

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

May 3, 1999

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7 PM by Chairperson Clay.

PRESENT:

Susan Clay-Chairperson
Lois Briere-Selectman
Gordon Carlstrom-Selectman
Burton Reynolds-Town Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Road Agent Lee Murray informed the Board employee Bushey Bouchard went to the hospital on Sunday with heart problems. Terry Gordon is to have surgery on his shoulder Wednesday. He hopes to be back on light duty in two weeks.
- 2) Continental Paving will be here Wed. to repave McCurdy at no charge because it did not set well when done last year. Also, they will pave the Transfer Station. That was in the '98 budget but never got done and the funds were held over.
- 3) There is a 1970's vintage sweeper Lee felt the Town should purchase. All we have now are the tag along kind that sweep the dirt to the side of the road. This would pick up the dirt and thus reduce dust. Right now we rent a sweeper like this for the downtown, intersections, cul-de-sacs, subdivisions and other areas. It costs us \$75/hr. to rent and we use it for a solid week +. Our annual costs for renting are \$3,600. We could buy the machine Lee has in mind for \$3,500. We have the money set aside in the Block Grant. While he has not given it a test run yet, he has checked to be sure there are parts available. It is an Elgin which is a well known name. Lane Construction was the previous owner. He would expect us to get 5-6 years or more out of it. Motion by Gordon Carlstrom, 2nd by Lois Briere, all approved Lee making the purchase once he completes the testing.
- 4) Paul Doscher from the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests was in to give the Board a brief review of a sample Conservation Easement they suggest using. Basically these easements just strip away the owners right to develop the land. Because that act reduces the value of the land, they can receive a federal tax credit from the IRS if all the rules are followed. He urged town officials to walk the land so intelligent choices and decisions can be made. If the land abuts other conservation land, that too should be considered. Use of the land is really up to the landowner and Paul cautioned the Town about getting involved too heavily in access and use issues. Should focus more on our goals for the land such as: views, habitats, pasture land, forestry, etc. After his meeting with the Board, Paul had further discussions with both Forestry and Conservation to focus on the Morgan land in particular.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of 4/26/99 were approved as written based on a motion by Lois Briere, 2nd Gordon Carlstrom, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) The Board had taken a site walk 4/29 on the Skofield lot off Briar Hill Road. Mr. Skofield will deed this over to the Town as conservation land if the Town wants it. The Board was in favor of doing so but wanted Conservation feedback before writing to Mr. Skofield.
- 2) Under RSA 91-A:3 b the Board went into non-public session to discuss ZBA appointments: Susan-Yes, Lois-Yes, Gordon-Yes. The Board voted to re-appoint Kevin Ryan, to move David Craig from an alternate to a full member pending Dave's willingness to commit, and to appoint Ed DiPietro as an alternate. Lloyd Hill was not re-appointed.
- 3) A letter to the Playground Association was approved. With it will be a report from the Building Inspector updating one from 1997.
- 4) The Town Hall security system has been upgraded as planned. There are two additional panic buttons and all are programmed to now indicate from where in the building the signal is emanating.
- 5) It was agreed we should obtain credit cards for those departments heads who want them, plus probably Linda and Sim because they get so many of our supplies. Burton will call Tom May at the bank. We want one account but each card should have a specific person's name on it. The credit limit is to be \$2,000 unless the Dept. Heads feel differently. The only problem is that we do buy things at SAM's and they do not take VISA or MC. Linda has a DISCOVER card she does not use and is willing to let people use that to charge town items at SAM'S. We can't use their card because we were doing that and got into numerous billing problems.
- 6) Burton attended the Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting on April 29th. Bill Morin was to obtain the original documents that established the trusts from the bank and bring them to the Town offices so we are in possession of them. They discussed whether or not to sell a couple of funds. Bill said he would change the way he keeps the records so they are kept in folders by account rather than by month. The Board was concerned the Trustees had no plan to meet until fall when they will be getting Capital Reserve Fund monies in June. It was felt the Trustees should meet with the Board in June to talk about CRFs.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Instructions are just now beginning to come in from the DRA on how we are to issue the six month bills given the recent vote by the legislature on the school funding issue. A decision will be made in the next couple of weeks.

- 2) A meeting will be held shortly with a liaison from the State on the local Health Officer position. We will discuss the duties and the types of issues a health officer in New Boston would be most likely to encounter. This will help us decide whether to stay with appointing an M.D. or having the Building Inspector also serve as Health.
- 3) A letter from the Property/Liability Trust offered a three year term at reduced rates of about 20%. It also kept the rating bases the same over this period except for property additions of over \$500,000 in value. Motion by Gordon, 2nd by Lois, all approved signing the contract for three years. It was surmised the offer was spurred by the attempt by the Comp Funds to write property, liability, and auto coverage in addition to the W.C. they now write. The Trust is trying to meet the Comp Fund's premium quotes and lock people in so they won't move their account over the next three years.
- 4) Approval was given to write to Logical Solutions declining to pay a \$2,200 bill for attempting to set up a printer for us.
- 5) Based on an inquiry from the Planning Board, it was agreed applicants for new gravel pits should meet with all the involved parties at once. ZBA, Planning, and the Selectmen all have roles to play in the process and it was felt better decisions would be made, and it would be easier for applicants, if we all met together.
- 6) The Board approved using some State boilerplate language that is needed by the Planning Board on occasion for DOT work or private contractor work concerning slopes and drainage.
- 7) An ordinance for more closely controlling how a property looks was considered. This might be very difficult to develop and enforce. Keeping in mind the effort that has been expended trying to get the Winslow property to look better, Board members were leery.
- 8) Bob Todd will take core samples of the trees on the original road into the John Newton Dodge road to establish their age and thus about when that portion of the road ceased being used.
- 9) Bobbie Dodge has an interest in moving forward with plans to replace the Parker Dam. He needs to talk with the PWA and Conservation as well as Bo Strong.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Ernest Zintel of 123 Christy Road complained about a lot of beer cans on the roadside out his way. He also felt something more should be done about a dog owned by Jane Carr that is bothering him. Burton will check with the police on both issues. Mr. Zintel was told the litter problem was tough to solve unless he sees the people involved actually throw the trash and can get the license plate.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gordon Carlstrom, 2nd Lois Briere, all approved, at 10:10 PM.

Burton Reynolds
Town Administrator