

**Town of New Boston
Selectmen's Meeting
May 15, 2000**

A regular meeting of the board of selectmen was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairperson Lois Briere.

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| PRESENT: | Lois Briere | Chairperson |
| | David Delorey | Selectman |
| | Burton Reynolds | Town Administrator |

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| ABSENT: | Gordon Carlstrom | Selectman |
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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Nangle commented that the crosswalks in town near Dodge's Store are in need of painting and inquired as to whose responsibility they were. Burton responded that the Highway Department would take care of them very soon.

MINUTES:

After making corrections and changes to the minutes of May 8, 2000, Dave made a motion and Lois seconded to accept the minutes as amended.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) **Planning Issues** – Gordon is unable to attend the Planning Board meeting of May 16, 2000. It was decided that Dave would attend the meeting in his place.
- 2) **2000 Goals** – Discussion of goals was tabled for the next meeting when Gordon is present, however, Burton did summarize the status of the most important issues in progress at the moment.
- 3) **Gravel Pits** – Burton spoke with a representative from the DRA concerning gravel pit operational laws and their applications. More time is needed to research the matter in detail. Permits need to be examined for accuracy regarding the exhaust date of the pit and the maintenance schedule in order to establish criteria for material changes in the future. Jim McLaughlin has spoken with Coastal and was assured that certified loads would NOT be sent over Howe Bridge, which is only classified to carry up to 80,000 lbs. The police and highway departments are examining the placement of advisory signs on Parker Road.
- 4) **Licensing Events** - The ordinance has been put together but the Application form needs to be finalized.

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| APPOINTMENT: | Bob Todd | Yield Tax Formula |
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Bob Todd gave a presentation on the formula used on a sample Timber Cut and how it could be applied to future timber cuts in town. The formula is based on the following criteria:

- 1) access to the land
- 2) average skidding distance
- 3) type of soil
- 4) average harvest of board feet per acre

Based on these criteria and with the use of map overlays, the town should be better able to determine the yield of a particular timber cut. In turn, this should allow for more accurate yield tax assessments. Bob will meet with Linda Sizemore from the Selectmen's Office to go over the process and an implementation date will be set in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Mid-Year Tax Bills** – Instructions have been given from both the Avitar and BMSI software systems on how to make the two systems work together. Bills should go out as scheduled by mid-June. A back-up system needs to be established in order to protect the data system in the future.
- 2) **Status of Surplus** – The town presently has an unreserved fund balance of \$316,000. Another \$320,000 will be added based on the audit of the town books for 1999. Of this \$600,000 plus, the DRA likes to have 5% of all budgets held in surplus for emergencies, which would be \$400,000. Every two-hundred thousand dollars in revenue lowers the tax rate by one dollar. The selectmen need to review this in the fall and determine what to do with the money. Dave suggested that the town budget for computer/software training next year, instead of paying the auditors to instruct new employees.

OTHER:

- 1) **Appointments to the Boards** – All are in except for a couple, they should be ready to be signed next week by the Selectmen.
- 2) **Amy Rice** – has been hired as the new secretary for the Highway Department and the Building Inspector and will begin working on Tuesday, May 16, 2000. She has given the bus company her two-week notice, but will probably fill in as needed for the remainder of the school year.
- 3) **Deputy Town Clerk** – This position still needs to be filled and ads will be placed in June.
- 4) **Tammy Duval's probationary period** is over and her pay will increase from \$9.76 to \$10.11, Step II of the Step plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brandy Mitroff inquired regarding the content of Burton's meeting with the Fire Inspector and Dan MacDonald on Wednesday, May 17, 2000. Personnel procedures will be discussed at this meeting and the town has already paid legal fees to both the inspector's attorney and the town's attorney.

Lois made a motion, Dave seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 PM, all in favor.

Cindy Romano