

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 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 at 6:31 PM. Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss personnel issues with Joyce Charbonneau. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 7:00 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session, to seal the minutes due to the discussion regarding personnel issues and to recess the meeting for a Park Association meeting. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:35PM, the Chair reconvened the Board of Selectmen meeting after the conclusion of the Park Association meeting. Mr. Canada announced that a discussion concerning the use of Rockingham Dispatch as the Town's dispatching agency would not occur tonight as previously reported. Mr. Canada has been contacted by the supervisor of the Rockingham Dispatch and they do not have the capacity to serve Stratham at this time; therefore, discussing the matter further would be moot.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

Betty Batchelder was present to discuss the use of the Stratham Hill Park Front Pavilion from 7:00AM to 3:00PM by the Rockingham Craftsmen Association. They are asking for the first Saturday in the month of August. Mr. Federico expressed concern about a conflict with the Fair teardown process. Mr. Deschaine explained that he had the applicant interact with the Fair to prevent such a conflict. No other conflicts were cited. The Board approved the use.

The New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was present in that Megan Larson was representing the organization. They requested the use of the Park from 7:00AM to 4:00PM for Petfest the first Saturday in June. Mr. Canada asked what type of police presence was used last year. Ms. Larson explained two cruisers for 2-4 hours were used. They will arrange for that detail again. Mr. Canada asked if any of the sanitary services have been enhanced. Ms. Larson said no additional port-a-pottis were used. The septic tanks in the bathrooms were pumped before the event and then after the event with the SPCA paying for the cost of the after-event pumping. Mr. Canada moved to allow the use with the condition that a two-cruiser detail be contracted with the Stratham Police Department, that the septic tanks be pumped before and after the event with the after pumping expense borne by the SPCA, and that the ambulance or EMTs medical services be covering the event. There was discussion regarding the use of food vendors during the event. In the past, Ms. Larson explained the Friends of Stratham Hill Park have catered the event. The SPCA would like to attempt to do it themselves this year. Mr. Copeland mentioned that the use of the food shacks needs to be coordinated by insuring that they leave them clean with no food left over and that proper payment for the use of the propane gas be done. Mr. Canada amended his motion to then include in addition to his previous motion, the cleaning of the food shacks and a \$50.00 payment to the Stratham Fire Department for the use of the propane. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Heidi Roy of the Multiple Sclerosis Society was present to discuss the use of Stratham Hill Park for a bike ride. She has made contact with Chief Daley. They expect approximately two hundred riders, fifty volunteers and a bike shop to service the bikes present at the event. They want at least two pavilions in order to support the event. Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to allow the use as presented.

On behalf of the Exeter Lions Club, Mark Hamel was present to request the use of Stratham Hill Park for a bike tour. The Lions Club expects the bike tour to consist of groups of fifty bikers with a total of two hundred people throughout the day. Mr. Hamel asked that the reservation fee be waived. Mr. Federico moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to allow the use and to waive the fee. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board then reviewed the remaining Park permits and Municipal Rentals. The Board had previously authorized the Cub Scouts to have a crossover ceremony and overnight at Stratham Hill Park. Mr. Federico moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to waive the fee, which passed unanimously. Then there was a discussion concerning the Cub Scout use of Stratham Hill Park for their winter sleepover. There was a question regarding whether additional port-a-pottis were needed. Mr. Canada had found that two had been ordered last year but they really only needed one. The Board concurred that only one was necessary and authorized the use.

The Stratham Boy Scout Troop 185 requested use of Stratham Hill Park for a car show. That was approved conditioned on the septic tanks being pumped before the event and after the event with the Troop paying for the after-event pumping. There would also be use of the food shacks. The same conditions as the SPCA were added to that use, to include that they be left clean and a \$50.00 payment to the Fire Department for the use of propane. Mr. Federico moved to waive the fee for the car show. Mr. Copeland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Collie Rescue League was approved by the Board for the use of Stratham Hill Park.

Use of the Park by the Great Bay Kids Company was also approved.

A request from Tina Holmes, of One Sky Community Services, for use of the Front Pavilion was authorized. Mr. Federico moved to waive the fee. Mr. Copeland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kevin O'Neil, who is a part-time Police Officer in Stratham, requested the use of the Municipal Center Cafeteria. Mr. Copeland moved to waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion. Mr. Federico questioned if he is not a resident should we allow the use. Mr. Deschaine explained that ordinarily no, but we have made exceptions for Town employees. The motion to allow the use and waive the fee was approved unanimously.

James Peplinski for use of the Municipal Center for a family event was approved.

Sarah Robinson for scrapbooking at the Municipal Center was also approved.

Linda Coffey for use of the Municipal Center for a birthday party was approved.

Emily Forgy for use of the Municipal Center for a birthday party was also approved.

Robert Jenness for use of the Municipal Center for a wedding was approved but there was an acknowledgment that the Town policy did not permit refunds if it was not used. Mr. Jenness stated that the use of the Municipal Center for the wedding was as a backup in case of cold weather.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck provided a Treasurer's Report and reported that the Town had \$2,026,815.88 in the general checking account. He expects to use the majority of that amount next week due to school payments that are due. Mr. Peck also reported that he had \$3,900,000 invested.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Jane Keane and others were present to discuss a request for funding for their group called Womanaid. Mr. Copeland asked how many Stratham residents were helped by their group this past year. Karen Monaco said that was difficult to determine because they try to maintain anonymity to avoid embarrassment to friends and neighbors. They know that at least \$4,200 went to Stratham residents. They are requesting \$2,000. Mr. Canada asked Mr. Deschaine if a warrant article was needed. Mr. Deschaine explained that past practice has been to have a petition warrant article for first time requests but he understood that this Board had deviated from that in that they had agreed to sponsor a warrant article for TASC and that they may want to consider doing the same here with Womanaid. Mr. Copeland moved to waive the requirement of a petition warrant article but to have the Selectmen sponsor a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for this group in this year's warrant. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Bob Marshall and Mike Houghton of Dowling Corporation were present to discuss the proposed renewal of the Maintenance Agreement for the Town's HVAC systems. Mr. Deschaine explained that they had previously quoted on servicing the equipment in the Municipal Center and the Highway Department. Upon receipt of that quote, Mr. Deschaine also asked for a quote on servicing the Police Department since that equipment was coming off warranty also. John Sapienza, in the audience, mentioned that the Fire Department also uses Dowling Corporation to maintain their HVAC systems. They had previously had Dowling Corporation and Palmer Sicard, the installers of the Fire Department equipment, to quote on maintaining it and Dowling was the most cost-effective. Mr. Canada asked what were the different maintenance plans offered. Mr. Marshall explained that they have three different plans, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The Bronze plan, which was being quoted, is for maintenance and discounts on parts. The Silver plan included maintenance and labor plus a charge for the parts. The Gold maintenance plan included parts and labor. Mr. Copeland asked what was the difference between the pricing of the three plans. Mr. Marshall said that was difficult to say because it is dependent on the type and age of the equipment being serviced. Mr. Canada moved to accept the proposal from Dowling for the Municipal Center, the Police Department, the Highway Department, and the Fire Department HVAC systems. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, pending the submittal of a revised proposal, which included the Fire Department.

Nancy Hunter was present to inquire about the cost of the Stevens Park ball field. She wanted to know if it was true that the cost estimates of \$150,000 to \$200,000 were being proposed in the Capital Improvements Program for this effort. She objected to having it being placed in the Capital Improvements Program and instead suggested it be in a separate warrant article. She strongly advocated that the Park improvements be separate and perhaps the Library renovations as well be in a separate warrant article. Mr. Copeland did not see the reason not to use the Capital Improvements Program. Mr. Federico thought it might be cleaner if it was a separate article. Mr. Deschaine mentioned that both the Park and the Library projects are being placed in the Capital Improvements Program over two years so it will show up in the Capital Improvements Program for next year even if there is a separate warrant article for this year's funding. Mr. Sapienza said that it could be explained why that happened but the parliamentary process to amend the CIP may be too cumbersome and confusing and a burden for the public to bear. He supported putting it as a separate warrant article. The Board agreed that that made sense and will discuss it later in the meeting.

The next item under new business was the opening the bids for printing the 2008 Town Report. A total of eight responses were received, were opened by the Board, and were as follows:

Image Wise of Hampton Falls	\$4,293.00
Ram Printing of East Hampstead	\$8,042.15
Squamscott Press of Stratham	\$6,995.00
Town and Country Reprographics, Inc. of Concord	\$6,888.00
Minuteman Press of Newington	\$5,120.00
Kase Printing, Inc., of Hudson	\$3,780.00
Proformer Infinite Printing Solutions of Melrose, MA	\$4,596.00
Commonwealth Printing, Inc., of Newburyport, MA	\$4,795.00

The bids were taken under advisement by the Board pending review and recommendations by the Town Administrator.

Mr. Federico read the meetings scheduled for the coming week and held last week.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Assessor: Andrea Lewy was present for the Assessing Department. She reviewed recommendations for abatements and approvals for Veteran's credit applications. The Board approved an abatement request from John and Diane Maynard. The Board also granted a Veteran's credit for Dennis Vickery. Ms. Lewy then reviewed her recommendations for the statistical update revaluation proposed for this year. She has spoken to all the bidders and received revisions based on the assumption that Ms. Lewy will accomplish many of the tasks planned originally for the bidders to perform. Mr. Federico asked if the bidders knew the results of the other bidders' proposals during these discussions. Ms. Lewy said to some extent they did but not in their entirety. She made the recommendation to contract with Cross Country Appraisal Group for a cost of \$80,000 had the Board accepted the bids as is. It would be desirable to have the entire project done by one independent firm for continuity and consistency.

However, she understood due to economic times there might be a desire to trim the costs and add some element of in-house work being done to the update, which would lower the cost to \$43,000 with Ms. Lewy performing the supervision of the update. This plan envisioned hiring a field person to verify the sales properties, hiring a special consultant to do specialized commercial properties like Lindt Chocolates and the advertising. Mr. Canada supported the second approach and asked how the funds should be raised; by a line item in the Capital Improvements Program or a separate warrant article. The pros and cons of a separate warrant article were discussed with members of the Board preferring to do it by warrant article. Mr. Canada moved to add to the Warrant a special warrant article raising and appropriating \$45,000. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Administration: Mr. Deschaine was asked if the vehicle mileage reports had been submitted. Mr. Deschaine said they had been.

A brief discussion occurred on the Fire Department sign. It is pending delivery and will have to be installed probably in the spring due to the current weather conditions.

Mr. Deschaine reported on the meeting regarding the Fire Department funding issue. The committee had supported the establishment of a revolving fund via a special warrant article. The agent will be designated as members of the Fire Department to include the Fire Chief, the company President and the company Treasurer. Discussion continued regarding the warrant article and other terms and understandings reached with the Fire Department.

Mr. Deschaine reported that the Impoundment Contract with the SPCA was up for renewal. He reviewed the new agreement in detail comparing it to last years. Mr. Canada moved to approve the Impoundment Contract with the SPCA and authorized the Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A discussion occurred about a special meeting of the New Hampshire Municipal Association membership to occur this Friday to discuss the budget crisis the State of New Hampshire has experienced. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss what positions the Association may take in response to that crisis and to consider possible additional revenues to make up the deficit the State may experience. The Board of Selectmen authorized Mr. Deschaine to attend the meeting but to advocate no increases in taxation either via new taxes or increasing existing ones.

Mr. Deschaine discussed the Pro-Bark proposal to remove wood debris and grind other wood products for free in order to obtain the chips. The Board supported that effort and authorized Mr. Deschaine to have Mr. Hutton contact Pro-Bark to arrange to dispose of the wood debris from the ice storm. In regards to the ice storm, Mr. Deschaine reported he had met with FEMA representatives on Friday to discuss recovery of costs for responding to the ice storm and cleanup. The numbers should be forthcoming. Mr. Deschaine asked if the Board had a desire to include in debris removal the cost of removing debris along just the roadsides or to include the roadsides and the adjacent property owners. After much discussion in regards to the negative and positive effect of such an effort, the Board supported solely requesting reimbursement for debris removal within the Town's right-of-ways.

Mr. Deschaine brought a proposal forward from Jones and Beach Engineering to develop a spill prevention control and countermeasures plan (SPCC) for the new Fire Department site. Mr. Federico asked if the Fire Chief already had one. Mr. Deschaine was unaware of one. Mr. Federico suggested checking with the Fire Chief to see if they had developed one already. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to sign the proposal in acceptance if the Fire Department did not already have an SPCC plan. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine brought to the Board's attention that the American Red Cross had asked for a proclamation and asked that the Board consider proclaiming March to be Red Cross Month. The Board authorized Mr. Deschaine to work on such a proclamation and bring it forward at a later date.

There was further discussion regarding radio dispatching and whether there was a need to still have a meeting with either Rockingham County or the Town of Newmarket. Mr. Canada reiterated that if Rockingham County does not have the capacity to serve Stratham it would be an academic discussion to have them present. Mr. Deschaine asked if there was still a desire to have representatives of Newmarket Dispatch present to discuss the dissatisfaction with their services to include their signal strength. Mr. Deschaine reminded the Board that within the current contract with the Town of Newmarket there is a provision for problem resolution and it has not been utilized to date. The Board determined that there was no need at this time for any further meetings regarding dispatch but may do so later.

Mr. Deschaine informed the Board that Eat Local event organizers had contacted him and asked if there were any additional restrictions or conditions that the Board wanted to place on their use of the Municipal Center in March. The Board noted there were none and that the previous event in January was well run.

Mr. Deschaine ran through a list of potential articles to appear on the 2009 warrant. He has to prepare a notice to be in the Exeter News Letter this Friday and has to have the notice to them by Wednesday. Various warrant articles to be discussed at the Public Hearing included the budget, the Capital Improvements Program, funding for TASC, funding for Womanaid, the creation of the Fire Department Revolving Fund, funding for further studies for the Gateway Commercial District to include Planning Board, planning money and study money for the Public Works Commission, ratification of the cell tower long-term lease, funding for the improvements at Stevens Park, a warrant article for funding for Library renovations, a warrant article authorizing a three-year lease for three new Police cruisers and a warrant article authorizing funding from the EMS fund to purchase a CO detector. The Board noted no other additions

Mr. Deschaine informed the Board that the old Fire Department ambulance had been sold to New England Dragway for the amount and terms previously approved.

Mr. Canada brought up the soda machine that is still at the Fire House. He had drafted a letter to be sent to the owner to have it removed by February 2nd or it will be disconnected and subject to freezing. The Board signed the letter as presented.

Mr. Canada had been approached by a legislator to support the naming of the Guinea Road bridge after Sargeant Healey who had died in the current war against terrorism. The Board supported the naming of the bridge in his honor and signed a letter of support to that effect.

A general discussion about priorities occurred.

Mr. Canada informed the Board that Andrea Lewy had requested a non-public session with the Board, which was now scheduled for February 2nd at 7:00PM.

Mr. Canada asked Mr. Deschaine if the Craigslist posting for plow drivers had been effective. Mr. Deschaine said that several responses had been received from the ad and felt that it was productive.

At 10:44 PM, Mr. Federico moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator