

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, September 5, 2017 – 2:00 PM

Present: Bill Stewart, Chair, Bill Stewart, Tom Maher, Selectman, Damon Frampton, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary

Also present: Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board, Christiane McAllister, Town Accountant, Jim Cerny, William Henson, Kelsey Dumont, Callie Therrien

1. Approval of Select Board Minutes

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the August 21, 2017 Select Board meeting as amended, which was seconded by Selectman Frampton. Motion carried.

2. Public Hearing re: Pole Licensing

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing. Selectman Maher explained that this matter is being heard as a result of new legislation which was passed pertaining to replacement costs for utilities. It allows the Town to send right of way property tax bills to Eversource, Fairpoint and to Comcast. He noted that our pole licensing documentation is spotty, but we do have documentation for Verizon and Eversource. Avitar has assisted in this process. Selectman Maher recommended that the Board move forward, and he will continue to work on issues related to Comcast, that are not directly related to pole licensing. Selectman Frampton asked for clarification on the taxing of the poles which was answered by Selectman Maher, noting that it was the result of litigation initiated by Fairpoint. He explained it is standard practice to tax poles and there is a methodology for assessment. The companies have agreement with each other. Chair Stewart opened the public hearing. Jim Cerny asked about identifiers on the pole. Chair Stewart and Selectman Maher clarified that the Town has already identified the right of ways, and new legislation provides a methodology for the actual assessments. Selectman Maher made a Motion to Adopt the pole license language as presented. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the Motion carried. Chair Stewart called for a Motion to close the Public Hearing which was made by Selectman Maher and seconded by Selectman Frampton. Motion carried.

3. Public Question and Answer

Pam Cullen asked the Select Board to set a time for the Fire Boat demonstration which is scheduled for September 11th. Selectman Maher will confirm with the Fire Dept. Chief but assumed it would be at 6PM. Pam also noted that is the day of the Blood Drive.

4. Items

a. Alzheimer's Fundraiser – Tricycle Relay Race – Common

Bill Henson spoke on behalf of Wentworth Senior Living, indicating he had sent an Email last week regarding this event, and didn't realize he needed a permit. He thanked Pam for allowing him to be on this week's Select Board agenda. He has already arranged for a police detail and stated it wasn't necessary to close down the Common. The whole relay will be over in an hour and a half maximum. He will provide insurance binder and signed waivers. There will not be any food service provided. Pam Cullen noted we should be careful about the deed restriction about making a profit. She noted it doesn't matter whether or not it's a

non-profit agency. She pointed out other agencies would likely want to do this. Selectman Frampton stated it costs us money for the park and perhaps a fee could be established. Chair Stewart suggested that the Select Board review and consider how these requests are handled. He asked for input from Chief White who stated his main concern is always traffic and safety. He noted he is charging for the police detail, but will waive payment and has no problem with that. Chair Stewart stated the activity is good and non-invasive, and is not in favor of having a committee, but would prefer to have these issues stay before the Select Board. Selectman Maher agreed. After further discussion, Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the Tricycle Relay race at the Common as presented. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the Motion carried. The race is Tuesday, September 12th at 2:00 PM.

Action Item: Chair Stewart stated the Board should take a comprehensive look at how the Common is presently used and formulate a policy. Selectman Frampton stated there was a need to look at rate structures.

b. MS-1 Report

Pam Cullen presented the report to the Board who after review agreed to sign and execute. This document is necessary in order to set the tax rate.

c. Follow up Items

i. Piscataqua Fife and Drum

The group is coming this evening at 6PM for practice. These are young children. Selectman Frampton saw them at Fort McClary. Selectman Frampton said this matter is still under review to determine if this group will be permanent. Also a user rate needs to be determined.

Action Item: Finalize decision regarding the group's use of the Common and determine a rate.

ii. Abatement: 76 Ducks Head

Pam Cullen stated that Avitar (assessing firm) has denied the second request for an abatement of the Wilbur property at 76 Ducks Head. She noted their only avenue of relief at this stage is to appeal to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals.

iii. Sidewalk Extension

Chair Stewart stated he had spoken with Dave Borden who is getting more information on ledge issues removal at Shaw's Circle and right of way, which should be ready to discuss at the next Select Board Meeting, or in approximately two weeks time. Selectman Frampton asked when this project would start up. Chair Stewart stated the funding is in place, but issues remain to be resolved. There was brief discussion on leveling of the roadway near the new construction (Spellman property) asked by Chief White. Chair Stewart stated the Town has no jurisdiction and the State and Property Owner are working through it. He doesn't believe there is any problem with the property owner doing this, and indicated it's a positive development for safety reasons.

iv. Cemetery/Clark

Jim Cerny, Cemetery Trustee, updated the Select Board regarding the Clark family burial plot becoming a part of Riverside Cemetery. He's continuing to research this issue and will work with Town Counsel on legalities of transfer.

5. New Business

a. Employee Reviews

Selectman Frampton asked about status of employee reviews. Chair Stewart stated that the written portions were completed and the only remaining item was to schedule meetings. Chair Stewart suggested the week of September 11th would work.

b. Water update

Chair Stewart noted the ongoing water quality issues and ongoing discussions with Portsmouth. Due to high levels of TTHM's in the last test, notices need to be sent out and reports filed with the State.

c. Special Town Meeting

The attorneys are working on the petition.

6. Committee Reports

a. Fire Department

Selectman Maher provided the following monthly report from Chief Blanding:

New Castle Fire Department Monthly Report – August 2017

1. Calls for service in August: 24. Calls for service, year to Date: 134
2. Types of calls in August: 14 Medical Aid, 4 Fire Alarms, 1 Service Call, 1 Propane Call, 2 Water Rescues, 1 Station Coverage, 1 Tall Ship Parade
3. Average response time in August: 5.14 minutes.
4. Total number of minutes on scene in August: 1,467
5. Average number of personnel per incident in August: 3.96
6. Total number of personnel responding to incidents in August: 95
7. Apparatus responding to incidents:
 - Rescue 7 responded to 13 incidents in August and 70 YTD.
 - Forestry 1 responded to 5 incidents in August and 35 YTD.
 - Engine 1 responded to 0 incidents in August and 0 YTD.
 - Engine 4 responded to 7 incidents in August and 45 YTD.
 - Hose 1 responded to 1 incident in August and 6 YTD.
 - Marine 1 responded to 1 incident in August and 2 YTD.
 - Marine 2 responded to 2 incidents in August and 4 YTD.
8. Training in August: 76 Man Hours of department in-house training. 6 members attended Mass Casualty/ Aircraft Crash training at Pease National Guard Base. 8 members participated in Rescue Swimmer training at the Coast Guard Station.
9. Public Outreach Activities in August: Participated in the Piscataqua Maritime Commission, Sea Challenge Parade of Sail. Participated in the York Parade.
10. Mutual Aid Given in August: Engine 4 responded Eliot for a Structure Fire. Forestry 1 responded to Rye to help with a Medical Aid call.
11. Mutual Aid Received in August: None
12. Budget remaining on 8/31/17:
 - Fire Department: N/A
 - Emergency Management: N/A
13. Staffing: 2 Career members and 28 Volunteer members.
 - New Member: FF1 Peter Anania from Portsmouth
14. Areas of Concern: None.
15. Other Activities: Department Summer Picnic.

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

Meeting adjourned 2:45 PM.

