

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 16, 1998

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Selectmen.

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

Also present during the meeting were Tom Speck, Brandy Mitroff, and Phil Consolini.

Town Administrator Selig explained to the Board of Selectmen that the traditional first order of business discussed following the Annual Town Meeting was the selection of the Chairman of the Board. Tradition has it that the Selectman in the last year of her/his term is designated as Chairman. The Chairman is responsible for meeting regularly with the Town Administrator, running the Selectmen's Meetings, and is often required to sign documents and attend events on behalf of the entire Board. In terms of remuneration, the Chairman receives an annual stipend of \$1,800.00, while the other Selectmen receive \$1,500.00. Stipends are paid quarterly. Town Administrator Selig asked if there was a motion to appoint anyone as Chairman. Selectman Clay made a motion to appoint Selectman Strong as Chairman. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. Before accepting the nomination and before any vote was taken, Selectman Strong indicated that he desired to know how Selectmen Clay and Briere were going to vote on the reappointment of Tom Mohan and Diane Manson to the Planning Board. Both Tom Mohan and Diane Manson are incumbent Planning Board members with terms that expire in 1998.

Selectman Clay expressed that she wanted to publicly advertise for the Planning Board openings, as well as the other Board/Committee vacancies, to see who else in New Boston might be interested, interview all candidates who come forward, and make a final determination in the near future concerning the vacancies. Selectman Clay explained that she had expressed this same view when discussing other appointments in the past, most notably the reappointment of Betsey Dodge to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Clay explained that she was not prepared this evening to say whether she would or would not reappoint Tom Mohan and Diane Manson, only that she wanted to see who in New Boston might be interested in the vacancies. After viewing the pool of applicants and reviewing their interests and qualifications, Selectman Clay felt she would be prepared to make a decision. Selectman Clay emphasized that she has appreciated all that Tom and Diane have done for the Town as volunteer board members, and that her decision was a reflection of a desire to make the process of reappointments more open and inclusive. In addition, the Town has opted for an elected Planning Board which makes it even more important to be sure that the Selectmen consider all interested residents for these, as well as other positions, which are up for reappointment.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 16, 1998

Page 2

Selectman Briere expressed that she felt it was very important to increase citizen participation in local government. In keeping with this philosophy, Selectman Briere thought that it was important for the Selectmen to see whether there were other people interested in the positions on the Planning Board, and then to interview all interested candidates, including the incumbents, for the positions. Selectman Briere stated that this was in no way a reflection of the quality of service which Tom Mohan and Diane Manson have put forth over the last three years. It was simply a way of making the appointment process more accessible to the citizens of New Boston. Selectman Briere also brought up the question of whether the Selectmen wanted to consider whether prospective appointees to the Planning Board were interested in running for office in 1999. In this manner, the Selectmen could be assured that there would be some experienced members running for election a year hence.

Town Administrator Selig explained that in the past, with a positive recommendation from their respective Boards, incumbents had for the most part been reappointed by the Selectmen without much discussion or fanfare. Only those positions for which there were no incumbents or experienced alternates willing to make the transition to full member status were advertised publicly.

Selectman Strong stated that he felt the Board should reappoint Tom Mohan and Diane Manson to the Planning Board this evening since they had done a very good job as members over the years. Selectman Strong also emphasized the importance of the Powers subdivision hearing which was scheduled for March 24, 1998. It was essential, according to Selectman Strong, for there to be a full Planning Board present for the hearing which would be dealing with complicated issues requiring a full understanding of everything which had come to pass up to the present date concerning the application. Selectman Strong felt it was wrong to break with the traditional reappointment method for the Planning Board at this juncture. The Board would be elected in 1999 and the reappointment of Tom and Diane would add continuity until 1999 when the elected Board would take over.

Town Administrator Selig explained that there would be a sufficient number of members present for a quorum without Tom Mohan and Diane Manson present on March 24, 1998. Both Tom and Diane previously indicated to the Planning Board that they would not be present at the March 24, 1998 meeting if they were not reappointed by the Selectmen before that date as they felt their terms would have expired. The possibility of rescheduling the Powers hearing to a later date was briefly discussed. Mr. Selig recommended that if the Selectmen wanted to publicly advertise the vacancies on the Planning Board, that a minimum of two weeks, or until March 30, 1998, be given for residents to respond to the notice.

Both Selectman Clay and Selectman Briere felt that they wanted to publicly advertise the positions, give interested residents until March 30, 1998 to respond, and schedule interviews for all applicants during the Selectmen's Meeting on March 30, 1998. Selectman Strong stated that



Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 16, 1998

Page 3

since Tom Mohan and Diane Manson would not be reappointed this evening, he would not accept the nomination as Chairman at this time. As a whole, the Board felt that it was important for Mr. Selig to notify Tom Mohan and Diane Manson of the Selectmen's desire to publicly advertise the positions. Selectmen Briere and Clay emphasized that Mr. Selig should stress during these discussions that this decision was in no way a reflection of a dissatisfaction with their service on the Planning Board. It was instead an attempt to make the appointment process more inclusive and open on the part of the Selectmen.

At 8:00 p.m. Fire Chief Jim Dodge came before the Board and presented them with a letter of resignation from Scott Belanger as Fire Ward dated March 13, 1998. Chief Dodge recommended that Cliff Plourde be appointed by the Selectmen to fill the vacancy. The Selectmen discussed this issue for several minutes and considered carefully the fact that Cliff Plourde had run for the position of Fire Ward, had received a tie for the position with Scott Belanger, and had only lost the position by a toss of the coin per State law. The Selectmen felt that it was appropriate to appoint Cliff Plourde to fill the vacancy given these circumstances. Cliff Plourde had indicated to Chief Dodge that he would accept the position. Selectman Strong made a motion to appoint Cliff Plourde to the position of Fire Ward to fill the vacancy left by Scott Belanger's resignation. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Although Scott Belanger's term runs until March of 2001, Cliff Plourde's appointment as Fire Ward only extends until the 1999 Annual Town Meeting when he will have to run for the two remaining year of the three year term.

Fire Chief Dodge also asked whether the Selectmen had given further thought to hiring a specialized attorney to assist the Fire Wards in the rewrite of the Large Building Fire Protection Code. Selectman Clay explained that she has posed many of the issues which the Fire Wards have questions about to various legislative attorneys at the State House. She is now awaiting a reply and should have more feedback for the Selectmen and Fire Wards to consider in the near future.

The Selectmen and Mr. Selig plan to attend a Local Officials' Workshop sponsored by the New Hampshire Municipal Association on April 13, 1998 in Exeter.

The Board discussed the duties of being a Selectman, as well as the duties of the Town Administrator.

The Selectmen discussed the "sign folder" and "read folders" and how they are used by the Board.

The Selectmen and Mr. Selig discussed various issues which the Board is currently dealing with or will have to deal with in the near future as an orientation for Selectman Briere.

Mr. Selig emphasized that he hopes the Selectmen will look closely this year at how they would like to see the Town of New Boston grow and develop over the next 10 years.



Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 16, 1998

Page 4

Selectman Strong is currently serving as the Board's ex-officio member on the Planning Board.

The Board discussed that the Playground Association may be interested in looking at an agreement which would convey to the Town the ballfield in back of the Town Hall with certain restrictions governing its future use. The Board of Selectmen is open to such an agreement and suggested that the Recreation Department talk with the Playground Association about what these restrictions should address before asking Town Counsel to draft such an agreement.

"Response '98" is rapidly approaching! It is scheduled for the week of April 20th. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

As of April 1, 1998, Town Clerk Margit Hooper and Town Administrator Selig are proposing the following new Town Clerk hours:

Monday	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	
Thursday		4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday	<u>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</u>	
TOTAL HRS.	30 per week.	

The Selectmen were agreeable to this change in hours for the Town Clerk.

Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3II(b), the hiring of any person as a public employee, to discuss the probationary review for Recreation Director Toni Pierce. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The vote was: Selectman Strong - yes; Selectman Clay - yes; Selectman Briere - yes. The motion passed. Town Administrator Selig was present to participate in the discussion.

Selectman Clay made a motion to reclassify Recreation Director Toni Pierce from probationary status to being a regular full time employee of the Town of New Boston. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Clay made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

The Board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants.

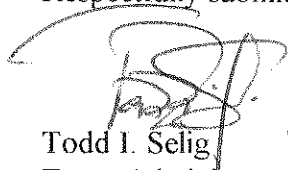
The Board reviewed and/or signed other miscellaneous correspondence and materials.



Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
March 16, 1998
Page 5

Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Selectman Strong seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd I. Selig 4/6/98
Town Administrator