

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 15, 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

At 7:00 p.m., Mrs. Doris Leedham and the Selectmen settled a land dispute concerning a small sliver of property abutting the Town Shed on Old Coach Road.

At 7:05 p.m., Maureen and Tom Mansfield, Leon Daniels, Warren Houghton, and David Woodbury met with the Selectmen concerning the proposed addition to the New Boston Cemetery. The Cemetery Trustees were asked to meet to discuss who would be in charge of the new section of cemetery, as well as whether they felt the Town should take over the entire operation of both the new and old cemeteries. In addition, Maureen brought up problems the Trustees are having with private people plowing roads in the cemetery with all of the best intentions, but who cause damage as certain areas are not meant to be plowed.

At 7:30 p.m., Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune met with the Selectmen and Mr. Selig for her monthly meeting. Various Transfer Station issues were discussed including: revenues, expenditures, driveway paving options, septic field, bathroom facility, and pay raises.

At 8:00 p.m., representatives from the Playground Association came before the Selectmen including: Jean Lowell, Patti Barss, Ella Daniels, Wayne Daniels, Lee Lowell, and Linda Rollins. The Playground Association explained that they were not expecting to receive a tax bill in 1997 on the R.R. Depot on Depot Street as they have never received one in the past. The Selectmen explained that since the Depot was now being utilized as a for-profit rental property by the Association, it was no longer tax exempt. The Playground Association also questioned the valuation of the Depot and indicated that they have only received rent from the tenants of the Depot for three out of twelve months in 1997. It was discussed that if the Town taxed the Depot, the Association would have to start charging the Recreation Department for use of the ballfield as all of the rental revenue from the Depot goes into paying insurance on the ballfield. Selectman Strong inquired as to why the Playground Association doesn't join with the Recreation Commission and jointly provide recreational opportunities for the youth of New Boston. The members of the Association expressed in no uncertain terms that they did not want to turn the property over to the Town as they could not trust the Town to manage it as the Association members would like, with or without a deed stipulating how the facilities could be utilized. The

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 15, 1997

Page 2

problem of finding a suitable place for a skateboard park in the center of Town was also discussed. A possible location mentioned was behind the ballfield bleachers.

Later in the evening the Selectmen revisited the Playground Association tax issue and decided that since they had not notified the Playground Association out of courtesy due to the public spiritedness of the Association's mission, that they would only hold the Association responsible for three months of taxes in 1997 as income was only derived from the Depot for three months in 1997. In 1998, however, the Depot would be taxed for all twelve months whether or not rent was being received for the property as long as it was being used as a rental unit for the purpose of deriving income. This entire issue will be addressed through the abatement process, including the valuation of the Depot, and Town Administrator Selig was asked to notify the Playground Association as to the Board's decision.

The Board briefly reviewed the new draft Police Department policy concerning Highway Department call outs.

The Board reviewed a letter from Contract Assessor George Hildum concerning gravel pit assessments and new procedures for 1998. The Selectmen decided to have George Hildum assess the New Boston gravel pits as opposed to AVITAR based on the new State Gravel Pit Law.

Selectman Clay made a motion to appoint Peter Clark to Lloyd Hill's vacant Finance Committee position with a term which will expire in March of 1999. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board held further discussion on the use of Landfill Closure Reimbursement Funds. No decision was made.

Additional discussion concerning wage increases took place. This continues to be a very serious issue among employees. Employees feel they have been told "next year" far too many times. They want to see wages brought up to par with other towns whom they speak with. Discussions concerning forming a labor union or leaving New Boston is a frequent topic of conversation within departments. The Selectmen felt that they could not do much with wages this year due to the revaluation, the need for infrastructure investment, and high tax rates, and planned instead to devote an entire evening in April of 1998 to the discussion of wage topics and benefits. Town Administrator Selig has conducted an extensive wage survey of at least 14 surrounding communities for each position in New Boston. This will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Board has received a letter from Sharon Gagnon informing the Town that she is resigning from the Recreation Commission as of January 1, 1998.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
December 15, 1997
Page 3

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 1997. The Planning Board and Recreation Department budgets will be discussed.

The Conservation Commission has sent the Selectmen a letter recommending against the establishment of a skateboard park on Town land across the Depot Street Bridge based on Helen Castle's recent letter noting the extent of wetland on site.

The Selectmen reviewed a letter from the NHDOT dated 12/3/97 concerning the Route 13/Molly Stark intersection.

Pat Monbouquette will meet with the Selectmen on January 5 to discuss Clark Hill Road Phase II.

The Selectmen have received three petition articles for consideration at 1998 Town Meeting: Totally and Permanently Disabled Exemption; High Street Property Zoning Change to Commercial; Elected Planning Board.

Mr. Selig will be out of the office again this Friday in an attempt to use up vacation days before the year's end.

Issues concerning Cable TV and Media One on Riverdale Road were briefly discussed with the Selectmen.

Mr. Robert Colburn has passed away. The Town usually sends flowers to former Selectmen. Mr. Colburn was a former Selectmen years ago. Flowers will be sent to his home.

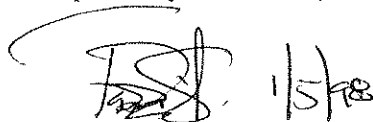
The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on December 22, 1997.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Selig', with a date '1/5/98' written to its right.

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator