

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

May 17, 1999

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairperson Susan Clay.

PRESENT:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENTS

Police Chief Jim McLaughlin covered the following topics:

- a) Jim presented a draft of an ordinance for open air events. What is being required is what has been asked for in the past. An application form is being developed. The effect of the ordinance will be more to alert Town personnel of an event than anything else. Fire, police, etal must sign off and indicate if they have any requirements before an event can take place. The sponsor of the event needs the permit, not all the vendors. The plan is to work closely with the 4-H to make sure their forms indicate a need to comply with our permitting before approval for the event is obtained. The Board is to review for next week. Then it goes to Town Counsel and then to the 4-H people.
- b) The new 4WD police vehicle is in and will be outfitted within the next month.
- c) The grant to provide two video cameras (one for each vehicle) has been approved. This is a 50/50 cost share with the Federal Gov. and our share of the cost was built into the warrant article for the new vehicle. Jim feels this will provide added protection for the public and his officers besides being an excellent training tool.
- d) He gave a quick overview of a meeting held at the school to discuss emergency evacuation plans. Included were: Jim, Burton Reynolds (Town Administrator), Dan McDonald (Fire), Toni Pierce (Rec), and Rick Mathews (principal). Included was a review of how the new addition will improve security. An alternate access route onto school premises is highly recommended because there is only one now.
- e) Next was whether to post speed limit signs just at the entrances to town or on each road. There is a basic speed law statute for town roads which apply unless otherwise posted. Jim felt more comfortable following this State statute and then posting those roads where a different speed can be justified. He will work with Road Agent Lee Murray in determining an implementation plan and schedule. The downtown and those roads most heavily traveled would be first for signage.

- f) Whether to post “no parking” signs on RT 13 from the hardware store to the intersection of Rt 77 & 136? This was a follow-up to a meeting held last fall when the residents were invited to a public forum on the topic. While a State road, the State will not require it. They will implement if asked to do so by the Selectmen. Chief McLaughlin felt that with the increase in traffic caused in part by the post office and other businesses, there was a real need to get cars off the road now as opposed to a preference not to have them park there in the past. He noted, however, that this will only prevent parking in the State “right-of-way” and they can still park on the side of the road if they can park back far enough to be out of that “right-of-way”. Based on a motion by Lois Briere, 2nd by Gordon Carlstrom, the Board voted unanimously to ask the State to post this area as close to Sept. 1 as possible with letters going out to the effected owners now alerting them to the change. They agreed to ask the police to waive the no parking during certain special events like July 4th.

2. Pat Jennings wanted approval to add to her budget for upkeep of the common, \$288 for some electrical upgrades to allow the flag to be lit at night for instance. That was approved. She also wanted \$425 to prepare a new flower bed in front of the memorial. The Board approved \$225 for that purpose. Pat asked if the lawn contract included any fertilizing or weeding or edging. The answer was "no".

MINUTES

Minutes for the 5/10/99 meeting were not yet ready.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Planning Board Coordinator hiring process was discussed. Gordon felt there should be a search committee of sorts to assist. Susan did not feel anyone other than the Board should vote on the new hire but agreed outside input would be desirable. Concern was expressed over possible improper use of resumes' as they are not public documents. After much discussion it was decided to include the Planning Board and present coordinator in the interview process perhaps by having them speak to the applicant first. Based on a motion by Susan, 2nd by Lois, all approved making the position a salaried one from here on out. Everyone felt is was a full time job and given the odd and sometimes uneven hours required, it was best we make it salaried.
- 2) Cable services are being sold by Harron and bought by Adelphia. Area towns will be banding together to try and have at least some influence over the ever consolidating cable industry. We will try to attend those meetings.
- 3) The Town of Warner is undertaking a thorough review of town salaries and wanted to know if we would be one of the participating towns. While it will take some time, it is an excellent and detailed study. We would get a copy for participating.
- 4) Bernie Waugh of the Municipal Assoc. clarified some issues for the Board on roads becoming town roads based on a concept called prescription. With this info in hand, the Board is close to being ready to respond to Mr. LaPenn who feels a portion of John Newton Dodge Road (a Class VI road) actually is his and not the town's.

- 5) Clark Hill Road is almost done. Board members looked at the site over the past week after concerns were expressed by one of the abutters to the new road section. A letter was approved for sending to the abutter.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Benefit Strategies is hired by us annually to handle the details of our benefit plans. Their new contract is in for signature.
- 2) The Board was briefed on the Hazardous Building Seminar and told someone from the town (probably Fire Dept.) would attend.
- 3) Burton will attend a Welfare Officers Seminar in June.
- 4) Gordon Carlstrom will be the Board's rep to the town committee looking at non-salary compensation for town employees. Besides Burton, others will be Cathy Widener (Police) for the employees and Bonnie Bethune (Transfer Station) representing the Department Heads.
- 5) A number of abatements were reviewed and the Board agreed to follow town assessor George Hildum's advice in all cases based on a motion by Gordon Carlstrom, 2nd by Lois Briere, all in favor.
- 6) One new applicant has come forward for appointment to the Finance Committee. Brandy Mitroff will be invited in for an interview next week.
- 7) The Board went into NonPublic Session under RSA 91-A:2 c. at 7:55 PM Gordon-yes, Lois-abstained, Susan-yes, to discuss a police matter. They came out of the session at 8 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) The Board decided to direct the Fire Wards (Susan-yes, Gordon-no, Lois-yes) to respond to the request for information submitted by Lou Maynard.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:25 PM by Lois Briere, 2nd by Gordon Carlstrom, all approved.

Burton Reynolds
Town Administrator