

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2009 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

The meeting opened at 7:34PM.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Recreation: Tara Barker presented a report on the Recreation Revolving Fund. She had broken down the fund into unreserved, reserved, and miscellaneous categories. She also presented a report to the Board concerning her enrollment for Recreation programs during the past five seasons.

Park: Tara Barker reported that Ken Murray has been resolving various issues from the heat in the garage, to tractor repairs, to picnic table repairs during his first few weeks of employment. She described a reoccurring problem at the Park with dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs, that being dog waste. The Board of Selectmen advocated that dog owners be informed of the problem and encouraged that they take responsibility for the use of the Park. Otherwise, there will have to be additional enforcement actions taken against offending owners and the Park will become less dog friendly.

The discussion then turned to having Ken Murray obtain a license to apply pesticides or herbicides for the Town. Ms. Barker will meet with Tim Slager of the Highway Department who has done some previous research on this issue.

The next items discussed were lighting at the ice skating rink and the Veteran's Memorial. Ms. Barker will look into that with Mr. Murray.

Donna Jensen, from the audience, mentioned that a composting bucket for the dog waste could be made available to handle the disposal issue. Expecting dog owners to take their waste with them is not a realistic expectation. It will not result in a successful removal effort.

Highway: Fred Hutton was present to give the departmental report. The department has been plowing a lot recently due to the storms we have experienced. He discussed various repairs that had to be made as a result of the plowing operations. He is also receiving many complaints about mailboxes being hit or damaged during snow removal activities or that the mailboxes are not being plowed out adequately. He is trying to resolve those on a case-by-case basis.

The Transfer Station will be open this coming Saturday. Mr. Hutton is looking into contracting for a tub grinder who will come and chip all the brush for free. The Board mentioned that one company has already come forward with that offer. Mr. Hutton will report back later.

The discussion of the use of salt or sand on Town roads in anticipation of the Conservation Commission's presentation later in the meeting was discussed. Mr. Copeland asked how much salt do we use. Mr. Hutton responded somewhere between 200 to 300 pounds per lane mile is

the average. He also expressed a concern for safety but he does try to reduce the amount of salt where he can, like the secondary roads.

Administration: The discussion turned to the proposed contract for monitoring the landfill. Mr. Canada asked if there was any benefit in re-bidding for those services. Mr. Deschaine explained that Pine Tree Engineering had been the original firm that designed the closure plan and was intimately familiar with the operation and closure of the landfill. For those reasons, Mr. Deschaine recommended continuing with Pine Tree Engineering. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to sign the contract on behalf of the Town. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented the updated Dowling Corporation maintenance contract for maintaining the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems for the Town. Mr. Federico moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to sign the revised proposal. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine then discussed the items on a draft of the 2009 Warrant and asked for assistance in re-wording or re-ordering the articles. The Board assisted Mr. Deschaine in proposing the draft in anticipation of next week's public hearing.

There was next a discussion by the Board as to what to include with the Town Clerk's annual dog notice mailer. Items mentioned were dog waste removal at the Park, where Town Reports will be available and notifying residents with special needs to contact the Town so they can respond better to their needs in the event of an emergency.

The Board then discussed the Fire Department freestanding sign, which is ready to be picked up from the sign maker.

Mr. Deschaine reported that based on conversations during last week's meeting, the spill prevention control and containment plan proposal was signed because Mr. Deschaine found out that the Fire Department did not have such a plan in place; therefore, he contracted with Jones & Beach Engineering as discussed last week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

Park permits were reviewed with the following results: Mr. Canada requested on behalf of the Tri-Town Republican's picnic for the use of the Park. The Board approved the use. David Cunnige for a birthday party at the Municipal Center was also approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donna Jensen and Pat Elwell, of the Conservation Commission, were present to discuss the possibility of reducing the amount of salt the Town uses on Town roads. They expressed the amount of roadways has increased so the overall use of salt has increased. In addition, the amount of impervious surface has intensified the uses and, therefore, runoff has increased. Ms. Jensen and Ms. Elwell gave a PowerPoint presentation of various information about the

advantages and disadvantages of using salt. Mr. Federico disputed the appearance of an increase in usage of salt based on the amount expended on salt. He pointed out that the price of salt has risen dramatically in recent years. The amount of salt used was discussed with Mr. Hutton who said they used approximately 2500 tons of salt last year. Ms. Jensen reviewed the contaminating effects of sodium and chlorides, which leach into the soil and the water. There was a discussion on the methods of mitigation and the harm caused by salt by reducing the amount of salt used and seeing if there are other viable alternatives. The Conservation Commission wants to work with the Selectmen and the Highway Department to investigate the best management practices in the use of salt. Mr. Canada summarized that the objective of the Conservation Commission effort was to further investigate options and to educate the public, and those involved, in this issue. Mr. Canada thanked them for their efforts and for informing the Board of the environmental effects and overall expenses.

Chris Albert, of Jones & Beach Engineering, and Colleen Lake were present to discuss the Non-transient, Non-community public water supply designation of the Fire Department water system caused by Ms. Lake's Town Center development proposal. Mr. Deschaine summarized the purpose of the meeting being to discuss: 1) What, if any, added burdens this designation had on the Town, 2) When does that designation and/or burden take effect, and 3) Under what terms and conditions does Ms. Lake's use occur. Mr. Albert said that if 25 people over 60 consecutive days use the water system, there would be additional requirements of the owner of the system. Mr. Albert advocated doing some testing in the interest of public health and risk management. Mr. Canada asked if we currently test the water supply at the Fire House. Mr. Deschaine said we do not because it is not a requirement, but the Town could elect to do so. Mr. Deschaine asked if there are any additional requirements at this time. Mr. Albert said that there are not any additional burdens currently. Even with the addition of Ms. Lake's development, it would not trigger the new designation. If the Town's uses continue to grow, that may trigger a new designation. Ms. Lake pointed out that the Town had a greater likelihood of triggering the Non-community water system designation. Mr. Deschaine pointed out that a triggering event is not necessarily the exclusive determinant of who is responsible for paying for the additional burdens. Ms. Lake advocated coming to a decision on the responsibility for those costs. Mr. Canada and Mr. Copeland pointed out that since there is no way of determining what those costs may be today, it is not productive to make a decision tonight. Only when the triggering event occurs should that decision be made.

The Board elected to take no action in regards to Ms. Lake's use of the Fire House water system and deferred action until such time that the additional testing requirements are triggered by any user of the water system at that location.

Bob Goodrich was present to inform the Board about issues that have come before the Rockingham Planning Commission. One such issue is updating the Transportation Plan for the State's 10-year Highway Plan for the Transportation Improvement Plan. The Transportation Improvement Plan is being updated in anticipation of the increased monies from the Federal Stimulus Package. The Stimulus Package may provide additional monies to expedite items on the 10-year plan. The Board thanked Mr. Goodrich for the update.

The Board then reviewed the meetings scheduled in the coming week and the meetings held in the previous week.

At 10:43PM, Mr. Copeland moved to adjourn. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator