

Town of New Boston
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

July 6, 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

Chairman Strong made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from June 22, 1998. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Selectmen are scheduled to perambulate the Town boundary with Weare and Frankestown this Saturday, 7/11/98. A rain date is scheduled for Saturday, 7/18/98. The Selectmen will meet Margo McLeod, representing the Town of Weare, at 7:30 at the junction of Depot St. and 114. Selectman Briere will contact Ms. McLeod and suggest she alert property owners to their presence. It is likely that only the Weare boundary will be inspected due to time constraints.

The current financial status of the Town looks good! Mr. Selig reports that revenues for the first half are exceeding projections, while expenditures for the 1998 Operating Budget lie at only 40% expended. Furthermore, first-half tax bill payments are at over 80% paid. Therefore, it will be unnecessary for the Town to seek interim tax anticipation loans to meet operating expenses for the foreseeable future.

The Town is in the process of putting together a bid package to advertise the old skid steer loader at the Transfer Station. It will be advertised for a few weeks to allow all interested parties to submit a bid for purchasing the machine.

The Town has found a graduate student from Antioch College who is interested in doing work for the Forestry Committee on the Forestry section of the Master Plan. The Forestry Committee must now try to work out terms for the proposed work. Forestry Committee funds will be necessary but Federal matching funds are available at a ratio of 2 to 5.

Chairman Strong updated the Selectmen on the issues surrounding the McCurdy Road construction. Mr Horner, a McCurdy Road resident, is concerned that the McCurdy Road construction will result in problems with his planned septic system since it is located at the edge of his property line. He therefore wants the Town of New Boston to pick up the cost of the redesign. Chairman Strong feels it is easier to alter the path of the road so there will be no disturbance to Mr. Horner's property. This proposal met with approval from the Selectmen.

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Town Counsel Leslie Nixon has provided some feedback and suggestions concerning the personnel plan. The Board will discuss this topic in detail at its next meeting.

At their next meeting the Selectmen will address the Department/Board/Committee Status Report which was distributed last week.

The Selectmen will interview candidates for the position of Emergency Management Coordinator at their next meeting. The 2 applicants are Don Chapman and James Dodge. Don Chapman had a conflict with tonight's meeting. Mr. Selig will provide an Emergency Management Coordinator job description next week.

No additional applicants came forward regarding the alternate position on the Finance Committee. The deadline was June 26, 1998. Sheila Malynowski is therefore the only applicant for this position. Chairman Strong motioned to appoint Ms. Malynowski to this newly created position for a 3 year term to expire in March of 2001. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Two individuals, Christine Belisle and Lois Kesty, have come forward expressing an interest in the Better Times. Both have been referred to Patti Armstrong for more information about the publication. Both individuals wanted more information regarding Better Times but are not ready to commit at this time.

A letter is ready for the Selectmen to sign concerning locating a mailbox in front of Dodge's Store. The letter shall be sent to Postmaster Bob Frain who will then forward it to a Post Office Review Panel. In addition, Postmaster Frain will check into why there is no cupola on the new Post Office.

Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Sarette and Assessor George Hildum have been visiting New Boston gravel pits over the last few days. They will continue to do so as part of the new gravel taxation laws until all pits have been inspected. In particular, they will inspect the 4-H Gravel Pit for compliance.

At approximately 7:40 p.m. the Selectmen met with Mr. John Winslow and Town Counsel Leslie Nixon regarding Mr. Winslow's junkyard on River Road which is Town property. Mr. Winslow does not have a junkyard permit nor does he want one. The Selectmen have made numerous attempts to get Mr. Winslow to clean up the property. Mr. Winslow claims the site is 99% cleaned up. Selectman Clay suggested an on site visit to determine exactly what still needs to be done. Chairman Strong suggested that the board visit the property in two weeks (7/20/98 at 6:00 p.m.) to draw up a list of what needs to be done in order for the Selectmen to be satisfied. Mr. Winslow

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would have 30 days to complete the clean up. If, at that time, clean up has not occurred to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, then Ms. Nixon will be authorized to take legal action.

At approximately 8:10 p.m. the Selectmen met with Karen Morgan who was representing the singing and dance group Country Fanfare 1998. At issue was whether Country Fanfare 1998 should be allowed to hold a BYOB country festival at the Hillsborough County 4-H Grounds. The estimated attendance at this event would be 750 people. Because Country Fanfare 1998 asserts it is family oriented entertainment and because of the universal acclaim it received in running a similar festival last year -- which was BYOB and attended by 450 people, they felt they should be allowed to hold the festival as a BYOB. Police Chief McLaughlin, while expressing admiration for Country Fanfare 1998, believes that, since 750 people are expected to attend, a beer tent or even alcohol prohibition would be the best policy in terms of assuring security. Selectman Briere asked Ms. Morgan if they had any alternate security measures. Ms. Morgan stated that Country Fanfare 1998 would provide security through its own personnel and the hiring of off-duty police officers from other towns. She also stated that they were willing to increase the size of their security staff and to work closely with New Boston police in order to coordinate effective security. Selectman Clay stated that she wants to see the Fairgrounds flourish and that New Boston, as a town which is growing, must learn how to deal with large events. Both selectmen Clay and Briere asked Chief McLaughlin what number of security personnel he would feel comfortable with for an event of this size. Chief McLaughlin replied that once numbers got this large, then adding additional security personnel could not assure safety. Chairman Strong recommended that the event should be held but wanted to take into account the Chief's concerns. Selectman Clay also recommended that the event go on but, as soon as it was over, a summit should be held between the Hillsborough County 4-H Grounds Directors, the Police, and the Selectmen to come up with an ordinance and procedures to deal with situations like this in the future. Given the Selectmen's informal endorsement of the event, Chief McLaughlin stated that he would be willing to work with Country Fanfare 1998 to hammer out the specific security responsibilities.

The Selectmen reviewed the New Boston Guide to Town Services and Procedures prepared by the Planning Board. Mr. Selig has asked Kevin Coyne to develop a general informational brochure describing the community to distribute to prospective home/business owners. The Board also authorized Mr. Selig to contact the N.H. Office of Economic Development to enlist their aid in attracting clean industries.

Mr. Oliver Dodge passed away last Thursday, 7/2/98. There will be a memorial service at the New Boston Cemetery for him on July 19, 1998 at 2:00 p.m.

The Town has scheduled a Cable Consortium meeting in Milford for next Tuesday, July 14, 1998 at 8:30 a.m. The revised deadline for franchise transfer is August 4, 1998.

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The New Boston Air Force Tracking Station has scheduled a Changing of Command ceremony for Friday July 24, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. The Selectmen may attend.

The Recreation Department summer program is going well to date.

Town Administrator Selig proposed some staffing adjustments to the Board of Selectmen. The bookkeeper position was recommended to be changed from a full-time 35 hour position to a part-time 20-25 hour position for a 3 month trial period. The extra 10-15 hours freed up would be given to Michele Koch, who currently serves as Deputy Town Clerk, to assist with work in the Selectmen's Office. This would enable Assessing Coordinator Sizemore to focus more on her assessment duties. One potential concern could be the difficulty in hiring another bookkeeper at 25 hours should our current bookkeeper leave.

Selectman Briere suggested that perhaps a growth consultant be brought in to speak at the planned Town Meeting scheduled for September 1998. The Board of Selectmen has planned this meeting to talk with citizens of the Town about the community's future.

The Selectmen discussed a request from Mr. Wayne Jennings to draft an ordinance allowing for a continuous train whistle during the night of the 4th of July. The Board appreciated this suggestion but felt that such an ordinance would be inappropriate.

Selectman Clay suggested having a hearing regarding the parking problems on Route 13 and Depot Street. The involved parties will be invited to a future Selectmen's meeting, probably in August.

The next Selectmen's meeting will be on July 20, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for July 14, 1998.

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

At approximately 10:20 p.m. Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Coyne, Intern