

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - September 13, 1993

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

In for his regular meeting with the Board was Road Agent Lee Murray. Updating the Board on some of his ongoing projects, he stated that he had scheduled a meeting with the State Engineer the next day to discuss the intersection of Old Coach Road and Route #13. He also stated, with regard to the Depot Street Bridge Project, that Mike Kanik was still awaiting word from the bridge manufacturer as to what their proposal might be for pavement specifications. He went on to state that in conversation with Continental Paving who had applied the pavement now on the bridge, they were of the opinion that the existing material could be peeled of contending that it was not tightly adhered to the wood.

He reported to the Board that he had investigated the tanks at state surplus to ascertain if they would be suitable for the collection of waste oil at the Transfer Station as he had been requested. The tanks were constructed of heavy gauge aluminum and were low profile tanks making access for filling easier, and also could be easily surrounded by cement blocks adding protection from possible vandalism. Selectman Dodge commented that eventually the intent would be to cover the tanks. Lee continued by stating that they were brand new 500 gallon tanks on aluminum skids at a cost of \$250.00. Selectman Pimenta, who had been originally consulted on the purchase of suitable tanks, commented favorably on their suitability, and further inquired as to what additionally would be necessary to ready the site for the collection of waste oil. It was noted that \$500.00 had been carried forward in the HWD budget to purchase the tanks and future Solid Waste budgets would include set up related costs. Lee was authorized by unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen to purchase the tanks.

Lee informed the Board that he expected his last load of calcium chloride for this year to be delivered at the end of the week, and responded when asked, that it would be used on selected new areas as well as re-doing some already treated areas.

The next item for discussion was the request of Lynne Higbie, Bittersweet Lane, that the roadway passing her house and maintained by the Town having Class V status even though she is the only resident on the road, have gravel brought in since this past spring was very muddy and at times proved inaccessible by vehicle. Lee estimated that in order to significantly improve the roadway approximately one foot of bony gravel would have to be brought in. Selectman Dodge, acknowledging that there were several property owners with a similar scenario, and that to eliminate maintaining what were for all intent and purpose private driveways would take a vote of Town Meeting, contended that the area would likely have to be upgraded. Discussion ensued and Lee commented that if money were to be spent on upgrading to some degree that the Town should insist that a "turn around" area be provided by Mrs. Higbie necessary to provide proper winter maintenance. Continuing discussion on the subject in general, Lee expressed his opinion, that if a proposal were made to rid the town of these situations by a vote of Town Meeting, the fair thing to do would be to upgrade the areas to a point where they can be maintained by the owner.

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Selectman Johnston concurred with Selectman Dodge's assessment of the matter and agreed with Lee that only gravel with six to eight inch stone should be placed in designated areas approaching the home of Mrs. Higbie. Selectman Dodge suggested that when Lee contacted Mrs. Higbie he state that the highway department must have an area in which equipment can be turned around.

Selectman Dodge asked Lee if he had contacted Tim Trimbur with regard to the final cleanup from his cutting project on Riverdale Road. Lee stated that highway department employee John Riendeau had expressed an interest in cleaning up the salvageable wood for his own use and it was agreed that he could do so.

Lee informed the Board that the grinding process related to the reclamation of the hill on Old Coach Road would likely begin on Thursday or Friday of this week, with paving to immediately follow and at the same time the paving company would complete any schedule shimming for this year.

In concluding the meeting with Lee, Selectman Dodge inquired as to whether all the roads had been graded now that the dry conditions had been alleviated to some extent, and Lee responded that the grader operator had been on vacation, that he had been personally grading in his absence, and that the grading would continue until all the dirt roads were done.

Next in to meet with the Board for his regular monthly meeting was Chief of Police James McLaughlin. The first topic of discussion was Jim's continuing investigation as to how best administer the Hepatitis B shots and implement related policies for the program also giving consideration to budgeting for the expense of such. Jim explained the details and expense involved in a federal program which would provide the serum at a reduced cost; however which would also require that the Town find proper personnel to administer the serum as well as enlist a physician to conduct pre-screening examinations. He continued by detailing the program available through the Elliott Hospital which for \$70.00 per shot would include cost of the serum as well as the pre-screening examination and all the record keeping, making this what Jim perceived to be an attractive option. The Fire Department has in the past used the Catholic Medical Center which Jim contends would likely be a similar program to the Elliott Hospital. Fire Chief Jim Dodge supported the program his department used at CMC because it was all inclusive. Discussion centered around what might be the best avenue to pursue with regard to the entire issue, and the cost factors involved. When asked by Selectman Dodge, Jim responded that he was inclined to favor the program offered by the Elliott Hospital seeing as attractive the fact that payment was per shot and could be spread out so that the new years budget could accommodate some of the expense. He supported starting the process and avoiding the risk of potential exposure by his officers. Selectman Dodge suggested that Jim finalize the process of information gathering and submit his final analysis to Sandra Gendron, so that a decision could be made by the Board, and the program could be implemented as soon as possible which he expressed being in favor of. Before discussion on the subject ended, Jim asked, with regard to the written policy, should a specific physician be selected. Selectman Dodge favored

utilizing one individual who might meet the needs of all departments, contending that the Town might benefit from this practice in other areas such as Worker's Compensation.

Jim informed the Selectmen that Garrett Rice had received a medical release from his Doctor and was ready to be scheduled for duty. He further informed the Board that both Garrett Rice and newly re-hired part-time officer Roger Stearns had begun their part-time certification program which was scheduled to be completed in early November.

Jim reported that this year's Fair had been typical of those in the past with no major problems. There was discussion on the flow of traffic especially the intended one way off Depot Street which was cause for some concern. Jim pointed out that he had cut additional hours billing this year for 122 total hours, he explained how he had accomplished this contending that Fair Association President John Robinson appeared to be satisfied with the effort made in this regard. Jim stated that he had asked the Fair Association for such statistics as car counts, etc. with no success to date. Selectman Dodge stated that he had suggested they might benefit from the use of our traffic counter to gather some of this statistical data important to many aspects of the Fair.

Jim stated that he had been contacted once again by Brian Traynor, a resident on River Road, regarding his concern for the safety of his young son walking to school. Brian is adamant that police or crossing guards be provided at the crosswalk in the vicinity of his home. Jim has explained to him that this is a service that has never been provided, and pointed out that there are three crosswalks in the general vicinity of the village area to be considered. Principal Rick Matthews had been contacted with regard to providing information in terms of the numbers of children who in the general village area walked to school. Rick submitted statistical information as well as copies of documents whereby Brian had requested and had been denied by the School Board that a bus stop for his son. Much discussion on the matter ensued with Selectman Pimenta suggesting that police presence occasionally might aid in speed control, another complaint of Brian's. Jim contended that a number of summons had been issued in the area of the school, continuing by stating that he does the best he can with his scheduling; further pointing how prohibitive his own personal schedule is with his ever increasing administrative workload.

Discussion turned to the installation of flashing lights during school hours, a subject that had been discussed previously, and the cost of which Jim recalled to be in the ball park of \$350.00. Selectman Dodge favored further investigating the installation of lights and shared the contents of a letter he had received whereby the State intended to repaint the crosswalk areas now that the road approaching the village had been newly paved.

The discussion of this topic ended with Jim stating that he would contact Brian Traynor and relate to him the discussion that had taken place with regard to his concerns.

Jim presented to the Board as he had been requested a rough diagram of how the proposed police facility might be situated on the lot also housing the highway garage. Jim had measured the area and discussion ensued. Sandra Gendron was instructed to contact Jonathan Stout, member of the Forestry Committee, to suggest that they might review the site and make recommendation with regard to the clearing process.

Selectman Dodge informed Jim of the concerns that had been expressed by members of the Artillery Company regarding the accumulation of slush and dirt that melted off the cruiser when it was parked during the winter months in an area of the Fire Station shared by the Fire Department and the Artillery Company. Members of the Artillery Company had expressed concern for the general unkempt condition of the area and what they termed "general disrespect" for the historical artifacts that were stored therein. Jim responded that he considered his department a guest in the building, and assured the Board of Selectmen that he was willing to take whatever measures necessary to help alleviate the concerns mentioned above.

Before the meeting with Jim ended, Selectman Dodge reviewed a letter received from Bruce Cheney regarding the statewide installation of 911. Jim commented that he had attended a program related to the installation, and stated that an area of concern that New Boston might have to deal with was reviewing road that had similar names and different locations, i.e. Riverdale Road in the vicinity of the home of Harold Strong and a short section of road on the other side of Rte. #114 near the airport that was also known as Riverdale Road. He stated there was a similar situation with Parker Road and Parker Station Road. He contended that it would be prudent to address these issues prior to the emergence of the statewide implementation of 911 targeted for 1995.

In to meet with the Board, having been requested by the Selectmen, were Fire Chief James Dodge, Fire Wards John Bunting, Clifford Plourde, Dale Smith, Richard Moody and Daniel MacDonald.

Selectman Dodge explained that this meeting had been called based on concerns expressed at a previous Selectmen's Meeting by members of the Artillery Company David Wilson and Warren Houghton with regard to the condition of the area shared by the Fire Department and the Artillery Company in the rear of the Fire Station. David and Warren had requested a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to clarify the use of the area mentioned above and to express their dismay with the accumulated debris left by the Fire Department and the general disarray of the area. They went on to express concern that the historical items belonging to the company and rightfully stored in the area were treated with a lack of respect by the Fire Department. Selectman Dodge continued by stating that issues of concern raised by David and Warren related to the police cruiser being housed in this area during winter months had been addressed with Chief of Police James McLaughlin. David and Warren were concerned with the melted residue left when the cruiser was parked and the fact that the ice had been allowed to build up in the door at times preventing it from being properly secured. Selectman Dodge related what Chief McLaughlin had told the Board of Selectmen relative to his consideration that the Police Department is a guest in that building

and he would address the concerns expressed in an effort to assure that they would not recur. Jim did state that the lock on the door had at times proved troublesome and questioned its need for replacement.

Jim Dodge stated that none of the above mentioned concerns had ever been brought to his attention. He alluded to there being clutter, and acknowledged that the door had been left open relating an incident whereby a skunk had gained entrance causing havoc. He further commented that the lift that had been constructed to ease in moving the cannon had been left in such a way that it would interfere with the moving of the air truck should that become necessary. Discussion continued on the condition of the lock and the drainage issues, some of which hopefully have been alleviated by recent cleaning of the drains. The Wards in general commented that over the summer the area had been "hoed" out, and again in general did not consider conditions that bad. They did acknowledge that when the vehicles were serviced the waste oil was placed in that area to be taken for his own use by the Chief. Further, they commented that M-2 was undergoing a major overhaul and parts of this vehicle were placed in this area while the vehicle was being worked on. They were not aware of a specific incident whereby a ladder had been set against one of the artillery items.

Selectman Johnston stated that the area was intended to be used by both groups and for the general harmony of all it was imperative that they work together.

Selectman Dodge stated that the Board was in favor of revitalizing plans that would propose an addition to the present historical building which would house some of the artifacts, acknowledging the lack of space available for storage.

General discussion continued with regard to materials stored in the area by the Fire Department, with Dan MacDonald commenting that he was of the opinion that the Artillery Company should have gone directly to the Fire Wards to discuss their concerns. Selectman Dodge supported the contention that the two bodies should communicate with each other. Selectman Pimenta stated that pictures of the area had been taken by David Wilson, this being the case it was proposed that all present review the area as it now stood, and the group immediately adjourned to the Fire Station.

Upon their return the meeting continued with the next scheduled appointment. Chairman of the Planning Board Brent Armstrong was in to discuss with the Board the recently received resignation of Planning Coordinator Claire Dane. Brent explained that it was not his intention to discuss the possible "why's and wherefore's" for this resignation, but rather to try to get a handle on what the position of Planning Coordinator entailed and what steps might be taken to try to make the transition as smooth as possible for all concerned. He described the history of the position and how it had grown in the fourteen years that Claire had been in the position. He continued by describing projects that were being actively worked on by the Planning Board, and which they had a desire to see through to completion, if possible, before Claire left.

Brent inquired as to what the role of the Planning Board Chairman and/or the Planning Board Members might be in the interview and hiring process. Selectman Johnston suggested that Brent review the job description of Planning Coordinator with Sandra Gendron, and suggested that the Chairman and/or a member of the Planning Board might be appropriate representation of the Board in the process, but not to include the entire Board. Selectman Dodge agreed that the Chairman should likely be present during the interview process.

Discussion returned to the list of yet to be finished projects with Brent reviewing it in detail, and suggesting what items might be priority.

Discussion returned to the job description and how it might be described in an ad. Selectman Dodge suggested that hi-lites from the job description be incorporated and an advertisement placed in publications such as Town and City Magazine and local newspapers as soon as possible. Some discussion ensued on whether taking and transcribing the minutes of Planning Board meetings could be separated from the job description, which led to the issue of taping the minutes and the inordinate amount of time that had recently been spent in transcribing such, a practice that Selectman Dodge contended must be reviewed.

Brent stated that Claire had made it very clear that she intended to remain flexible with regard to the thirty day notice she gave knowing that the transition would be difficult. Claire also expressed to Brent that she would be willing to discuss the incomplete projects and the logistics of getting as many as possible completed before she left. Brent encouraged the Board of Selectmen to meet with Claire to discuss what her role during this transitional period would be.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Claire Dane from the Planning Board Office with sincere regret, and agreed to schedule a meeting to discuss matters as noted above. In closing Brent, once again, expressed his keen desire to take advantage of whatever Claire is willing to do in order that as much as possible be accomplished during this timeframe.

Returning to discussing conditions at the Fire Station, the Selectmen acknowledged that the area had been cleaned out. They acknowledged that there were containers of unsealed waste oil, and that parts of the truck being worked on as mentioned above were in the area. It was stated, and the advisability of such was questioned, that the Artillery Company had left paraphernalia on artifacts of their own without proper protection. The Fire Wards suggested that possibly some items belonging to the Artillery Company might be hung thereby freeing up floor space.

Sandra Gendron will contact David Wilson relating to him that a meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Wards took place and the results thereof, stressing the importance that in sharing this common space the two groups must communicate resulting in a harmonious relationship.

Selectman Dodge moved to reconsider a previous action taken by the

Board of Selectmen with regard to the reappointment of Holly Bowen to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The motion to reconsider was seconded by Selectman Johnston and unanimously voted by the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Dodge speaking to his motion contended that he still had concerns with regard to the record keeping for the ZBA; however, in reconsidering his original position he is of the opinion that since two new members have been appointed to the ZBA as alternates who will require a training period, and given the fact that the Chairman of the ZBA has been made aware of the concerns of the Board of Selectmen, he now would like to reconsider his original vote. Selectman Johnston reiterated his original position which was satisfaction that the ZBA Chairman had been made aware of the Selectmen's concerns, and it was a ZBA issue to be dealt with; and Selectman Pimenta reiterated his original position and that was not to support the reappointment based on the issue of record keeping.

Selectman Dodge moved that Holly Bowen be reappointed to the ZBA, the motion was seconded by Selectman Johnston and the vote was Selectman Dodge - yes, Selectman Johnston - yes and Selectman Pimenta - No. Holly Bowen was reappointed for a three year term to the ZBA.

Dorothy Donovan, Hopkins Road, had come into the Town Office on September 8, 1993 to express her concern regarding an incident the previous Saturday at the Transfer Station. Since Selectman Dodge had been present he related the incident stating that a few people spend an inordinate amount of time regularly at the Transfer Station and many times leave with an inordinate amount of varied items. Transfer Station employees had indicated that Dorothy was one such person. In his discussion with Dorothy, she stated what she takes out she gives to family and friends, further stating that she does sometimes sell items at flea markets, and she does on occasion leave items in Milford in exchange for something she might have taken which is the policy in Milford. Selectman Dodge stated to Dorothy that she was abusing the privilege, and speaking as one Selectman he was of the opinion that the purpose of the "reusable item room" was to serve many not a few.

Dorothy's point in coming to the Town Office was to suggest that everyone might benefit by the posting of rules and policies and to express dismay with Selectman Dodge.

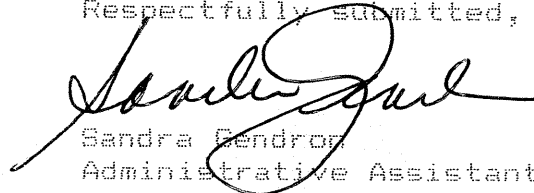
Discussion ensued and the Board of Selectmen agreed that Sandra Gendron would instruct Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune to bring the issue before the Solid Waste Committee for their recommendations with regard to policy and the posting thereof.

Selectman Pimenta agreed to return a telephone call to Vincent Maniscalchi, Barss Drive, with whom he has had a recent conversation with regard to the ongoing issue of Mr. Maniscalchi having erected a basketball hoop in the Town's Right of Way, and the Town requiring that it be removed by October 1, 1993. In their conversation Mr. Maniscalchi expressed dissatisfaction with the condition of his road especially the entrance which he contends is soft sand and difficult to maneuver in. Selectman Pimenta stated that he confirmed with Mr. Maniscalchi the fact that the basketball hoop would have to be removed. Discussion ensued on the matter of the concerns with

regard to the road raised by Mr. Maniscalchi, Selectman Pimenta will address these issues with Road Agent Lee Murray and return a call to Mr. Maniscalchi.

Mail was reviewed, checks will be signed on Tuesday from this date until such time as bookkeeper Carol Napoli returns from maternity leave, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant