

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

February 2, 1998

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

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

At 7:00 p.m., Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune met with the Selectmen and Mr. Selig for her monthly meeting. The Selectmen gave Manager Bethune permission to close the Transfer Station on Town Meeting day, March 14, 1998, in order to allow employees to attend the civic event. It was made clear, however, that although the facility could close, it would not be a paid holiday for the employees. Manager Bethune stated that she would check with the employees to see if there would be enough of them available to keep the facility open throughout the day. Overall, things are going well at the Transfer Station.

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Brent Armstrong of 135 McCollum Road came before the Selectmen to discuss the petitioned warrant article to transform the Planning Board from an appointed board to an elected one. Also in attendance with Mr. Armstrong were Diane Manson, Ed DiPietro, and Phil Consolini. All four citizens spoke against the petitioned article and asked the Selectmen whether they would take a formal position against the article. The Selectmen indicated that they would consider the request.

At 7:45 p.m., Police Chief Jim McLaughlin came before the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Selig to discuss his current salary level with the Town equaling approximately \$40,936.00, as well the Selectmen's proposed salary for the Chief of \$43,700.00 for fiscal year 1998 as part of the proposed Market Driven Wage Step Program planned for discussion at 1998 Town meeting. Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss the Police Chief's 1998 salary. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Carlstrom - yes; Selectman Strong - yes; Selectman Clay - yes. The motion passed. Town Administrator Selig and Police Chief McLaughlin were also present.

The Board listened to various concerns articulated by Chief McLaughlin concerning his proposed salary for fiscal year 1998.

At approximately 8:40 p.m., Selectman Clay made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board of Selectmen decided that they planned to propose a salary for Chief McLaughlin of \$43,700.00 at 1998 Town Meeting for fiscal year 1998 as planned. In fiscal year 1999, the Selectmen would review the evaluation



and recommendation made by Town Administrator Selig concerning the Police Chief's performance and remuneration. Pay adjustments may include: pay decrease or no change for poor performance; movement to next step or 3.5% increase for varying degrees of acceptable performance; or movement to the top of the scale for exceptional performance, as determined fair and equitable by the Town Administrator given the Chief's salary history with the Town.

Police Chief McLaughlin wanted to publicly thank the Selectmen for their effort in addressing concerns at the Police Department.

The Selectmen reviewed a draft letter to John Winslow concerning junk yard and tax issues surrounded the tax deeded parcel formerly owned by Mr. Winslow on River Road.

The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the Town Clerk's wage level. No new decisions were made regarding this topic.

The Selectmen reviewed a listing of 1997 milestones for the 1997 Town Report.

The Selectmen reviewed the 1998 Town Budget and made final decisions in preparation for 1998 Town Meeting.

The Selectmen briefly reviewed two documents from Assessor George Hildum for discussion in the near future: 1/8/98 memo concerning travel trailer taxation; Bradford Knight abatement application.

The Selectmen will meet with Town Moderator Lee Nyquist on February 9, 1998 following a series of public hearings in preparation for 1998 Town Meeting on the budget and petitioned warrant articles.

The School District Session #1 is tomorrow evening, February 3, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

Congressman Charlie Bass is scheduled to hold a "Town Meeting" type program in the Town Hall Conference Room on Saturday, February 7, 1998, at 10:30 a.m. The Bass Congressional Office will handle all of the publicity.

Town Administrator Selig informed the Selectmen that the Police Department personnel have formed an association for fund raising in order to support various police activities, as well as the facility's needs.

Selectman Clay asked the Board whether it would support the idea of allowing elderly citizens to vote first on ballot issues at 1998 Town Meeting. The Board felt that this was a good idea and will speak with Moderator Nyquist about it.



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Selectman Clay made a motion to reappoint Jed Callen and Michael Richard to the Solid Waste Committee for terms which expire in March of 2000. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

The Board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants.

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

Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd I. Selig". The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator