

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016 – 7:00 PM**

Present: David McGuckin, Chair, Bill Stewart, Tom Maher Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Fire Chief, David Blanding, Andy Schulte, Nancy Jackson, Bill Kingston, Craig Strehl, Brad Greeley, Phyllis Stibler, Tom Smith.

Selectman McGuckin welcomed newly elected Selectman Tom Maher, and proceeded to the first item on the Agenda.

1. Appointment of Select Board Chairman.

Selectman Bill Stewart made a Motion to Appoint David McGuckin as Chair, which was seconded by Selectman Maher. Motion carried.

2. Minutes of the May 3, 2016 meeting of the Select Board.

Approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2016 meeting was tabled until the next Select Board Meeting.

3. Public Q&A: None.

4. Items.

a. Public Hearings.

1. Parking: 64 Piscataqua Street.

Chair McGuckin opened the public hearing on the following ordinance:

“Parking on Piscataqua Street between the Portsmouth Yacht Club and Cranfield Street shall be restricted to the northeasterly side along the bank of the Piscataqua River. There will be no parking between the Portsmouth Yacht Club and Atkinson Street.”

Tom Smith asked if the owner of the property at 64 Piscataqua Street was aware of the loss of a parking space in front of her home. Chair McGuckin replied that she was aware and had brought the matter to the attention of the Select Board seeking assistance. She has a space along side her home. Selectman Stewart stated the Board had received feedback from the Police and Fire Departments, and the Town Road Agent, all concurring, and he is in favor of the ordinance. Selectman Maher agreed the ordinance made sense and suggested that in addition to the signs, that the pavement be painted. After further discussion, Chair McGuckin closed the Public Hearing and made a Motion to Adopt the ordinance as presented, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried.

2. Fire Boat.

Chair McGuckin stated that the City of Portsmouth transferred the boat to New Castle, and that it had always been in the Fire Chief’s plan to have as a secondary resource. Portsmouth had little use for the boat. New Castle has acquired the boat at no cost; however there will be maintenance costs. He stated that the Fire Chief would attempt to fund those costs out of his budget. This first year will be a trial year. Selectman Stewart stated that the Town may source from other funds, and may have to reallocate within the

Town's operating budget. He noted that the Tarbell fire brought to light several problems, including water flow issues. The fireboat provides the Town with a good secondary resource.

Selectman Maher stated he advocated for acquiring the fireboat, stating it's for the region and the intent of Homeland Security is to protect the regional infrastructure. The boat is a valuable resource. The Town now has 2 boats. The smaller one can be used in the back channel. Both boats are valuable resources.

Chairman McGuckin introduced Chief Blanding.

Chief Blanding stated the boat was brand new in 2006 and can provide 2,000 gallons per minute, which when added to the 600 gallons per minute from the hydrants provides better capability for firefighting. He explained that the boat would be docked at the Wentworth Marina. Volunteer crews will be operating the boat, and Bill Kingston has agreed to assist in their training. He stated it is a good acquisition and a win-win for the Town.

Public Comments:

Tom Smith had a few questions.

His first question was: How would the boat pump up to Main Street in the event of a fire in the village district? Chief Blanding explained the hook up procedure and the availability of Ricker's dock. Tom also asked about the \$60,000 overhaul supposedly due in two years? Chair McGuckin stated that Portsmouth Fire Chief Achilles indicated the overhaul was due in about 3-5 years. Chief Blanding explained that the \$60,000 figure was originally put in Portsmouth's CIP. He does not expect that New Castle's maintenance costs would be as high. Craig Strehl asked about the Fire Chief's capital needs and spoke about an inspection process. Chief Blanding stated the boat had already had its annual maintenance.

Craig Strehl read a letter from Peter Tarleton and asked that it be entered into the record. The letter questioned how the boat will be used to protect the center of Town.

Phyllis Stibler asked if fire protection provided by the boat would be tidal flow dependent. Chief Blanding said it would be to a small extent and discussed the 6 to 8 foot issue, the back channel and pointed out where use of the boat would work best. Paul Hamblett likened the boat to a floating fire hydrant and questioned how many feet of hose would be provided. With the numbers quoted by the Chief the hose could reach a quarter of a mile.

Brad Greely spoke as a member of the Fire Task Force Committee and indicated that acquisition of the fireboat was a wonderful short-term approach to the safety issues identified. He stressed that it was important to have the boat available for the village district and it is a good option for the Town right now.

After further discussion, Chair McGuckin closed the Public Hearing and made a Motion to Accept the Fireboat from the City of Portsmouth. Selectman Maher seconded, and the Motion carried.

4b. Handicap Ramp.

Chair McGuckin noted that this was the third time this item had come before the Select Board and he reported that as requested, the Board referred the matter to the Building Inspector's Office for further review of the feasibility of keeping the space in its current location in front of Town Hall. Their response was that it would be dangerous to keep the space in front and would be non-complaint with ADA requirements. The elevated ramp needs repairs. He noted that some of the problems could be addressed if and when the Town passes a warrant article dealing with Town Hall renovations. Chair McGuckin stated in his view the Town should proceed with placing the space and access in the rear of the building. Selectman Maher agreed, stating that for safety reasons, the space should be located in the back of Town Hall. Selectman Stewart also agreed that the space should be out back. After further discussion, Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Construct a handicap space and access ramp in the rear of Town Hall. Selectman Maher seconded, and the Motion carried.

4.c Copier.

After discussion of the three options for replacing the Town Hall's copier, the Board referred the matter to Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board to acquire a new copier. Selectman Stewart will confer with her and report back.

4.d. Select Board Liaison Assignments.

Chair McGuckin explained the process of assignments of each of the Select Board members to link with numerous departments, boards and committees as liaison. After discussion, it was agreed that Chair McGuckin would take Water and Sewer Commission, School Board, Police Department, and Public Works. Selectman Stewart would take Finance and Conservation Commission and Fire Department. Selectman Maher would take HDC, Legal, and Library. In addition, he would deal with Web Site/IT issues. The following, covered by Selectman Stewart, need to be finalized: Insurance, Property Liability, Health Insurance, Budget, Finance and Personnel Reviews.

5. Other Old Business.

a. Operations Manual.

Tom Smith asked about the Operations Manual project which he and Ken McDonald had offered to do to assist in the transition which will occur in the near future with the retirements of Pam Cullen and Deb Knowles in 2017. It is important that these manuals of policies and procedures be put in place. After discussion, the Board agreed to review this matter.

6. Other New Business.

Tom Smith asked if the Town should consider moving to a Town Manager form of operation. Chair McGuckin said its possible to consider either a Town Manager or Town Administrator, and whether it would should be part time. Selectman Stewart stated the Board had discussed the possibility and agreed to look into it in the future.

7. Committee Reports.

Chair McGuckin explained how each Board member reports on the activities of assigned committees, boards, and departments on a monthly basis.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Adjourn which was seconded by Selectman Maher. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.