

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

April 6, 1998

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

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

Selectman Clay made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Meeting minutes from March 2, 1998 and March 9, 1998. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed with Selectman Briere abstaining as she was not yet on the Board of Selectmen as of the meeting dates.

Selectman Clay made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Meeting minutes from March 16, 1998 and March 23, 1998. Selectman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The first item of business on the agenda was the appointment of a Chairman. Selectman Clay made a motion to appoint Harold Strong as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:05 p.m., the Board met with Susan Martin of 111 South Hill Road concerning her interest in being appointed to the New Boston Planning Board. The Selectmen inquired as to Mrs. Martin's interest in serving on the Planning Board, her views toward encouraging small business and clean industry in New Boston, her time availability, and other pertinent issues surrounding the appointment.

Upon the conclusion of Mrs. Martin's interview which lasted for approximately 15 minutes, the Board of Selectmen moved on to the appointment of two full members and two alternate members to the Planning Board. Chairman Strong asked whether there was a motion. Selectman Briere made a motion to appoint Mr. Hans Hassel as a full member of the Planning Board. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Strong - no; Selectman Clay - yes; Selectman Briere - yes. The motion passed. Mr. Hassel will replace Tom Mohan on the Board for a term which will expire at 1999 Town Meeting. Chairman Strong commented that in his opinion, this appointment was one of the worst things that the Board could have done for the Town of New Boston.

Selectman Clay made a motion to appoint Susan Martin as a full member of the Planning Board to replace Diane Manson. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman



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Strong - no; Selectman Clay - yes; Selectman Briere - yes. The motion passed. Mrs. Martin's term of office for this position will expire at 1999 Town Meeting.

Selectman Briere made a motion to reappoint Wayne Blassberg as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term expiring at 1999 Town Meeting. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Clay made a motion to appoint Jeff Downing as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term expiring at 1999 Town Meeting. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members of the audience questioned the Selectmen on their appointments and asked why the Selectmen had not reappointed Tom Mohan and Diane Manson to the Planning Board, why a developer had been appointed to the Board, and inquired whether Mr. Hans Hassel was in fact a resident of the Town. The members of the Board briefly answered the questions posed, indicated that they had a tight time schedule to keep and felt that they could answer questions individually after the meeting.

At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Brandon Merrill of 206 Dustin Tavern Road, Weare, NH, came before the Board for a discussion with the Selectmen concerning the possibility of the issuance of a Temporary Trailer Permit for Tax Map & Lot 003-052-026 on Hemlock Drive. The property is currently owned by Jade Realty Corporation. It is zoned Commercial. The Board discussed the requirements needed for the issuance of a Temporary Trailer Permit and felt, at least initially, that it would not be possible to issue such a permit. The Board desired to view the site with Mr. Merrill and Building Inspector Dennis Sarette on Tuesday to discuss the matter further with the Town's zoning official. Mr. Selig will try to schedule a time to view the site on April 7, 1998. If necessary, the Board will discuss the matter further at a later date.

At 8:30 p.m., Road Agent Lee Murray met with the Board to discuss the April 4, 1998 site walk on Clark Hill Road. The Board had received a letter dated March 30, 1998 from Mr. Lou Kachavos of 200 Clark Hill Road concerning the upgrade of Clark Hill Road. Mr. Kachavos was in attendance and the Board took the opportunity to listen to Mr. Kachavos' various concerns about Phase II of the Clark Hill Road upgrade. No decisions were made about the course the Phase II upgrade would take. The Selectmen asked to meet with the Road Committee on April 13, 1998 to discuss the matter. At that time, public input will be limited as all concerns from the public have been discussed.

Cable issues. The consortium towns participating in the cable franchise renewal process are planning to meet again on April 22, 1998 at 8:30 a.m. in Milford. At this meeting, the towns will prioritize group needs with respect to the following areas: *accessable/improved customer service; community access (bulletin boards, public meetings, emergency info.); connecting rural*

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areas; high speed internet access; centralized payment collection sites; channel line-up. The Selectmen felt that each of the issues were important to the Town of New Boston and would be generally prioritized in the order listed above. In addition, a regional meeting has been set up with HARRON to discuss regional and individual municipal needs in Merrimack on Wednesday, April 29, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Merrimack Town Hall Court Room. The New Boston Selectmen should plan to attend. All of the consortium towns are on a timetable which runs out in mid-July. By mid-July, each community must decide to approve, deny, or request an extension in determining whether the transfer of franchise will be approved. The Selectmen will also try to schedule a time slot during a regular Selectmen's Meeting when concerned New Boston citizens may voice their concerns to HARRON directly.

A letter dated April 2, 1998 has been sent to all gravel pit owners concerning recent changes to the way in which Towns must tax gravel pits.

The Board held a discussion concerning whether the Town will contract out for lawn care this summer. Currently, the Highway Department handles this task. This has caused problems in the past for the Recreation Department since highway needs take priority over mowing & lawn care. Very often fields need to be mowed for concerts/games and the Town crew is not available. Contracting out would ensure that fields are mowed when they need to be. The Town has three quotes on file. The Board felt that perhaps the contractors would consider lowering their estimates since working for the Town would be good publicity for them and since only \$1,500 is budgeted for the task. Mr. Selig will acquire more information in this regard.

The Board received a letter dated March 30, 1998 from Dwight Lovejoy of 166 Parker Road concerning off site advertising used by the Good Neighbor Cafe. Mr. Selig has asked Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Sarette to determine whether there is in fact a violation. Selectman Clay felt that perhaps the signs were grandfathered or allowed on a State road.

The Selectmen received a letter dated March 18, 1998 from John LaPointe of 45 Potter Drive concerning the name of his private drive for 911 purposes. The Selectmen will try to schedule a time to meet with Mr. LaPointe and other residents of Potter Drive, as well as a representative from the Fire Department, to discuss the issue.

April 16, 1998 is the deadline for interested citizens to put their names forward for appointments to local boards/committees.

The Board decided that the Selectmen will go to their summer meeting schedule for the months of June, July, and August.

Flood Insurance. At present, New Boston's municipal buildings are double insured against flooding. The Town is covered by two sources: 1) NHMA; 2) The McDuffe Agency. Years



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ago, NHMA only offered \$1,000,000.00 worth of flood insurance for all municipalities in the state who had property in Flood Zone A. The Town did not feel this was an adequate amount and therefore took out supplemental insurance through the McDuffe Agency. Four years ago, New Boston and other municipalities requested that this single incident limit be increased. It was subsequently increased to \$2,000,000.00. We again requested an increase. As a result of these requests, it has been increased to the \$7,000,000.00 level for Zone A and \$51,000,000.00 overall. As a result of these increases, Town Administrator Selig recommend that the Town drop its additional coverage for a savings to the Town of approximately \$2,500.00 per year. The Library is probably in Zone A. The McDuffe Agency currently lists the Town Hall, Historical Building, Gazebo, and Fire Department as being in Zone B. The McDuffe Agency in fact lists the Library as being in Zone B as well. Chairman Strong made a motion to drop the Town's supplemental flood insurance policy. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Town budget is right on track for 1998. All departments look good. The Selectmen will discuss in the future what will be done with approximately \$30,000.00 in McCurdy Road funds.

The Town has changed its in-State and out-of-State long distance telephone carrier from Nynex/AT&T to OneStar Long Distance. Paul Stanger from New Boston is the local OneStar representative. This change is projected to save the Town approximately \$1,500.00 over the next 12 months in long distance charges.

The Board will try to meet with contractors interested in completing the Police Locker Room in the next two weeks to get things going things moving for summer 1998 construction.

The LaBranche Trial Management Conference is scheduled to take place this Friday, April 10, 1998 between Leslie Nixon and Mr. LaBranche's attorney. The trial is set for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 1998.

Chairman Strong and Mr. Selig have explained that two complaints regarding the relocation of street lights as part of the conversion program have been received: John Ballou on Molly Stark Lane and Frances Towne on Route 13. These two sites will be reviewed in the near future to determine if in fact the changes are appropriate.

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 approximately 9:50 p.m. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



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At 9:51 p.m., upon questioning by members of the audience including Claire Dodge, Cyr Daniels, and Gordon Carlstrom concerning the recent appointments to the Planning Board, Chairman Strong made a motion to reopen the meeting for an additional 20 minutes. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Clay explained her rationale concerning the appointments which were made to the Planning Board. She was concerned about the Town Tax Rate, feels attracting small businesses and clean industry is important, and was concerned that Tom Mohan and Diane Manson were not interested in running for office in 1999. Selectman Briere explained that she wanted to see a change in the Planning Board, wanted a more organized Board for applicants to deal with, and also felt that some of the appointees should be interested in running for office in 1999 so that there are not four new members in 1999. Selectman Briere discussed her concerns that the past Planning Board perhaps did not pay enough attention to citizen concerns expressed at public hearings on changes to things such as the Zoning Ordinance, subdivision and site-plan regulations, etc. Claire Dodge responded that the Planning Board is often limited by statutory deadlines for things such as changes to the Zoning Ordinance which make it very difficult to accommodate public input expressed at public hearings. Selectman Briere maintained that a better job could be done in soliciting and considering public input. Selectman Briere also expressed that she knows Mr. Hassel fairly well and thinks that he will do a very good job on the Planning Board. Claire Dodge brought up Mr. Joe Foistner's various threats to sue the Town over the years and asked if this worried the Selectmen since Mr. Hassel was Mr. Foistner's partner. Selectman Briere responded that Mr. Hassel is not Mr. Foistner. Cyr Daniels asked why Susan Martin was not interviewed on March 30, 1998, as well as why she was not asked every question which was asked of the other applicants for the Planning Board. The Selectmen explained that Susan Martin was intimidated by the format a week ago and had answered questions to their satisfaction this evening. Gordon Carlstrom expressed his concern about the appointment of a developer to the Planning Board. Selectman Clay stated that she had thoroughly looked up this issue and had determined that there is no prohibition to appointing developers to a Planning Board. Chairman Strong expressed his view that the Board had missed the boat with the appointments which had been made to the Planning Board.

Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 p.m. Chairman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd I. Selig", with a date "5/4/98" written to the right of the signature.

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator