

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 30, 1996

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Goodin.

PRESENT: Darlene M. Goodin, Chairman
Gordon A. Carlstrom, Selectman
Michael S. Pimenta, Selectman
Todd I. Selig, Town Administrator

Selectman Pimenta made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Meeting minutes from December 16, 1996. Selectman Carlstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no appointments this evening.

The Board discussed the idea of hiring a full time mechanic to service Town vehicles and equipment. Mr. Selig informed the Selectmen that the various departments spent approximately \$25,195.00 in 1996 in labor oriented mechanical work. Mr. Selig also informed the Selectmen that it would cost the Town approximately \$30,292.00 to hire a full time mechanic, give or take a few thousand dollars due to the difference in Workman's Comp. rates depending on such an employee's responsibilities. The Board felt that it was probably too late in the budget season to act on this recommendation for 1997 Town Meeting, but that it would be something to consider for 1998. The Selectmen felt that a comprehensive study would have to be conducted to determine the cost versus savings of such an investment.

Note:
The letter from D. Sarette noted in this paragraph is dated 12/24/96, not 12/4/96.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter from Building Inspector Dennis Sarette dated December 4, 1996 concerning zoning violations at the Richard LaBranch residence at 189 Parker Road. The Board felt that Mr. Sarette should proceed with the violations as recommended to the Selectmen in his letter noted above. Mr. Sarette noted concerns that perhaps the ordinance should be tightened to better define "agriculture/farming." At present, someone who raises bees, fish, etc. can be categorized as agricultural. The Selectmen took no action on Mr. Sarette's recommendation.

The Town has received a second grant from the U.S. Justice Department Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for a Universal Hiring Program grant of \$74,270.00. The Selectmen must now determine if they will propose a fourth full time police officer at 1997 Town Meeting.

The first day for candidates in towns with non-partisan official ballot systems to file for office is January 22, 1997. The end of the filing period is January 31, 1997.

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The Board of Selectmen reviewed a report dated December 18, 1996 from Independent Assessor George Hildum concerning Preliminary and Unofficial Results of the Department of Revenue's 1996 Equalization Survey. The report recommends that the Selectmen plan for a total revaluation in 1998. The estimated cost for the revaluation in 1998 has increased to \$95,000.00, up \$10,000.00 from previous estimates. The increase is due to the fact that in 1994, appraisal companies were charging \$35.00 per parcel while today the price is closer to \$50.00 per parcel. New Boston has a total of just under 2000 parcels.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the wage currently paid to newly hired part-time police officer Stanley Zapanas for his regular part-time duties and animal control work. The Selectmen were concerned that the \$11.04 per hour currently assigned to Mr. Zapanas was too high in relation to what the Town paid to his predecessor. The Selectmen plan to discuss this issue with Police Chief McLaughlin on Monday, January 6, 1997.

The Selectmen discussed a request put forward by the Fourth of July Association to place a \$3,000.00 warrant article on the 1997 Town Warrant for a professional fireworks display on July 4, 1997. The Board will discuss the matter further on January 9, 1997 when the topic is discussed with the New Boston Finance Committee.

The Board reviewed a petition which is circulating throughout New Boston to create a town manager form of government. The unsigned petition reads: *"The undersigned voters of the Town of New Boston hereby petition the New Boston Board of Selectmen to place the following article on the town warrant to be considered at the Annual Meeting in March 1997. We feel that the Town and tax rate have grown to such an extent that professional management is needed in New Boston to provide guidance and leadership for the future. New Boston must be run like a business. Part-time selectmen with personal friendships and hatreds toward particular citizens and departments can no longer be trusted to manage New Boston in an impartial way. -- Are you in favor of adopting the town manager form of government as provided in chapter 37 of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated?"* The Board discussed the article and what the change in form of government would mean to New Boston. It was felt that there would be very little change in the manner in which things are currently handled between the Selectmen and Town Administrator. Chairman Goodin stated for the record that she does not know of any member of the Board of Selectmen who either favors or hates anybody. The Board acts on what it feels is in the best interest of the Town as a whole. Mr. Selig was asked to speak with the N.H. Municipal Association to find out more about the town manager position.

The Board discussed whether it would be beneficial to change the date of Town Meeting from Saturday to Tuesday evenings, as was done in the past. In general, it was felt that due to work schedules, better attendance would be attracted if Town Meeting was held on Tuesday evenings starting in 1998. Selectman Pimenta made a motion to put an article on the 1997 Town Warrant asking if the citizens of New Boston would like to see the meeting date moved back to Tuesday

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evenings. Selectman Carlstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was felt that if the article was passed, the Tuesday session would last until 11:30 p.m. and would be adjourned to time certain on a subsequent evening for the completion of Town business.

Chairman Goodin signed pistol permits.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

The Board reviewed and/or signed other miscellaneous correspondence and materials.

Selectman Pimenta made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Selectman Pimenta seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator