

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2009  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL MEETING**

The meeting was convened at 1:00 pm for the purpose of watching the Governor's *ARRA 2009 - New Hampshire Recovery Act Informational Meeting* via webcast and any business to come before the Board. In attendance at various times throughout the webcast were Selectmen Canada and Copeland. Additionally, Planner Chuck Grassie set up the viewing and attended part of the program.

After the conclusion, a discussion followed on how Stratham might benefit from aspects of ARRA. It was noted that an extension of COPS, an established police personnel funding program, provided for grants to retain police positions in danger of being cut due to economic circumstances. Mr. Copeland noted that a patrolman's position was considered for elimination; it was currently unfilled; and that it was likely to be the first position cut based on current revenue estimates. Chief of Police Mike Daley was called and asked to join the meeting, which he promptly did. Mr. Copeland moved to go into non-public session to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Canada seconded the motion and called for a vote, which was in favor, 2-0, at 3:00 pm.

At 3:22 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the discussion. Mr. Copeland seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Chief Daley agreed to write a grant for funding a patrolman position requesting funding through the ARRA administered through the State. It was noted that grant requests are due April 14.

Chief Daley also informed the Board that the Town might be eligible for a grant to hire a school resource officer. Mr. Copeland supported the idea saying that there were drug, alcohol, and smoking issues at the Middle School. Mr. Canada was skeptical of the need for police presence at the 6 – 8 grade level. He feels discipline at that level should be administered by the school administration. There followed a discussion on the quality of the school administrator's work in this role with concerns expressed by both Mr. Copeland and Chief Daley. Mr. Canada said he felt that any school resource officer at the Middle School should be paid for entirely by the school cooperative. Chief Daley envisioned an officer for Stratham Memorial School being hired by the COPS grant. It was agreed that further discussion would be in order at some point in the future.

In addition to COPS, grants available for energy savings initiatives were discussed. It is possible that upgraded lighting, insulation, and windows at the Municipal Center as well as upgraded windows at the Gifford House might qualify for funding.

Mr. Copeland suggested exploring if community development funds might be available. They were not addressed on the webcast, but suggestions were for Stevens Field ball field and tennis court development and supplements to the Stratham Hill Park such as new picnic tables. It was also suggested that paving projects might be eligible. Such projects could include repaving of the Stratham Hill Park and Municipal Center parking areas in addition to road paving.

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Scoutmaster John Pierce reported that Boy Scout Scott Gallant was interested in constructing a new sign for Stratham Hill Park. This will be further discussed at the scout level as a possible Eagle project and brought back to the Board.

At 3:55 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go back into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion and a vote in favor of 2-0 was recorded.

At 4:10 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the discussion. Mr. Copeland seconded and the vote was unanimous.

At 4:11 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn and Mr. Copeland seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted

David Canada