

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 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 6:50 PM. Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Federico seconded to go into non-public session to meet with Chief Michael Daley concerning a personnel matter. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion. At 7:30 PM, the Board came out of non-public session with Mr. Federico moving to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the discussion of personnel and private financial information concerning new tenants at the Gifford House. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board reconvened in the hearing room at approximately 7:32 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported he had \$372,084.14 in the general checking account. He also had \$1,300,000 left in investments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau was present to discuss the possibility of implementing the E-Reg program that allows residents to register their vehicles online. She has contacted other towns that use the system and all have said that they love it. The online system can be found at www.eReg.us, which is hosted by Interware, which also provides the motor vehicle registration program for her office. Vehicle registrants go to the site, enter their plate number and the fees come up for that vehicle. Then they enter in their check routing information. Once they press submit, they get an email confirming their participation in the program. The following morning, the Town Office goes onto the website, which is secure, downloads the registration information, and prints the checks to complete the transaction. This is the only technicality in using E-Reg in that the Town is still required to print the checks using the check routing information. They will need special paper and toner but can use existing printers to print those checks. Interware also charges a convenience fee on behalf of the Town and then the Town pays Interware their portion of the fee. The Board was generally supportive of the effort but wanted to proceed cautiously to make sure that implementation was done correctly and without any detriment to the Town. Mr. Canada asked Mrs. Charbonneau regarding the legality of charging the convenience fees. He merely wanted to see if the statutes actually permitted those charges. Mrs. Charbonneau will look into it. Mr. Deschaine asked about the storage of the check processing information. Mrs. Charbonneau will look into that. Mr. Deschaine expressed a concern that should the check routing information be maintained on Town computers, we would have to upgrade our security practices in order to meet Federal requirements for storing that type of information, also known as Red Flag Rules. Mrs. Charbonneau will also look into that.

Highway: Al Williams was present to discuss the possibility of acquiring a pair of forks to go on the Town's backhoe. The backhoe currently has a multi-tool connector on the bucket of the loader allowing it to swap between buckets and other implements like forks. He understands that Bayside Paving in Greenland has a set, but is going out of business. Upon investigating the type of forks they had, he found that they would fit our backhoe. Normally the forks, brand new, cost

\$4,000. These forks are in great condition and the owner is willing to sell them to the Town for \$1,500. The Board asked how would the Department pay for the new equipment since it wasn't budgeted. Mr. Williams replied that the program of repainting a plow truck a year would be postponed for one year, allowing them to purchase the forks. Discussion continued on the potential impact of postponing the painting of the truck. Mr. Canada said the labor savings alone in having the forks more than justified the expense. Mr. Canada moved to authorize the purchase of the forks from the Estate of David Bourassa at a cost of \$1,500. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland asked if there was going to be a need again this year for part-time help. Mr. Williams said that he could use at least one other person on a limited basis. He does not have anyone in mind right now. Between the ice storm clean up, plow damage repairs, mowing, raking, and preparing the cemeteries, Mr. Williams has a lot to complete. Mr. Canada offered to put another ad on Craigslist to find additional applicants. Mr. Williams will check with Highway Agent Fred Hutton to see if he had any other ideas.

Mr. Canada asked if the sign installation at the Fire Department was proceeding. Mr. Williams said that everything is prepared for installation occurring tomorrow. It was too windy to try to do it today.

The discussion then moved to the ice storm debris removal efforts. Mr. Williams said approximately twenty loads have been sent out so far. FEMA has authorized reimbursement of that expense; however, which is \$100 per load. Mr. Canada asked if all the cones and barricades belonging to the Office of Emergency Management had been moved to the Fire House. Mr. Williams thought so but will have to check with Mr. Hutton.

OTHER:

Colleen Lake was present to offer the Selectmen pictures of the area around her business, the Fire Department, and the proposed location for the new Library that she had presented two weeks ago. This would be in advance of her meeting with the Board next week. Mr. Canada asked Mr. Federico if he had met with the landowner of the subject property. Mr. Federico said he had and suggested a meeting with all the parties to be sure everyone understood the proposal. Mr. Canada suggested that Mr. Federico facilitate a meeting with the landowner, the Town and Colleen Lake, since what Ms. Lake described as the proposal was different from what the landowner expressed as his expectations. Ms. Lake first thought she needed more time with the Board before meeting with anyone else. The Board discussed when they could meet with the landowner. Ms. Lake asked to be present since she had all the ideas on how to use the property. The Board considered it was appropriate due to her previous involvement in the matter.

The Board then discussed if the Project Meeting for this month would be scheduled for April 16th or the 23rd to discuss fees and ordinances relating to the use of Town property. The Board felt that they were unprepared to discuss these issues on the 16th, so moved the project meeting date to the 23rd. Consequently, the Board set Thursday, April 16th at 5:00PM as a possible meeting date with the landowner and Ms. Lake.

Ms. Lake then expressed her concern about the placement of the new Fire Department sign. She had asked the builder and Mr. Deschaine to have some input on this sign's size and placement. She had spent a lot of time considering where to place her new proposed buildings on the lot adjacent to the Fire House in order to accentuate the esthetics of the area. She felt that the seven-foot sign being installed tomorrow would negatively impact her plan. Mr. Canada felt the impact would be negligible. If her project is built, Mr. Canada said he would consider mitigation if it does indeed impact those buildings.

The Chairman then moved on to reviewing the meetings scheduled for this coming week and the meetings held during the past two weeks. The Board summarized the Tri-Town Legislative meeting that was held on March 31, 2009. They expressed their amazement at the lack of understanding of local government concerns and the impact by actions of the legislature on local government. Mr. Federico reported on the Planning Board's activities, which included reviewing the Market Basket outbuilding proposal. Market Basket will have to redo some of their design and return to the Planning Board. The discussion next turned to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) webcast that was held last week.

Mr. Canada and Mr. Copeland reported on a possible grant to pursue having to do with a Police Department COPS Grant, which is designed to fund the retention of Police Officers in jeopardy of being laid-off. Other grants suggested to pursue had to do with energy efficiency. Mr. Canada suggested seeing if Valerie Kemp could help bring an energy grant together. Mr. Copeland suggested seeing if there are residents with any grant-writing background to help out. All present felt if Ms. Kemp had the time, she could make a great contribution to the effort and would help her in any way that they could.

The Board asked the status of the minutes of March 23rd, March 30th, and April 3rd. Mr. Deschaine was still making the revisions requested. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the minutes of March 2nd, March 9th, and March 16th. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board then reviewed the minutes created by Mr. Canada of the April 7th meeting. Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with a vote of two in favor, none against, and one abstention since Mr. Federico was not present.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The Board then reviewed Park permit requests and Municipal Center rentals.

The first request by Nora Litzelman was questioned because she was asking to use the Municipal Center three nights over three months. The Board was unclear about the nature of the use and if it was possibly commercial in nature. Mr. Federico will contact Ms. Litzelman to arrange to have her at the next meeting.

Chris Nash's request to use the Park on May 3, 2009 was approved.

Donna Mitchell's request to use the Park on September 12, 2009 was approved.

The request by Lilly Marston and Joyce Peterson for use of the Park on April 25, 2009 was approved.

At the request of Troop 185's use of the Park on May 17, 2009, Mr. Federico moved to waive the reservation fee as long as they clean up after their use. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Russell Stevens' request to use the Park on August 16, 2009 was approved with Mr. Copeland moving and Mr. Federico seconding to waive the fee due to him being a Town employee. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board suspended its consideration of Christine Alton's request for the use of the Park until a local connection could be determined given that the closest address given by the applicant was New Jersey.

The request by the Port City Amateur Radio Club to use the Park throughout the night on June 26 thru June 28, 2009 was approved. The Radio Club uses the top of Stratham Hill as a base camp for a radio competition and has done so for many years.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Copeland moved to reappoint Gordon Barker as a regular member of the Conservation Commission and Bill McCarthy as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to reappoint John Dold and Arol Charbonneau as regular members of the Board of Adjustment and David Short as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to create a fourth alternate position on the Planning Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico then moved to appoint Rob Roseen to the newly created alternate's position for a one-year term. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Colleen Lake mentioned that she had heard and thought that Mike Debitetto was going to resign. The Board said that they had received no communication to that affect. Mr. Federico moved to appoint Marty Wool to a three-year term on the Planning Board. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico moved to appoint Mike Houlton to an alternate's position for a three-year term. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to appoint Cathy Henry, Jan Henderson, and Stephanie Iberg-Lamm to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to reappoint Bev Connolly to the Heritage Commission as an alternate. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada said that Bob Law had recommended, at the Public Works Commission's request, Bill Schoppmeyer to serve on the Public Works Commission. Mr. Federico moved to appoint Jennifer Mates to a regular member of the Public Works Commission. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada moved to reappoint Dave Sallet as a regular member of the Public Works Commission. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico moved to appoint Bill Schoppmeyer to an alternate's position on the Public Works Commission. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland moved to reappoint the entire Ad Hoc Conservation Bond Subcommittee to another one-year term. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Upon further review of the remaining appointments to be made, it was noted that the Ad Hoc Stevens Park Construction Committee has accomplished its mission and; therefore, there was not a need to reappoint members to that committee.

With that, Mr. Canada noted that the only vacancies left to fill was a regular member's position on the Heritage Commission since Peter Wiggin had expressed that he did not wish to continue on that Commission.

Mr. Canada then reported on House Bill 142, which will be heard in the Senate this week. It extends the legal limit for leasing Town property from one year to five years. The Board expressed the sentiment that it favored the bill but it did not see that it was any longer of interest to the Town as a result of the negative vote at the 2009 Town Meeting on placement of a cell tower at the Municipal Center property.

The discussion then turned to State building aid and the lack of funding in the current budget proposal the House of Representatives made. A rough calculation of what that action would cost the Town of Stratham was something over \$500,000 this year. Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to support advocating the restoration of building aid in the State's budget. That motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to support House Bill 590 which increases the retirement age for police officers from forty-five to fifty. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed with two in favor and one against.

The discussion by the Board next turned to Senate Bill 168, which would create the Coastal Water Shed Alliance. Mr. Canada moved to support this legislation. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada brought up the issue of vacation time accruals. He wanted to make sure that Department Heads were aware that the Board was going to strictly enforce the use it or lose it provisions and that any request for payment of unused vacation time had to be to the Board before December 1st. Mr. Deschaine will send a memo out to remind the Department Heads of this fact.

Mr. Canada asked about asking the affected Department Heads to provide written input on the possibility of using the Rockingham County Dispatch Center. This would allow the Board to have the issue thoroughly discussed and understood and should the opportunity arise, the Board could make an informed decision. Mr. Federico asked if the Town should approach the County Commissioners requesting them to enlarge the dispatch service and/or to start charging a fee for users of that system. Currently, there is not enough capacity for Stratham to use the Rockingham County Dispatch Center; however, we pay for that center in our County taxes.

Mr. Federico reported that there was a small roof leak in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office while Mr. Deschaine was on vacation. He had investigated it and a call was made to Brad Jones to correct the problem. Mr. Deschaine will follow up on this issue.

Mr. Deschaine asked the Board if it had any more thoughts concerning the mileage reimbursement rate that was discussed during the budget process. In several locations in the budget, mileage reimbursement was reduced and the Board had mentioned lowering the reimbursement rate. Mr. Federico moved to use the charitable mileage deduction rate for reimbursements if a Town vehicle is not available. It was his belief it was approximately twenty-four cents per mile. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland then explained the COPS grant application. It had been filed and they are awaiting verification of its acceptance.

At 10:04 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The motion to go into non-public session was due to personnel issues and issues that may affect the reputation of another not a member of the Board. At 10:55 Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the personnel issues discussed, the review of non-public minutes of April 7, 2009 and the discussion of issues that may affect the reputation of another who is not a member of the Board. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the non-public minutes of April 7, 2009 as presented in non-public session and to seal those minutes. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:56 PM, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator