

APPROVED 2/26/96

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

January 16, 1996

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Pimenta.

PRESENT: Michael S. Pimenta, Chairman
Darlene M. Goodin, Selectman
Gordon A. Carlstrom, Selectman
Todd I. Selig, Town Administrator

The Board of Selectmen did not have an opportunity to review the minutes of the December 18, 1995 or January 2, 1996 Selectmen's Meeting.

Beth Smith of Benefit Strategies based out of Goffstown, NH, came before the Board of Selectmen at 7:00 p.m. to discuss various enhanced benefit plans for the full time employees of the Town of New Boston. Additional benefits considered by the Selectmen included: dental insurance, long term disability insurance, life insurance, and a BC/BS Comp500 health insurance plan which could be added to the list of health plans from which full time employees currently choose.

Forestry Committee members Robert Todd, Lyn Lombard, and Graham Pendlebury came before the Selectmen at 8:15 p.m. to discuss a proposed warrant article which would designate a number of Town properties as Town Forests at 1996 Town Meeting: Follansbee Lot (Map 2, Lot 144 -- 11 Acres); Lydia Dodge Lot (Map 7, Lot 70 -- 245 Acres); Johnson Lot (Map 3, Lot 44 -- 34 Acres); Siemeze Lot (Map 2, Lot 115 -- 85 Acres); Colby Lot (Map 2, Lot 118 -- 10 Acres). It was the feeling of the Board of Selectmen that the Forestry Committee had not yet done enough planning to determine exactly what would be done with these Town Forests once they were so designated. Robert Todd told the Selectmen about the history of forestry on the Town lands, particularly on the Lydia Dodge Lot. He felt strongly that the Town Forests could benefit from a forest management program like the one proposed in the warrant article. Graham Pendlebury stated that if the Selectmen did not sponsor the article on their own, the Forestry Committee would submit a petition warrant article in order to have the proposed plan placed on the 1996 Town Warrant. The Selectmen explained that this was one of their busiest times of year and that the idea of designating all Town lands as Town Forests was a major step which should be looked at carefully. At the present time, the Board felt as though they were being rushed into making a decision on an issue which could easily wait until 1997 Town Meeting, giving everybody the opportunity to plan the logistics of the program a little more carefully. Robert Todd said that the Forestry Committee would be willing to place only 50% of the proceeds from any selective cutting in a forest maintenance fund, leaving 50% to go to the Town's general fund. The Selectmen still had a number of questions regarding recreation usage of the lands, responsibility for maintenance, the cooperation between various Committees in managing the lands, etc. The

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Selectmen felt that they needed a few more weeks to consider the idea. Town Administrator Selig would contact the Forestry Committee once a decision was made.

Fire Chief Jim Dodge came before the Selectmen at 9:00 p.m. to discuss various issues for the Fire Wards' monthly meeting with the Selectmen. The Board discussed why on-call police officers were not allowed to take home police cruisers, insurance options for the replacement of current fire trucks, and Fire Department trust funds.

Holly Bowen and Wayne Daniels of the New Boston Playground Association came before the Board of Selectmen at 9:35 p.m. to discuss possible uses for the \$4,000.00 which was appropriated at 1995 Town Meeting as part of Warrant Article 14 for bringing the old R.R. Depot on Depot Street back to its pre-New Boston Police Department interior architectural style. The Selectmen reviewed plans which have been drafted for the project. Chairman Pimenta explained that the Playground Association would have to submit at least 3 bids for all work done inside the building. All work would also need the approval of the Selectmen before any funds from Warrant Article 14-1995 would be disbursed.

Wayne Daniels asked the Selectmen if it would be possible to use the new Recreation Department van to take his Town sponsored basketball team to games around the State of New Hampshire. The Selectmen said they would have Town Administrator Selig look into the matter and get back to them with more information concerning liability issues surrounding this request.

The Selectmen did not have an opportunity to award the Town's Solid Waste Trucking Bid due to time constraints.

Town Administrator Selig informed the Selectmen that he had Don Chapman shovel the roof of the Transfer Station after a leak developed around the chimney of the waste oil burner. Mr. Selig felt that the structural integrity of the building might have been in jeopardy had the roof not been shoveled.

The Board discussed whether Assistant Transfer Station Manager William Ingram was still planning to voluntarily move to part-time status as of February 1, 1996. The Board instructed Town Administrator Selig to speak with Mr. Ingram to make sure he understood that his full time benefits would come to an end once he relinquished his full time position.

Mr. Selig informed the Selectmen that the new Recreation Department van was now being stored at the Highway Garage.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a six month probationary evaluation of Planning Board Recording Secretary Deborah Wareham. Ms. Wareham's six month probationary period officially ended on January 5, 1996. Chairman Pimenta made a motion to retain Ms. Wareham as a regular

full time employee of the Town of New Boston. Selectman Carlstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Town Administrator Selig was instructed to inform Deborah Wareham of the Board's decision.

The Board of Selectmen decided to add an additional \$300 to line item 1-4195-1-430 for plowing the upper entrance to the New Boston Cemetery.

Selectman Goodin and Town Administrator Selig plan to testify before the Senate Executive Departments and Administrative Committee chaired by Senator Beverly Rodeschin in favor of N.H. Senate Bill 502 which will be discussed this Thursday, January 18, 1996, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 104 at the Legislative Office Building in Concord, N.H.

The Selectmen reviewed a letter from Town Clerk Margit Hooper dated January 10, 1996, relative to possible wage increases for the Deputy Town Clerk in 1996.

The Board reviewed a letter from the N.H. Secretary of State's Office dated January 8, 1996, relative to the scheduled February 6, 1996, special election primary designed to fill now deceased State Representative Roland Sallada's vacant seat.

Harvey Room of PEBSCO, the Town's employee funded retirement program, is planning to visit the Town Offices on Thursday, January 18, 1996, to service New Boston's employees.

The Board reviewed a January 8, 1996, letter from David Hulick of 7 Valley View Lane, New Boston, complementing Road Agent Lee Murray and the Highway Department on a job well done during recent storms.

Town Administrator Selig informed the Selectmen that the filing period for elected offices in New Boston for March Town Meeting would be January 24, 1996 to February 2, 1996.

The Board gave Town Administrator Selig and Police Chief McLaughlin permission to attend an FLSA Workshop dealing with police related issues scheduled for February 1, 1996.

Mr. Selig informed the Selectmen that there will be no DARE program this year at the Central School. The N.H. State Police instructor who normally conducts the program is pregnant. New Boston's Officer Matt Fleming is talking with Principal Rick Matthews about developing a substitute program.

The Selectmen reviewed a memorandum from the New Boston Police Department dated January 12, 1996, relative to computer needs at the Police Station.

The Board discussed the merits of leasing versus buying a new cruiser for the Police Department.

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The Board briefly discussed Police Department holiday time issues. More must be discussed in the next few weeks concerning the issue.

The Board discussed whether or not the Town should join the International Association of Police Chiefs costing \$100.00. The Board had some further questions for Police Chief Jim McLaughlin before any final decision could be made on this subject.

Town Administrator Selig informed the Selectmen that the Police Chief had drafted new policies covering the following topics at the New Boston Police Department: booking procedures, pursuit driving, communicable diseases. The Selectmen indicated that they would review the new procedures as soon as time permitted.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed Police Chief McLaughlin's internal investigation in regard to a complaint raised by Steven Skubik of Bennington, NH. concerning Town employees. The Board sent a formal reply to Mr. Skubik regarding his complaint.

Moderator Lee Nyquist informed the Selectmen via letter that he had appointed Jed Callen and Carol Hess as Moderators Pro Tempore for the February 6, 1996, special election primary.

Town Administrator Selig informed the Selectmen that he had opened a charge account at Sam's Club for the Town of New Boston. The account was designed by Mr. Selig so that the Town's employees would not have to make out-of-pocket purchases when buying supplies for the office.

The Selectmen discussed the 1996 Household Hazardous Waste Day agreement between New Boston and Frankestown. Town Administrator Selig stated that he would have the document ready to sign for next week.

The Board of Selectmen decided that the 1996 Town Report would be dedicated to the memory of former N.H. General Court Representative and New Boston Selectman Roland Sallada. The cover of the report will be plain white with black type. Roland Sallada's photograph will be placed on the inside of the front cover of the report. It was also decided to remove the Emergency Management Director's name from the listing of Town officers in the first portion of the Town Report. The Selectmen reviewed and made corrections to various Town Report documents.

The Board of Selectmen listened to a recording which had been left on the Highway Department's answering machine which was critical of the fact that Highway Department personnel were working at clearing snow away from cisterns on a Sunday.

Town Administrator Selig informed the Selectmen that he had arranged for the Little People's Depot to provide day care for children at 1996 Town Meeting on March 16.

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The Board reviewed payroll and accounts payable checks.

Chairman Pimenta signed pistol permits.

The Board reviewed and/or signed other miscellaneous correspondence and materials.

Chairman Pimenta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 p.m. Selectman Carlstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd I. Selig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "S".

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator