

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 24, 1997

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

PRESENT: Gordon A. Carlstrom, Selectman
Harold C. Strong, Selectman
Susan J. Clay, Selectman
Todd I. Selig, Town Administrator

Selectman Clay made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from March 17, 1997, with changes. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. John Winslow of 248 River Road stopped by the door to the Selectmen's Office and inquired whether individuals listed on the Town towing list should have garage keepers insurance on the facility in which they store towed vehicles. Mr. Selig answered that the cars which are stored in these facilities should be covered under someone's garage keepers insurance policy. Mr. Winslow went on to ask a number of other questions in regard to the Town wrecker list. Mr. Selig asked Mr. Winslow to put his questions and/or concerns in writing so that the Board could forward them to the Police Department for review. Selectman Strong and Chairman Carlstrom also felt that Mr. Winslow should put his concerns in writing and forward them to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Michael Richard was scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the 1997 Household Hazardous Waste Day at 8:00 p.m. but was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Police Chief James McLaughlin came before the Board of Selectmen at 7:20 p.m. with proposed full time police officer candidates Craig Frye and Stan Zapanas. The two proposed full time candidates would fill the vacant COPS FAST position created by the resignation of Matthew Fleming, as well as the new COPS UNIVERSAL HIRING PROGRAM position recently accepted at 1997 Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen briefly spoke with each of the two candidates who in turn expressed their desire to serve the New Boston community. Upon questioning from Selectman Strong, Mr. Frye stated that he did not plan to pursue being hired as a full time officer with the N.H. State Police if hired by New Boston. The Board thanked the two candidates for meeting with them. The candidates left the meeting.

Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss hiring the above noted two full time police officer candidates. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Carlstrom - yes; Selectman Strong - yes; Selectman Clay -

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yes. The motion passed unanimously. Town Administrator Selig and Police Chief McLaughlin were also present.

Selectman Strong made a motion to appoint Stan Zapanas as a full time police officer in New Boston to replace Matt Fleming's vacated COPS FAST position and to appoint Craig Frye as a full time police officer in New Boston to fill the vacant COPS UNIVERSAL HIRING PROGRAM position created at 1997 Town Meeting. Both will serve a probationary period as per Police Department policy. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The date of hire for both officers will be March 23, 1997.

After much discussion concerning appropriate starting wages, Selectman Strong made a motion to pay Craig Frye a wage of \$12.43 per hour, and Stan Zapanas a wage of \$13.71 per hour. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Clay made a motion to grant both Craig Frye and Stan Zapanas one week of paid vacation in their first year of employment and two weeks of paid vacation in their second year of employment with the Town. Vacation time will be allocated as per Town policy after their second year of employment with the Town of New Boston. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Strong made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Clay made a motion to eliminate the one month waiting period for health insurance qualification which the Town had previously imposed on new employees. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief McLaughlin discussed the rationale which caused him to recommend, and Town Administrator Selig to approve, the purchase of a 1996 fully loaded Crown Victoria police cruiser per 1997 Town Meeting. Chief McLaughlin explained that there were insufficient funds available in 1997 Warrant Article #23 for \$25,600.00 to purchase a 1997 model. In addition, the 1997 Crown Victoria color scheme differed from that used by New Boston in the past which would have necessitated extra paint costs. The 1996 model came with the correct color scheme. The Selectmen inquired as to why the Department had only requested \$25,600.00 when a 1997 model cost more than this amount. Chief McLaughlin said that at the time he got prices during the budget process, the dollar amount requested was sufficient. Selectman Carlstrom pointed out that we tend to under budget frequently at the Police Department and requested that Chief McLaughlin be more realistic with price estimates in the future. Selectmen Strong and Clay agreed. Chief McLaughlin explained that past Boards had demanded that he be extremely conservative with price estimates and that this would be a change for him, but one that he would

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be happy to follow. The Board of Selectmen viewed the new 1996 cruiser in the Town Hall parking lot.

Chief McLaughlin strongly recommended that the Selectmen work to adopt a personnel plan for the Town employees. He stressed that many needless problems arise because there is no such plan currently in place in New Boston.

At 8:50 p.m., Planning Coordinator Claire Dodge, Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune, and Planning Board Member Philip Consolini came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the issue of sludge/biosolids. Although 1997 Warrant Article #27 dealing with this issue was defeated, the Board felt that it would be worthwhile to discuss the matter to determine whether the Town should adopt the State ENV-WS 800 regulations and/or develop a health ordinance for New Boston dealing with sludge/biosolids. It was pointed out that the State ENV-WS 800 regulations do currently include New Boston and are enforced by the N.H. Department of Environmental Services. These regulations are very comprehensive and could be utilized by Town officials by placing a call to the Department of Environmental Services in Concord to report concerns. The only limitation on response would be limitations in manpower on the part of the State, as well as the seriousness of the issue at stake with more serious issues (health related) being given greater priority than nuisance issues (smell). Claire Dodge pointed out that it was debatable whether the Town could enact a more stringent health ordinance dealing with sludge/biosolids than that currently enforced by the State per the N.H. Supreme Court's decision in the Stablex Case dealing with the Town of Hooksett. Selectman Strong brought up the fact that in the mid 1960's the Town had enacted an ordinance dealing with the "Regulation of Trailers, Private Dumps, Signs and Other Activities." He wondered whether this ordinance could be used to deal with sludge/biosolids. Mrs. Dodge felt that it probably could not. Ultimately, the Board decided that it would rely solely on the N.H. ENV-WS 800 regulations, enforced by the State Department of Environmental Services, until a definite need became apparent in New Boston to adopt the State regulations by reference or proceed any further with a health regulation dealing with sludge/biosolids. It was felt that Town Meeting had made it clear that the citizens of New Boston did not want another layer of bureaucracy regulating the use of sludge/biosolids.

The Town will be audited for Fiscal Year 1996 by Plodzick and Sanderson beginning on March 31, 1997. Compensation Funds of New Hampshire will also conduct an audit of the Town for Fiscal Year 1996 during the same week.

We have scheduled a training session for all Town employees covering the topic "*Dealing With Difficult People*" on two separate days. The first session for one-half of the Town's employees is scheduled for April 9, 1997 from 9:30 a.m. until Noon. The second session for the remaining employees is scheduled for April 23, 1997 during the same time slot. Both will be held at the NBPD in the Conference Room. No departments will have to be closed as a result of the program.

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Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune has been having difficulty with one of the transfer trailers. Road Agent Lee Murray has looked it over and has confirmed that some of the guides for the piston inside, as well as some of the cradle supports, have rusted and need to be replaced. Bonnie has gotten prices from firms to repair the problems, as well as to provide for better water drainage to prevent future rust, and Mr. Selig has given her the authorization to use Donovan Equipment to repair the trailer for approximately \$1,900.00. A decision was made not to use TST, the company which repaired the other trailer last year, due to the fact that they were considerably more expensive.

Selectman Strong informed the Board of Selectmen that the Planning Board was busily working on updating the Master Plan for the Town. On April 1, 1997, Jim Tethers of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission will meet with the Board to discuss various aspects of the plan. Unfortunately, the Town has used up all of the \$5,000.00 which was appropriated for updating the plan in 1996. The initial \$5,000.00 dollar figure, however, was not ever expected to cover the entire cost of the update. A public hearing on the revisions will probably be held sometime in May of 1997.

The SB2 recount for the School District is scheduled for tomorrow, March 25, 1997, at 8:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. Selectman Carlstrom designated Town Administrator Todd Selig to be his representative on the Board of Recount consisting of the Town Moderator, Clerk, and Selectmen.

The Town has submitted an application for *404 Hazard Mitigation Program* grant funds to the N.H. Office of Emergency Management to get funding to make further repairs to the retaining wall in back of the Whipple Free Library, as well as for drainage improvements in the Library basement.

Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune has ordered a magnetic sweeper to collect nails, etc. around the Transfer Station. She has received a number of complaints about nails getting into tires over the last few years.

The Selectmen have received a recommendation from the Forestry Committee to appoint Alan Briere to the Forestry Committee as a regular member to replace John Ryan who is leaving the Committee this year. Also, Jon Brooks and Lyn Lombard need to be reappointed as associate members for 1 year terms. A vacancy will exist for 1 associate member which the Selectmen will advertise for in the coming weeks.

The New Boston Planning Board has recommended that the Selectmen reappoint Brent Armstrong for a three year term on the Planning Board. Selectman Strong explained that although he does not always agree with Mr. Armstrong, Brent takes his position very seriously and has the Town's best interests at heart. He therefore recommended Mr. Armstrong's

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reappointment. Selectman Strong made a motion to appoint Brent Armstrong to the New Boston Planning Board for a three year term to expire in March of 2000. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed colors for the new 1-Ton Highway Truck which was approved at 1997 Town Meeting. Selectman Strong presented the Board with a color chart to look over. Although Road Agent Murray would prefer orange, the manufacturer is not producing orange trucks unless municipal entities purchase a minimum of five trucks. It would cost an extra \$600.00 to paint the truck orange after the fact. The Board therefore picked out a deep red color for the truck which, if the Board and Road Agent are not satisfied with upon delivery, will be repainted orange.

The Board reviewed a second letter of complaint dated March 14, 1997 from Mark A. Abramson of 71 Ridgeview Lane concerning the condition of McCurdy Road on the unpaved section. A previous letter dated October 22, 1996 was received by the Board and responded to on November 4, 1996. The Board reviewed and signed a second response to Mr. Abramson.

The Board decided to give Mr. Bob Fehsinger of New Boston an opportunity to put together a quote package for the leasing of the new Highway Department dump truck. Mr. Fehsinger will have to get the quote to the Town within the next few days, however, so that the truck may be ordered.

Selectman Strong made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss a personnel issue in regard to a New Boston employee. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Carlstrom - yes; Selectman Strong - yes; Selectman Clay - yes. The motion passed unanimously. Town Administrator Selig was present for the discussion.

A personnel issue surrounding the New Boston Planning Department was discussed briefly by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Strong made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



4/7/97

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator