

Selectmen's Minutes

July 26, 1999

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairperson Susan Clay.

PRESENT:

Susan Clay-Chairperson
Lois Briere-Selectman
Gordon Carlstrom-Selectman
Burton Reynolds-Town Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim DiPetro noted that the blasting project on Clark Hill Road was being done as the contractor had time. While not a major problem, she felt the Town should make sure it was done before the school buses started.

APPOINTMENTS

Fire Chief

- 1) Fire Chief Dan MacDonald explained an organizational chart he had prepared which outlines the functions of each party (Fire Wards, Fire Chief, Assistants, etal) and how they report. He felt the transition from Jim Dodge to himself was going smoothly. Was using the development of the organizational chart to clarify roles as well as encourage a team effort.
- 2) Expressed concern over the many activities the new Fire Inspector is being asked to fill given the limited budget. Wants to be sure the basics are getting done. Asked for improved cooperation to help focus those efforts.
- 3) A committee has been formed to look at the possibility of allowing home sprinklers. Would it be possible to make them:"doable, affordable, and reliable"? A report will be out by the end of the year with recommendations. They have invited experts in the field to come in and discuss these issues as well as obtained written materials on the subject.
- 4) Another committee is looking at regulations that would replace the Large Building Fire Code. It will not deal with construction issues, as did the old code but will focus on fire safety, focusing inparticularly on the National Fire Code sections adopted by the State. The Board encouraged Dan to post public notices for these meetings because they do involve public issues. He said he would and also planned to hold public info sessions to get feedback once the process was more complete.
- 5) The Department wants to repair the dry hydrant on Rt 77. Supposedly there are funds from a 1996 FEMA grant for this. Burton is to research.
- 6) The Hilltop Station at the Tracking Station needs to be better integrated from both a use and training perspective. Have a lot of training videos, excellent communications equipment, and will receive our ambulance once the new one arrives. Need to work with Bedford and Amherst to make it a viable station into the future; that will require more manpower and equipment.

Conservation Commission

- 1) Members wanted to know who they might contact to supervise this project. One thought was the Road Agent, and he will be approached. They are looking at potential bridge contractors and are awaiting word from the State on whether the current abutments can be used. Giving consideration to specs which would allow horse traffic over the bridge. Leaning toward making the new bridge 11/2 ft. higher than the current one given flood map data.
- 2) When the easement is done for the Skofield land, Lois Briere asked that the non-motorized clause make clear this did not exclude wheelchairs. Mr. Skofield is giving a parcel of land to the Town but wants an easement attached so no building can take place on it. Brenda Lind is assisting the Town in developing the easement language.
- 3) Bill Morrissey has bought the house adjacent to the LCIP land on Mill St. which is overseen by Conservation. Last meeting some issues were identified that needed clarification. Those have now been researched and a letter is going to Mr. Morrissey.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Burton will work with the Road Agent to specify what Kris Stuart needs to do to McCollum Road for improvements for his proposed gravel pit operation. Also, Clay Drew has complained about the use of Riverdale Road by trucks hauling gravel from Bo Strong's pit. Calls have been placed to Mr. Neville asking that he please abide by the operation hours and the police will occasionally check on this. Calcium was put down by Mr. Drew's house for dust control. The Town has not agreed to stop trucks going out Riverdale based on the reading of the permit, as Mr. Drew would like. He has been invited to comment when the permit is up for renewal next April.
- 2) The design of the web site has been decided upon. Members will next meet in late August.
- 3) The Board decided to ask Town Counsel to comment on several points John Winslow has brought-up over time concerning his operations on River Road. When that is accomplished they will determine how to proceed with their efforts to complete the removal of junk from the property.
- 4) A letter to Mr. LaPenn on John Newton Dodge Road was approved for sending. The letter restates the Town's position that even the beginning portion of the road is OK for the public to use based on the law of "prescription". The letter offers meet to assist with access issues if Mr. LaPenn wishes to.
- 5) Issues relating to downtown parking, speed limit, and crosswalks will be on the agenda for 8/9/99 and those living along Rt 13 & High St. will get individual letters of invitation.
- 6) The cable TV contract agreeing to the sale by Harron to Adelpia was signed.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) The Board wants to hold a public hearing to consider "no thru trucking" on Saunders Hill Rd.
- 2) Tax Deeding will take place in August. As in past years, the Town Administrator will individually call any not responding to try and work out some arrangement to prevent the deeding of the property to the Town.
- 3) The State has printed the 1998 Equalized Tax Rates. This process brings each town's rate to what it would be if all of the towns valuations were at 100% thus allowing true tax rate comparisons. New Boston's rate is in the middle of the pack for towns in our area.
- 4) Burton asked the Board to consider other rotation options for serving on the Planning Board other than each person taking one third of the year.
- 5) Selectmen's minutes are not getting done on a timely basis. The reasons for this were discussed and it was decided other options for minutes completion should be explored.
- 6) Computer repairs will now be done by Computers, etc. They now do work for the Police Dept. only. It was felt one firm should serve all departments. Other firms were contacted but few could give the service and provide the level of expertise needed.
- 7) Burton and School Board rep Al Romano will be going to a DRA meeting 8/17/99 on the new school funding and how it will affect tax rate setting and collection.
- 8) The Board renewed a three-year contract with our auditing firm, Plodzick and Sanderson of Concord. They know the Town's operation and have worked closely with us over the past few years to improve our reporting and record keeping.
- 9) Planning Coordinator Tom Ursia offered the use of a retreat facility in Freeport, Me. The Board appreciated the offer but felt the logistics, cost, and actual need for the trip made acceptance of the offer problematical.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

Motion by Lois Briere, 2nd by Gordon Carlstrom to adjourn at 10: 00 PM. All in favor.



Burton Reynolds
Town Administrator