

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015 – 10:00 AM**

Present: Chair, Lorn Buxton, David McGuckin, Selectman, William Stewart, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Vinny Taccetta, Rita McPhee Fusco, Philip Fusco, and Mundy Tarbell.

Chair Buxton convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of July 20, 2015.

Approved as amended.

2. Public Q & A.

Rita Fusco, abutter to 25 Piscataqua Street, submitted a letter to the Select Board expressing concerns relative to proposed changes to the property; specifically potential damage to trees. She stated an additional letter from an expert will be forthcoming.

3. Items.

a. 1 Steamboat Lane.

Vinny Taccetta, property owner, and permit applicant, appeared before the Board to request that the finger floats located on his dock, which currently encroach upon the Town's extended right of way, remain as is.. The Board noted that currently the floats encroach 6 feet, and after discussion, decided it is in the Town's interest for the Select Board to physically re-visit the subject area. Selectman McGuckin moved to table this matter until the next Select Board meeting on August 17, 2015. Selectman Stewart seconded and the Motion carried.

b. Government Land Uses.

Chair Buxton explained that as a result of a citizen's inquiry regarding the Town's need to go before local land use boards for any building projects, he had obtained two legal opinions. The opinions concurred that the town and school are not required to seek comment but not approvals from local land use boards. . The Select Board discussed whether it believed the Town should voluntarily come before the boards for approval. Adopting such a rule would only apply to the current Select Board. After further discussion, the Board agreed to adopt a rule stating that all Town projects should be reviewed by and subject to local land use boards and commissions. **c. Ritson Street.**

Selectman Stewart reported that legal counsel has drafted documents resolving this matter. Once received, he will report back to the Board.

4. Other Old Business.

a. Terry Golter flag request.

This matter will be heard at the August 17, 2015 Select Board meeting at 7:00 PM.

5. Other New Business.

a. Hazardous Waste.

Selectman McGuckin presented a draft of the Town's expression of interest to the 53-B compact regarding allowing New Castle residents to continue to drop off their hazardous waste at the Hampton facility once per year in the spring. The cost to the Town is estimated at \$50.00 per car. 53-B officials would track users. Historically, the average usage is 20 residents per year.

b. Insurance for the Common.

After discussion of the current provisions of insurance coverage for gate receipt losses by theft, the Board concluded to not proceed with changing the deductible, and to maintain the current coverage.

c. Regionalization of fire services.

In response to a letter to the Select Board from Bill Kingston regarding regionalization of fire services, Chair Buxton agreed to draft a response.

d. Fiscal Year end information.

Chair Buxton reported that FY 2014-2015 is closed, and the Town did very well. Revenues exceeded the budgets, the Common did well, car registrations are up, and with the exception of legal costs, expenses were under budget. While the Public Works Department was under budget, there are still projects remaining to be completed.

e. The Select Board also heard from resident Mundy Tarbell regarding his concerns which were as follows:

- Excessive police presence on the Island.
- Questions about police and fire personnel availability at their respective offices.
- Concern about current status of Fire Wards.

The Board agreed to check into the office staffing of both police and fire departments. The Board explained that with respect to Fire Wards, the Town voted to eliminate the positions as of May 2016. They do still meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM.

6. Committee Reports.

a. Fire Department.

Selectman Stewart provided his report for July 2015:

New Castle Fire Department Monthly Report – July 2015

1. Calls for service in July: 23 Calls for service, year to date: 107
2. Type of calls in July: 9 Medical Aid calls, 3 Fire Alarms , 3 Bicycle Accidents, 3 Mutual Aid to USCG, 1 Broken water pipe in a house, 1 Boat Escort, 1 EMS standby for police incident, 1 un-permitted burn on Leach's Island, 1 Motor Vehicle Accident
3. Average response time: 4.86 minutes.
4. Average # personnel per incident in July: 3.52 and 3.35 YTD.

5. Apparatus responding to incidents:
 - Rescue 7 responded to 14 incidents in July and 59 YTD.
 - Forestry 1 responded to 4 incidents in July and 20 YTD.
 - Engine 1 responded to 0 incidents in July and 3 YTD.
 - Engine 4 responded to 5 incidents in July and 20 YTD.
 - Hose 1 responded to 0 incidents in July and 1 YTD.
 - Marine 2 responded to 1 incident in July and 2 YTD.
 6. Training in July: 175 Man Hours. Year to date: 858 Man Hours.
 - One member attended a Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support program in Concord.
 - One member attended a Threat Assessments in Schools program in Concord.
 - Three members attended an Air Medical Operations class at Portsmouth Regional Hospital.
 - 22 members participated in a Water Rescue Drill with Coast Guard Station Portsmouth Harbor.
 7. Public Outreach Activities in July:
 - The department participated in the town 4th of July Parade and cooked for the public.
 - Marine 2 participated in the Tall Ships Parade.
 8. Mutual Aid Given in July:
 - U.S. Coast Guard, 2 Medical Responses and one EMS standby during a training evolution.
 9. Budget remaining on 7/23/15:
 - Fire Department, \$351,074.89, 97.46%
 - Emergency Management, \$7,517.00, 100%
 10. Staffing:
 - 2 fulltime paid members and 29 volunteer members.
 - New Members:
 - Max Riffert, 163 Odiorne Point RD. Portsmouth, NH 03801, Firefighter/EMT
 - Zeeba Hasan Qureshi, 52 Main Street, New Castle, NH 03854-0154, EMT Student
 11. Areas of Concern: None
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Selectman Stewart made a Motion to go into non-public session for purposes of discussing employee evaluations. Motion was seconded by Selectman McGuckin and the Board went into non-public session at 10:30 AM.

The Board came out of non-public session and the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.