

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

October 19, 1998

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7PM by Chairman Strong.

PRESENT:

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

I. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

1) Lee Murray suggested we postpone the paving project at the Transfer Station. This was a warrant article so the funds can be held over. It is late in the season and Lee feels the gravel for the septic and water systems should be allowed to set and settle before we pave. He has checked with Bonnie and she has no objection.

Next, Lee wanted to review what we could do for Terry Gordon next year in case he needs surgery for his shoulder. Terry could be out for 6-8 weeks and the question was how much of this time could we cover with salary. He would have 3 weeks vacation next year plus one left over from this year. There will likely be some comp time from plowing in '98 and '99 (possibly one week from each year). Holding vacation time of 5 days over into the next year requires approval of the Selectmen. Comp time over one week is not normally allowed. The Board voted unanimously to approve an exception to both. Susan Clay made the motion and it was seconded by Lois Briere to allow up to two weeks of comp time but only if needed for medical reasons.

The subject of "NO PARKING" signs on RT. 13 was discussed. The State is willing to post it if we write them a letter requesting it and give our reasons. Chairman Strong felt it was too close to winter to change things but that we could begin a dialog with some affected owners over the winter so by next spring a decision could be made.

Due to a deep culvert, Lee was requested to place a deliniator post by Jeff Gordon's house. Lee will try to get the guard rails up on Coburn Rd. bridge before winter.

A letter from Burton on Road Committees was read and it was decided to have members of our current committee come in with Lee Murray on November 9th to discuss their role.

Fall grading was starting on 10/19

It was decided to prepare bid specs for the Clark Hill Rd. work that was supposed to be done in '98. It was hoped that by getting bids out within the month we could get good response for a spring start.

Holden Engineering provided this timeline for the Lyndeboro Bridge: sending out bids to timber bridge mfgs. now, bids are due by 11/10, bids will be opened 11/12, Holden will review and give an opinion by the next week.

There are currently some funds in an account for road upgrades to Christy and Bog roads. The Board felt we should spend these next year with bids going out this winter for the work.

2) Bonnie Bethune said the bathroom at the Transfer Station was just about complete but needs the septic and water done. Those parts of the project should be done in the next few weeks.

Bonnie explained a new contract from Wheelabrator. It calls for a \$1.50/ton increase per year over the next three years. All our other options involve taking trash to a site further away and thus the cost is more. For the next few weeks we are having our trash hauled to Claremont and the charge is \$65/ton vs. the normal \$51. Bonnie will see if Wheelabrator will pay the difference. Susan clay made a motion to accept the 3 yr. Wheelabrator contract and Lois Briere gave it a second. The vote was unanimous.

Denning does our trucking and has held the same price for the last 3 yrs. They are asking for a \$5.00/load increase from \$145. to \$150. They have been very reliable and also done some work on our trailers in the past for free. Bonnie was asked to get other quotes and then come back with a recommendation.

The brush pit cannot be completed as planned because we do not have the funds in the budget. The fence can be moved but that is about it for this year. The plan is to place another warrant article in the budget for '99 for completion the work.

A letter has gone to the DES from Tim Cady, and his engineering firm is suggesting that the monitoring of the landfill be stopped based on the results of our quarterly monitoring. He can see little value in continuing the tests.

3) The Library just wanted to make the Board aware of a Road Race planned for May 2, 1999. It will be a fund raiser and put on by Friends of the Library. The proposed route is one the Rec Dept. has used in the past so should be acceptable to the Police but Burton is to check with them. Susan Clay made the motion, 2nd by Lois Briere to approve the race. All approved.

4) The position of Fire Inspector will be re-advertized given Scott's resignation to take a full time position in Derry. Scott will continue to help us for the next month and we can also call on David Poole to assist if necessary. The ads will go out immediately keeping in mind the need for someone with Emergency Mgmt. training.

The emergency generator at the Fire Station is wired to the Town Hall but David Cram has not wired the building yet. He expect to within a month.

A letter from Burton on Emergency Mgmt. was discussed with Jim Dodge. Burton felt the position duties might be best split between three people. The Fire Inspector would develop the plan and keep it updated, one person from the fire department would be the on site coordinator at the time of an incident, and the Town Administrator would handle the financial side. Once we know the capabilities of the new Fire Inspector, a final decision will be made.

5) Alan LaPenn came in to discuss the Class VI road by his house. He feels the original road is to the side of his driveway and that the driveway is his property. This issue was reviewed by the Board a number of years ago. The conclusion reached at that time was that the town road had been moved from it's original site to where Mr. LaPenn's driveway now is back many years ago. We took some records from Mr. LaPenn and will do additional research to try and resolve.

6) Lou Maynard came in to ask why there was no record on the Planning Board 9/15/98 minutes of his exchange with Ed DiPetro. He felt that because a criminal threatening charge had resulted from the exchange, something should be in the minutes about it.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1) Based on a site review by Burton and Lois on Friday, 10/16, it was decided to ask John Winslow to come to the next Selectmen's meeting. There remains some junk. His neighbor, Armand Hebert, also felt there should be some hours of operation or if there are some, they be enforced. We invited him to the next meeting as well.

2) The Board discussed Leslie Nixon's response to Mr. Foistner's request for town records on a number of subjects. Several in the audience voiced concerns. John Bunting was concerned over the degree of supervision, wanted one file on the table to be reviewed at a time, and wanted a copy of the brief for free. The Board took the request under advisement. Brent Armstrong felt those who were named in the brief should be given copies of all corr. and anything given to Mr. Foistner. The Board felt this could get very timeconsuming and costly. Such steps would be more appropriate should the case ever go to court. Dave Wilson and Willard Dodge felt Leslie Nixon should not be our counsel in this matter because her firm is mentioned in the brief. This was discussed with Leslie by the Board on 9/28/98.

3) An update was given on our town software situation. Several firms have been interviewed and Burton expected a recommendation within a few weeks.

4) The Good Neighbor Cafe was to replace several "illegal" signs with ones from the state. The Building Inspector confirmed that the owner is working with Jutrus signs who in turn is working with the state to get those signs in place.

5) We took a fresh look at a proposal from Bob Todd to more exactly assess what is owned the town on yield tax cuts. Bob has an intern who is to test his formula over the next few months. Lois will call Dave Buxton who is the forester for Lyndeborough and get his comments. The tax deadline is April 1 so any change would likely occur then. In the meantime, we can gather some additional information.

6) Based on a site walk at Mr. Klardie's, the Board needs to compose a letter explaining how they feel access to his property is best addressed. Mr. Klardie would like to reroute the road and upgrade it to town standards.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1) Margit asked if the Board wished to deny people who bounce checks the right to use checks to pay for town services over a set period of time. The Board felt this would be too cumbersome and in some cases not even appropriate. RSA 80:56 provides for a \$25. fee being assessed and it was felt that was sufficient. A sign is posted at the Town Clerk and Tax Collector offices to that effect

- 2) An old "out of town" policy was shown to the Board. It asked that Department Heads who will be out of town for the day notify the town offices so someone knows where they are. The Board wanted Burton to discuss at the next Dept. Head meeting.
- 3) Karen Craven has written a letter with some thoughts in it about the Bookkeeper and Treasurer and Tax Collector positions. We will review as part of the budget process.
- 4) Michele Merron's three month "test" helping in the Selectmen's office has been a success. She would like more hours in '99. Burton is reviewing options and is looking at Michelle being available to assist others in the town office complex as a way of meeting her request and filling a town need.
- 5) The Board may go to Finance Committee meetings for department budgets rather than have the department heads meet with Finance and then them.
- 6) A letter was in the mail from the Planning Board to Southern N.H.Planning asking for their assistance with the Master Plan update approved at Town Meeting. A motion was made by Lois Briere with 2nd by Susan Clay, all approving, to support the Master Plan scope of services update.

The meeting was adjourned at 10PM with a motion by Susan Clay and 2nd by Lois Briere, all in favor.



Burton Reynolds
Town Administrator