

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - November 23, 1992

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

In to meet with the Board of Selectmen were Cemetery Trustees Walter Houghton, Robert Todd, Leon Daniels and David Woodbury. They presented to the Board an estimated cost to expand the present cemetery submitted by Contractor August Gomes. This figure will be used for purposes of the C.I.P. Discussion ensued on Skip Gomes suggestion that trees could be cut in the near future and kept trimmed so that necessary fill might be placed should it become available especially from ongoing highway projects. It was also discussed that drainage in the expanded area had not be calculated into Skip's estimates. Thought was given to mowing the new site annually at an estimated cost of \$100. and \$300. - \$400. to grade the area. Selectman Dodge agreed that the brush should be trimmed, and that the site could be prepared so fill could be placed as it becomes available.

Selectman Johnston inquired as to how the 1992 budget appropriation of \$11,000. had worked out since this amount was based on a guesstimate of the annual costs involved in maintaining the cemetery less the estimated income derived from trust funds. David Woodbury responded that once he was given a figure as to how much over the \$11,000. had been expended he could most likely reimburse the entire sum. Subsequently a check from the Cemetery Trustees was received in the amount of \$3,950.

Discussion turned to the fact that Bob Todd intends to the contact Southern N. H. Planning Commission to determine the expense of and the procedure required to computerize the cemetery records. It is further the hope of the Trustees that once this has been accomplished, the records can be maintained by the town office staff.

Selectman Dodge returned the discussion to the maintenance of the grounds and asked if the care given in 1992 was satisfactory to the Trustees and adequate, and if so would the 1993 proposed budget be a like amount. General discussion ensued as to maintenance and what could be done especially with regard to the removal of a dying maple tree and the potential of mowing the older portion of the cemetery four times annually as opposed to the twice annual mowing it now receives.

Selectman Dodge asked the Trustees what their recommendation might be for contracting the maintenance in the upcoming year, with Selectman Johnston suggesting that the Trustees approach Maureen Mansfield, the present contractor to ascertain what her 1993 figure might be, and if they were happy with both her performance and her projected price then continue using her service. David Woodbury offered his support for this suggestion, with the other Trustees both agreeing with the recommendation and complimenting the job that Maureen and her son Tom had done in 1992. Leon Daniels did recommend that the maple tree previously mentioned be removed.

David Woodbury brought up the issue of a possible fund discrepancy which involves monies turned over to the Trustees by the late Thomas Mansfield for the sale of cemetery lots in the year 1988. Selectman

Dodge suggested that the Trustees make the determination of what amount might actually be owed, and then make a decision as to whether it would be collected.

Discussion turned to the possibility of using a remaining portion of the existing cemetery, which is not suitable for grave sites, for the burial of cremated remains. These lots would be priced accordingly.

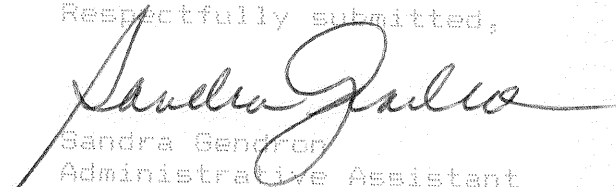
There was discussion on cost of the cemetery expansion being placed in the rotation of the C.I.P., with David Woodbury commenting that they may opt to wait one more year. There was further discussion on implementing a portion of the suggestions offered by Skip Gomes to get the project underway at minimum expense presently. Walter Houghton mentioned that the spiked tips on the wrought fence, that had been deemed dangerous several months ago by the Trustees, had been removed and needed to be ground down, then the bottom of the gate could be painted. Discussion continued on the possibility of the volunteer effort which had been started this year resuming in the spring, and the meeting ended with it being pointed out that one side of the roof on the hearse house needed replacing.

On a motion by Selectman Dodge and a second from Selectman Pimenta, it was moved that Bruce Fillmore be removed as an alternate to the Planning Board. This was unanimously supported by the entire Board. This decision resulted from a recommendation by the Planning Board based on Bruce's failure to respond to a letter sent to him noting his persistent absence from Board meetings. Sandra Gendron was instructed to notify Bruce of this decision and to contact Lisa Jack, who had previously interviewed for an alternate position but was not appointed, to see if she might still be interested in an appointment. This was subsequently done, and Lisa does not have the time available presently to become involved with the Planning Board.

State Representative Elizabeth Moore-Whitman was in to discuss writing and submitting legislation that would enable the vote of a Town Meeting to change the method of appointing Planning Board members to electing; however, they would be elected on a staggered basis which, under RSA 673:2, Sect. II-b is not the current method. This was an issue that received much discussion at the past Town Meeting since it was petitioned that New Boston change its current practice of appointment to that of elected. Several related state statutes were discussed with Betsy commenting that there appeared to be a difference of interpretation with regard to this issue at the state level.

Checks were signed, mail was reviewed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant