

Town of New Boston

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 2, 1996

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Goodin.

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

Selectman Pimenta made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Meeting minutes from November 18, 1996 and November 25, 1996, with amendments. Chairman Goodin seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Selectman Carlstrom abstaining from voting on the November 18, 1996 minutes.

At 7:10 p.m., Police Chief James McLaughlin submitted a letter of resignation to the Board of Selectmen as Emergency Management Director and Local Emergency Planning Committee Director for New Boston. Chief McLaughlin gave an overview of the responsibilities of each position and explained that he was appointed to these roles by the Selectmen around the date of his hire. Mr. McLaughlin feels that another individual should hold these posts with adequate time to give to these important positions in the community.

The Board discussed the issuance of pistol permits with Chief McLaughlin and decided that in the future, the Selectmen's Office would issue a letter of denial if an applicant was found to be unqualified to receive a permit. The Chief of Police would still carry out the research and defend the decision with the Police Prosecutor in court regarding the denial of a permit, but the permit itself would come from, and be denied by, the Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen decided to wait until the New Hampshire Municipal Association's consultant, former Police Chief Charlie Reynolds, has had an opportunity to review the New Boston Police Department's policies and procedures before deciding whether to allow Chief McLaughlin to apply for Levels 1 and 2 of N.H. State Accreditation.

The Board discussed hiring a fourth full time police officer with Chief McLaughlin. Chief McLaughlin explained that four full time officers would provide a 16 hour patrol 7 days per week with part-time officers filling in during vacations, holidays, and specific shifts as needed. Chief McLaughlin felt that a fourth full time officer who could also serve as Animal Control Officer (ACO) would cost the Town only \$8,400.00 more than what is already budgeted for the ACO position. The Selectmen discussed whether the Town was legally required to pay for part-time officers to receive training at the Academy. Town Administrator Selig was asked to

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 2, 1996

Page 2

check with the New Hampshire Municipal Association concerning this subject to obtain additional information.

At 8:30 p.m., the Board of Selectmen reviewed photographs of a "breakwater" which Bo Strong submitted and knows about in Maine where dam reconstruction prohibitions were circumvented by a Maine community in order to maintain the scenic character of an area of Town after a long standing dam was breached. The Selectmen asked Mr. Selig to distribute this photograph to the Conservation Commission and State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for review.

The Board briefly discussed the former Winslow property located at 248 River Road in New Boston. No action was taken on this matter.

The Selectmen discussed the possibility of dividing the \$1,545.00 currently budgeted under Highway Department Grounds Maintenance among the budgets of the respective municipal facilities for which grounds upkeep is intended: Police Department Yard, Fire Department Yard, Town Common, Old Coach Road Ballfield. The Town could then put the entire job out to bid and charge the respective departments accordingly. The Selectmen did not feel comfortable delegating the responsibility of grounds maintenance to the Recreation Department as proposed in the 1997 Recreation Department budget.

The Selectmen briefly discussed wages/salaries of current Town employees. The cost of living increase from September 1995 to September 1996 is as follows: National = 3%; New England = 2.9%; Boston Area = 3.1%. The Board decided to discuss wage information with the Finance Committee in order to gain their input.

The Selectmen approved Bo Strong's request to replace two culverts at the lower end of Cochran Hill Road with larger ones for Tom and Christine Quirk of Friendly Beaver Campground. The present culverts are single 2 foot stone culverts which keep washing out due to greater than capacity water volume running through these areas. Mr. Strong will replace the culverts with two 2 foot plastic culverts in each location in order to double their overall capacity.

Fracestown Selectmen Alan Thulander called to ask the Selectmen if they would permit Fracestown to participate in the 1997 New Boston Household Hazardous Waste Day. The Selectmen asked Mr. Selig to contact the Solid Waste Committee to get their input on the matter. The Selectmen felt that the Solid Waste Committee should consider the importance of community cooperation/mutual aid when deliberating the topic.

Selectman Pimenta plans to light the Christmas lights on the Town Common for the Recreation Department on December 8, 1996 at 6:00 p.m.



Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 2, 1996

Page 3

The Annual School Meeting is scheduled for March 22, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tom Mansfield Gymnasium.

The next department head meeting is scheduled for December 4, 1996.

Selectman Pimenta brought up a number of issues for discussion: the poor condition of Meetinghouse Hill Road after recent rain; a request for a traffic count on Meadow Road to justify the Road Committee's recommendation for road improvements here; a second request that Thornton Road have a traffic study conducted to determine if speed is a problem; a request that the Road Agent provide a list of private drives for discussion at 1997 Town Meeting; and whether Middle Branch Road should be renamed as per a recent Fire Wards request. Mr. Selig responded that the Middle Branch Road issue should be discussed at the next Fire Wards meeting with the Selectmen.

Chairman Goodin inquired why culverts were not being cleaned regularly by the Highway Department and requested that a list of the amount of money paid by the Town for gradall expenses be compiled for comparative purposes during review of C.I.P. requests.

Selectman Carlstrom informed the Board that the current School Building Committee was looking at a cost of between \$2 - \$2.5 million for the school addition. Various plans being discussed include an expansion to the gymnasium and kindergarten classrooms.

Selectman Carlstrom also inquired on behalf of Lou Maynard what was currently happening with the new cable television company. Mr. Selig responded that the Town was still waiting for information concerning this matter.

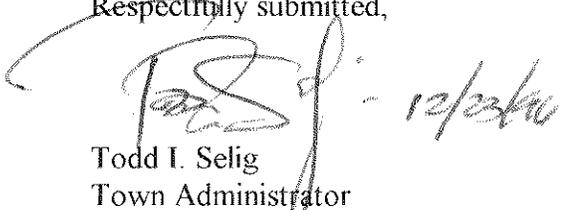
Chairman Goodin signed pistol permits.

The Board signed Intent-to-Cut forms.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 - 12/23/96
Todd I. Selig
Town Administrator