

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

April 14, 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

Road Agent Lee Murray came before the Board for his monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. to discuss various road related issues which included: Only Bog Brook and Christy Road have been posted thus far with a 6-ton load limit; Much of the Department's time has been spent with ice storms and tree branches; Brush cutting has been taking place on Meadow Road on the north side of the road all the way to Route 13; The Department is cutting brush all around town; The plan for the next month is to keep plugging on the brush from winter, and to keep the roads graded as well as possible; The Highway Department will work on the Transfer Station burn pit to separate the metal contained within; Lee wants to get the upper end of the burn pit dug back to its original condition; Road Agent Murray discussed the fact that much damage has occurred on Greenfield Road by development which has taken place there. It was felt that Lee should find out who is responsible so that the Selectmen's Office can hold the responsible party liable for damages; Highway Block Grant funds will be utilized on Meadow Road and Meetinghouse Hill Road this year, as well as on Clark Hill Road; The Highway Department removed the remaining remnants of the Parker Dam from the Piscataquog River during much of the day today with assistance from the Piscataquog Watershed Association; Meetinghouse Hill Road will be completed around various catch basins by the end of June and then a finish coat of pavement will be applied; The replacement of the Colburn Road Bridge will take about two or three days according to Mr. Murray, but a wetland permit must first be obtained by the Town; The Colburn Bridge will consist of two 6 foot high by 8 foot wide concrete box culverts; The underdrain on McCurdy road from Pimenta's to Manter's will also be completed this year; Concerning gravel, the Selectmen and Road Agent Murray want to look very closely at what we have for gravel reserves around the Transfer Station before the boundaries of the Town Forest in this location are set; Selectman Strong also mentioned the possibility of working with the School Board to remove some of the hill behind the school in anticipation of future construction, using the material for the Highway Department; the big dump truck may be in by June; and finally, All-State Paving will do the grinding work on Meadow Road this summer.

At 7:45 p.m., Police Chief Jim McLaughlin came before the Board for his monthly meeting with the Selectmen and Mr. Selig. Chief McLaughlin reported that the new cruiser had not yet been completely outfitted.

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The Board discussed the merits of issuing pistol permits itself, as opposed to having the Police Chief issue them directly. It was the overall feeling of the Board of Selectmen that while it may have been appropriate for the Selectmen to issue permits years ago, in this age of litigation and background investigations, it makes much more sense for the Police Chief to issue them directly. Both Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Selig agreed that assigning this function solely to the police department would reduce the paperwork involved in issuing permits by one-half. The Board therefore decided that as of this date, the Chief of Police, and not the Board of Selectmen, would sign and issue pistol permits on behalf of the Town of New Boston as per RSA 159. All records regarding pistol permits will forthwith be transferred to the New Boston Police Department from the Selectmen's Office for storage.

The Board discussed the fact that one of the police officers had perhaps over reacted when he ordered that all cars parked along one side of River Road on April 5, 1997, School Meeting Reconsideration Vote Day, be moved or they would be towed by the Town. The Selectmen felt strongly that this action on the part of the officer greatly harmed the Police Department's image with the citizens of New Boston. Chief McLaughlin explained that he was extremely upset when he heard the report of what had happened on April 5. No one, he explained, could be more disturbed with the blow to the Department's image than himself. However, he explained that with the current level of inexperience among the full time members of the department, incidents such as this are bound to occur. The Board inquired as to why a supervisor was not on duty on this occasion. Chief McLaughlin explained that a supervisor was scheduled to work the evening shift, but was available by pager during the day. However, the officer involved did not wait for the supervisor to respond to his inquiry, thinking that the potential danger to public safety due to parking along River Road outweighed the need to wait for a supervisor's response. Chairman Carlstrom asked if the Chief felt that he could be in attendance at events such as these in the future. Chief McLaughlin responded that the School Meeting is not an event which he typically attends and explained that if he worked on Saturdays for special events such as this, he would have to cut back on the time which he was in the office during the week to stay within his normal work week which is already overbooked with a busy schedule.

The Board discussed a letter of complaint from Michael Pimenta of 143 McCurdy Road dated March 27, 1997, concerning electioneering at the New Boston Central School on March 11, 1997, as well as information that was requested under the Right to Know Law, and the use of the Police Prosecutor to answer Mr. Pimenta's letter of inquiry to the Police Department dated March 11, 1997. The Board discussed this matter with the Chief and felt that the key issue was that Mr. Pimenta had violated the provisions of RSA 664:17. The Board also generally felt that the Police Department and Police Prosecutor had acted properly in regard to the matter. Town Administrator Selig was asked by the Board to draft a letter to Mr. Pimenta to address his various concerns. This letter will be reviewed by the Selectmen on April 21, 1997.

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Chief McLaughlin informed the Board that he planned to assist with the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) for neglected and abused children at the Mall of New Hampshire over the next few weeks. The Board did not have a problem with this.

The Chief also informed the Selectmen that he was working with the Recreation Department to form a Police Athletic League (PAL) in a cooperative effort with the Towns of Weare, Henniker, and New Boston. Cathy Widener and Sharon Gagnon will be New Boston's representatives to the executive board of the organization and Michael Pavesi will serve as an alternate. The goal of the PAL is to apply for up to \$100,000.00 in grant funds for the establishment of a teen/youth center for the children of the three communities.

At 8:35 p.m., Lee Brown, Dr. Ron Brenner, Nick and Lelah Wilder, and Roger Dignard came before the Board of Selectmen to present their conceptual plan with regard to the relocation of the New Boston Post Office and the construction of a potential facility for Hunters, and Dr. Brenner's Office on a site next to the Molly Stark Tavern. Mr. Cliff Plourde was also in attendance. The concept presented represented an integrated approach to the construction of the Post Office by including local businesses in the design, colonial aesthetic features, and a potential foot path over the river leading to the center of Town. Selectman Carlstrom and Clay felt that it would be terrible if a free standing Postal Service structure like that in Mont Vernon were built without regard to the needs of the community, aesthetically or otherwise. The entire Board very much liked the concept presented by Mr. Brown and company. Selectman Strong cautioned against siding with one potential site over another. The Board decided to take no action on the matter until a letter is received from the U.S. Postal Service outlining its position on a particular site. Mr. Selig reported that it appears as though the Postal Service is currently favoring the Grosso site. Mr. Selig was asked to call the U.S. Postal Service to convey the particular issues which the Board as a whole liked concerning the Brown proposal, while not favoring it over any other proposal. At present, the Brown proposal is the only one to have been presented before the Selectmen.

Selectman Strong and Mr. Selig reported on their walk which took place with Conservation Commission Chairman Betsey Dodge at the Thibeault Gravel Pit on River Road on April 8, 1997 based on Mr. Lionel Chancey's wetland-related complaint. Nothing irregular was found. However, there appears to be a difference in the location of the proposed pond on the plans which Mr. Thibeault has compared to those approved by the Town. In the coming weeks, Mr. Thibeault will stop by the Town Office to clarify this issue. As it will be some time before the pond is needed, there is really no immediate hurry concerning this issue.

Both Selectman Strong and Selectman Clay felt that the *"Dealing With Difficult/Angry People"* seminar which was held on April 9, 1997 by Compensation Funds of New Hampshire was very educational for the Town's employees. A second session will be held on April 23, 1997 at the Police Department as well.

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The Recreation Department's "March for Parks" has been rescheduled for April 27, 1997. The Selectmen are invited to attend.

Selectman Strong and Town Administrator Selig reported on their walk with members of the Planning Board and Road Agent Murray at the Paradise Dam to assess its construction and condition. Selectman Clay said that she had some good photographs of the dam taken last summer which she will retrieve for the Board. Due to the fact that the water was running quite high on April 14, 1997, the date of the walk, the group will revisit the site during the summer months to get a better look at the lower part of the dam. Selectman Carlstrom asked to be included in the walk this summer.

Selectman Clay reported on the Annual Whipple Free Library Auction which was held on April 12, 1997. She thought that the Friends of the Library made approximately \$2,500.00. All who were present had a nice time.

The Selectmen briefly looked over the Town of Bow's Growth Management Ordinance which was forwarded to the Selectmen's Office by Steven Ruddock.

Selectman Strong suggested that the Board meet with the New Boston School Board to discuss the financial situation of the Town, as well as renovation ideas for the Central School. Mr. Selig will try to set up such a meeting in the coming weeks.

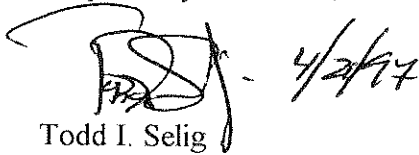
Selectman Clay brought in examples of the Francestown News for the Board to review. These will be loaned to the editors of the Better Times in order to give them ideas for classified ads and different formats.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 - 4/2/97

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator