

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 3, 1998

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:09 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 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from July 20, 1998. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:10 p.m. the Selectmen met with Police Chief Jim McLaughlin to discuss the New Boston Police Department Policy Manual, locker room construction and Chief McLaughlin's proposal to hire a candidate to fill one of the full time officer vacancies. Chief McLaughlin presented the New Boston Police Department Policy Manual to the Selectmen for them read and accept. Chief McLaughlin stated that he had worked on the manual for 8 years with the goal of making it as in depth as possible, readily understandable and specifically tailored to the needs of New Boston. In addition, Chief McLaughlin stated that the manual had received a favorable rating from the Municipal Trust and, when his department passed level 1 accreditation, the State proposed no changes to the manual. Chairman Strong stated that he was quite impressed with the detail of the manual and believed that, if the manual were followed, the chances of mistakes occurring were slim. Selectman Briere stated that she was impressed with the effort that went into the manual and the fact that the State Accreditation Board proposed no changes to it was an honor. Selectman Clay congratulated Chief McLaughlin on his effort and for receiving the favorable rating from the Municipal Trust. Chief McLaughlin informed the Board that construction on the locker room was nearing completion. The dry wall is up and painted, the plumbing and heating is finished, and the tile is down. There are some petitions left to be constructed and the lockers are in the process of being delivered. Chief McLaughlin issued a standing invitation to the Selectmen to tour the facility. Selectman Briere asked Chief McLaughlin if he had any problems with a Town ordinance specifying a town wide speed limit unless otherwise posted. Chief McLaughlin replied he did not as long as transport surveys were completed first. Selectman Briere also asked Chief McLaughlin if there were problems with the panic buttons going off in the Town Offices. Chief McLaughlin replied that he believed that the problem was not with the panic buttons themselves but was rather a problem of staff learning how to use them correctly. Because discussion of Chief McLaughlin's hiring proposal was a personnel issue, Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, IIb. The motion was seconded by Selectman

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 3, 1998

Page 2

Briere. Chairman Strong voted in favor of the motion; Selectman Clay voted in favor; Selectman Briere voted in favor. Discussion followed regarding Chief McLaughlin's recommendation to hire Police Officer Matthew Paul Daszuta. Selectman Clay made a motion to offer a full time patrolman's position to Mr. Daszuta at pay step level 4, with a one year probationary period. Mr. Daszuta must also sign a 3 year training contract. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Selectman Clay made a motion to exit non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II,b. Chairman Strong voted in favor of the motion; Selectman Clay voted in favor; Selectman Briere voted in favor.

At 8:00 p.m. the Selectmen met with Lee Murray, Road Agent, to discuss New Boston speed limits, Clark Hill Road, and various road project updates. Mr. Murray stated that adopting a Town wide speed limit of 30 mph is a good idea because of all the dirt roads in New Boston. Furthermore, a speed limit of 25 mph in the Village District is supported by traffic surveys. To adopt a Town wide speed limit would entail placing signs at all entrances to New Boston stating that per ordinance the legal speed limit in New Boston is 30 mph unless otherwise posted. Mr. Murray stated that such an ordinance would save the Town money because of a decreased need for speed limit signs. However, Mr. Murray was unsure as to the legality of the Selectmen passing such an ordinance or whether a vote at Town Meeting was necessary. After some discussion it was decided that Selectman Clay would contact Allan Thulander regarding the legal concerns and Chairman Strong suggested that Chief McLaughlin be consulted, as well as the towns of Mont Vernon and Francestown since they have adopted similar ordinances. Mr. Murray informed the Selectmen that phase 1 construction on Clark Hill Road has been completed. Calcium and crushed gravel has been laid and compacted and it looks nice. Mr. Murray stated that a variance will be needed to complete phase 2. The Selectmen suggested that this could be accomplished at a combined meeting of the Planning Board and Zoning Board. Mr. Murray informed the Board that the gravel crushing behind the Fairgrounds was going well and that work on Meetinghouse Hill Road will begin by the end of the week. Work has not been started on Meadow Road but it is not a long project; the drain by the Kennedy residence was fixed on Old Coach Road; and there is enough hot top to pave Meetinghouse Hill Road. Mr. Murray informed the Selectmen of the need to gain access through the property of Peter Clark in order to do the necessary work to alleviate the flooding problems on the property of Mrs. Claudine Kane. The Selectmen decided to meet with Mr. Clark on Wednesday, 8/5/98. Selectman Briere informed Mr. Murray of complaints she has been receiving from residents of Howard Lane regarding excessive speed. The Road Committee informed her that they were averse to placing a warning sign because once it is done in one neighborhood, other neighborhoods will want similar signs. Mr. Murray suggested that individuals could erect signs such as "We love our kids, Please slow down" at their own expense. Chairman Strong expressed concerns over individuals correctly erecting street signs. Mr. Murray replied that sign erecting standards would be needed. Chairman Strong added that it should not be too difficult to design such standards to encompass one page.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 3, 1998

Page 3

At 8:20 p.m. the Selectmen met with Mr. Chuck Bagley from the New Hampshire Rural Development Counsel (NHRDC). Mr. Bagley explained to the Board that the NHRDC is an organization which helps rural communities obtain government and private resources to aid in their development. Their approach is to listen closely to what communities are trying to do and then let them know what's out there to help them. Selectman Briere stated that she desired assistance in preparation for the Town Meeting concerning New Boston's future and a facilitator for the meeting. Mr. Bagley replied that he would be willing to facilitate the Town Meeting and that the Selectmen should contact the Town of Littleton since he had recently performed a similar function for them. Mr. Bagley also stated that he could bring teams of experts to the Town Meeting familiar with long range planning issues. Furthermore, he suggested that the Selectmen contact the UNH Cooperative or Antioch College to have them perform a community profile for New Boston. Selectman Briere agreed to act as a liaison between the Town and Mr. Bagley.

At 8:55 p.m. the Selectmen met with Mr. Gary Roberge, President of AVITAR of N.E. and Mr. George Hildum, Town Assessor. Mr. Roberge gave a presentation to the Selectmen and all those present detailing their methodology for performing the 1998 Revaluation. The Selectmen were concerned that not enough time was given for individuals to make appointments to have their revaluation explained. The Selectmen decided to post notices throughout the Town advertising additional opportunities for appointments regarding revaluation problems. The Town will take calls for appointments through this Thursday, 8/6/98 and schedule appointments with Mr. Roberge for either this Friday 8/7/98 or sometime next week.

Perambulation Update: Selectman Briere has discovered the missing bound between New Boston, Weare and Frankestown. With the assistance of Tom Speck, the bound has been located beneath Route 114 near Denison Pond. Selectman Briere stated that she would contact the NH Department of Transportation for further information. Town Administrator Selig suggested hiring a surveyor to mark a new bound on the side of Route 114, with the cost to be split with the Town of Weare. In addition, Mr. Selig will call the Morton Federal Building for complete plans of the area.

Selectman Clay distributed a list to the Board which details the exact items which must be cleaned up from the former Winslow property at 248 River Road. The Selectmen reviewed the list and made modifications to it. Upon Selectman Briere's suggestion, a letter accompanying the list will state that Mr. Winslow has the option to contest any of the items on the list. Mr. Winslow will have 30 days to complete the clean up or legal action will be taken.

Selectman Clay moved to accept the FCC 394 franchise transfer request extension #2 for Community TV Corp. / Harron Communications from August 4, 1998 deadline to September 4, 1998 per Cable Consortium recommendation. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The new Superintendent of Schools for New Boston/Dunbarton/Goffstown, Dr. Darrell J. Lockwood, has indicated that he is excited to work with the Town of New Boston. He would like to be included in the forum the Selectmen are planning on the future of the community.

Karen Craven submitted her resignation to the Selectmen as Tax Collector, effective August 15, 1998. An interim Tax Collector must be appointed until the elections in March. The Tax Collector must be a New Boston resident. Furthermore, State law requires an audit to be performed when the position of Tax Collector changes. Selectman Briere stated that the Town should advertise the position as soon as possible and that she would speak with Deputy Town Clerk Michele Merron who may be interested in the job. Town Administrator Selig stated that the Town may not have enough money to attract an interim Tax Collector and proposed the possibility of combining the positions of Town Clerk and Tax Collector. Mr. Selig was particularly concerned that other employees of the Town, especially Chief Assessor Linda Sizemore, would end up shouldering the responsibilities associated with the position of Tax Collector. Selectman Clay stated that it was important not to burden Ms. Sizemore with any more responsibilities and that she would be willing to go over budget to hire a temporary employee if necessary.

Chairman Strong suggested that at the next Department Head's meeting that need for an orientation regarding the panic buttons should be discussed.

Planning Coordinator Claire Dodge has expressed concern to the Selectmen that Town Counsel Leslie Nixon billed the Town for attending a Planning Meeting for which she wasn't specifically asked to attend. Ms. Nixon has asserted that she was indeed asked to attend and will be paid for her time. The Selectmen decided to pay Ms. Nixon this time but in the future to adhere to the procedure of clearing all requests for Town Counsel attendance at meetings through the Town Administrator.

Mr. and Mrs Kachavos have donated two desks to the Town.

This Wednesday, 8/5/98 at 9:00 a.m. a Department Head meeting will be held.

Because the Selectmen were to review applications for the Town Administrator position, Selectman Clay made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II.b. Selectman

Briere seconded the motion. Chairman Strong voted in favor of the motion. Selectman Clay voted in favor. Selectman Briere voted in favor. After reviewing several applications, the Selectmen decided to interview 5 candidates on Saturday, 8/8/98 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Selectman Clay motioned to exit non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II,b. Chairman Strong voted in favor of the motion. Selectman Clay voted in favor. Selectman Briere voted in favor.

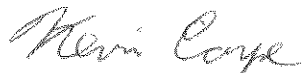
The next Selectmen's meeting will be on August 10, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

The Planning Board has scheduled an outing for August 4, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a trip to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll/accounts payable warrants, intent to cut forms and other miscellaneous documents.

At approximately 11:40 Selectman Clay made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Briere seconded the motion. the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Coyne
Town Intern