

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - August 30, 1993

Present for the meeting which began at 6:30 p.m. were Selectmen Dodge, Johnston and Pimenta with Sandra Gendron taking minutes.

In for his regular Monday evening meeting was Road Agent Lee Murray. The first topic of discussion was the pavement on the newly installed Depot Street Bridge which, having been previously noted, was already showing signs of distress. Lee had reviewed a memo received by bridge contractor Mike Kanik from the bridge manufacturer and forwarded to the Office of Selectmen which stated that the pavement had not been placed to the thickness required by the specifications and that it appeared by the pictures forwarded to them for assessment of the situation, the pavement used was of poor quality. Lee disagreed with the evaluation of the pavement quality, and further contended that since he had instructed Continental as to how to install the pavement on the bridge, based on past practices, then some of the responsibility might lie with him regarding the application of the pavement as opposed to the specifications called for by the engineering firm. Selectman Dodge suggested that the bridge designer be contacted to determine what they would have specified with regard to paving the bridge in comparison to what was specified by the engineer from CLD, and once again, Lee stated that the paving company had done what they were told to do. There was general discussion as to what the course of action might be, with Lee contending that the existing pavement cannot be removed, and Selectman Dodge questioning whether new pavement would bond with existing.

Another issued raised in the memo from Wheeler to Mike Kanik was that fact that the "as built" plans the town is waiting for in order to provide the State of N. H. with proper documentation for partial reimbursement on the bridge project, from Wheeler would not be forthcoming until the pavement issue was resolved. Selectman Dodge took issue with this stand since the bridge designer was not involved in the specifications for the pavement of the bridge; and, therefore, in Selectman Dodge's opinion, should provide us with the necessary plan without delay. He will contact bridge contractor Mike Kanik to argue this matter.

Discussion ended on this topic with Lee instructed to talk to Mike Kanik and the paving company so that a decision could be made as to what the next steps might be to resolve this matter.

The next topic for discussion was the Francestown Turnpike, the project on which had recently been completed, and the cost of which had run almost \$30,000. over what was originally projected. Lee explained some of the extra costs which included an increase in the paving bid for the town this year, that fact that the drainage had not been calculated into the original projection, and the cost of loading the gravel by the pit manager was added. Lee anticipates the bulk of the overrun will come from 1993 resurfacing money as well as some from Highway Block Grant. Lee explained that the shimming that was scheduled to be done under the resurfacing line would still be done; however, some of the sealing that was scheduled most likely will not be done in its entirety.

Discussion turned to work to be done on Old Coach Road from the intersection of Rte. #13, and Selectman Dodge suggested that Lee

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contact the state engineer to discuss that intersection in general before the project commences.

Lee commented, when asked, that he still has one more load of calcium chloride to be used as scheduled in 1993, but will be waiting for rain to provide much needed moisture to maximize the effect of the material when applied to dirt roads, the dryness season being acknowledged by Selectman Dodge. The meeting ended with a review of what the highway department had done while Lee had been on vacation the previous week.

Next in to meet with the Board was Doug Ryan from Capital Drilling and Blasting, Inc. who had submitted the low bid for necessary blasting for a proposed project on Joe English Road. The Board of Selectmen explained at the onset the bids received for the proposed project far exceeded the available monies, and discussion began as to how much of the project could be completed with the funds available, and whether Doug would be willing to terminate the project when the funds were depleted, obviously at an amount far less than the bid he submitted for the total project. Doug agreed that he would be willing to do the project in conjunction with the availability of funds, contending that the potential discrepancy between the amount of money available as compared to the scope of the project had been alluded to at the pre-bid inspection.

Discussion ensued with Lee expressing confidence that money would allow them to get to what he termed the "first knob", continuing by stating that very close track would have to be kept of the costs, a statement to which Doug agreed. Discussion turned to when the project might commence, with Lee stating as soon as possible; however, he pointed out that the blaster and the contractor would have to work together so consideration would have to be given to the contractors schedule. Doug stated that he was of the opinion that the distance that could be blasted with available funds might be longer than anyone was projecting at this time.

Discussion turned to the pre-blast surveys which would be conducted on area buildings once the project had been scheduled to verify and record the condition of these buildings prior to beginning the blasting, and everyone agreed that any potentially affected properties be surveyed to insure any subsequent claims had basis in fact. Discussion continued on road access while the project is in progress, with Doug commenting that the section of road being blasted will be closed during the day; however, re-opened at the end of each work day. The issue of school busses was raised and Lee will contact school bus contractor Pete Jenkins to advise him of the project and its particulars. Before leaving Doug estimated that the first section would take approximately two weeks.

Selectman Dodge asked Lee to check on the availability of fuel tanks at the State Surplus Warehouse, and, if available, at what cost and what was the thickness.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen was John Halvatzes, C.S.S.I. who was the contractor submitting the low bid on the Joe English Road Project as well as the Riverdale Road Project. Again, the circumstances of the funding for Joe English Road were described

to John. He agreed, as had the blasting contractor, that he would work closely with the Town and when the funds were exhausted the project would be terminated. When asked when he could begin the project, he estimated two-three weeks at the maximum. He also stated that he would like to do some preliminary work on the Riverdale Road Project to make it ready to accept the blasted material from the Joe English Road Project. He went on to describe how he intends to coordinate the two projects. Selectman Dodge asked if he intended to remove all the ledge blasted from Joe English, to which John responded, not necessarily, depending on the size of the rocks. Before John left Lee emphasized the need for the use of signs and flag persons during these projects. Sandra Gendron will prepare the necessary contracts for both contractors to sign prior to the start of the two above discussed projects.

Selectman Pimenta asked Lee if signs might be placed at the sharp corner on McCurdy Road in the vicinity of the Manter residence having heard of three incidents which had taken place whereby drivers were not aware of the curve of the road. Discussion ensued and Lee agreed to put up delineators. It was also stated, having been brought up in this discussion, that the installation of guard rails on the hill going down McCurdy Road from Joe English Road was never intended.

Police Chief James McLaughlin was in to discuss a personnel issue which was related to the hiring of an individual to fill an open slot on the part-time officer roster. It was voted by the majority of the Board of Selectmen (Dodge - yes, Johnston - yes, Pimenta -no) that the individual in question be hired based on Jim's recommendation and the one year probationary period which would commence once the individual had achieved part-time certification. (estimated that the probationary period would expire in November of 1994)

Jim went on to review the general activity of the department and stated that he had been contacted by officials in Weare with regard to the surrounding towns, to include New Boston, investigating the potential financial advantages of retaining a prosecutor. He stated that if an idea of this nature were to ever materialize, it would be a Selectmen's decision.

Discussion continued with Jim stating that he was addressing the issue of the Hepatitis B shots being given to his officers and the training involved in the program. He wanted to make the Selectman aware that his job was becoming more administrative in nature cutting down on his personal available time to be out in the community. He stated that Selectman Pimenta's wife had given CPR training to his officers, and discussion ensued as to the costs related to the Hepatitis program and related training. He pointed out that although the Fire Department personnel had received the vaccine, they had not proceeded with the necessary training or the policy making procedure required. He expressed the opinion that the goal of the community might be to having one established policy that would cover all necessary departments. He stated that he would continue to review the matter and deal with the State regarding the programs that are available under their auspices.

He related to the Selectmen that Animal Control Officer Tom Fleming had received his rabies immunization, and suggested that the Highway Department who might also have cause to handle dead animals participate in the immunization program. Discussion continued on Tom Fleming's job as Animal Control Officer from the perspective that he currently uses his own vehicle to respond to calls for service, and how this may be a cause for future concern. Jim pointed out that he was only making the Board aware of potential future issues. Selectman Pimenta suggested that a Highway Department vehicle might be made available, with discussion ensuing. Jim did state that he was documenting each incident to keep a track record of the frequency and nature of the calls. Jim stated, when the subject was raised, that his department is using criteria set by the State Fish and Game as to the procedure followed in disposing of these animals once it has been determined if there are signs of disease. He did state that there was obviously more concern regarding the spread of rabies since the disease has received wide media coverage in the area.

Jim informed the Board of Selectmen that full-time Office Timothy Lamy's probationary period would expire on September 14, 1993, and he was recommending to the Board that Officer Lamy be granted full-time status. The Board of Selectmen unanimously supported Jim's recommendation.

Selectman Dodge asked Jim if he had sufficient idea of what the "footprint" of the proposed police building might be so that the area where it was intended to be located on the site of the Highway Garage be cut. Jim, referring to the sketch that he had previously submitted to the Board, gave an affirmative response to Selectman Dodge's inquiry. Jim indicated that he would go up to the site during the course of the week to do more definitive measuring.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen were David Wilson and Warren Houghton, members of the Artillery Company. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the use of the addition to the Fire Station approved by vote of a previous town meeting. David was requesting an explanation, since as he put it, in his opinion, "the will of the people was being overridden." Selectman Dodge commented that he recalled the vote to add on to the Fire Station and subsequent discussions regarding same, contending that the interpretation of everyone is not the same. He stated that the last bay was built for the storage of certain items, the Board of Selectmen being responsible for the use of Town Buildings saw the need for the police cruiser to be housed especially during the winter months, the space being available in that area of the Fire Station, the Board chose to occupy it. Warren Houghton stated there was now a need to store the newly constructed cannon carriage. David contended that the Police Department does not keep the area where the cruiser is parked clean, noting the residue left that melts once the cruiser is parked overnight, Warren added that the door has been found unlocked and build up of ice so that it could not be properly closed. David continued by stating that ladders have been found leaning against some of the items of historical value rightfully stored there, and feels this obvious lack of respect is an insult to those who pride themselves in the care of this memorabilia. Selectman Dodge reviewed Article 15 as

was recorded in the minutes of the 1977 Town Meeting. He agreed that there were obvious issues of concern related to respect being shown for the equipment stored in the area as well as the cleanliness of the area. David stated that the Police Department had been spoken to. Selectman Dodge stated that the Selectmen would meet with the Board of Fire Wards to review the matter, and Selectman Johnston concurred that the appropriate department heads should review the article and everyone reminded of their responsibilities. More discussion ensued with David Wilson continuing to state his dismay. Selectman Dodge reiterated that the Selectmen will attempt to deal with the matter.

Discussion turned to the potential of adding on to the historical building which had been proposed and discussed but had seemed to have lost its momentum. David Wilson was of the opinion that the Historical Society did not support the concept, therefore, there was no future to the idea. Discussion ensued, and the Board suggested that this concept be revitalized, pointing out that although the area available was small the potential of an addition had merit.

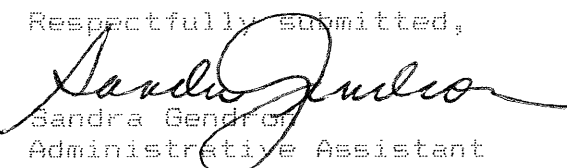
All agreed that the newly constructed carriage would need storage space this winter, and David Wilson indicated that he could see that such space was provided.

Fire Chief James Dodge was in to discuss with the Board the bill for a brush fire which had been paid by the Town, but which had clearly been the responsibility of two individuals who were not in a financial position to assume the costs of the damages. Before discussion on this matter began, the Selectmen scheduled a meeting with the Fire Wards for September 13, 1993 at 8:30 p.m. where the above discussed concerns of David Wilson and Warren Houghton could be addressed.

Returning the reason for Jim's meeting with the Board, he stated that he had discussed the matter with the District Fire Warden who suggested that these individuals might be required to do community service work in lieu of payment. Jim inquired of the Selectmen if they were interested in this type of arrangement and went on to list potential projects that the two individuals could undertake. Selectman Johnston questioned who would provide the necessary supervision, and also questioned whether these two individuals would be willing to do such work and do it honestly, to which Jim responded that he was certain they would. Again, Jim stated that the Town would never see the actual money involved. It was agreed that Sandra Gendron would contact the District Fire Warden to further discuss his experiences with such matters, and the NHMA would be contacted with regard to the potential liability if such community service work were to be undertaken.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra Gendron  
Administrative Assistant