

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

July 28, 1997

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

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

Chairman Carlstrom was not able to be present at the Selectmen's Meeting.

The Board did not have an opportunity to review the Selectmen's Meeting minutes from June 16, 1997 or July 14, 1997.

At 7:00 p.m., Police Chief Jim McLaughlin met with the Selectmen and Town Administrator for his monthly meeting. The Board met with Mr. Mark Pepler of Milford and Mr. Matthew Estey of Manchester who the Chief has proposed for part-time police officer positions in New Boston, pending successful completion of the New Boston Police Department's hiring process. Selectman Clay made a motion to hire Mark Pepler and Matthew Estey as part-time police officers in New Boston pending successful completion of the Department's hiring process. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

Chief McLaughlin proposed developing a Training Contract Agreement for new full time police officers hired by the Town which would commit officers who the Town sends through Full Time Police Academy through New Hampshire Police Standards and Training to twenty-four to thirty-six months of service with the Town following Academy graduation. The Selectmen felt that this was a viable idea and asked Town Administrator Selig to send Town Counsel Leslie Nixon a sample agreement derived from the Town of Milford to determine whether this was an acceptable practice.

The Board discussed the completion of the locker room and showers at the New Boston Police Department. The idea of asking the engineering firm that is working on the Library to design the locker room improvements was discussed as being a potential idea. Selectman Clay will check with the Library Trustees to see if the firm would be willing to undertake the project for free. The Selectmen made clear their desire to have the project ready for discussion at 1998 Town Meeting.

Chief McLaughlin explained that the Police Department *Cruiser Maintenance* line item was already maxed-out due to numerous repairs on the 4 x 4 vehicle, one of which was done in December 1996 but billed in January 1997, as well as the unexpected replacement of all four tires after approximately 10,000 miles on the new cruiser. The tires on the new cruiser were a new model tire produced by Goodyear which were supposed to get substantially better mileage.

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Unfortunately, the tires did not wear as well as promised. Chief McLaughlin stated that he would check with Mr. Selig concerning major purchases in this line item between now and the end of the year in order to keep the Selectmen informed as to its status, as well as try to keep further expenditures in the line down to a minimum. Chief McLaughlin informed the Board that he had recommended adding an additional \$500.00 to the line item during the last budget process, but that the past Board had denied the line item increase.

Chief McLaughlin informed the Selectmen that he is very disappointed with the progress of the Police Athletic League (PAL) program. Funding is still a question. In addition, the Town of Weare is far behind New Boston in many recreational programming areas and appears to want New Boston to bear much burden in bringing them up to speed as part of the PAL program.

Chief McLaughlin is having Computers Etc. look into using the \$1,800.00 which the Town appropriated for computer equipment at the Police Department for upgrading present equipment.

Chief McLaughlin informed the Selectmen that on August 20, 1997, the NBPD would field test new cruiser video equipment which will be available in police cruisers in the future for the development of quality control videos.

Captain French of the Goffstown Police Department will conduct an informal accreditation inspection of the New Boston Police Department on July 29, 1997 as part of preparation for the Town's Accreditation Certification Level I application process. The Selectmen gave Chief McLaughlin the go-ahead to proceed with the Level I Certification process. This had been an area of contention for the last Board of Selectmen. However, the present Board is comfortable with the Town attaining Level I Certification status.

At 8:20 p.m., John and Mona Winslow of 248 River Road (Tax Map 005-064) came before the Board to discuss the Selectmen's decision on July 14, 1997 to revise the payment schedule arrived at on February 3, 1997, from a minimum of \$250.00 to a minimum payment of \$500.00 per month, effective August 1, 1997, on the tax deeded property. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to lower the payment amount due for the months of August 1997, September 1997, and October 1997 to \$300.00 per month. The Board will revisit the issue around October to determine whether the monthly payment due will be increased after October 1997. In the meantime, the Board intends to conduct an inspection of the property at 7:00 p.m. on August 25, 1997 with Building Inspector Dennis Sarette as planned.

At 9:30 p.m., Fire Chief Jim Dodge came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss a recent brush fire at the Transfer Station. Chief Dodge felt that it was imperative for the Selectmen to do something about the recurring brush fires at the facility. "Something needs to be done!" he stated emphatically. The Board asked Mr. Selig to sit down with Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune to develop an exact list of what needs to be done, how much it will cost, and a timetable

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for completion of the work as soon as possible. The delay up to this point in time has been due to the development of a master plan for the Transfer Station. The Board discussed the possibility that FEMA funds might be able to be used for the work since they would be used as part of a remediation project with an eye toward preventing potential disaster involving the methane vents associated with the landfill.

The Town's *Stand Analysis for Forest Resources Management Planning* project has been selected for inclusion in the University of New Hampshire NR775 Senior Projects class this fall. A team of students from UNH will be in touch with the Town around September 8, 1997 concerning the project. This project will greatly assist the Forestry Committee in the evaluation of resources on various parcels of Town Forest.

The Army National Guard has done work at the Old Coach Road Ballfield over the last two days. Mr. Rick Riendeau has volunteered to be the new foreman for the project. Mr. Lee Brown is no longer involved with the ballfield. The National Guard worked on the parking area and moved sand and loam material to needed locations at the facility. They are scheduled to return for more work in August and October.

Letters from the Selectmen's Office were sent to residents on Helena Drive, Middle Branch Road, and Summit Drive concerning road name changes and grading, respectively. To date, the Selectmen have not received any letters from residents with concerns along these stretches of roadway. A few telephone calls have been received, however, with opposition to changing the name of Helena Drive to Newman Wilson Road.

GZA GeoEnvironmental plans to walk the slough at the Landfill with contractors for the repair work which must be done as part of the remediation process. This will be done on Tuesday of this week, July 29, 1997. Work on the slough is scheduled to begin in late August to early September. It should take five days to complete.

The Town has received a grant for \$8,250.00 from FEMA and the State Office of Emergency Management for improvements to the retaining wall behind the Whipple Free Library. This grant will be used to raise the height of the wall, reinforce the existing portion of wall, and straighten the jag below the Library porch.

The Emergency Generator has been moved to the Central School for installation. Fencing has been erected around the generator.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter of resignation from Recreation Director Sandy Gallup, effective September 30, 1997. The Board decided to ask the Recreation Commission to meet with them on August 11, 1997 to discuss whether the department could continue to function with a part-time or volunteer director, as opposed to a full time salaried director. Selectman Strong

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felt that the department would have to scale back its operations if Sandy Gallup was replaced by a part-time or volunteer director. Selectman Clay felt that this might be a topic to discuss through a letter to the editor, a public hearing, or at Town Meeting in 1998. The Board will revisit the matter on August 11, 1997.

The Board conducted a preliminary review of RFP's for the 1997/98 Total Revaluation. Mr. Selig explained that the leading contender was AVITAR for a cost of \$86,200.00, excluding software expenses of \$4,000.00. In the next week, Mr. Selig will enter into negotiations with AVITAR to see if the company would be willing to throw in the \$4,000.00 worth of software at no additional charge. Based on cost, reference checks, long-term technological planning, and ease of use, Mr. Selig has recommended utilizing AVITAR for the revaluation provided they are willing to negotiate over the quoted price. Other companies submitting RFP's included: Corcoran Associates; N.H. Department of Revenue Administration; Cartographic Associates; and Vision Appraisal Technology.

The Board granted permission to Janet Chamberlain of AukWare SoftWorks, Inc. to maintain the Town's domain name of www.new-boston.nh.us until either party wishes to terminate/renew the agreement. Ms. Chamberlain is a resident and volunteer firefighter in New Boston who has donated her time and efforts to create the New Boston Page on the internet.

The Selectmen are scheduled to meet with the New Boston School Board on Thursday, August 21, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

After numerous deliberations with PSNH, it looks as though the company will voluntarily agree to have their assessment in New Boston raised by approximately 1 million dollars. This will mean an additional and unanticipated revenue of approximately \$33,000.00 in property tax dollars for the community.

Mr. Selig reported that the Town Hall clock is once again operative.

The next regular Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for August 11, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

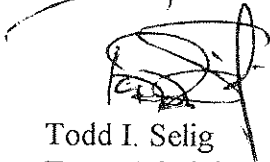
The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Respectfully submitted,


8/25/97
Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator