

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

October 28, 1996

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Chairman Goodin.

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

At 7:45 p.m., representatives from Community T.V. Corp. (The Americable Group) came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss their purchase of Showcase Cable and the Showcase cable franchise agreement with the Town of New Boston. Present were: Lawrence Patten, Americable General Manager; Bill Schmalberger, Americable Executive Vice President; Harmon White, Americable President; Jim Dodge, Fire Chief; Dan MacDonald, Fire Ward; Leslie Nixon, Town Counsel; and three members of the general public. Issues discussed by those present included: 3% franchise fee, hook-up charges, rate changes, discourteous telephone operators, municipal notification of customer complaints, hooking the Central School up to cable at no cost, switching lines over to a fiber optic system, channel selection, Channel 8 discontinuation, public access channel alternatives, swapping old for new converter boxes on November 29 and 30, 1996. The representatives from Americable agreed to forward to the Selectmen various documents related to their rate structure, and rate calculation. The Selectmen also asked the company to reconsider discontinuing Channel 8 as this service is an integral part of New Boston's community.

The Selectmen were unable to meet with representatives from Perry Brothers Monument Company concerning adding names to the New Boston War Memorial on the Town Common. The Selectmen did, however, authorize the installation of additional names to the Memorial as per Town Meeting. The Board asked to see if the company could have the new names installed by 1997 Memorial Day for the official dedication of the additional names.

At 8:55 p.m., Police Chief Jim McLaughlin came before the Board with Mr. Stanley F. Zapanas, a part-time officer candidate for the New Boston Police Department. Chairman Goodin made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(b) to discuss the possible hiring of Mr. Zapanas as a public employee. Selectman Carlstrom seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Goodin - yes; Selectman Carlstrom - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the candidacy of Mr. Zapanas for the position of part-time police officer. Mr. Zapanas lives within the currently acceptable on-call mileage radius for New Boston Police Officers.

Selectman Carlstrom made a motion to exit non-public session. Chairman Goodin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Selectman Carlstrom made a motion to hire Mr. Stanley Zapanas as a part-time police officer for New Boston pursuant to Chief McLaughlin's recommendation. Chairman Goodin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:30 p.m., Town Clerk Margit Hooper and Deputy Town Clerk June Hicks came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the possibility of purchasing a new motor vehicle and registration computer system for the Town Clerk's Office. The cost of the system would be approximately \$9,869.00 for hardware/programs and \$2,250.00 in annual fees. The Board discussed the benefits of purchasing such a computer system with those present and asked to have Mr. George Humphries of Business Data Solutions come before them to answer additional technical questions concerning the benefits of the system.

At 9:40 p.m., Mr. Roger Lanctot of 517 Weare Road stopped in briefly to speak with the Selectmen about problems he is experiencing with Americable. Mr. Lanctot was especially troubled about the increase in prices for cable access. The Selectmen informed Mr. Lanctot that they were in the process of discussing this issue with Americable.

At 9:45 p.m., Planning Board Chairman Brent Armstrong, Planning Coordinator Claire Dodge, and Planning Board Member Bo Strong came before the Selectmen to discuss the 1997 C.I.P. program and various legal cases. Selectman Carlstrom made a motion to enter non-public session to discuss various personnel and legal issues pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(a). Chairman Goodin seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Goodin - yes; Selectman Carlstrom - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Various matters concerning Town court cases and Town Counsel were discussed.

Selectman Carlstrom made a motion to seal the contents of the aforementioned non-public minutes pursuant to RSA 91-A:3III as the release of such information could harm the reputation of an individual, other than a member of the governing body. Chairman Goodin seconded the motion. The vote was: Chairman Goodin - yes; Selectman Carlstrom - yes. The motion passed with a 2/3 vote. This information will therefore be withheld from public view until, in the opinion of the majority of the Board of Selectmen, the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.

Selectman Carlstrom made a motion to exit non-public session at 10:45 p.m. Chairman Goodin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:15 p.m., Fire Chief Jim Dodge came before the Board to inform them that a minor accident had occurred involving one of the Town's fire trucks over the last weekend during an open house at the fire department. The Fire Department is taking proactive measures to ensure this type of accident does not happen again. The damage had been repaired and came to less than \$1,000.00.



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The Board of Selectmen amended a decision made by them on October 21, 1996, in which they decided to change the order of Town and School Meeting in 1997. Instead, the Board will place an article on the Official Ballot in 1997 to see if voters would like to see the order changed in March of 1998. This decision was based on new information from Town Moderator Lee Nyquist that Town Meeting through the Official Ballot would have to authorize such a change to the Annual Town and School Meeting schedules.

The Selectmen were unable to schedule a date to walk the Lydia Dodge Lot with the Forestry Committee to view a proposed forestry trail.

The Board of Selectmen authorized the expenditure of \$9,612.00 for the construction of concrete work at the Transfer Station as per 1996 Warrant Article #7 and #8. A \$1,000.00 grant from N.H. The Beautiful will also be used toward this purpose as opposed to being utilized as revenue. In total, the project should run approximately \$200.00 over budget. A total of \$9,410.00 is available for the concrete work per the above noted warrant articles and grant funding. Keith Pollock was selected to install the concrete pads and walls as his bid was the only bid received. All concrete for the project will be purchased from F. & S. Transit Mix Co., Inc. of Manchester as this firm consistently sells concrete to the Town at the lowest price.

The Board discussed the idea of utilizing old police radios at the Transfer Station and agreed to wait until the end of November 1996 to see if sufficient funds were available in the Transfer Station Budget for the conversion of the radios with new crystals.

The Board sent thank you notes to citizens who assisted the Town during the flood on October 21, 1996.

A special meeting of the Old Coach Road Ballfield Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 1996, to discuss possible changes to the plans for the ballfield to allow for a flat construction of the soccer field / outfield areas of the property. The Selectmen were invited to attend.

Chairman Goodin signed pistol permits.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 p.m.



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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Selig", followed by the date "12/2/96". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator