

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

May 24, 1999

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

PRESENT:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENTS

Transfer Station Manager Bonnie Bethune discussed the following:

- 1) The paving of the roadway and the main drop-off areas approved at last year's Town Meeting has now been done within the \$15,000 allowed in the warrant article. Some gravel will now be placed along the shoulders.
- 2) Whether to structure in a different way how people park to use the facilities-not sure.
- 3) Hazardous Waste Day flowed well and attracted 110 customers. This was down from previous years. There are usually 135 or more. Will see how the one goes in the fall and then reassess plans for next year.
- 4) Bruce Fillmore completed work on excavating for the 2nd brush pit. Bruce charged \$2,500 so was within the \$2,648 left in that budget account. Bruce supplied some of his labor free in order to do this. Bonnie noted that although this will make things a lot better, she still will not collect brush in the second pit when there is a fire ban on. She gets a fax from the State when one is in effect. Several people questioned this but it is how other towns do it. The idea is to eliminate the potential source for a fire that brush in the pit provides by prohibiting the leaving off of any during the open fire ban period.
- 5) A septage agreement between the Town and All Clear Disposal Services of Weare is now final. Jed Callen of the Solid Waste Committee has been working with All Clear on the exact wording for the last 6 weeks or so. Jed will provide an outline of the areas of disagreement and the reasons, and then why he feels what has been agreed to is acceptable. Once the Board has that, they will sign the agreement.
- 6) Bonnie had three estimates for the office renovation work that needs to be done but had not looked at them closely yet: Phil Byam-\$1360, Don Chapman-\$1,500, and Chuck Strasbaugh-\$3,800. We also need to consider sandblasting and painting the hopper next year. It is ten years old and getting rusty.
- 7) A plan for allowing Bonnie and Deb Smith (the only two full time employees) to work 4 ten hour days during the summer was presented. The Board acknowledged this had a benefit for the employees but wanted to know how it would benefit the Town. They thought an earlier opening on a couple days should be considered. Bonnie will give this some thought.

Planning Board members and the Planning Coordinator were present for a discussion on the hiring process for the new Planning Coordinator. There was considerable discussion as to which Board had the authority to do the hiring. While no consensus was reached on this point, Planning Board member Jeff Downing suggested the 3 Selectmen with 3 Planning Board members do the interviewing with the current Planning Coordinator and the Town Administrator present for input but not a vote. That suggestion carried the day.

Dan MacDonald represented the Fire Department in expressing disapproval with the manner, content, and tone in which a long list of requests for information was received from resident Lou Maynard. He read a letter from attorney Dave Nixon, written as a resident, not counsel. The Board pointed out that the Right to Know law does not discriminate between those who are courteous in their request and those who are not. The Department felt the Town should look at possible libel action given what was said in the request letter and felt the failure of the Board to pursue that course of action reflected a lack of support for the Department. Selectman Lois Briere suggested a new "info desired" form be developed for use in the future when numerous documents are being requested therefore eliminating the need for a letter and reducing the likelihood additional comments would be made. Motion by Lois Briere, 2nd Gordon Carlstrom, all voted to implement this new format.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for 5/10/99 were approved as submitted.

The minutes of 5/17/99 were approved after several amendments were made.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Brandy Mittroff expressed her reasons for wanting to serve on the Finance Committee. She did not see a conflict with serving and also writing about these issues for her paper, the "New Boston Bulletin". Based on a motion by Lois Briere, 2nd by Gordon Carlstrom, the Board voted to appoint Brandy to the Finance Committee.
- 2) The outline of the proposed "events" ordinance had a few minor changes made. With those in place, the Board asked Town Administrator Burton Reynolds to forward the document to Town Counsel for review and response.
- 3) A letter had been received from the Conservation Commission complaining that the Board was preparing to take action they considered not in the best interests of the Town on Mr. LaPenn's situation as regards the Class VI road know as John Newton Dodge Road (which is also Mr. LaPenn's driveway) . The Board felt compelled to write back to the Commission explaining what was happening and where the process was headed. The letter was to point out that this was a long outstanding disagreement which should be researched thoroughly and settled agreeably, if possible, no matter who it is decided owns the beginning portion of the road. But access to the conservation land known as Great Meadow will be preserved one way or another.
- 4) A list of items the Board wanted to try and address was made. It is attached to the minutes as an addendum.
- 5) The Board voted to meet every other week for the summer. The meeting dates will be: 6/7, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, and 9/13.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) The Town Web Site Committee met continues to work on how the site should be structured and how it should look. Members have begun contacting the departments or commissions they will be responsible for to see what those people want for info on the web page.
- 2) David Allen has been hired to run the summer Rec program. David is from Amherst and teaches fourth grade in Mont Vernon.
- 3) Under RSA 91-A:3 II a. Susan Clay, Lois Briere, and Gordon Carlstrom all voted to enter non public session to discuss how to handle a use of sick time request.
- 4) Back in public session with a motion from Lois Briere, 2nd by Gordon Carlstrom, all voted to accept the bid of C&L Landscaping to do the blasting work on Clark Hill Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Kim DiPetro wanted to know if C&L had insurance and whether we had checked references. The answer to both questions was “yes”.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gordon Carlstrom, 2nd Lois Briere, all in favor.

Burton Reynolds
Town Administrator