

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Regular meeting of the Waterboro Board of Selectmen.

Present: Bob Fay, Chairman, Dennis Abbott, Dale Witman, Pat Sicard, Patti Berry.

Guests: Danny Laskey, Len VanGaasbeek, Doug Yohman, Pat Swett, Payson McCormick.

APPOINTMENTS

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing Danny Laskey Junkyard Permit. Bob Fay calls public hearing to order. Bob asks if there are any objections to granting this or any questions. Bob motions to grant, is seconded - Motion is passed. Permit is signed by the Board.

7:10 Len VanGaasbeek enters meeting at his request to discuss the stop sign at the end of New Dam Road. Also entering at this time was Payson McCormick. Len was absent at the last Council meeting where it was announced that there would be a stop sign placed at the decision of the Board of Selectmen. Len wonders why the Board didn't go through the same process of having public hearings like the town did for the four way intersection at Chadbourne Ridge Road. Bob Fay explains it was his action, his motion that prompted this change to a stop sign. Because he thought this was a danger after he was almost hit going through this intersection. After this incident, he asked around and found that this was a common occurrence, he decided for the safety of the citizens traveling through the area to motion to change to a stop sign instead of the yield sign that was there. Len says the school transportation dept. has called him and complained about the stop sign. Dennis Abbott says, "with all due respect, we have not heard or received any complaints about this at the Town Hall." Len says the perception is that it is putting 600 people at risk being made to stop on an upgrade and look. Dale Witman states that it is safer to make them stop to look. Bob Fay doesn't have any objections to having a public hearing. There was a survey done by Jack Murphy in 1994 on that intersection, and we will pull that information and set up a public hearing. Bob Fay states that his decision was made in the interest of safety, not as a political implication of any kind. Dale Witman agrees with this.

7:25 Doug Yohman and Pat Swett enter meeting upon their request to make a complaint about a neighborhood dog that runs loose. Bob asks if there is a history of problems with this dog. After some discussion, Bob says the town will inform Chauncey to patrol the area and if he sees the dog loose to pick it up and bring it to the shelter. The dog is a long haired, dark brown sheltie looking dog named Cocoa.

DISCUSSION

Electing some committee members was discussed. Bob's idea was to attempt to bring more community involvement. He also feels we should elect the whole Finance

Committee. We might want to get some public opinion on this. We might want to have some regular people on some of these committees, Example: the Road Review committee is full of construction type people. Would like to open these committees up to the public more. Dennis says if nobody runs for these openings, the Board appoints people. Dale says we might want a 60-40% split of elected and appointed people. 40 being elected so that we might have some leverage for a mixed blend. Dennis states, in the interest of time why don't we submit an Article for town meeting asking permission for ensuing years to elect the minority of some committees and appoint the majority. With the exception of the Finance Committee which should all be elected. Dennis states that there would have to be a charter written to tell these elected committees what is expected of them. The wording can be researched this week and discussed more next week. We need to find out if these committees were set up by town meeting vote or by creation of the selectmen.

Update on the County Budget. Dale Witman reports as of 12/18 we have a budget. Committee met and voted, the Board of Commissioners were present and at the close of voting ratified the budget. This means an increase of 1 % from taxation. The total budget was increased 6.4 % but was held to a 1% increase from taxation due to increased revenues. The Commissioner's request for a full time personnel director was turned down. There was a controversy on Captain LaBlance's position at Sheriff's Dept. It was proposed to eliminate her position, but was voted down for the facts that her salary is funded by revenues from fees and fines and that her work getting people in community based programs and out of cells saves enough money to keep her position.

The funding of two more patrol officers was passed. The sheriff's will be on swing shift to increase coverage. There was an increase in cost of communications department because Bob Bohlman was working two positions at once with no reimbursement of salary. When he stepped down from one of them and a replacement had to be hired. A lot of communications towers are in need of repair. The commissioners are hoping in the future to have towers be self supporting or even revenue generating programs.

Another controversy of the York County Commissioners was their goal to eliminate funding of social services which are referred to as external social agencies. They have in mind to faze out of the budget in 3 years. The committee recommended to budget the same as in past years. The committee felt that they couldn't afford to balance the budget by taking away from people in the direst of needs.

Bob states that although he believes the budget committee is well qualified to do what they do, he does not agree that it is their job to tell the commissioners what they should do or should not do with the budget. It is their job to review and make recommendations. Bob says legislature should put a cap on the power of the budget committee. The committee should be able to reduce, not add, to the budget. They are not a policy setting committee; that is the job of the commissioners.

Dale was pleased to see the county hold the budget to a 1 % increase. Since 1995 the average increase has been 3.3%.

ALPHA ONE discussion. Pat asks what the Board wants to do. We have enough information to get costs for the work that needs to be done. It is Pat's opinion that there are five priorities as follows: 1. Bringing the ramp at the main entrance up to code. 2. make the existing handicap restroom more accessible. 3. Change the stage area to small office and meeting room. 4. Improve existing inside ramp, the hand rails need changing. 5. The second floor entrance needs fixing, it is a safety hazard.

Dennis says that priorities 1,2,and 3 are most important. Bob asks how much money is available for the renovations. Pat states we have almost \$17,000. We would want to request balance forward for any moneys we don't use this fiscal year. We should put in a request for \$10,000.00 for next year for future renovations. Pat is told to go ahead and start getting bids. Bob would also like to see us get a cost to utilize the cellar, which would mean installing an elevator and sprinklers. Pat suggested the Board think about painting the interior of this building. The Board agreed we could include that with the other work when it is being done. All agreed to do what we have money for and request balance forward for next year.

DOT discussion. Dennis bring up the fact that last February the Board received a letter from DOT regarding snow removal on 8 ½ miles of Routes 202 and 5. They are requiring the Town to plow intermittent parts of these roads because the town has reached a population of over 3500. Pat will be meeting with DOT next Tuesday for a preliminary informational meeting. The Selectmen would like DOT to define what the State wide criteria is for determining why the Town would have to plow State Roads, and why only spots of them. The Selectmen will want to meet with DOT and maybe have Jim Libby and Mike MacAlevey present at this meeting. Maybe we should hold a regional meeting with all representatives, including neighboring, on this subject.

Pat informs selectmen that John Monteith is leaving for Florida for two months, and she will be doing General Assistance for that time.

Bob would like a reminder of committee meetings once a week or every other week. The selectmen told Pat that if she attends a lot of night meetings to take some time off during the week to compensate for her time. Dennis reminds Pat that we have council meetings for the committees to report to the selectmen. Pat is going to the meetings to give the committees some direction.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST Discussion. Dale states that this should be approached cautiously. The draft that we received from our attorney goes well beyond what is required by State Law. Dennis says, it is logical to have a code of ethics policy that is more encompassing. Bob would like a copy of the State Statute for next week. Pat would like to set a standard where new committee members get an orientation and receive a copy of code of ethics if we adopt one. Dennis agrees.

Bob feels that it should have come before the Board before our attorney was called and we spent money on her drafting a conflict of interest ordinance.

Pat informs selectmen that the stumps will be burned at the dump next week.

The mail carrier for the West Shore Road would be pleased if the boxes were moved. It was suggested to Pat that when she meets with DOT next week to discuss this road with them at the same time. We need to find out how to get the mail boxes moved because of the danger it causes when people are getting their mail along Route 5. We should check with the Post Mistress, the people who get their mail there. Maybe consider putting cluster box in.

Discussion of the cut off for Town Meeting went on. Dennis states that although we've set a precedent we are not bound to hold to the 60-90 day deadlines. Bob would like to see the Board vote this invalid. Dale disagrees, saying for 9 years it has been done that way and if an Article came in after the deadline it is still heard and the issue has never been turned away. Dennis feels that makes it a mute point.

Preparations for tomorrow's Planning Board meeting was discussed. The final verbiage for an Article does not have to be submitted by the 60-90 day deadline. Just the fact that an Article will be submitted. The wording can come later. The Board asked Pat to get a commitment from the Planning Board on how many Articles they want to submit and to identify them. Bob would like Pat to find out if the Planning Board is having any more public informational meetings.

UPDATE ON SIMANONOK SUIT: There is a statement from Karen Lovell for the Selectmen. A copy of the response to Ralph being served. Pat thinks we should send a copy of Karen's letter to all named in the suit. The Board agreed. Karen suggests that no one sign the waiver of service forms. The response was filed with the courts on 12/31.

Town Report Bids were discussed. Dale motions to award the bids to Diamond Press. Dennis adds that this should be subsequent to Pat meeting with them before we commit to establish their capabilities. The Board decides to print 2500 reports.

Dale asks when are the picnic tables going to be brought in. Pat informs him that Dave Dittmer and Fred Fay worked on them today.

MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE OF MEETING:

Continuance of meeting. Due to the lateness of the hour, the Board decided to continue this meeting on Saturday morning at 8:30, to discuss the issues they didn't get to tonight. (Planning Position and evaluations policy.)

SIGNED

The Board of Selectmen signed the Warrant for Bills and Payroll.

They also signed the following:

1. Review and signed the minutes of 12/30/96
2. One background check for Maine State Police.
3. Contract to Custom Transfer.
4. Contract to RWS-Higgins.
5. Letter to Doug Foglio. RE: Waste Oil at Dump
6. Letter to James Gerry RE: Waste Oil at Dump
7. One tax abatement.
8. Appointment papers as follows: Thomas Searles to the Conservation Committee and Recycling Committee. Barbara Krew to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

CONTINUATION OF THE JANUARY 7, 1997 SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Attending: Bob Fay, Dennis Abbott, Dale Witman, Pat Sicard.

Selectmen Bob Fay motioned to reopen the meeting o January 7, 1997 at 8:30 a.m. and the motion was seconded by Dennis Abbott. All voted in favor.

The first item for discussion was the planning position. Pat stated that she would like further clarification of the balance of duties of Selectmen's Assistant as well as working on planning. She gave an update regarding issues the Planning Board was working on, and the need to do comprehensive long range planning as well as land-use planning. She also requested a mid-probationary review of performance.

At 8:35 a.m. Dennis Abbott motioned that the meeting go into Executive Session for a personnel issue, which was seconded by Bob Fay. All voted in favor. The Executive Session ended at 9:20 a.m.

Pat informed the Selectmen that Neil Courtney wanted to meet with them separate from a regularly scheduled meeting to report on some of his findings regarding the Fire/Safety system in Waterboro. Pat told Neil that selectmen's meetings are always open to the public after Neil had stated that the last meeting was rushed due to its inclusion in the regular meeting, and other agenda items, and he did not get a chance to present all of the information that he planned to present. He requested a meeting on January 22, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. All selectmen are able to be at the meeting and it will be posted.

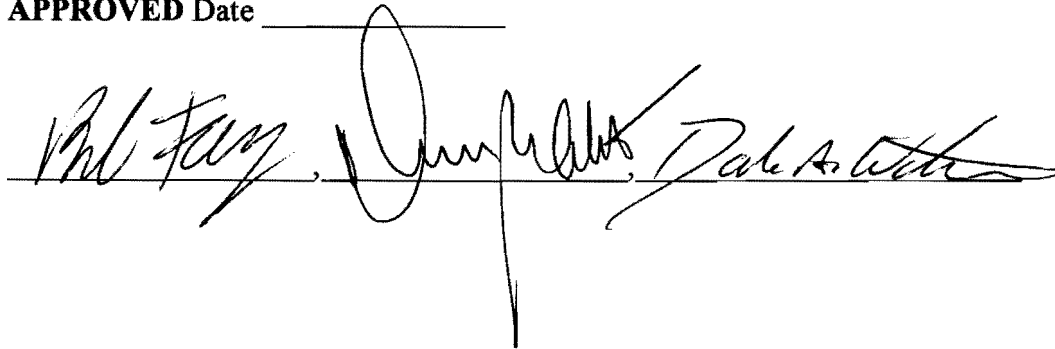
A system for providing personnel annual and probationary period reviews was discussed. No resolution was reached and the process will be discussed further at a future meeting.

The Selectmen agreed that, under their direction, Pat Sicard will oversee all employee personnel issues, including most performance reviews for paid staff, and will supervise all paid staff. Elected officials are reportable to the voters.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was at 9:45 a.m.

APPROVED Date _____

Three handwritten signatures in cursive script are written over a horizontal line. The first signature on the left is 'Pat Fay', the middle signature is 'Pat Sicard', and the signature on the right is 'Pat A. [unclear]'. The signatures are written in dark ink.