

**Town of New Boston**  
**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

**September 14, 1998**

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at the school gym and was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Strong.

**PRESENT**

Harold Strong, Chairman  
Susan Clay, Selectman  
Lois Briere, Selectman  
Burton Reynolds, Town Administrator

Minutes for 8/24/98 were approved exclusive of the addendum which gave the verbatim discussion concerning the right of Jeff Downing and Hans Hassle to serve on the Planning Board.

Minutes of the 8/31/98 meeting were approved with the name "William" corrected to "Willard".

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

- 1) Avitar- Gary Roberge and our assessor George Hildum explained to the public what supporting documents were being left with the town to support the reval approach and numbers. Avitar plans to be in the town offices Wednesday 9/16 with the software disk and will give us some training on it's use. The last part of the reval is the sand and gravel portion which George expects to complete in the next two weeks. Then the MS-1 can be sent to the State to set the tax rate. The abatement process was explained for those who still feel there is an inaccuracy. And George will take care of any obvious errors such as the card showing 3 baths when there are only two.
- 2) Road Agent Lee Murray discussed drainage on Meetinghouse Hill, the status of Clark Hill Rd. down by Mrs. Mc Laughlins, and said Meadowbrook Rd. was the next major project.
- 3) Burton brought the Board up to date on the Byam property transfer. She wants to give the town some land by the river which abutts other conservation land. Both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission approve. Claire will try to line up some survey work and get Mrs. Byam's attorney, Jed Callen, to assist us with the legal work. A question came up as to whether the PWA should take it over and that is something for Town Meeting to decide.
- 4) A long session took place where the residency of Hans Hassle was discussed. Chairman Strong asked about the ownership on his properties in town, the leased apt. in Cambridge, MA., where he spends his weekends and personal time. A review took place of what the Board had done at the time of the appointment to confirm residency ( bank checks, driver's license, tax return). A number of people from the audience were recognized and given the opportunity to ask questions. Hans answered these and discussed why he desired to be on the Planning Board. To a question

concerning citizenship, Hans answered that he has a "green card". Chairman Strong shared with the public that it was not within the power of the Board to remove an appointed Planning Board member, but that it was possible to bring the matter before the Attorney General for a decision. After the discussion, Chairman Strong asked Hans if he would step down. Hans asked for time to discuss with his supporters and members of the Planning Board. A motion was made by Susan Clay and 2nd by Lois Briere to forward the case to the Attorney General if Hans did not elect to resign. All were in favor.

Next Jeff Downing explained his circumstances and why he felt he should be allowed to continue to serve on the Planning Board. He had left town after his appointment but has plans to return. He presented a signed sales agreement on the property he is in now in Frankestown and a letter from the contractor who plans to build his new house in New Boston within the next few months. Chairman Strong read to the public the RSA which allows people to serve on Boards when their absence is proven to be temporary. A motion was made by Lois Briere with 2nd by Bo Strong to retain Jeff on the Planning Board. The motion carried with Susan Clay voting against.

### OLD BUSINESS

1) Linda Beers was before the Board to discuss her horse and carriage business. She wants to operate partly out of her house so may need to see the Planning Board about that. Susan will see what the Planning Board wants to do. As for other activities out of the downtown area, Linda wants a permit for weekends, school vacations, and summer evenings. She needs three parking spaces and wants to know what the guidelines for operating will be. The Board is considering using this occasion to develop an ordinance for "peddlers and hawkers", but that will take some time. It was decided to meet with Linda next week and give her a permit or letter so she can begin operating while an ordinance is given further consideration.

2) Contracts with Holden Engineering for Phases II-IV of the Lyndeborough Bridge were discussed and approved.

3) The MS-4 revenue form was reviewed. Susan thought we should add more to the overlay due to the reval. Burton was to send the form to the State and then review again with our auditor before setting the tax rate.

4) Karen Craven recently went from full time to part time status and asked how her accumulated sick days were to be handled as it was not in the new personnel manual. Burton checked with the Employment Law center. Sick days are a vested benefit though they do not necessarily have to have a monetary value. We could just tell people they get to keep them and use them. A motion was made by Bo Strong with 2nd by Lois Briere (all in favor) to allow Karen to cash-in her hours (35) and that the manual should be updated to say employees who go from full time to part time status will be given a choice at that time as to how they want their accumulated sick days handled but that we will in no case pay for more than 12 sick days in cash equivalents.

5) The Winslow property is scheduled for another site survey to determine what items if any remain that the Board asked be removed. It was decided this survey would take place at 6:30 PM just before the next Slectmen's meeting on 9/21/98.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Several bids were received for the town hall cleaning position. Three were individuals and one was a cleaning service. Due to turnover, the Board thought a service would be worth a try even though it was more expensive. A motion was made by Bo Strong with 2nd by Lois Briere (all approved) to give a three month agreement to White Tornado Cleaning Service at \$95./wk vs. the \$60. we had been paying. Mark will be doing more and working more hours than our previous cleaner.
- 2) The Board and Burton talked about attendance at NHMA meetings. It was the feeling these needed to be attended based on the work load here, the value of the meeting, and whether or not the materials from the meeting might not be available via mail.
- 3) The upper part of the cemetery is ready to be graded and seeded. Five local people with good sized dozers were identified and Burton was to call them to ask if they would attend a site walk on Thursday 9/24 at 7:30 AM.
- 4) The Board approved sending Joe Foistner's request for documents to counsel for guidance.
- 5) The REC Dept. filed for a Wellness Program grant back in the spring. We are in the top 10 for getting it but with the school not getting their addition funded, there is now no place to hold the program should we get the grant.
- 6) John Bunting asked Selectman Clay if she had gone to the Attorney General about the inquiry he and Willard Dodge had made about Planning Board residency. She said she had gone to the Public Integrity Board for guidance and that was all.

Payroll and Accts Payable warrants were signed.

Motion to adjourn at 11:40 PM by Bo Strong, 2nd by Lois Briere (all in favor).



Burton Reynolds  
Town Administrator