

Minutes - Selectmen's Meeting - February 12, 1990

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 pm were Selectmen Mansfield, Dodge and Johnston with Sandra Gendron taking minutes.

John Ballou Chief of Police was in to discuss with the Selectmen a letter which had been received by the board complaining of a lack of response by the Police Department with regard to an incident that had occurred over a year ago. John agreed the situation should have been handled, had been neglected and he would tend to the matter immediately. Selectman Dodge suggested that a letter of apology be sent and a request for two new estimates be submitted so that the matter of damage to this individual's vehicle could be repaired. The Chief also discussed with the Selectmen a price he had received to put his existing troubled burglar alarm system back in good repair. Selectman Johnston who has expertise in the field of protection systems felt the quote received was a good price and the Chief should probably go with it.

At 7:30 the Selectmen joined the members of the Recreation Commission and members of the Playground Association for a meeting to discuss relocation of the soccer field, a project the Recreation Commission has been raising funds for. Much discussion ensued as to various locations that might be appropriate for construction of such a field. The one currently being looked at is a spot behind the Central School beyond the cistern that is owned by the Town. Sandy Gallup Recreation Director had hoped to have a topo map of this site available for this meeting but had not been able to achieve this. It is the hope of the Recreation Commission that much of the site work necessary for this project would be donated by local contractors. The Selectmen support the proposed location and once the topo map is completed and submitted the determination will be made as to whether this site is a feasible location. There was discussion between the Recreation Commission and the Playground Association as to other proposed sites and these discussions will continue between the two organizations.

Carolyn Strong was in at 8:00 pm to request that the gravel permit now issued in the name of Harold Strong on land that she owned be transferred to her name. Since she is the owner of record the Selectmen felt that her request was well within her rights. Carolyn expressed concern as to reclamation of the area in which gravel had already been removed and the Selectmen explained to her that this permit was grandfathered and was not subject to the current regulations regarding reclamation. The Selectmen requested that Carolyn submit to them a letter stating her intentions for the future operation of the pit. They further suggested to Carolyn that she might contact Rita Houghton owner of an abutting pit regarding establishing an agreement between the two as to the removal of gravel on the hill that is currently being worked representing the boundary between the landowners.

Elliott Hersey Chairman of the Finance Committee was in at the request of the Selectmen, along with Elliott was member of the committee James Dane, the only member that Elliott could contact on short notice. The Selectmen wanted to discuss with Elliott the chart he presented for printing in the Town Report projecting the 1990 tax rate their concern being the fact that these projected

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into consideration when DRA calculated our 1990 rate next fall. They also wanted to discuss with the committee the possibility of financing the note to fund the closure of the landfill over four years rather than the three which had been presented to the committee when the budgets were being discussed. Although the Souhegan Bank was only willing to lend the funds needed for a three year period, after inquiries made by Sandra Gendron it appeared other banks in the area were willing to lend for longer periods of time; namely, the Milford Co-op. The Selectmen wanted to discuss with the Finance Committee borrowing the money for four years at a fixed interest rate of 8% from the above-mentioned bank. They also discussed whether some of the recommendations that would be made to the taxpayers by the Finance Committee might change should the terms of the financing of the closure of landfill change. Elliott felt the committee would still support pushing the addition to the highway garage ahead to a year when the CIP was not as high. Everyone seemed to agree that if the Police Department could find a four-wheel drive vehicle for the reduced amount of money that it would be a Police Department decision as to whether to purchase four or two-wheel drive. However, based on the amount of the surplus available Elliott would rework his chart to reflect the influence this would have on the projected 1990 rate. The Selectmen also relayed the fact that there would be an article in the warrant suggesting that New Boston collect taxes on a semi-annual basis beginning in 1991. Everyone felt that this would probably reflect substantial savings in reducing or eliminating completely the need to borrow tax anticipation money. On one last topic, it was discussed to place an article in the warrant to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000. for the use of the Historical Society with accountability of the funds to the Town. The members of the Finance Committee agreed to the concept of this proposed article.

Fire Chief James Dodge was in discuss with the Selectmen the status of the bids for the tanker body to be placed on the truck being proposed for purchase at Town Meeting. The department favors accepting the bid of Valley which is approximately \$1,000 higher than the lowest bid received. This company has many fire trucks that they have built in the area with very satisfied customers and further they will start to build now and in the event that funding is not made available by vote of Town Meeting they would have the capability of selling to another Fire Department this piece of equipment putting the New Boston Fire Department under no obligation at present. The Selectmen supported the Fire Department accepting the bid of the above-mentioned company.

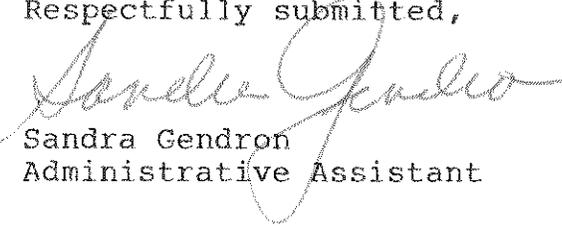
On another topic Chief Dodge requested that the Selectmen place the Constitution #2 Handtub under the jurisdiction of the Fire Department since the Handtub Association is no longer active. There are members of the New Boston Fire Department who would like to take the handtub to the 100 year anniversary of Newburyport, Ma. for display only not for competition. Jim would like this request granted so that the Fire Department could spruce up, show in various parades and insure the handtub. Selectman Dodge moved to authorize the Town of New Boston Fire Department to oversee, care for and show the Constitution #2 Handtub, this was seconded by Selectman Johnston and so voted by all three Selectmen.

The next topic for discussion by the Selectmen was a proposed

The concern that arises from this proposal is the two driveways that Frank would like to put on a Class VI Road. It does not appear that this Class VI Road will ever be upgraded to Class V and if it were ever to be abandoned obviously problems would arise if driveway permits had been approved for use. The Selectmen would like Frank Fillmore to research this particular stretch of Class VI Roadway. Frank is proposing a four lot subdivision, although it appears that this lot can only accommodate three lots and if there is no access on a Class V Road then the law does not allow for a subdivision on a Class VI Road which is what he would be proposing without the fourth lot. The Board of Selectmen would like Selectmen Johnston who is currently representing the Selectmen on the Planning Board to advise the Planning Board to proceed with caution.

This being all the business to come before the Board for this particular evening, checks were signed, mail was reviewed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Gendron
Administrative Assistant