodge inquired as to what parameters had been built in to the plans dealing with the hydraulics. Ken pointed to the profile of the plan and described this profile in detail to the Board. The fact was discussed that the plan was based on the fifty year flood plan with Selectman Dodge stating that he was of the opinion that Mr. Moore would be flexible in this regard since it was proposed that an H25 loading capacity bridge be installed. This being the higher loading capacity that Selectman Dodge anticipated would be viewed positively by the State. It was once again stated that it was time to submit this material to Mr. Moore in order that the project keep moving. Ken commented that he felt Mr. Moore would make a quick decision and went on to state that he was of the opinion that this step now being discussed was critical to the entire project. Ken stated that if Mr. Moore accepted the three companies being submitted as prequalified suppliers then the project would be on the move.

Selectman Dodge offered his support for this package being submitted to Mr. Moore, with Lee commenting that he felt Mr. Moore would be satisfied. Selectman Dodge commented that the Town had taken a professional approach to the project as evidenced by what would be submitted to Mr. Moore for approval. Ken commented that the fact that manufacturers had been selected who had twenty years experience would not necessarily be easy to defend if questioned by the state since the D.O.T. requires only five years experience; however, Ken contended that five years was too little, suggesting many more companies could be looked at with many undesirable scenarios developing. Lee supported that the length of experience should be very important when the company is finally chosen to provide a bridge.

Bonnie Bethune, Manager of the Transfer Station was next in to see the Board of Selectmen for her regular monthly meeting.

She began the meeting by stating that the roof to be constructed over the hopper had been started. Selectman Dodge who had been working on the project stated that he needed advice as to how the

bracing should be installed.

Bonnie stated, with regard to putting the trucking to Bethlehem out to bid, a subject that has been discussed previously, that she would recommend staying with Paul Sizemore, who is the current hauler. She does; however, recommend the establishment of ground rules, and she discussed what she had in mind.

Selectman Johnston pointed out that the 1992 budget had been prepared, with consideration given that the trucking to Bethlehem would be put out to bid in the hope that a lower than current price might be submitted.

Selectman Dodge stated that he was apprehensive about putting the trucking out to bid at this time. He went on to state that Bonnie had contacted other haulers who had expressed interest, and had questioned why the Town was transferring to Bethlehem and not negotiating with closer operations especially in the present economy. He related that Mr. Gobin takes town solid waste and then negotiates the best price and hauls to that location, the responsibility of the disposal becomes his once he leaves the local facility. The question then discussed was what guarantee the Town would have that there would be a location for disposal, with Bonnie contending that someone like Mr. Gobin would have quantity in his favor when negotiating for a price. In a discussion with Bonnie, Mr. Gobin suggested that the Town attempt to renegotiate the current contract with Sanco.

Discussion on the subject continued with Selectman Dodge stating that when the Town originally put the trucking to bid, the price received was in line, and others who should know have recently stated that they could not haul for the amount the Town is currently paying. Bonnie expressed concern that she might go to a lot of work and then find out that we are currently paying a competitive price. Selectman Johnston stated that the current Sanco contract would expire in 1994, and that might be the time to put the related trucking out to bid. Selectman Dodge commented that one of the benefits of dealing with Sanco is that 20% of the waste transferred can be demolition. Bonnie contended that the solid waste from New Boston is a good mix for incineration, with everything burnable except the sheet rock. Bonnie supported Selectman Johnston's suggestion that the expiration of the Sanco contract coincide with the expiration of the trucking contract.

Selectman Dodge reviewed how the Sizemore's got the current bid and expressed reluctance to reopen the bid process, contending he would rather have the Sizemore's become more responsible and responsive to Bonnie's needs. Selectman Dodge also expressed support for coinciding the two previously discussed expiration dates.

Selectman Johnston offered the thought that the Solid Waste Committee might look into possible options for the transference of waste.

The entire discussion was pretty much left that the two contracts would be looked at upon the expiration of the current one with Sanco, and any specific issues Bonnie might have with the Sizemore's

would be addressed and resolved.

Bonnie stated that the Solid Waste Committee had met with community representatives and area haulers to discuss commercial participation in the recycling effort. Bonnie was of the opinion that Paul Sizemore was evasive when discussing the issue of how he might participate in recycling; whereas, there were haulers from surrounding communities who indicated they would have no problem in participating. Bonnie commented that it appeared there would, in the near future, be competition in the community with regard to commercial haulers.

Discussion ensued as to the potential of Sizemore's having competition for residential pick-ups, with Selectman Johnston commenting that this possibility might cause the Sizemore's to take action with regard to participating in the recycling effort. Bonnie commented that she had asked if it would take a mandatory recycling ordinance to get action, to which the Sizemore's responded that it would not. Bonnie also made the Selectmen aware that one of the out of town haulers intended to keep all aluminum cans to be sold for his gain. The Board, in thinking about the issue of aluminum cans, considered that those cans would be anyone's personal property until they are deposited at the Transfer Station when they become the property of the Town. Based on that thought, Selectmen Johnston and Dodge contended that the cans would rightfully be the haulers to do with as he wished. Bonnie contended that the general public should be aware that the sale of aluminum cans is not a profitable enterprise for the community. The Selectmen were of the opinion that the key point is that anything that does not get transported to Bethlehem is a savings to the Town. Bonnie did state to the Board of Selectmen that the issue of aluminum cans was of concern to some members of the Solid Waste Committee, and went on to state that some communities have ordinances against any commercial hauler collecting aluminum for sale, they must be turned over to the community.

Discussion turned to the matter of commercial haulers dumping during off-time hours to eliminate congestion at the Station during regular hours. Bonnie contended that she does not have a problem opening during off hours for commercial haulers since it would ease the congestion often evident during the regular hours.

On the subject of providing the community with a site for solid waste disposal, Bonnie reported that Mike Richards is talking to Henniker officials and David Woodbury is investigating what Peterborough is doing in this regard.

Bonnie stated, when asked, that brush is customarily burned on Saturday, she needs one more day to complete the burning for the brush that has presently accumulated. She further stated that she is aware that the ends of the area where the brush is burned need attention.

Bonnie told the Board that her "reusable items" room was almost ready to open to the public and discussion ensued on a release of liability statement that would be signed so that in the event someone took something that either did not work or caused some kind of a problem the Town could not be held responsible. In this

regard, the Solid Waste Committee also discussed displaying a donation box in this room, which the Selectmen supported.

In closing, Bonnie told the Board of Selectmen she would be going to the School to provide education for the students and teachers relating to recycling in general. Bonnie was asked before she left if Chief of Police James McLaughlin or Road Agent Lee Murray had discussed with her the disposal of dead domestic animals. She commented that Jim McLaughlin had mentioned the issue to her and she was certain that Sanco did not want the remains transferred to them and no real decision was made in the matter.

Fire Ward George St. John was in to discuss the proposed sprinkler system to be installed in the building at the Transfer Station. Selectman Johnston had reviewed and had approved the written specifications. Selectman Johnston further stated that the decision would have to be made as to what work the Town would be doing, and also the fact that a determination would have to be made as to where where the riser would be located. Selectman Johnston continued by stating and locating on the plan where Bonnie suggested it might be installed, and further discussion ensued as to other possible locations. The estimated area necessary is 4'x4', there was further discussion on the possible future expansion of the building.

Selectman Dodge supported the thought that the Town will be responsible for whatever excavating might be necessary. George offered a suggestion that would incorporate the area necessary for the pump and the area necessary for the riser into one, this thought seemed to meet with the approval of the Selectmen. Selectman Dodge suggested that these items be kept separate and the sprinkler system and alarm system be put out to bid. Going back to discussing the pump and riser area, Selectman Dodge suggested that a septic tank might be used, and George thought the idea feasible and stated a damaged one might be picked up reasonably.

Discussion turned to a pre-bid meeting with thought given to how it would be approached, both the sprinkler and the alarm would be presented at the same time since they are closely related. Selectman Dodge and Johnston supported using a selected bidder list and stated that it would be left to the decision of the Fire Wards to submit a bidders list. Selectman Dodge stated that the list for both sprinkler and alarm contractors would have to be sufficient enough to satisfy the need for competition. Fire Chief James Dodge who had come in during the meeting suggested using "brand" name equipment or the equivalent of, expressing concern that the end result be the installation of quality equipment that can be serviced readily. Selectman Johnston suggested that it be included in the spec sheet "equal to Potter or Simplex." George St. John stated that a cut sheet should be submitted noting what would be supplied. Discussion then ensued on flow switches and tamper switches. Selectman Johnston stated that the two should be kept equal.

It was decided that the mandatory pre-bid meeting would take place on Friday, May 8th at 9:00 a.m. Selectman Johnston would take all the information and re-write it making it ready to send to contractors.

On another subject, Selectman Dodge asked Selectman Johnston if a switch could be installed in the Town Office Boiler Room that would detect the invasion of water, so that the flooding and subsequent damage to the furnaces that had just been experienced could not recur. Selectman Johnston was of the opinion that something could be done and discussion ensued.

The Board then reviewed what had been previously discussed for the benefit of Fire Chief Dodge who had arrived after the meeting with Fire Ward George St. John had started.

Chief Dodge remained to discuss with the Board a personnel matter of which the Board had been made aware previously. Jim wanted the Board to be aware of the action of the Fire Wards in case the person in question took further action. Jim stated that the individual had called both himself and Assistant Chief John Bunting with many questions, and even though the individuals license had been re-instated, the dismissal by the Fire Wards would not be altered due to the "habitual offender" designation. Jim told the Board that a phone call had been placed to the Property Liability Trust, insurers for the Town, questioning the implications of the driving status of this individual, and although the company would not take a stand against, they made Sandra Gendron, who had placed the call, aware that they expected the local department not to expose the Town to such liability.

Selectman Dodge suggested if Jim had further questions he should contact Town Counsel. Jim went on to state that the Fire Wards were at work re-writing the by-laws which would now contain a waiver so that basic information could be obtained regarding an individual who was interested in joining the Fire Department. Selectman Dodge suggested that the proposed waiver be "continuing." Jim also stated that the probationary period for a new member will be longer. In a related discussion Jim pointed out, by describing a couple of different scenarios, whereby Fire Departments have been fined by O.S.H.A. for lack of proper equipment; however, this state does not work directly under O.S.H.A.

Selectman Pimenta asked Jim how his meeting with the Business Association went, he had been invited to speak and discuss the large building code. Jim expressed his opinion that it had gone very well, with many questions asked, the end result being that the majority present supported the efforts of the Fire Department, although Jim stated that he had since heard comments to the contrary. George St. John agreed with Jim's assessment of the meeting, stating that the group had been told that the Fire Wards would soon begin the process of reviewing the existing code and would be open to listening to any suggestions and concerns. Jim expressed the opinion that the debate will be greater among the Fire Wards when this code is reviewed than any questions that might come from the general public.

Jim went on to state that Emily St. John had read a letter from the Cricenti Engineering Firm which supported the establishment of a study committee, the establishment of such a committee being the goal of the Business Association. Jim stated that Mr. Cricenti was certainly entitled to his opinion; however, Jim went on to state

that he was of the opinion that the code had done what it was intended to do. Jim elaborated on the intention by stating that it had allowed a small town like New Boston to keep it's volunteer Fire Department intact. He continued by stating he had used as an example, when discussing the issue with the Association, the required installation of fire vents in the roofs of buildings over a certain size, the installation of which allowed the fire department to continue to be effective without the need to purchase a ladder truck. Selectman Dodge questioned the motive for establishing a study committee and offered the thought that involved was a group of special interest people who did not have the interests of the community in general at heart.

Jim summarized the meeting as one where a lot of information was put forth and a lot was learned.

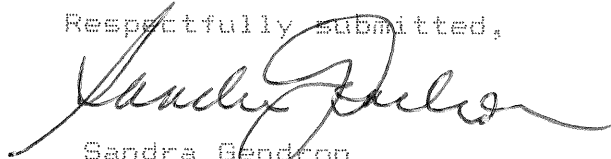
Discussion ensued with Jim stating that the review of the large building fire code will become a priority of the Fire Wards with three or four of them concentrating on the project. Selectman Dodge suggested that the Fire Wards give the Board of Selectmen the final draft for review, and there was discussion as to whether there was any value to putting notice in the Community Times that the review was underway and questions or comments will be received. Jim and George both support this notion.

Before leaving George requested that the Selectmen look into the matter of traffic flow at the Transfer Station during regular hours, which he views as an ongoing and ever increasing problem. Selectman Dodge stated that the problem is recognized by the Board and contended that the Transfer Station becomes a place for social gatherings. He went on to state that consideration is being given to having the commercial haulers come in with their loads in off hours to try to alleviate some of the problem; however, a more important issue, he stated, was that there was not enough personnel during high volume regular hours.

The entire Board of Selectmen met on the property of David McGuckin, Old Coach Road, to discuss Mr. McGuckin's proposal that he build a berm to divert the road run-off from his front lawn. It was agreed that he would not build a berm on town property, and he would clean the sand off the town owned area and maintain levels lower than the road so that the water could properly run off as originally established by the Road Agent.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron  
Administrative Assistant

As an addendum to these minutes it should be noted that all three Selectmen were contacted and approved the serving of wine at the upcoming annual Library Auction.