

MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman David Canada, Selectmen Bruno Federico and Tim Copeland, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

At 7:29 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the minutes as amended from the regular meeting on 07/09/12. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$8,192,456.15 in the general checking account.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada introduced the Town's newly hired Highway Agent, Colin Laverty.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Rob Cook was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated the three firefighters that were sent to State certification class have all passed. He also stated that Keith Pervear completed his EMT tests, including the State practical, and will next take the National Registry written test this week.

Mr. Cook stated the golf tournament at the Golf Club of New England has been going well. So far they have not had to transport anyone from the tournament to the hospital. Stratham will be there for one more day and then Greenland will be covering the tournament for the rest of the week. Stratham will be covering Basic Life Support (BLS) calls for Greenland and Portsmouth will be handling the Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls while Greenland is covering the tournament.

Mr. Cook stated that the air conditioning is no longer working in Car 1. He received an estimate from McFarland Ford for \$600 to do the repairs. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the \$600 expenditure to repair the air conditioning on the Fire Department's Car 1. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed 2-1.

Mr. Cook stated that Engine 3 is in Londonderry having some work done due to a Cummins motor recall. He stated the air conditioning in that truck does not work at all, so they are going to take a look at that as well. Mr. Cook will look into the warranty on that.

Mr. Cook reported that the set up for the Fair has been going well. The Board informed Mr. Cook that they voted last week to allow the Selectmen and Mr. Deschaine to park in the front parking lot during the Fair. Mr. Cook will pass that along.

Mr. Cook stated that regarding the sink that was snapped off the building by the skating rink at the Park, he will take care of purchasing a replacement sink and having it installed and will request reimbursement from the Town. The Board agreed.

Mr. Cook stated the light pole at the Firehouse was hit by a vehicle. There was no damage to the pole. He will talk with the Highway Department to see if they have any traffic marking paint to have it repainted.

Mr. Cook stated the ground ladders were tested on both engines and the tanker and they all passed. He stated they will be doing the hose testing next week.

Mr. Federico requested that Mr. Cook check the lights at the Firehouse, specifically between the ambulance bays.

The Board asked for clarification on the invoice for the Motorola portable radios that were ordered. The original approval was for five radios, however, six were received. Mr. Cook stated that because they were able to order the extra radio within the limits of the approved expenditure, they went ahead and did that. The Board requested that in the future, Mr. Cook at least send them an email informing them of any change to an approved purchase.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated the new cruiser is ready at Irwin Ford. Mr. Copeland moved to allocate \$23,542.88 to Irwin Ford for the purchase of a new police cruiser. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa extended a special thank you to Highway Foreman Al Williams for his assistance with placing temporary "No Parking" signs around the entrance to the Golf Club of New England in preparation of the amateur championship tournament.

Mr. Scippa reported that there have been no traffic and/or parking problems with the golf tournament.

Mr. Scippa stated that preparation has been ongoing for the upcoming Stratham Fair. He met with one of the managers of the ride vendors to remind them of the Town's expectations and to work with the police during these preparations.

Mr. Scippa reported that the NH DOT has an upcoming paving project due to start on July 23rd. The work will start at the Stratham/Exeter town line and continue to the Stratham/Newfields Town line. The work will be occurring at night, and the DOT is predicting it should take just two nights, weather permitting.

Mr. Canada requested the police focus some traffic enforcement on Stratham Heights Road. He has received a couple of recent complaints since the road has been newly paved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brian Hart from the Southeast Land Trust was present at the meeting to discuss the Roberts property conservation easement. He stated that everything is done and on schedule for the closing tomorrow. He presented a final draft of the documents outlining the easement areas to

the Board. He stated the buyers-to-be have indicated an acceptance of the terms. The group discussed the changes that were made to the document, specifically regarding Section 2C, "Use Limitations", as it pertains to structures in the front field.. Mr. Hart pointed out that the newly added amendment clause makes amendments to easements easier to do if all the parties agree. After further discussion, the final two changes are in Section 14A adding "Town of Stratham" to the list of grantor and grantee; and fixing a minor typo in Section 16. The Board then signed all necessary documents. Mr. Federico moved to allow the Chair to sign the inventory form for the Dept. of Revenue Administration. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa, Parks and Recreation Director Seth Hickey, and Town Planner Lincoln Daley then discussed the private trail use agreements and enforcement practices with the Board. A draft Memo of Understanding (MOU) was drawn up outlining the public's use of various trails on private property that interconnect with the trail system the Town maintains at the Stratham Hill Park. Mr. Scippa stated the best way to enter into an agreement with a private property owner who wants to allow the Town to have access to the trail and allow the enforcement of an ordinance on that trail would be to enter into an annual lease. This would allow the Town to have full authority to enforce the motorized vehicle ordinance, or any other ordinance, that may be applicable to that area. He also stated there is a concern that the landowner may expect vigorous enforcement from the police, which is not something the police are prepared to do in a proactive manner. Mr. Daley stated this would not have any effect on the property owner's taxes. He also stated another concern would be whether or not the property owner could use a motorized vehicle on their portion of the trail. After some further discussion, the Board was in agreement to move forward with this project. Mr. Scippa will talk with Police Prosecutor Bill Hart about drawing up a draft lease agreement.

Mr. Canada stated that David Short has resigned from the Town Center Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, but he did say he would continue with the trail work and the scheduled races at the Park. The group stated that they appreciate all the work he has done in developing these trails, as well as for other work for the Town.

Mr. Deschaine stated a member of the Fair Committee submitted a written concern about maintenance on the Noyes Stage at the Park. Mr. Hickey drafted a response for the Board's review. The Board approved the draft and agreed to have Mr. Hickey send the letter on behalf of the Board. Mr. Federico requested Mr. Hickey to create a list of Park buildings that are used by the Fair and the percentage of use with the idea of developing specific maintenance responsibilities..

MEETINGS: The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The following Park permits and Municipal Center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Karen Grant requested the use of the Park on August 11, 2012 for a memorial service. The request was approved.

Erika Irish requested the use of the Park on August 5, 2012 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Phyllis Mastroianni requested the use of the Park on August 12, 2012 for a graduation party. The request was approved.

Sue Bourn requested the use of the Park on August 18, 2012 for a private party. The request was approved.

Jessica Lombardi requested the use of the Park on August 22, 2012 for a company outing. The request was approved.

Mark Ericson requested the use of the Park on September 16, 2012 for the annual Working Dog Foundation Open House event. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use, to waive the fees, and to follow the same conditions as last year. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated the Request for Proposal (RFP) for heating fuels for the Town has been prepared and is ready to be sent out. The group discussed adding the Park Ranger residence to the list of municipal buildings to be included in the RFP. Mr. Canada moved to offer the rent at the Park Ranger residence at \$850 without heat and \$950 to include heat. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The residence will be added to the RFP with an estimated usage of 500 gallons.

Mr. Deschaine stated he does not have an update on the employee gainsharing program for the Board at this time. He will report back on August 20th.

Mr. Deschaine presented documents for the Board's signature, to include the lease for the Gifford House. The Board agreed the new tenants can start moving in after the Fair.

Mr. Deschaine presented a spreadsheet on capital projects that will carry forward or lapse for the Board's review. Mr. Canada moved to not rollover the \$39,997 under the Cemetery Land Acquisition line item, and let it lapse. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed 2-1. Mr. Canada then moved to encumber the balance forward with the exception of the \$39,997 and the \$40 under the Municipal Center repairs line item. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board reviewed a request to place a posting on the Town's website asking for area host families for a foreign student exchange program. Lacking a motion, the request was denied.

Mr. Federico stated that one of the leaning trees on High Street has been taken down by Asplundh/Unitil. Unitil stated they would not take the other tree down. The property owner stated he made an agreement with Asplundh that he would take down what he could and then Asplundh would take down the rest of the second tree.

The group then reviewed and updated their priority list for the year. The Board agreed that next week would be a good time to get a report on hiring custodial help.

Mr. Canada moved to accept Dave Short's resignation with regret and thanks for his continued service over the last twenty years or so for the Town. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:48 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Paul R. Deschaine
Town Administrator