

TOWN OF DURHAM



Office of the First Selectman

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 20, 1989

Maryann P. Boord
First Selectman

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by First Selectman Maryann P. Boord; Francis E. Korn, Selectman, present; Hugh A. Curley, Selectman, absent. Other townspeople were present at various times: George Gulielmetti, Carl N. Otte, Joseph Burns, Terry Burns, Karen Avitabile, Patty Romandetti, Brian Curtis, Kurt Bober, Harvey Waller, Robert Glidden.

Appointment

Motion M. Boord, second F. Korn, to appoint Gladys B. Lavine and Leonard B. Kohlhofer to membership on the Connecticut Housing Partnership Program (CHPP); 2 ayes.

Insurance

Joseph Burns, Colonial Life Insurance Co. representative, was present. Mrs. Boord reported that Janet Muraca, who has been handling employee benefits, said that she felt employees presently get good coverage and could personally acquire additional coverage without the added clerking time needed to provide the payroll deduction. Mrs. Boord said her opinion is that it is a good opportunity that should be presented to the employees; Francis Korn agreed, and by memo, Mr. Curley also agreed. Mr. Burns and Mrs. Boord will discuss scheduling.

Minutes

1) Motion M. Boord, second F. Korn, to approve the Public Hearing of the Board of Selectmen relative to grants of April 6, 1989; 2 ayes.

2) Motion M. Boord, second F. Korn, to approve the Selectmen's meeting of April 6, 1989; 2 ayes.

Correspondence

1) Letter of congratulations from State Senator Thomas Sullivan on the town's approval of Connecticut Housing Partnership status.

2) Letter from Twin Maples thanking Mrs. Boord for having the street light installed across from the facility.

3) Labor Department report that February 1989 unemployment in Durham was 2.9%.

4) Memo from Anton Zimmer and Anna Mae Spooner requesting carryover of their vacation time into Fiscal Year 1989-1990. Board members agreed to allow it.

Update From the First Selectman

1) Re Street Numbering: part of the delay is due to the fact that the post office has requested they be allowed to add the zip plus four to the address, which is scheduled for about a year from now. The town's part should be completed in June and then will be sent to New Haven offices to have the zip + 4 assigned. Joan Quick will notify Main Street businesses with numbers very soon.

2) She spoke to Judy Croteau, Travelers Inc., requesting more information on the Tax Reform Act.

3) Re Ambulance Corps security system--Maureen Turcotte, Captain, told Mrs. Boord that there does NOT need to be electricity coming into the building for the security system to work. This was in answer to a question raised at the last Selectmen's meeting. She also mentioned that the success of the "request for donations" drive may result in the town only being required to pay half the cost of the new security system.

4) Re Middletown Press article by Karen Avitabile about the Nick Pomeranz 91 acre parcel of land: Karen said that Planning and Zoning Commission members will likely be attending tonight's meeting and they want the parcel to be researched carefully. Mrs. Boord reported to Mr. Korn that the Trinity Corps felt that a 91 acre parcel was too large a piece for the scope of their project, but the 15 acres, previously offered, is still being considered--she has sent a letter of response to Mr. Pomeranz's offer and spoken with him about it.

Selectmen's Concerns

1) Hugh Curley: memo read re his concerns on the Pomeranz parcel and the proposed Mica Hill Road detour. He is in favor of continued consideration of the Pomeranz offer and opposed, at this point, to the Mica Hill detour.

Mica Hill Road Detour

George Gulielmetti: expressed his strong concern about the proposed detour: road is very narrow, there are sharp turns and much erosion due to the subdivision. He understands the state will not accept any responsibility for any damages. There was a recent truck/bus incident on Mica Hill that only increased his concern about allowing the detour. He suggests two other solutions: 1) shut half the highway at one time or 2) use a by-pass. He added that no one else should suffer...it's Mr. Waller's problem. The anticipated 5 day period of excavation is very unlikely. He added that 10 wheelers detouring on the road would ruin it and they could never

pass one another. The Town, he went on to state, has not always been successful in getting Mr. Waller to conform to town requests...Mr. Waller would never assume financial responsibility, he felt.

Carl N. Otte: felt it's the stupidest thing ever proposed in Durham. Road can't handle the traffic due to poor road construction in the first place. Similar experience happened with the construction off Indian Lane. Will be a very costly thing to the town and there are three very unsafe corners on the road. Never designed for that amount of traffic.

Robert Glidden: lives across from the Mica Hill Cemetery and is very concerned about the traffic...can't get out of his driveway now; he has children he's also concerned about, who play in the front yard. Requests "Children Playing" sign and Mrs. Boord suggested he write her a short memo of request. Mr. Glidden added "we have a personal stake in this!"

Maryann P. Boord: reported talking to state representatives of DOT about the possibility of diverting heavy truck traffic; they said the town could write a letter requesting same and they would honor the request but would accept NO responsibility for any part of it, not for signs, diverting traffic, liability, any of it.

Francis E. Korn: He has seen the road and it is not in the best condition...has seen the road is very narrow, and, he too, has been considering alternative solutions. He suggests: 1) single lane configuration or 2) diverting traffic. He is not in favor of detour. The most important interest is public safety--that is why the Board of Selectmen has asked the First Selectman to further investigate other alternatives.

Hugh A. Curley (by memo): 1) town should not undertake this detour at this time; 2) wants to know Mr. Waller's alternatives.

Harvey Waller, Mica Hill Subdivision developer, then joined the meeting and offered his position: we are planning to put in a box culvert. The original plans called for a 42" pipe. The cost of using half the road as the state is doing on Rt. 68 is horrendous. The course of the construction is five days. If there is something he can do to Mica Hill Road, ie, speed bump or regrade it, it is worth a great deal to him, monetarily, not to get into the jersey breakers, etc. The month of June was selected because it is usually one of the driest months. Concrete trucks have already been using the road. Would make restoration for damages to Mica Hill Road although he doesn't expect any damages to occur. He felt the bypass could be brought into the east or west and divert traffic on that. Andy Wimler doesn't want him to do that. The other side of the road is Ray Wimler's land and he is not in favor of filling in the wetlands. He guaranteed to the town and residents as much as he must do, he will do.

Robert Glidden: Has talked to one of Waller's contractors about his

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own speeding which hasn't been slowed, and he doesn't want any more traffic. He sympathizes with Mr. Waller's position, however. Told Mr. Waller, he can't guarantee what every person is going to do on that road.

Discussion re how to work out the various suggested options. Mr. Waller stated he will press the issue of alternatives with the state; Mrs. Boord said the Board of Selectmen will support his efforts, offering to write a letter of support from her office with concerns expressed tonight. Mr. Waller said the state's solutions could be more than his budget can support.

George Gulielmetti addressed Mr. Waller with additional concerns, which he has brought before the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen:

- 1) the berm installed has been ineffectual;
- 2) culvert is plugged up;
- 3) has incurred tremendous damage to his property from the water runoff.

Harvey Waller told Mr. Gulielmetti he should have come directly to him instead of the Board and Commission. Mr. Gulielmetti pointed out there has been a lack of fulfilling promises and so he's not so willing to say it's all ok---but he's willing to work with Mr. Waller to come to mutual agreement. Mr. Waller and Mr. Gulielmetti agreed to meet.

Brian Curtis was asked by Mrs. Boord if he would like to say anything: he noted PZC concerns about the narrowness and curves on the road; the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended the by-pass solution.

Public Comments

Kurt Bober

- 1) We have not been maintaining our vehicles and they have not been taken care of--we now have planned to buy a new loader...should be tended to at 250 hrs and hasn't been.

2) Asked if the town has authorized anyone to cut town trees near Anthony Terrace. Mrs. Boord responded it is not a town project. Mr. Bober asked if the tree warden has condemned the trees and Mrs. Boord responded "yes." Mr. Bober pursued by asking if a private person took down the trees and then he wanted to know the legalities of a resident paying for it. Mrs. Boord stressed that the Board of Selectmen has taken care of the problem. Mr. Bober asked Mrs. Boord if she was refusing to answer. Mrs. Boord said no, she already told him that it was not paid by the town. Mr. Bober again asked if the townspeople paid to have trees taken down. She and Mr. Korn responded not that they knew of. Mr. Bober again pressed by asking if the town paid the Wilkinson's on Haddam Quarter Road for trees taken down; Mrs. Boord said the Town ultimately paid the bill and Davey tree took the tree down. And again Mr. Bober asked if on Haddam Quarter Road, did a resident

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have to pay Davey Tree to take a tree down and then the town have to pay to have it taken down; and again, he asked did the town of Durham reimburse the Wilkinson's for a tree that was taken down. Mrs. Boord responded it was a town tree taken down by Davey Tree and the town ultimately paid the bill. Mr. Bober's further questions on this issue were ruled out of order by the First Selectman. She asked him if he had any other comments. Mr. Bober asked if the town will insure that vehicles are taken care of and Mrs. Boord responded yes.

Input From Planning and Zoning Commission

Brian Curtis, Chairman, reported that James Gibbons gave a presentation at last night's meeting relative to work he is doing to inventory natural resource areas in town and areas to incorporate into open space. In the upcoming year, PZC plans to update the Plan of Development and later in the meeting the 91 acre parcel came up for discussion and the commission was very much interested in looking into that in much detail as to: open space, moderate/elderly housing; sand/gravel supply; surface water body for recreation. They talked about pursuing desirable areas to be purchased by the town. It was agreed that a subcommittee would be a very good idea and could consist of representatives of various agencies such as Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands Agency, and James Gibbons.

In related matters, Carl Otte noted that in 1975, the Pomeranz property was looked at as a town acquisition and the town's financial situation, at that time, prevented the purchase. When Foster Mather was First Selectmen, he looked at it for use as a sand and gravel operation. The Town should find out how much gravel is there and the quality of it. There is an opportunity here for a multiple-use project. There are people who can go in and make a determination of worth. His dream has been to have a town facility of pond and washed sand/gravel. Richard Vynalek has estimates as to how much gravel is there.

Mr. Curtis said that ultimately, the town will have to get out there and do sand/gravel borings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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