

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 – 10:00 AM**

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

Also present: Chief Don White, Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board, Priscilla Hodgkins, Town Clerk, Nancy Borden, and Dick Spaulding.

Chair Buxton convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

**1. Approve Select Board minutes of September 23, 2015.**

The minutes of the Select Board Meeting of September 23, 2015 were approved as amended.

**2. Public Q&A.**

**Request from Bordens relative to dock storage.**

Resident Nancy Borden was present to request permission from the Town to store their docks on the Town Landing. This is a recurring request which has customarily been granted. Chair Buxton made a Motion to Approve the Borden's request to store docks on the Town Landing. This was seconded by Selectman Stewart and Motion carried.

Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board, stated that there is currently an unknown kayak lying up against the garage in the vicinity of the Town Landing which should be removed. Nancy Borden will try and find out who it belongs to. Priscilla Hodgkins suggested placing a sign on the kayak indicating that it will be confiscated by the police if not retrieved. The Select Board and Chief White agreed.

**3. Items.**

**a. Traffic Study Petition.**

Police Chief Don White discussed the need for an electronic speed sign which would be placed beneath the current speed limit signs. It is moveable with the purchased brackets. Chief White described this as a means to applying the department's assets more efficiently. He estimated final cost to the Town would be within \$3700 and \$4300. He does not have the money in his budget for the current fiscal year which ends June 30th. He noted that some members of the public have expressed a desire to donate funds. After further discussion the Board agreed to review the budget to see if the purchase can be covered, and agreed that private donations would be appropriate. Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Proceed with obtaining a demo of the radar sign with the possibility of purchasing with a combination of public and private funds. Selectman McGuckin seconded. Motion carried.

The second part of this discussion item was the recent petition regarding traffic speed reduction measures. A recently enacted State Statute allows municipalities to petition the State to allow for seasonal reduced speed limits, and State Senator Stiles is assisting New Castle with getting approval from the DOT to implement a speed limit reduction for four months beginning in May for a specified area of Rte. 1B. A petition needs to be done to support the Select Board's request for the seasonal reduction. Selectman McGuckin will

notify Dr. Zuckerman who heads up the local group to have a new petition ready for the next Select Board meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM..

**b. Private Hydrant Service Agreement**

Tabled.

**3.c. Website request from Garden Club.**

Chair Buxton made a Motion to approve requests of both the Garden Club and the New Castle Historical Society to have their websites linked from the Town's website. Selectman Stewart seconded and Motion carried. Pam Cullen will take care of posting the links.

**3.d. Alarm system - phone.**

The Board discussed the various problems with Protection One's alarm system in Town Hall which uses Bayring, one of the telephone providers. The alarm sounds often due to an error in the communication line (phone line). In order to rectify this matter Chair Buxton reported that Protection One proposed to replace the cooper wire with a Fire Department type radio communication device, costing \$800 to install, and \$50 per month service charge. He noted there would be no real savings because the Town's facsimiles need the existing copper wire. After further discussion, the Board agreed to have Steve Tabbutt notify Protection One that the Town is not interested at this time, but expects to revisit the issue after the 2016 Town Meeting where the residents will consider a warrant article for town hall renovations.

**3.e. Regional Economic Development Commission. ("RECD").**

Chair Buxton stated the RECD is looking for members from New Castle who are business owners in the community to contribute to the economic development discussion. Selectman McGuckin stated he thought Mike McAndrew's current participation in RECD was ample to cover New Castle's needs. Selectman Stewart agreed; however thought a notice posted on the Town website to solicit volunteers would be appropriate. The Board agreed and Pam Cullen will put a posting up.

**3.f. Health Trust Agreement.**

Selectman Stewart reported on the status of his research. The contract from Health Trust Inc. is an omnibus agreement which needs to be signed before purchasing coverage through Health Trust. He noted the deadline is January 1, 2016 for final action.

**4. Other Old Business. - None.**

**5. Other New Business.**

**a. Flags.**

Chief White stated he had received comments from residents about the need for flags which are kept up after dark to be illuminated as required by law. This may affect the pending flag project which will be back before the Board on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Committee Reports.**

### **a. Police Department.**

Selectman McGuckin reported on police activity for the month of September. There were 65 warnings issues, 139 house checks, and 8 summonses issued. Overall it was a quiet month. Chief White noted he had two violations of the hands free law. (cell phones in use).

### **b. Fire Department.**

Selectman Stewart submitted the following report:

#### **New Castle Fire Department Monthly Report – September 2015**

1. Calls for service in September: 20 Calls for service, year to date: 154
2. Types of calls in September: 9 Medical Aid calls, 5 Fire Alarms, 1 Bicycle Accident, 1 Mutual Aid to Kittery, 1 Mutual Aid to Rye, 1 Public Assist, 1 reported Boat Fire, 1 Arcing Wires
3. Average response time: 5.83 minutes.
4. Average # personnel per incident in September: 4.05 and 3.54 YTD.
5. Apparatus responding to incidents:
  - Rescue 7 responded to 11 incidents in September and 89 YTD.
  - Forestry 1 responded to 8 incidents in September and 38 YTD.
  - Engine 1 responded to 0 incidents in September and 3 YTD.
  - Engine 4 responded to 0 incidents in September and 23 YTD.
  - Hose 1 responded to 0 incidents in September and 1 YTD.
  - Marine 2 responded to 1 incident in September and 3 YTD.
6. Training in September: 77 Man Hours. Year to date: 1160 Man Hours.
  - 3 members attended “Engine Company Operations at Dwelling Fires” training in Dover.
  - 6 EMTs attended a class on “Left Ventricular Assist Device” at Portsmouth Regional Hospital.
7. Public Outreach Activities in September: Engine 4 and crew on display at the Portsmouth High School Soccer Team Annual Picnic in the Commons.
8. Mutual Aid Given in September:
  - Forest Fire on Ram Island in Kittery. Forest Fire, Washington Rd. Rye
9. Budget remaining on 9/30/15:
  - Fire Department, see accountant
  - Emergency Management, see accountant
10. Staffing:
  - 2 Career members and 29 Volunteer members.
  - FF2/Paramedic Brentley Childs hired fulltime by Exeter Fire Dept.
11. Areas of Concern: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM.

