

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017 – 7PM

1. Present: Chairman William Stewart, Selectman Damon Frampton, Secretary Pamela Cullen
Absent: Selectman Thomas Maher
2. Guests: NHDOT Project Engineer John Sargent, NHDOT Consultant Design Chief Joe Adams, VHB Project Engineer Julie Whitmore, City of Portsmouth Ray Pezzullo, Jim Cerny, Dave McGuckin, Christiane McAllister
3. The Board discussed the minutes of June 17 and special meeting of June 13. These two sets of minutes will be on the agenda for the next meeting for approval.
3. Public questions and answers:
 - a. Dave McGuckin asked for the status of the new town position titled “Project Coordinator.” Selectman Stewart indicated that the Board had drafted a job description and that the ad for the position has been posted on the New Hampshire Municipal Association website. Stewart said there was one candidate that the Select Board is still having discussions with. The job description was finalized on June 13.
 - b. McGuckin asked for any update on the Portsmouth water line. Chairman Stewart indicated that he just received an email from Underwood Engineering relative to segment costs and component costs. Once these costs are reviewed by the Select Board, they will set up a meeting with Portsmouth to discuss it. McGuckin asked if this would be an agenda item for the next BOS meeting. The Chair said that the cost estimates would be discussed but the timing of the meeting with Portsmouth may not be set.
 - c. Jim Cerny asked if the Board would still have a special town meeting this fall. Chairman Stewart said it was the Board’s hope to have a meeting but it will depend on the meetings with Portsmouth.

There was a question related to the current Sewer By-Pass work and the replacement of the Sewer Pumps. Chairman Stewart said that the sewer bypass had been completed. The process by which the pumps will be replaced is being reviewed with NHDES and as soon as they sign off on the project plan the Town will be moving forward.

4. Items:

a. NHDOT Route 1B - Bridges:

John Sargent of the NH Dept. of Transportation introduced himself along with Design Chief Joe Adams, and Project Engineer Julie Whitmore who is a consultant on the project. The bridges project is number 41253 and is a preservation and maintenance project. Sargent gave a background of the two multi stand steel girder bridges that were built in 1955 and brief description of each one. One bridge is located in the City of Portsmouth and is 540 feet long with 10 spans and the other is in New Castle bridge which is 480 feet long with 9 spans. Sargent then gave a maintenance history

of the bridges; 1978 with painting, 1986 added concrete jackets around steel piles, new pavement and membrane, 2008 added protection from rust, 2011 with paving and patched steel structures, minor concrete repair. Sargent said that the state now needs to go back out with minor road way work and work on road between the two bridges. The bridge work will be full and partial depth repairs and explained what this would entail ranging from minor concrete to steel repair. The state plans to do all the work in the right of way.

Sargent then discussed environmental issues, wetland and shore land permits, hazardous material and added that there is no lead paint or asbestos. Storm water will not be an issue. Sargent said the state plans to advertise the project in fall of 2018 with construction starting in 2019. The cost will be \$2 million. This will be a full summer project. These bridges are not on the red list but they are on the preservation list.

The real issue for the town is traffic with 2,900 cars crossing per day. The state plans on doing alternating traffic with light signals as used in previous maintenance projects. Sargent inquired if there were any issues from the previous maintenance project in 2011. Most questions arose about traffic control and closure of the road. Chairman Stewart asked about pedestrian traffic. Sargent said that bikes will follow through with traffic. Sargent said that there is not enough width to have a pedestrian lane and do the work. Chairman Stewart expressed his concern with pedestrian and bike traffic during construction hours but more importantly during the evening and morning hours when the road will be one lane and controlled by the temporary traffic light. Jim Cerny asked about signs and Joe Adams said there will be signs about the work project on both ends of the road. Sargent said that he will work on signage, closures and pedestrian issues.

Stewart asked about the state parking on Goat Island where there is a pull off for vehicles. There is a lot of erosion between the road and the area abutting the road and could this grade be made better and safer. Sargent said that he would look at that area in question.

Jim Cerny asked about the life span of the bridges when done. Sargent said that the state after this maintenance project the bridges should be good for another 15 to 20 years which would bring both bridges to about the end of their estimated useful life. At this point the bridges might show up on the red list for bridges.

Ray Pezzullo from the city of Portsmouth had concerns about pedestrians on the first bridge. Sargent said that there will be some coordination with Portsmouth.

Stewart questioned the opportunity to affix addition utilities going forward under the bridge. Sargent said that the utilities are hung on brackets which are rated for certain weight and would give Stewart the data if available on this issue.

In conclusion, Stewart thanked Sargent for his presentation.

b. Winter and inclement weather policy and priorities:

Secretary Cullen gave the Board a Winter/Inclement Weather Policy for the town per NHMA suggestion to adopt. She indicated that she reviewed the policy with the road agent and now needs the BOS's approval. We will notify town residents relative to the policy via letter. ACTION ITEM: Agenda Item

c. Abatement reconsideration:

The property owners of 76 Ducks Head, James and Claudia Wilbur, wrote a letter to the Board asking them to reconsider their abatement as some of their questions were not addressed. Secretary Cullen explained the abatement procedure, timing and the Wilburs recourse of action to petition the Board of Tax and Land Appeals or the Superior Court route. Cullen said that she had mailed a copy of the letter to Avitar Associates for their review and comments on June 30 and that the Wilburs knew their letter had been mailed to the assessors. The Board agreed to wait and see what Avitar comes back with.

ACTION ITEM: Agenda Item

d. Congregation Church letter of June 20:

The Board discussed the letter from the church expressing concerns about the context of their activities and the use of their land during a recent filming of a movie.

Chairman Stewart said going forward the Town should be careful to inform those making the request that approvals for use etc only extend to those areas as approved and in no case, include private property. Stewart said that the Town should respond to the Church and express its appreciation their concerns. Dave McGuckin said the request came into the police chief Stewart said that going forward requests that come into the chief of police should also go to the Select Board. Frampton concurred that the town would like to know ahead of time for these types of request.

ACTION ITEM: Chairman Stewart to compose letter

e. Common – non-profit and profit requests. Selectman Frampton did some research and spoke to some people. He asked that the select board reconsider allowing gym classes in the Common. Frampton asked the Select Board Secretary for paper work regarding the Common such as the deeds and other supporting documents. He said that the deeds are very vague and does not state anything about profits and or non-profits. Frampton said currently the town allows volley ball which pays as well as tennis. Stewart noted that Tennis is generally conducted by Rye Recreation and held indoors during approved hours. He went on to say that volleyball is on the beach and that to they do not use the Common. Stewart gave a general history on the volleyball. Frampton would like the Board to reconsider his proposal to allow recreation such as Liz Fit. He feels it is in the best interest of the Town and fits with the purpose of the Common. Ben Jankowski had spoken with the owner, Liz Forkel, in the past about doing a fee or permit for one year and she had no problem with a fee. Stewart felt that the timing was a concern. One of the reasons that the use wasn't allowed in the past was the time at which they wanted to use the Common space. They generally were requesting morning or evening use when the park is not open to the public. Those times are used by Park staff to clean, mow etc. Having people in during those

times makes caring for the park and preparing it harder for the staff. In the past the DPW lead was opposed to having people in there during off hours. Frampton suggested he would talk with both Steve Tabbutt and Ben Jankowski. Stewart said if they agree then he would be more open to the request. Jim Cerny asked why can't they use Fort Stark as they open early and there is parking. The question arose about fees from Dave McGuckin and he gave the history of the volleyball fees that are charged. ACTION ITEM: Agenda Item.

f. Recreation Building surveillance:

Secretary Cullen brought it to the attention of the Board that doors being left open, some equipment isn't being properly stored and that people are using the recreation center without signing up to use it. Stewart said that the Town doesn't have appropriate signage in the Rec. Building and that it should be erected as a first step. Stewart said that there was a suggestion to install a surveillance camera. Frampton talked about motion cameras for the building to ascertain who is entering in the building. The Board discussed where to put up cameras and how people are getting access into the building. Secretary Cullen explained how the Macomber Room code needs to be changed regularly. Secretary Cullen talked about changing the code for the Macomber Room on a regular basis. Stewart asked that the code be change for the Macomber Room similar to how it is changed for the front entrance (weekly). He also noted that signage should be erected on the doors and inside regarding how to sign up for use, and unauthorized use. Selectman Frampton will look into cameras.

g. Rockingham Planning Commission vacancy:

Secretary Cullen said that the town can have two representatives to the Rockingham Planning Commission, and at the present only one position is filled and that is with Michael McAndrew. Cullen had an opportunity to discuss this vacancy with McAndrew for this thought. McAndrew didn't feel it was necessary to have another representative unless someone was offering their service. Cullen then brought up the request from McAndrew for a small donation of \$20 to be given to buy a gift for retiring RPC Chairman Cliff Sinnott. The Board agreed not to increase its representation to RPC and to donate and expressed how helpful Sinnott had been to the town.

h. Town hall alarm:

Tri State Fire Protection. Chairman Stewart said that Tri State will be coming to town hall on Thursday to review and schedule installing a new fire alarm panel replacing the old system. Tri state said that this will identify if the problem is a phone line issue. Stewart said that the cost for the new panel from Tri State is \$3900 which includes the monitor for one year (Town hall only).

5. Any new business

a. Chairman Stewart said the By-pass for the three pump stations has been completed and the next step is the replacement of the pump stations. We have next steps on sewer pump station, working with DES and waiting for Underwood information

This should happen in August and done by the end of fall. Stewart said that they are scheduling a meeting with Portsmouth.

6. Old business

a. Chairman Stewart said we had talked about a demo with the fire boat and that some of the board was interested. Stewart had asked and fire department to make this happen.

ACTION ITEM: Agenda Item

7. The chair asked for any committee reports.

a. The New Castle Fire Department submitted their monthly report for June 2017 which the Chair read. (see attachment) Chairman Stewart said that in the past letters had been written to new members, and to those who have left the department to thank them for their service. In the report, it was noted that Mark Syracuse had resigned and that the department had two new members. Secretary Cullen also noted that Richard Hopley should also be included in a thank you as he had served the town for over 30 years.

ACTION ITEM: Agenda Item

Chairman Stewart called for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Frampton made a motion to adjourn and Chairman Stewart seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.