

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

May 19, 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 approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from May 12, 1997, with corrections. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:05 p.m., Police Chief Jim McLaughlin met with the Board of Selectmen and Mr. Selig for his monthly meeting. The Board reviewed a letter of commendation addressed to the New Boston Police Department from Leonard and Jean Sanford of 231 Chestnut Hill Road dated May 19, 1997.

Chief McLaughlin discussed the job description of the Police Chief in New Boston as outlined in Section/Page I-3-7 through I-3-9 in the New Boston Police Department Standard Operating Procedure Manual. This discussion was held pursuant to the Board of Selectmen's request in order to gain a more thorough understanding of the role of the Police Chief in New Boston. Duties discussed included: developing standard operating procedures and policies for the NBPD; oversees operations of Department; reviews ordinances; reviews criminal activity; motor vehicle cases; training officers (taking two to three years per officer to train thoroughly); staff meetings; daily roll calls; dealing with public who have experienced tragedy or crime or prosecution; coordinating stake-outs; investigating complaints; maintaining discipline; internal investigations; sexual assault investigations; coordinating outside agency caseloads; inviting State Police to assist New Boston when appropriate; review case load with Prosecutor on regular basis; overseeing hiring process for new officers; dealing with the press; serves as New Boston's primary representative to outside law enforcement entities; provides 24 hour supervision with sergeant; 8-10 hours per week spent on patrol; visiting merchants to solicit information on effectiveness of NBPD; fills in on sick shifts or in court when officers are out at the last minute; testifies in court; participates in Safety Committee & Department Head Meetings; Pistol Permit issuance; Vice-Chair of N.H. Cadet Academy; Judicial Affairs Committee of N.H. Chiefs of Police Association; Public Affairs Committee of N.H. Chiefs of Police Association. Selectman Carlstrom suggested that the Chief might want to be more visible in the community in order to quell comments that the Chief does not get out enough around town. Chief McLaughlin explained that patrolling is an officer function and felt that his time is often better served administering the overall operation of the Department. Selectman Clay suggested that the Chief

might want to use the Better Times as a vehicle to get the word out concerning the role of a Police Chief.

Selectman Strong asked Chief McLaughlin to think about what capital items the Department really needs so that he and the Selectmen will be on the same train of thought when budget time arrives. The Board was particularly interested in whether the locker room completion should be included as part of the budget presentation for the Police Department in 1998. Chief McLaughlin was very interested in working toward completing whatever parts of the station the Selectmen desired.

Approval was given by the Board for the officers to wear so called "five-star" hats as part of their uniforms instead of the campaign hats which are currently worn. The five-star hats have been requested by the officers and cost only \$30-\$40 per hat as compared to the \$55-\$60 per cap for campaign style hats. Current officers will purchase their own five-star hats the first time around. Afterwards, the Town will purchase them as part of officer uniforms.

The Digital Deli is in the process of updating the Police Department shoulder uniform patches. We only have a few of the old patches left over from the past and have no record of where they were acquired. The three designs currently under consideration are attached to this set of minutes. (See attachment.)

The Police Department has received 60 hours of radar patrol for a second unit to monitor commuter traffic under a Highway Safety Grant which the Town has received. In addition, the Department has received 25 bicycle helmets for distribution during the annual kids bike rodeo.

Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss a matter which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of a local business. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Carlstrom - yes; Selectman Strong - yes; Selectman Clay - yes. The motion passed. Mr. Selig and Chief McLaughlin were also present for the discussion.

The Board discussed a complaint issued to the Police Department from New Boston Resident Steve Jennings concerning a towing incident involving C & G Towing. Selectman Strong made a motion to remove C & G Towing from the Police Department Wrecker List. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

At 8:25 p.m., Planning Board Chairman Brent Armstrong and Planning Coordinator Claire Dodge came before the Board of Selectmen. All present reviewed a letter dated May 14, 1997 from Mr.

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Dana Moody of Clark Hill Road concerning a driveway permit which is being held in abeyance due to the failure of the applicant to apply for and hold a scenic road hearing as required by State law. Mr. Selig was asked to inform Mr. Moody in writing that he should in no way consider the use for which the original driveway permit was issued to be a vested right. In addition, Mr. Selig will inform Mr. Moody that he must contact the Planning Board to set up a date for a scenic road hearing in the immediate future.

Selectman Clay made a motion to appoint: Wayne Blassberg of 346 Clark Hill Road as an alternate on the New Boston Planning Board for the remainder of Philip Consolini's unexpired term which expires in March of 1998; Rick Riendeau of 49 Dane Road as an alternate on the New Boston Planning Board for the remainder of Diane Manson's unexpired term which expires in March of 1999; and Edward DiPietro of 469 Clark Hill Road as an alternate on the New Boston Planning Board to replace John Palmer for a three year term which expires in March of 2000. The motion was seconded by Selectman Strong. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed issues surrounding the required site plan review and impending cease and desist order for the Apple Barn in Central Square.

Chairman Armstrong asked the Board for its unequivocal support in enforcing Planning Board decisions in the future. Mr. Armstrong explained that in the past, although much discussion may have transpired between the Selectmen and Planning Board leading up to a decision, once a decision was made, the Planning Board was given 100% support by the Board of Selectmen. In an informal discussion, the Selectmen said that they generally would be willing to support the Planning Board and its decisions, but wanted to be kept advised throughout the process leading up to and following a decision. Selectman Clay voiced some reservations concerning the topic. The topic will have to be discussed further in the future to work through some of Selectman Clay's concerns.

Fire Chief Jim Dodge came before the Board at 9:50 p.m. to discuss the fact that Mark Anderson, a local veterinarian, has proposed a large barn facility which may or may not be governed by the Large Building Fire Code in New Boston. He and Mr. Selig are working with Town Counsel Leslie Nixon to determine whether it is. Chief Dodge expressed his view that the Large Building Fire Code in New Boston was designed some time ago for a different set of circumstances and should be looked at again today and evaluated to determine if changes/modifications should be made. Chief Dodge also updated the Selectmen on the Emergency-911 failure which occurred a few days ago in New Boston.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Recreation Department dated May 15, 1997 requesting that changes be made to the Town Common involving the addition of bark mulch and flower beds to certain areas suffering from heavy winter kill. The Board reviewed the proposal and felt that it was far too expensive to undertake. In addition, the Board had not yet decided if it was in favor

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of the proposed modifications. Similar modifications had also been proposed in front of the War Memorial two or three years ago and had been turned down for the same reasons.

The New Hampshire Municipal Association "New Officials Workshop" is scheduled for May 30, 1997 at the Local Government Center in Concord. The entire Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Selig are scheduled to attend.

The Board reviewed a letter of resignation from Sally Garrett from her alternate position on the Conservation Commission.

A total of eleven applications have been received for the vacant Planning Board Recording Secretary position. Town Administrator Selig and Planning Coordinator Dodge will review the applications, conduct interviews, and make a formal recommendation for hiring to the Board of Selectmen.

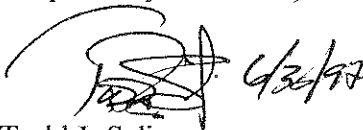
The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for June 2, 1997.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator

