

**Town of New Boston  
Selectmen's Meeting  
September 24, 2001**

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Gordon Carlstrom at 7:01PM.

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Gordon Carlstrom	Chairman
	David Woodbury	Selectman
	David Delorey	Selectman
	Burton Reynolds	Town Administrator

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Brandy Mitroff of Thornton Road began the discussion by inquiring about an incident on September 18th involving Selectman Delorey removing a speed limit sign that the Highway Department had placed in front of his home. She went on to ask if the sign had been returned, and if not, what action had been taken. Gordon explained that Selectman Delorey has been talked to and that Dave has had a conversation with the road agent regarding a new location for the sign. There is also an issue concerning whether the sign was placed on public or private property. The sign is owned publicly and has not yet been returned. Brandy stated that Selectmen ought to be held to a higher degree of treatment, not a lower one. Selectman Woodbury noted that at this point, the matter is the subject of negotiation, not prosecution, but that the sign ought to be returned to the Town. Dave Delorey felt the conversation was out of order based on the selectmen's "rules of procedure". The chairman allowed the discussion to continue. Town Administrator Burton Reynolds responded to a question from Selectman Woodbury by noting the Delorey's list of concerns as expressed to him and the road agent were: the town failed to check with Dig Safe, because the right-of-way agreement has yet to be signed, therefore the roadway in front of their home is private not public. They felt the Highway employees had thus trespassed in placing the sign where they did, and lastly, there is an agreement with the Town stating there will be no "structures" placed in their view and the sign was placed within that area. Burton stated that before placing the sign in a new location, Dig Safe will be contacted. Willard Dodge and John Bunting, from the audience, felt Selectman Delorey was receiving preferred treatment. Chief Begin explained to the public that Selectmen have the right to place and remove signs, and that in order to prosecute a Selectman there has to be proof of intent to permanently deprive the owner, (the Town). There could also be a liability issue if someone exceeds the speed limit due to the lack of a sign. Selectmen Woodbury and Carlstrom agreed the sign should be in place or returned to the Town by Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM. Though given the opportunity to comment by Selectmen Woodbury and Carlstrom, Selectman Delorey elected not to address the matter under discussion. Jacqueline Delorey, Selectman Delorey's wife, commented that she thought it is pitiful that the public acts as judge and jury without any evidence. This incident was not on tonight's agenda because it was assumed that the issue would have been resolved.

**Gordon Carlstrom** commented that Eric Scoville did a great job on the Town Clerk's service window and thanked him. Eric acknowledged him and went on to ask if the Board of Selectmen was receptive to the Town having some kind of commemorative event with regards to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed that it was a good idea and Eric will be back next week with ideas.

**APPOINTMENT:**

**7:15PM**

**Lee Murray & Michele Brown      Clerical Opening**

Michele Brown was present to meet with the Selectmen for an interview and expressed her desire to return to the part-time clerical position with the Highway and Building departments. When asked if she would be willing to work as a back up for either Paula Bellemore or Irene Baudreau, Michele stated that she would rather work for just Lee Murray and Dennis Sarette. However, Michele was not closed to the idea of filling in when needed. Dave Woodbury moved that Michele Brown be hired as the part-time secretary for the highway and building departments. Dave Delorey seconded the motion. All were in motion. Michele will begin work on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

**7:30PM**

**Space Needs Committee      Report**

**Sandy VanScoyoc** of Bedford Road presented to the Selectmen a preliminary report of the Space Needs Committee. The purpose of this committee was to study current and future needs of the Town's departments and make recommendations on how to utilize space within the Town's buildings. This included the current Library, Town Hall, and the Historical Society building. After speaking with department heads and touring the buildings, the committee recognized the need for community meeting space and storage needs and came up with the following recommendations:

- Move the Historical Society to the present Library, giving them better security, more storage space and room for displays. Another location for displaying historical memorabilia might be the new Library.
- Move some of the Town offices to the Historical building. The most practical choice might be the Building and Recreation departments.
- Consider an addition connecting Town Hall with the present Historical building for future growth.
- Possibly construct a building outside of the village for all departments to use, providing a climate-controlled environment for storage.

In response to Dave Woodbury's inquiry regarding future needs for meeting space, Sandy responded that other towns also have insufficient space. Dan Rothman suggested that a copy of this preliminary report be given to the CIP committee for their review.

**7:55PM**

**Bob Todd      Timber Tax Discussion**

**Bob Todd** was asked to review the request for abatements on three timber sales and report with recommendations for changing the computation. In the past, the DRA's figures have been used to determine the timber yield tax. Recently there have been requests for small volume timber sales. The DRA could not support using volume of

sales for assessment. The Forestry Committee felt that volume should be figured into the equation. Forestry felt that a fifth dimension be added to the timber yield tax algorithm to include a 35 percent reduction in sales under 50,000 board feet and a 15 percent reduction in sales between 50,000 and 100,000 board feet. Revenues alone are not the true value of the timber – other factors such as access roads, skidding distance, and treatment of brush should be considered. The quality of timber is established either by the soil type or upon inspection of the timber. Tax map overlays with soil types are also used. **Alan Oxman from Forestry Services of Wilton** stated that mill slips would help the process. He usually uses the DRA's averages and finds that they work well most of the time. He stated that the biggest factor is volume. It was his opinion that the Town would lose money in overhead expenses overseeing the assessment process because the process is complicated. **Tom Lorden of Lorden Lumber** stated that timber usually goes for more than it is worth, and that the skidding distance depends on the type of soil. In the end, Bob Todd and the other foresters agreed that maybe the State should eliminate the Timber Yield Tax entirely. **Pierre Bruno, State Representative**, was approached to put together legislation to present to the Rules Committee. Dave Delorey moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the Forestry Committee's recommendation to add the fifth criteria stated above to the timber yield tax matrix method of assessment and also to perform an analysis comparing the town's methodology to the DRA. Dave Woodbury seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**ABATEMENT:**

**Alan Oxman** brought in a summary sheet for the Selectmen to review the details of the timber yield tax. The reason for his request for abatement was that the parcel in question is under long-term management and was assessed at the high end of the scale. Linda Sizemore will review the two systems with Dave Woodbury to familiarize him with the processes.

**APPOINTMENT:**

**8:50PM            Dan MacDonald            Telephone Specs**

Dan MacDonald distributed a questionnaire to the various department heads and drafted a request to present for approval for a newer telephone system for the Town. New Boston needs more lines and newer technology such as voicemail for department heads. There is an opportunity for grant money in association with the Emergency Operations Center to help cover the cost of services. Dan was seeking approval from the Selectmen to send the document to various companies for bid. Dave Woodbury moved that Dan take the next step in the process. Dave Delorey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 10<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting will be reviewed at next week's meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Planning Issues** – Hearings scheduled for Tuesday's meeting are as follows:
  - 7:00PM – Cellular Tower
  - 7:30PM – Rightway Builders
  - 8:00PM – JFL Sub-division
  - 8:30PM – M&M builders with the ZBA and Planning Board

9:15PM – Ed Shaughnessy

9:30PM – Hanson – wetlands crossing

- 2) **Tape of Planning Board Meeting of 9/11/01** – The Selectmen listened to the tapes from the above mentioned planning board meeting for the purpose of determining whether or not they thought Dave Delorey was advocating for the applicant in question, Mr. Joe Foistner. Mr. Delorey again gave his reasons for attending only that portion of the meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and then going home out of respect for the national tragedy that occurred in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania that day. The other Selectmen agreed that they heard good discussion amongst the Planning Board members and that the tape accurately represents what is on it. They are concerned, however, with value judgments and the attendance of the ex-officio. Dave Delorey suggested that the Planning Board work on contradictory procedures currently in the board rules and regulations, and that the checklist should be part of sub-division regulations and not Rules of Procedure. He went on to say that he guarantees a fair and equitable process for everyone. Al Romano emphasized that the ex-officio should try to represent the position of the board, regardless of personal opinions. Gordon Carlstrom and Dave Woodbury both stated that they would vote the position of the board as acting ex-officio. Dave Delorey stated that it was most important for ex-officio members to bring the reasons why the Selectmen supported a certain position to the Planning Board.
- 3) **Department Head Management Addendum to Performance Review** – Selectmen reviewed the addendum produced by Burton and submitted their individual thoughts. This will be used during future performance reviews, and Burton suggested that the addendum be critiqued as it is implemented.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Deliberative Session Date** – The Deliberative Session for the Town is tentatively set for February 5<sup>th</sup>, with February 6<sup>th</sup> as a rain date. The School's Deliberative Session is tentatively set for February 7<sup>th</sup>, with February 8<sup>th</sup> as a rain date.
- 2) **Other** –
  - **Adelphia** - Dave Delorey followed up on the public hearing date of October 10, 2001. Burton needs to send the cut-sheet from the newspaper and a copy of the notice.
  - **Library Traffic Study** – Burton faxed the numbers from the study to the Department of Transportation on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Should have the results soon.
  - **Car Accidents** – Gordon suggested that Lee Murray and Chief Begin take a look at the intersection of Joe English and Meadow Roads. There have been three accidents there recently, all involving persons under the age of twenty. The Chief is looking into signage.
  - **Street Lights** – Gordon reported that the streetlights on Meetinghouse Hill Road are still not working. Burton will follow up on this matter.