

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

June 22, 1998

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

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

Selectman Clay made a motion to accept the Selectman's Meeting Minutes from June 8, 1998 with corrections. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:00 p.m. the Selectman met with Police Chief James E. McLaughlin. Chief McLaughlin informed the Selectman that construction on the locker room was proceeding on schedule. He also informed the selectmen that the final inspection for accreditation would occur on June 23, 1998. Finally, Chief McLaughlin updated the Selectmen on the hiring process to fill two vacancies in the department. Because the discussion would include personnel considerations, Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II,b. Chairman Strong seconded the motion. Chairman Strong voted in favor of the motion; Selectman Clay voted in favor; Selectman Briere voted in favor. An extensive discussion followed between Chief McLaughlin and the Selectmen. Chief McLaughlin requested latitude in adherence to the approved personnel salary steps as the two candidates being considered had considerable law enforcement experience. Chief McLaughlin proposed hiring one candidate as a new sergeant at salary step 5 and the other candidate as a patrolman at salary step 6 or 7. Chief McLaughlin pointed out that when he first arrived in New Boston there existed a lieutenant position which could perhaps be reinstated sometime in the future. The Selectmen expressed concern over exceeding the budget if these candidates were offered salaries above the entry level. In addition, the Selectmen expressed concern over having a police force which was extremely top-heavy if Chief McLaughlin's proposal was accepted. Chief McLaughlin stated that it would be quite unlikely that these officers would accept entry level salaries. Mr. Selig pointed out that ultimately the Selectmen were making a policy decision determining whether New Boston should have a highly trained and experienced police force or whether financial considerations should be foremost. Chairman Strong suggested to Chief McLaughlin that he offer one candidate a sergeant's position at pay step 3 and a patrolman's position at pay step 5 for the other candidate and the Selectmen agreed. Selectman Briere moved to exit non-public session. Chairman Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Selectman Briere moved to seal the minutes to the non-public session indefinitely. Selectman Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:15 p.m. the Selectmen met with the Library Building Committee (LBC). The LBC informed the Selectmen that no land donation proposals met with their acceptance so they are planning to expand at the existing location. The LBC suggested that perhaps the town could provide more support for performing further planning surveys so the library expansion could be more fully integrated with a long range plan for the town center. Feedback from the Planning Office was also requested regarding future plans for the town center. Of particular concern to the LBC is the impact of library expansion at the intersection of Meetinghouse Hill Road and Route 13 in terms of access, parking and traffic patterns. Selectman Briere recognized the importance of the issue of keeping the downtown, "downtown". Chairman Strong stated that the Selectmen were not ready at this time to authorize additional money for the LBC without going to Town Meeting. The LBC stated that it would consider sponsoring a community planning session in September. Selectman Clay pointed out that the Selectmen were planning to sponsor a planning session at the beginning of September.

The Selectmen welcomed Kevin Coyne as the Town's new intern. He will be working with Mr. Selig for the next 8 weeks at 30 hours per week. Mr. Coyne is a MPA student at the University of New Hampshire.

The Selectmen had no comments or suggestions for Margit Hooper regarding the minutes from the 1998 Annual Town Meeting.

Chairman Strong made a motion to waive the per foot price and charge a \$25 building fee to Don Belanger who is rebuilding his home on Tucker Mill Road after a fire. Mr. Belanger is an elderly man with no income or savings other than the money recently donated by the Fire Association. Mr. Belanger did not have insurance. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed 2 to 1. Selectman Clay voted against the motion. Selectman Clay felt that, given the circumstances, the entire fee should be waived.

Selectman Clay begins as the ex-officio on the Planning Board in July.

Mr. Selig should have an update as to the status of projects within each department by Wednesday of this week, June 24, 1998.

Chairman Strong made a motion to increase the price to \$5334 for the Maggie Flansbury property (parcel "A", Tax Map 12 Lot 23, Bedford and McCurdy Road, New Boston, New Hampshire) as part of the McCurdy Road improvements. The initial agreed upon price for this parcel was \$4800. An increase is sought to compensate for inflation. All other terms of the agreement remain in effect. Ms. Flansbury will have final say in how the landscaping of this parcel shall be completed, her taxes shall be reduced in proportion to the amount of land taken by the Town of New Boston;

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a document shall be drawn guaranteeing the Town of New Boston will not move or destroy Sunday Driver Rock and that the Town will assume responsibility for the maintenance of said rock; the Town of New Boston will be responsible for any and all expenses in the surveying and title changes; and Ms. Flansbury shall receive the cord wood harvested from the land taken by the Town. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II,e to discuss the 1997 Tax Abatement Applications. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. Chairman Strong voted in favor of the motion; Selectman Clay voted in favor; Selectman Briere voted in favor. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the abatement recommendations by George Hildum, Town Assessor. Selectman Clay made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Boston voted to extend the 120 day period for consideration of the FCC form 394 transfer request from Community TV Corp. to Harron Communications to August 4, 1998. This vote was taken pursuant to the letter from counsel for Harron Communications, dated June 19, 1998, which letter agrees to such extension to August 4, 1998, and which letter is attached to the Board of Selectmen's vote hereto.

The next Selectmen's meeting will be on July 6, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for June 23, 1998.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll/accounts payable warrants and other miscellaneous documents.

At approximately 11:00 p.m. Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Coyne
Town Intern