

APPROVED 3/18/96

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 11, 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 approve the Selectmen's Meeting minutes from March 4, 1996.

Road Agent Lee Murray came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss Highway Department issues at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Murray was concerned about the impact maintaining an improved and expanded ballfield on Old Coach Road would have on his summer maintenance budget. He asked that the Selectmen take this into consideration as the ballfield project progresses.

Road Agent Murray also informed the Board of Selectmen that he would like to begin excavations behind the Transfer Station in an effort to locate additional winter sand for the Highway Department. The Selectmen told Mr. Murray that if Warrant Article 15-1996 was approved at Town Meeting, no such excavations would be permitted on this land. Mr. Murray also brought up the issue of putting a municipal vehicle road/pedestrian trail through from the Transfer Station to the Messina subdivision on Dane Road. The Selectmen felt that this use would not be permitted if the Lydia Dodge lot was designated as a Town Forest on March 16, 1996.

Police Chief James McLaughlin came before the Board of Selectmen for his monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Chief McLaughlin expressed his concern to the Selectmen over radio frequency problems the New Boston Police Department is having with the Goffstown and Bedford Police Departments. A monastery in Vermont is also causing some radio interference for the Police Department. Chief McLaughlin explained that new radio frequencies will become available from the Federal Communications Commission in the near future. He felt that New Boston should wait to take advantage of these new frequencies rather than attempt to make any frequency changes at the present time.

The Board of Selectmen gave Chief McLaughlin permission to begin a search to replace recently resigned part-time officer Shawn Walsh.

Chief McLaughlin wanted the Board of Selectmen to know that he supported them in their decision to wait until 1997 to replace the two wheel drive cruiser. Chairman Pimenta explained

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that in hindsight, the Board felt that it probably should have asked for a replacement cruiser at 1996 Town Meeting.

At 8:00 p.m., Selectman Goodin made a motion to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss personnel issues. Selectman Carlstrom seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Pimenta-yes; Selectman Goodin-yes; Selectman Carlstrom-yes. Town Administrator Selig was present to take the minutes. Police Chief Jim McLaughlin was also present.

Police Chief McLaughlin explained that Police Prosecutor Sharon Bogins is having difficulty making herself available to the New Boston Police Department at necessary times due to the fact that her residence has moved to Maine. The Selectmen and Chief McLaughlin discussed various ways the Town and Ms. Bogins could work to deal with this issue.

Selectman Goodin made a motion to adjourn out of nonpublic session at 8:17 p.m. Selectman Carlstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed a letter of complaint which it had received dated March 4, 1996, from Jim and Pat Hansen of 31 Briar Hill Road with Chief McLaughlin.

Town Administrator Selig informed the Selectmen that one of them had to be present at the close of elections on March 12, 1996, in order to seal the box containing the official Town ballots. Selectman Goodin stated that she would be willing to take on this responsibility. Selectman Carlstrom and Town Administrator Selig planned to disassemble the voting booths after the polls closed on March 12.

Town Administrator Selig expressed his opinion to the Board of Selectmen that there was a tremendous amount of discontent and animosity among Town employees and members of various municipal boards/committees toward the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Selig felt that there was a perception among these various groups that the Selectmen were making budgetary and policy decisions in an arbitrary manner without bothering to take the time to discuss issues in an open manner with the affected groups present. Some employees, according to Mr. Selig, were so frustrated that they were contemplating forming associations or unions. Town Administrator Selig recommended that the Selectmen sit down with each department head and board/committee after Town Meeting to set a general direction for each of the aspects of Town government. Selectman Carlstrom felt strongly that the Selectmen should set goals and objectives with each department and board/committee after Town Meeting. Selectman Goodin expressed concern over the fact that it is the Board of Selectmen who must determine what is in the best interest of the Town as a whole, and not just the various department heads or board/committee members who

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may not be able to look at the whole picture. She was therefore unsure about whether such an endeavor would be productive. Chairman Pimenta felt the idea sounded good in theory but was unsure if it would work in practice. Town Administrator Selig explained that the Board would only have to give these affected groups the opportunity to express their concerns to greatly alleviate the tension and feelings of animosity which are currently present within New Boston's local government. Chairman Pimenta explained that in the open market, employees are simply told what to do. He was concerned that the employees in New Boston were doing a great deal of complaining to one another when they should approach the Board of Selectmen with their concerns. Selectman Carlstrom explained that many employees felt that the Board had been acting in an arbitrary and vindictive manner in recent months and therefore had no where else to turn other than to co-workers. Chairman Pimenta wanted to think more about the idea of setting goals/objectives. The Selectmen also discussed whether to reinstate department head meetings in an effort to better communications between the Board of Selectmen and its departments. This too will be discussed further after March 16, 1996.

Chairman Pimenta wanted to voice his opinion that he felt the Board of Selectmen should allow Town Administrator Selig to take on more responsibility in making administrative decisions without having to get permission from the Board. Chairman Pimenta felt that the Board of Selectmen should deal with this issue after Town Meeting. Selectman Carlstrom also felt that it was unnecessary for Mr. Selig to have to call the Selectmen on every issue either to inform them of recent occurrences or to get permission to act in an administrative capacity. Selectman Carlstrom explained that if Mr. Selig had a policy question that he felt the Selectmen should know about, he would call them for a telephone poll as he currently does. Chairman Pimenta felt that Mr. Selig now had over a year under his belt in New Boston and knew the general concerns/feelings of the Board. Selectman Goodin expressed reservations about giving Town Administrator Selig this additional authority. The Board will take up the matter again after March 16, 1996.

Selectman Goodin will begin her term as an ex-officio member of the New Boston Planning Board on March 19, 1996.

The Board reviewed the Community T.V. Corp. Rate Schedule.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter of commendation for Police Chief Jim McLaughlin from Manager Tom May of the Milford Co-Operative Bank.

Chairman Pimenta explained what had occurred at his meeting with the Recreation Commission on Tuesday, March 5, 1996, with the other members of the Board of Selectmen.



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Town Administrator Selig informed the Board that a Cold Mix Asphalt Applications seminar would be held on March 19, 1996, at the Concord, NH, Holiday Inn.

The Board reviewed the 1996 Town Warrant in preparation for Town Meeting.

Mr. Selig updated the Selectmen on the status of the Lewis property (Map 14, Lot 7) which may be donated to the Town. The Selectmen had expressed an interest in accepting this parcel a number of months ago. The property was formerly known as Parker Meadow and was owned by William O. Dodge.

Town Administrator Selig updated the Board of Selectmen on the status of the former Martel property (Map 8, Lot 84-26) located on Foxberry Drive. The property was tax deeded by the Town in 1995.

The Board reviewed payroll and accounts payable checks.

Chairman Pimenta signed pistol permits.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd I. Selig", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator