

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2009 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

The meeting was opened by Mr. Canada at 5:00 PM at the Stratham Firehouse. The Board hosted a legislative forum with all the state representatives from House District 13 and State Senator Maggie Hassan. Representatives of the Exeter Board of Selectmen were present along with their Town Manager, Russ Dean. The North Hampton Town Administrator sent word that he and the North Hampton Board of Selectmen were unable to attend due to an unexpected emergency. Various legislative issues were shared with all present and an expression of local concerns about state actions discussed. All present felt these types of meetings should be continued in the future to foster better communications between the towns and their mutual state representatives. The meeting recessed at 7:05 pm to resume the meeting at the Municipal Center.

The meeting was reopened by Mr. Canada at 7:29 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Kevin Peck reported he has \$5,987,022.00 in the general fund. He has invested \$3,900,000, which will mature in \$1,300,000 increments for the next three months in order to cover the school payments.

At 7:30 PM, Mr. Canada moved, Mr. Copeland seconded, to enter into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue with Police Chief Michael Daley. The motion passed unanimously. At 8:07PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the discussion of personnel issues. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police: Chief Michael Daley gave the monthly report. The last person arrested for the string of bank robberies in Stratham that occurred over the last year has finally confessed and was sentenced this past week to seven to nine years in jail.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board opened bid proposals in response to the request for proposals for a Statistical Update of Assessments for the Town of Stratham. Mr. Deschaine explained, along with Andrea Lewy, Town Assessor, the purpose of the request for proposal and the response sheet that was attached. The response sheet broke down individual aspects of the request for proposal along with having a combined cost estimate of the scope of services. Since it would be difficult to compare each individual item, Mr. Deschaine suggested in opening the bids to report what the total combined scope of services cost was pending review by the Town Assessor. The bids were opened with the following results:

- John W. McSorley Consulting of Nottingham, NH \$59,000
(However, it was conditioned that this amount was before abatements.)
- Cross Country Appraisal Group of Concord, NH \$140,000
- J. F. Ryan Associates, Inc., of Newburyport, MA \$127,000
- Avitar Associates of New England of Chichester, NH \$83,350

Vision Appraisal declined to bid, but offered to do so should the Town decide to use its appraisal system versus the current Civicware system that it has; Tyler Technologies of Tolland, CT, also declined to provide a proposal but thanked the Town for the opportunity and asked to be kept in mind for future requests. The Board of Selectmen took these proposals under advisement while Andrea Lewy reviews and evaluates the bid proposals and reports back to the Selectmen.

Mr. Deschaine discussed a scheduled meeting with FEMA representatives and the representatives from the Bureau of Emergency Management to file for public assistance and to learn about the process of getting reimbursement for expenses relating to the ice storm.

Discussion moved to the results of the Seacoast Eat Local event that was held at the Municipal Center this past Saturday. By all accounts, the event was successful. Mr. Canada did attend and the event appeared to be orderly.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

Tom Haslam for St. John's Lodge was approved for use of the Park. Tom Haslam for the Stratham Cub Scouts Winter Fun Day was held pending a discussion with the Cub Scouts regarding the size of the event and the need for bathroom facilities since it is projected to have over 200 participants. Tom Haslam for the Cub Scout Crossover Overnight in June was approved for use of the Park. Les Carbonneau's family reunion was approved for use of the Park. Annette Boley was approved for use of the Park. Kelly McGuinness was approved to rent the Municipal Center for a birthday party.

OTHER:

Mr. Federico asked whether the warming shed at the Park was locked. It had been reported to him that someone trying to use the ice skating rink at the Park could not access the warming shed because it was locked. Mr. Deschaine did not know that it could be locked and will ask the Park and Recreation Director to find out, if indeed, it was locked.

The Board reviewed various priorities with Mr. Deschaine noting that some had been completed and some are still pending.

The general discussion about potential budget issues arose. Mr. Canada mentioned that the cost of dispatching is something that he would like to explore. He asked Mr. Copeland if he had any insights regarding the potential of being serviced by Rockingham Dispatch. Mr. Copeland mentioned that Rockingham Dispatch is very busy. Newmarket Dispatch only dispatches for three to four towns, which is significantly lower than Rockingham Dispatch. Mr. Federico

wanted a presentation from representatives of Rockingham Dispatch to know what services are available through that agency. Mr. Federico was not sure that the Town of Newmarket was offering services equivalent to the money being charged for those services. Mr. Copeland will contact Rockingham County Dispatch to see what services are available and the possibility of having a presentation before the Board. Mr. Federico asked that a representative of the Newmarket Dispatch also be present to give a presentation to the Board.

Mr. Federico asked if Phase II of the Municipal Center Renovations, which included expansion of the Library, was still going to be proposed. Mr. Canada said that Dan Crow, of Crow Construction, was working on a construction estimate in order to put the request in the Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Federico asked Mr. Deschaine if the leaks in the Municipal Center roof had been fixed. Mr. Deschaine said that he had contacted Jones Roofing and they had indeed been corrected.

The discussion turned to the need for more part-time, on-call plow drivers. Mr. Hutton has stated that he will be down two drivers very shortly. Mr. Canada is working with Mr. Hutton on advertising the need for drivers on Craig's List. Mr. Hutton is to contact the Department of Employment Security.

Mr. Canada reminded Mr. Deschaine that there was a need to get the mileage and/or hours from the hour meters from vehicles at the Park. Discussion then turned to the EMT Conference reimbursement issue brought up at the last meeting. Captain Derrick Hall of the Ambulance Squad had responded on behalf of Chief Bob Law regarding the valuable training opportunity the conference offered and stated that there were attempts made to carpool. The Board was satisfied with the explanation.

Mr. Canada brought up that the one remaining soda machine on town property is sited at the Fire House. He asked Mr. Deschaine if he had asked for it to be removed. Mr. Deschaine said that he had left a message with Conner Bottling Company to have it removed. Mr. Canada wanted the machine to be unplugged next week if it is not removed from the Fire House since all the other machines in Town had been removed from Town property.

A discussion started regarding the maintenance of Town buildings. Mr. Canada observed that with the succession of recent storms, Custodian Joe Marchio has had to devote more time to outside snow removal tasks and has not been able to give proper attention to inside cleaning. Mr. Canada suggested that newly hired Park Ranger Ken Murray be assigned the task of doing snow removal outside all Town buildings after a storm as part of his normal duties of helping the Highway Department during snow removal activities. That would permit Mr. Marchio to continue his current schedule of building cleanings without interruption.

Discussion continued on the floor maintenance at the Fire House. Because of the recent snowstorms and the winter season, the floor has been observed to be not acceptable for various Recreation programming. Mr. Marchio is at the Fire House at least two days a week doing general cleaning including the floor. Mr. Canada suggested that Mr. Murray could do the floors on the off days when Mr. Marchio is not there. The other Board members concurred. Mr.

Deschaine will have a meeting with Tara Barker, Fred Hutton, Joe Marchio, and Ken Murray on this issue to coordinate all their efforts. Mr. Copeland asked if a boot tray at the entryway of the Fire House would be useful since many of the Recreation people wear boots to the building but remove them to participate in the Recreation programming. Mr. Copeland will obtain boot trays for the boots and charge it to the Recreation Department.

Mr. Deschaine mentioned that Mr. Canada discovered that flags were missing at the Park. He reported that he had given replacement flags to Tara Barker to give to Ken Murray so that the flags could be replaced. Mr. Copeland strongly suggested that if it is suspected that the flags have been stolen that it be reported to the Police.

Mr. Deschaine also mentioned that there was an incident of vandalism to the two Town vehicles parked in the Municipal Center parking lot this weekend. It appeared possibly that food items including eggs and chocolate were smeared on the cars. Mr. Copeland strongly suggested that the incident be reported to the Police.

At 9:20 PM, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed by,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator