

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, January 22, 2019 – 7PM

Present: Thomas Maher, Chair, Bill Stewart, Selectman, Damon Frampton, Selectman, and Pam Cullen, Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Select Board.

Also present: Ken McDonald, TAPC, Jim Cerny, Lee Arthur, Recreation Director, Town of Rye, Christiane McAllister, Accountant, Peter Rice, and Steve King, Rye Recreation Commissioner.

1. Approve Minutes January 7, 2019.

Selectman Frampton made a Motion to Approve the Select Board minutes of January 7 2019 as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried.

Chair Maher stated that the next item is for Public Question and Answer for items not listed on the Agenda, and reiterated the request to limit any discussion to five minutes.

2. Public Questions and Answers.

Pam Cullen reported the following:

State Senator Dr. Tom Sherman’s secretary Doug Marino called and stated he would like to come to sat least four future Select Board meeting to keep the Board updated on Concord legislative matters.

United States Coast Guard donations update: There are many diligent residents, such as Jennifer Gray, Paul Hamblett, Jennifer Rumph, Peter Rice, Craig and VJ Strehl who have been donating and organizing financial and food donations to the families and individuals of the USCG during the federal government shutdown. The group “Gather” is coming to town tomorrow from 1-5 at the Station collecting and distributing food items. Peter Rice indicated he had been coordinating the monetary donations from the Town, and the response has been overwhelming.

Terry Barnes: Pam spoke with his widow Patsy to inquire how she was doing and explained about possibly donating a book on Ireland or NASCAR, or Puddle Dock to the New Castle Library or something of that nature. She seemed enthusiastic and receptive. Don Graves is organizing a memorial luncheon for him. Pam requested that a Select Board member give Patsy a call.

Taxes: Pam reported that the Town has collected all but \$56,290 with interest accrued at \$551. Late notices were mailed out a week ago.

3. New Business.

i. Rye Rec Summer Program.

Lee Arthur and Steve King addressed the Board regarding usage of the Common and Rec Building for a portion of their 8-week summer program, to get more children involved in the program and make some changes from the previous years' program. They would like to operate the program 2 weeks at the Common, 4 weeks at Rye Rec, and a two week travel program. She suggested some dates. There is a full time coordinator Kelly Gallant. There would be other staff with her. The age range is K-6th. New Castle residents would benefit as they could participate in the two-week program. Chair Maher stated the schedule needs to be reviewed at the Common. The programs average about 20 per week, and sometimes as many as 30. She noted there is a lot of competition from summer camps. She noted that many people rely upon the program for care especially in the case of two working parents. They have half day and full day sessions. With respect to indoor/outdoor usage of the Common, Lee suggested a few options. They would focus on more outdoor activities at the Common, except in the case of rain. Steve King suggested this plan would enhance opportunities for New Castle as well as Rye. They will connect with New Castle Rec Director, Guy Stearns. Chair Maher thanked them and indicated the Board will check on the schedule with Town staff and get back to them shortly.

ii. Rec Building security.

Chair Maher indicated that the quotes received were shockingly higher than expected, and perhaps another less expensive approach is warranted. He did thank Ken for all of his research. There was discussion about other ways to change the security codes. Chief White is going to submit a proposal for ways to tighten security. Selectman Stewart recalled that they were planning to get an additional camera, and agreed to tighten up the code process and locks. He pointed out new policies can be drafted. He's not interested in a large security system at this time. Chair Maher expressed concerns with the planned installment of audiovisual equipment by the Library which will be in the Macomber room. He suggested that at minimum, the codes and locks be tightened up. The Board agreed with this approach. Ken also asked about other ways to improve the situation with the raising and lowering of the basketball hoops, so that the recent breakage situation can be avoided in the future.

iii. 65 Portsmouth Ave.

Selectman Frampton reported that the situation is progressing. He, Don Graves, and the Lavins will be meeting next week to discuss the wetlands issue. He is removing the shed, and is getting an application for a building permit regarding the basement door.

iv. Water & Sewer update.

Selectman Stewart reported that he had given an extensive update at the last meeting. He stated there is a meeting this week with Underwood regarding budgeting for police details for the project. Underwood wants another progress meeting with the Board in the near future.

Selectman Frampton spoke about the issue with alarms at the pumping station going off a lot, and then clearing itself. Steve Tabbutt is working with the vender to correct the problem.

Jim Cerny asked for an update on the status of the loops. Selectman Stewart gave a brief overview. There will be two phases: the transmission first on the main roads will hopefully be done next summer. Then private streets (loops) will be addressed, the following summer. Jim was concerned about feedback from property owners on applying for money. Bill indicated he has heard from Beach Hill residents but not many of the others. Letters were sent out to the landowners requesting permission to go onto their property. About 50% have responded. A second outreach will need to be done. Bill had a brief meeting with City Manager Bohenko regarding Wentworth Road and next steps, and he expects more of these conversations. This is tied into bridge completion, and the City is looking in the five-year range. It is on their radar.

v. Select Board Meeting of February 18.

As that day is a federal holiday, the Board discussed moving it to Tuesday the 19th. The Board agreed to February 19th.

5. Committee Reports:

Budget Committee: Selectman Stewart reported that they met last week and had received a copy of the school budget, which is relatively flat. There is a warrant article which would fund the tuition trust fund as there is student population increase in the offing. There are some staff increases, as salary increases are built in. But overall, it was well presented. The school will be back next week before the Budget Committee to answer any questions or concerns. There is \$37,000 Warrant Article, and \$5000 for building and grounds. Another article is having to do with surplus, which is variable. So there are three articles, other than the main article. The language was approved by DRA.

6. Other items:

School Lights: Ken discussed some options regarding the dummies. Chair Maher suggested revisiting this in the spring.

Avitar building software: \$3700 with quarterly updates. This is an upgrade over what we have now. It will marry the building permits and assessing functions. We will need a new computer. Ken just received this latest proposal.

Safe Path:

The new total is \$87,000, due increase in materials and the Rye Beach has to get a bond of \$10,000. The group is \$13,000 short. Bill raised some issues concerning NH DOT not being responsive and putting unnecessary roadblocks and costs onto this project. The Board will be contacting COT. Because this is a State Road, the State has its requirements according to Ken.

Regarding the TAP funding, we should be hearing shortly if approved. In that case we would go to Town Meeting with a warrant article. Safe Path Committee wants to add 2 additional warrant articles for use of tax dollars for the project. One is to establish and one to fund.

Ken also reported that DOT has approved language in the easement.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Selectman Frampton, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Jane Riordan