

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - April 27, 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. Discussion began on the purchase of the traffic counter the cost of which Lee ascertained as being \$2575.00. This price would include the software, the battery charger and the installation kit, everything necessary to put the equipment into immediate service. The Planning Board would be contributing in the vicinity of \$800.00 towards the counter from monies allocated to update the Master Plan. The Board of Selectmen approved the purchase.

Lee reported that the equipment purchased to repair cracks in paved road surfaces was working well. The crew was finding it easy to work with and the results were extremely satisfactory.

Lee went on to report that most of the dirt roads had been graded at least once and gravel had been placed on needed areas. He stated that some dirt roads still contained frost and would have to be left until the frost was out and the surface had dried out somewhat.

Lee left the meeting stating that he would begin to lift the weight limits which had been posted on all New Boston roads as conditions warranted.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen was Horace Thomas, Jr. who had requested an appointment to discuss logging slips on an operation he was doing in New Boston and on which there was some question. The slips related to the Hilco job and the totals did not agree with what Selectman Dodge, with the assistance of the State Forester, estimated the cut to have been. Selectman Dodge related that he had walked the job with the State Forester and then had contacted Mr. Hardwick, who had also done some of the cutting on this particular site, and had taken the two estimates added them together and came up with a total estimate of some 200,000' cut which was more than Mr. Thomas had reported. Mr. Thomas responded that the mill had taken slips from some five jobs that he was currently doing and, he claimed, that there was no way to sort them out as to what job was what so that a true total cut for this particular job could be arrived at. Selectman Dodge suggested that he find a way. Mr. Thomas responded that Mr. Hardwick had cut two-thirds of the job, and he would get the matter straightened out. Discussion ensued on how the estimated had been arrived at, with Mr. Thomas contending that the stump count used by Selectman Dodge and the State Forester was not be an accurate method to arrive at a final tally. Selectman Dodge stated that the loads coming through the village had also been kept track of, and he suggested that these numbers indicated there had been much more cut than was reported. Again, debate continued. Mr. Thomas stated he would go directly to the mill contending that he was being judged guilty and would now have to prove his innocence. Selectman Dodge agreed Mr. Thomas had some investigation to do in order that the final count be substantiated.

Selectman Dodge brought to issue another logging operation Mr. Thomas had filed a report of cut on which did not include tonnage for chips. Mr. Thomas stated that there had been at least 60 loads hauled from that operation and they should have been reported. He went on to state that he would look into the matter and apologized for the lack of proper

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reporting.

On yet another operation, Mr. Thomas stated that he would fill out the paperwork for two box loads that had been taken from the Fillmore property, when he was asked by Selectman Dodge if any cutting had taken place on that land.

Mr. Thomas asked if he were the only logger being investigated, indicating that there were others that should be investigated; Selectman Dodge responded that operations were checked into if reasons presented themselves.

The meeting ended with Mr. Thomas stating that he business had grown tremendously and more attention needed to be paid to paperwork.

Selectman Johnston reported that he had attended the Historical Society Meeting the previous afternoon and Mrs. Helen Christiansen had been presented the Boston Post Cane signifying her status as the oldest citizen in New Boston.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen were representatives of the Junior Athletic League who included Joel Daniels, John Halvatzes, Richard Burke and Jay Bourque.

They presented to the Board plans that had been drawn to construct baseball fields on the town-owned site on Old Coach Road. It was stated that they had walked the area several times with Tim Cady, who was the engineer of record for the closure of the landfill and also a New Boston resident, to determine the best possible site for such a use. John Halvatzes, who was making the presentation, stated that the initial field would be constructed well away from the wetlands and the monitoring wells a minimum of 100' in each direction. He went on to state that Tim Cady maintained there was no contamination presently on the entire parcel, tests of the monitoring wells having proved negative and the area of above ground pollution having dried up; however, he did not recommend drilling water for any use at the present time, which was not an issue for the J.A.L. Discussion went on to reveal that the land owned by the Town on the same side as the Transfer Station had been looked at as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, but proved to be unsuitable for the intended purpose. Discussion continued on what might be added to the site once the baseball fields were completed such as tennis courts, for example. It was also discussed that thought was still being given to building a major league soccer field and the area or lack of around the Central School was again discussed.

It was stated that once the area was cleared, the proposed project would most likely encompass 6 1/2 acres. Selectman Johnston suggested that a security gate be installed and discussion ensued on this subject.

Selectman Johnston made a motion that plans for the above discussed baseball fields on the town-owned site on Old Coach Road be pursued, Selectman Pimenta seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Selectman Dodge asked if there might be any monetary value in the trees that would have to be cut for clearing. John inquired as to whether the

town would be interested in any wood cut. It was suggested by the Board of Selectmen that the Forestry Committee be consulted with regard to whatever trees might need cutting for the clearing operation. It was suggested that there might be some revenue dependent on what type of trees were cut, and again it was suggested that the Forestry Committee be consulted, with the allusion being that should there be any small revenue realized, the J. A. L. might be the recipient thereof since it would in turn be spent on the proposed construction project.

Selectman Johnston asked the men what kind of time frame they were looking at with regard to completion and use of the fields. John Halvatzes responded that it was their intent that the area be seeded by late fall so that in the spring of 1993 they would be ready for use.

Again, it was stated that the Board of Selectmen would contact the Forestry Committee and would, most likely, walk the site with them in the immediate future.

John asked if the stumps could be buried on site, the Board responded that they could be as long as it was mapped as to where they were buried; and the plans were once again looked at for a possible burial site for the stumps. John stated, when asked, that he did not envision the need for a dredge and fill permit in connection with the proposed project.

All agreed that the site must be walked by the Board of Selectmen and the Forestry Committee. A tentative date was set for this coming Thursday evening at 6:00.

In closing, the J.A.L. representatives asked if the Selectmen had any advice to offer for the project, with Selectman Dodge responding that the Board would want to be aware of the "game plan" for the entire area. Selectman Dodge ended the meeting stating that the Conservation Commission was aware of the intent that this particular parcel of town-owned land would be used for recreational purposes.


Next in to meet with the Board was Arnold Byam, River Road. He wished to bring the Selectmen's attention to the large culvert that had been installed on the road built in conjunction with a major subdivision off River Road. Arnold claimed that it had moved considerably over the winter with the outlet coming up. Selectman Dodge assured Arnold that it would be looked at. Arnold continued to describe what the culvert looked like stating that it needed addressing to which the Selectmen agreed.

On another matter, Arnold is planning to move to another state in six weeks and needs to finish a job he had been doing for Peter Morgan on Cochran Hill Road. The work involves getting heavy equipment in and out and the issue of the weight limits currently posted on the roads is a problem, Arnold inquired as to when they would be lifted. The Selectmen felt the matter could be worked out with the Road Agent and that most likely Arnold could move the skidder in the next day.

Selectman Johnston presented the bid package to the other two Selectmen for the proposed installation of a sprinkler system in the Transfer Station Building. Details were discussed and this was approved to be put out to invitational bid.

Checks were signed, mail was reviewed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron  
Administrative Assistant

As an addendum to these minutes it should be noted that it was voted by the Planning Board to allocate \$800.00 from monies to be used to update the Master Plan towards the purchase of the traffic counter discussed in these minutes.