

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

July 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

Selectman Clay made a motion to accept the June 30, 1997 Selectmen's Meeting minutes as written. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the June 16, 1997 Selectmen's Meeting minutes. Selectman Clay requested that the Board attach a copy of both Nicola Strong's and Lois Briere's resume to the minutes. Town Administrator recommended against such an action by the Board stating that he considered the resumes of job applicants to be confidential personnel information. Selectman Clay stated that she had checked with the New Hampshire Municipal Association and that since the resumes were discussed during a public portion of a meeting, they were therefore public information. The Board asked Mr. Selig to discuss the matter further with the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

At 7:00 p.m., Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune came before the Board and Town Administrator Selig for her monthly meeting. Issues which were discussed included: The ongoing development of a master plan for the Transfer Station & Recycling Center; Current revenue and expenditure levels appear to be on track; The new vertical baler is being used quite successfully by the staff as planned, thereby making the crew more efficient; The Town has received a check for \$95,842.86 in State grant moneys as part of the 20% Landfill Closure Grant Reimbursement Program. Manager Bethune will prepare a write-up to this effect for inclusion in the next issue of the Better Times. The Selectmen plan to contemplate whether to use said funds to reduce taxes or to ask Town Meeting in 1998 to earmark the money toward a particular purpose.

At 9:00 p.m., Town Counsel Leslie Nixon and Building Inspector Dennis Sarette came before the Board to discuss a number of legal issues including:

Former Winslow Property: The Board of Selectmen voted to revise the payment schedule arrived at in the Selectmen's last arrangement with Mr. John Winslow dated February 3, 1997 from a minimum of \$250.00 to a minimum payment of \$500.00 per month. Mr. Winslow's August 1, 1997 payment must therefore total a minimum of \$500.00. In addition, the Board tentatively plans to conduct an on-site inspection of the site on August 11, 1997 with Town Administrator Selig and Building Inspector Dennis Sarette to ensure it does not qualify as a junkyard. Town

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Administrator Selig was asked to notify Mr. Winslow by certified mail of these decisions. The rationale behind the payment schedule increase was that \$250.00 per month was not felt to be a sufficient amount to keep the Winslows up to date with present property tax levels, while at the same time pay off back tax amounts incurred on the deeded property. \$500.00 per month would at least begin to catch the Winslows up on past tax obligations. The \$500.00 per month is also considered rent for the house on the property. Rent comparisons in the region also point toward \$500.00 as a fair amount to pay per month to live on the property.

St. John Temporary Trailer Permit: The Board asked Leslie Nixon to prepare an agreement which could once and for all rectify the problems associated with the non-completion of a home and expired temporary trailer permit on George St. John Jr.'s property.

Building Permit Fee Exemption: Mark & Gretchen Anderson have requested a building permit fee exemption in a letter to Building Inspector Dennis Sarette dated July 3, 1997. The Board decided to deny the request stating that the total \$3,341.00 cost of the permit in question was not an "unreasonable" cost as specified in State RSA's as per Mr. and Mrs. Anderson's interpretation of RSA 672. The figure was based on a square foot calculation arrived at through an objective survey of surrounding community building permit fee schedules encapsulated in the New Boston Building Permit Fee Schedule adopted a number of years ago.

Large Building Fire Code: At 9:30 p.m., Fire Chief Jim Dodge, Fire Inspector David Poole, Fire Ward Wayne Blassberg, and Fire Ward Dale Smith met with the Selectmen and Town Counsel Leslie Nixon. Mr. Tom Speck was also present in the audience. Various legal and technical issues surrounding revisions to the New Boston Large Building Fire Code were discussed with Town Counsel.

The Board discussed a request received earlier this year by Jill Lowell who is interested in establishing a sign along the sides of roads in Town denoting the name of groups/individuals who maintain/clean that section of road. After some discussion, the Board decided that it did not want to begin placing such signs along the roadside. The Selectmen felt that citizens should try to clean up the roadside out of community spirit, as opposed to a desire to get their name on a roadside sign. In addition, it was felt that the purchase of such signs would be an unnecessary expense and maintenance cost for the Town.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to allow the Forestry Committee to establish a trail head and parking area near the entrance to the Friendly Beaver Campground along Cochran Hill Road to access the Lydia Dodge Lot trails which the Committee has been developing. Neither the Highway Department nor Police Department had any objection to this as long as parked cars were kept well away from the traveled pavement.

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The Board reviewed three quotes for cutting trees along Clark Hill Road as part of Alternative 4/Phase I: Trimbur Forestry - \$8,050.00 (whether landowner or logger keeps trees); Merric Monbouquette - \$6,970.00 to keep wood or \$14,920.00 to give wood to landowners; Weigle Tree Service - \$6,190.00 to keep wood or \$13,860.00 to give wood to landowners. The first quote was received late and therefore takes into account the exact landowners who want to keep wood. The second and third quotes listed are all or nothing jobs. The Board asked Mr. Selig to have the Road Agent request that Weigle and Monbouquette resubmit quotes with an exact list of which abutters want to keep the wood. Mr. Selig said he would do so and call the Board members over the course of the week with updated quotes.

Draft copies of the personnel plan have been handed out to department heads for review. The Board will try to review Appendix I, Compensation Plan, before the end of the month of July.

The department heads have all been asked to think ahead about the capital items and projects they will need to undertake in 1998. The goal is to get them thinking ahead so that the Board does not get any surprises come budget season.

The Selectmen discussed parking problems in back of the Historical Building and walked the area to gain a better sense of where parking restrictions should be enacted.

The Board of Selectmen did not have a problem with the placement of sponsor signs along the fence at the Old Coach Road ballfield facing the road as a fund-raiser for the Friends of Recreation. In the past, the Selectmen did not allow the signs to face Old Coach Road.

Selectman Strong updated the Board on the June 28, 1997 Planning Board Meeting. In addition, Selectman Clay is scheduled to take over on the Planning Board on July 22, 1997. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. but the members usually arrive around 7:00 p.m. to review material.

The Selectmen reviewed proposed subdivision plans for 9 lots on Bog Brook Road (Al Stevens). The Board also discussed its feelings toward a dedication and acceptance of conservation land regarding the plan. The Board was amenable to the dedication and acceptance as long as the Conservation Commission was in favor of the action.

The Army National Guard has presented a certificate of appreciation to the Recreation Department for presenting the 1998 Summer Concert Series in which the Guard had an opportunity to play. Mr. Selig explained that Recreation Director Sandy Gallup was very excited about the certificate.

A list of potential tax deed properties was reviewed by the Selectmen. This is a preliminary list which will become shorter as the deadline nears in September. A series of warning letters will be sent as the date moves closer, followed by telephone calls from the Town Administrator.

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The Board has received a complaint from Mr. Armand Hebert concerning the Thibeault Gravel Pit located on River Road. Mr. Selig indicated that he would follow up on Mr. Hebert's letter. Red Hebert plans to go the State if the Town does not do something about the former Winslow property in front of his house. He feels that the old Winslow property is in violation of the junkyard statute.

A large square dance consisting of approximately 1000 people is planned at the Hillsborough County 4-H Fairgrounds on July 19, 1997. The Fire Department may have to provide coverage at the event.

FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) review will be conducted by FEMA in the coming weeks in New Boston. It is a major accomplishment to get FEMA to New Boston so soon. The original estimate for revision of the flood maps was 5 years.

Mr. Selig updated the Board on problems experienced at the Library with regard to kids skateboarding. The Board opted to move forward with the development of a skateboard park and asked that the Recreation Department select a location in the downtown area. At present, the Town-owned land off of Depot Street is considered the best potential site.

Road Agent Lee Murray has complained that tri-axle trucks are slowly causing damage to Town roads. We are looking into how the Town can reduce this damage and/or prevent it.

Selectman Clay has suggested making Mill Street into a 1-Way road (enter by Library, exit by Fire Station). The Board was generally in favor of this idea and asked Mr. Selig to write to the residents along Mill Street to get their opinion on the matter.

The Selectmen discussed that to date, it has been unable to set up a date to meet with the School Board. Problems currently exist concerning building expansion issues and potential locations for the placement of the temporary classrooms which the Selectmen very much want to discuss with the School Board. Mr. Selig was asked to contact the School Board again to set up an appointment. The Selectmen have been extremely frustrated that for two months the School Board has been unable to meet with the Selectmen.

Town Administrator Selig reported that each of the various departments and department heads were very busy with summer projects judging by comments made at the last department head meeting.

The next regular Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for July 28, 1997.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn at 11:45 p.m. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



8/28/97

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator