

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - September 20, 1993

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 Selectmen. Lee stated that he had measured the area approaching the home of Lynn Higbie in need of upgrading. The distance from the bottom of the hill to the bridge is 1,000' in length with Lee estimating that it would require 500 yards of material to go the distance at width of 16'. He continued by stating that currently he is paying \$1.25 per yard plus the cost of hauling and placement. He intends to insist that Mrs. Higbie provide the town with an area that can be used as a turnaround.

Lee provided to the Board facts that had been ascertained from grader operator Lou Nikias and documented with regard to an incident that had taken place while a portion of Middle Branch Road was recently being graded. The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Carol Petrillo, a resident of Francestown alleging that her vehicle had been damaged while traveling on Middle Branch Road during the grading process, and expecting the Town to accept liability for the damages. Lou confirmed that signs were in place warning of the work in progress, and as such, it is to be expected that use of the roadway is likely to present numerous hazardous conditions and the risk is assumed by those who wish to proceed. Sandra Gendron will contact Mrs. Petrillo to state the position of the Town and deny any liability on the part of the Town.

Continuing to update the Board with regard to ongoing projects, Lee stated that he is still waiting for the Dredge and Fill permits to come in on McCurdy Road and Bog Road. Discussion continued on the proposed McCurdy Road Project, and the course of action that needs pursuit in order to move forward this year with the project. Selectman Dodge stated that specific landowners must be approached where the existing road will require widening. Lee suggested that plans be drawn and the landowners be called in for discussion and review of the proposed plan. Lee continued by stating he was of the opinion that the side of the road with the stonewalls in the best condition could be left and the necessary width be taken from the opposite side, further contending that most of the distance to be reconstructed likely could have the width made available once the landowners had been contacted. Lee stated that the area in the vicinity of the Flansbury property would be the most difficult to get the width desired. Selectman Dodge suggested that Lee contact landowners Lorden and Horner to discuss widening the road in the area of their property, and then the Selectmen would contact Mrs. Flansbury to discuss how the project might continue along the front of her property and onto the adjacent property which she also owns and, as noted above, in terms of the desired width is the most difficult section of road in the entire proposed project. Selectman Dodge also suggested that Lee contact the appropriate officials at the state level to determine the progress of the dredge and fill permits that had been applied for by the town.

In noting the inordinate amount of time it seems to take in order for a community to obtain a dredge and fill permit, Selectman Johnston suggested that consideration might be given to contacting our local Legislators with the thought in mind that the system

whereby these permits are issued return to a previous status relieving towns from the rules and regulations of these permits.

Helene Racicot, Parker Road, had contacted the Selectmen's Office during the week to state her continued dissatisfaction with the entrance of her driveway now that Parker Road had been repaved despite having discussed the matter with the Road Agent.

Lee reviewed, once again, for the benefit of the Board the situation stating that Mrs. Racicot's concern relative to the area gathering water and the potential ice build up that will result this winter has merit. He discussed issues of drainage that needed to be dealt with as well as the small area he had to work with in order that this be accomplished; however, he stated that he would try to improve the situation this fall to alleviate the ice build up as much as he could.

Before leaving, he informed the Selectmen that the scheduled grinding on Old Coach Road had been delayed, but would proceed as rescheduling could take place, and he had nothing to report from Mike Kanik related to the pavement on the Depot Street Bridge.

Chairman of the School Board, Gordon Carlstrom, came in requesting a few minutes of the Selectmen's time to discuss the potential of putting the school bus contract out to bid. Discussion ensued as to whether the contract should be put out to public bid or whether a price should be gotten from Goffstown Truck Center, the present contractor. Presently there is a kind of gentlemen's agreement whereby the contract is extended on an annual basis, thereby, potentially affording the better financial arrangement and it was mentioned that there is benefit to be derived when dealing with a proven contractor; however, conversely, putting the contract out to bid would potentially standardize the document and it could go out with neighboring towns incorporated in the same Supervisory Union. Discussion continued with Selectman Dodge suggesting there were beneficial points to both scenarios; however ultimately contending that the contract should most likely be put to public bid. Selectman Pimenta inquired as to whether the contract would be one year in length, with the response given that generally it was three to five years in length with one year extensions depending upon the terms negotiated. Gordon left with the Board of Selectmen in general supporting the potential of putting the bus contract for the New Boston School District out to bid.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen were David Wilson and Lester Byam, members of the Artillery Company. Arriving later in the meeting was Artillery member Warren Houghton. The meeting began with discussion on a proposed addition to the existing town building that currently houses historical artifacts. David stated that he and Warren had discussed a sixteen foot addition that would follow the existing roof line and would leave the ceiling area open for overhead storage. They were also aware that another plan was in existence whereby the addition would be more "shed-like" in design. It was their contention that a design of this type would not maximize the potential available area, nor was it, in their opinion, feasible questioning the design of the roof line. Selectman Dodge contended that there was merit to both designs and suggested that

the two groups meet for discussion and comparison. David emphasized that the Artillery Company was interested in a design which would offer the most usable space and listed the articles that should be stored in such an area, as well as stated that the building should be available as much as possible for all who might want to see the memorabilia as well as be afforded the opportunity to learn the history thereof.

The meeting ended with Selectman Dodge, once again, suggesting that Warren and David commit their ideas to paper and meet with those who have access to the plan which shows the "shed-like" design, in the attempt to ultimately design a plan which would be presented for approval at Town Meeting.

David stated that the new carriage would be stored at his home this winter and the Artillery Company would be purchasing an appropriate insurance binder. David further stated that the old carriage would have work done in order that its condition be stabilized and would also be stored at his home. Discussion ensued as to the area and how it was heated where these pieces would be stored. David expressed confidence that the safety and security of these pieces would not be jeopardized, with everyone in attendance realizing that the old carriage would be irreplaceable should it meet with misfortune.

Selectman Dodge suggested if there were any further issues with regard to the shared space at the Fire Station between the Artillery Company and the Fire Wards, that the Artillery Company form a committee whose charge it would be to meet with the Fire Wards and to mutually agree on a resolution of whatever the issue might be.

When inquiry was made by Warren Houghton, discussion turned to the meeting that the Selectmen had with the Board of Fire Wards and the conditions found at the Fire Station when it was inspected by the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Wards. Selectman Dodge expressed his concern for potential damage and described how two pieces of the Artillery Company equipment had been placed whereby damage could be done to the seat of the old carriage. Selectman Pimenta agreed with Selectman Dodge's assessment. David Wilson explained how the situation might have been created when the equipment was returned for storage contending that it was now a moot point since the carriages were scheduled to be stored elsewhere, and went on to state that it was his intention that the two groups could share the space harmoniously.

The Selectmen stated that the issues of concern with regard to the storage of the cruiser had been discussed with Chief of Police McLaughlin, and he stated that they would be taken care of. Also discussed were the problems of drainage, and the hope that some of these would be alleviated by the recent cleaning of the drains.

Selectman Dodge reviewed for the benefit of the other two Selectmen a conversation he had with Louis Maynard, Mont Vernon Road, related to Mr. Maynard's request for copies of certain Planning Board documents. Inquiries had been made from both the NHMA and Town Counsel as to public status of these documents, and Mr. Maynard, as had been promised, was contacted by Selectman Dodge to state that

the copies of the documents would be available upon request and payment of fees related to copying. Mr. Maynard stated that he was no longer interested in those specific documents; however, he did state that he and others were looking into making a greater use of the Community Channel 8 with regard to informing the general public as to the goings on at the various meetings of boards and committees. He indicated to Selectman Dodge that research was ongoing, once completed, a meeting would be scheduled with the Board for discussion of same.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen were Chairman of the Planning Board Brent Armstrong and Planning Coordinator Claire Dane, who had recently resigned her position, to further discuss the period between now and Claire's leaving, as well as the transition when a new person is hired. Selectman Dodge began the discussion by stating that the Board would like to make the best of a poor situation, and would like also to discuss ways to best take advantage of the thirty day notice that Claire had given. Claire stated that the thirty day notice is not etched in stone and that she has no intention of just walking out the door. She alluded to being well aware that a great deal is dependent on who is hired, and what their capabilities might be before a determination can be made as to how the transition might proceed. She stated her willingness to work on some of the projects submitted previously to the Board of Selectmen as needing completion, outside the office. Discussion ensued as to conversations that had taken place with Simone Hunter who currently does clerical work one day a week in the Planning Board Office, regarding the transition and how it might effect her as well as to ascertain her willingness to accommodate whatever needs might arise during this period. Simone having expressed a willingness to help wherever she could, will be given enhanced training with regard to the clerical duties by Claire.

Discussion turned to the fact that presently the Planning Board is seeking a person to fit the description of Planning Coordinator, the contention having been expressed that the clerical duties can be covered; however, it is fully realized that this thinking might have to be reviewed dependent on applications and the qualifications thereof received for the position.

In an effort to attempt to accomplish as much as possible in terms of Claire's remaining time with the budget already in place for this year, it was decided that effective September 27th and until further notice, the Planning Board Office would be open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will free up Claire three days a week since currently Simone mans the office during regular hours on Wednesday, and will allow her to complete some of the tasks important to the Planning Board. Selectman Dodge suggested that the Planning Board prioritize the list presented, and try to accomplish those that can realistically be accomplished.

Before leaving Claire pointed out to the Board that our gravel ordinance having been in effect for some twenty years is out of date as it relates to current state statutes. She also questioned whether proper authority was granted to the Board of Selectmen prior to the adoption of this ordinance, an area that will require investigation.

Mail was reviewed, the checks were scheduled to be signed on Tuesday, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Gendron".

Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant