

MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Town Treasurer Kevin Peck reported he had \$427,480.85 in the general operating account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Recreation: Tara Barker was present to give her monthly report. She presented two applications of people interested in being appointed to the Recreation Commission. There is one vacancy caused by Cathy Henry's resignation. The Commission has reviewed the two applications and recommended that Tom Haslam be appointed to fill the regular member's vacancy. The second applicant was Shelley Brown. The Commission recommended creating an alternate's position since they do not have any alternates at this time. One reason for this recommendation was a concern by the present Commission members of the possibility of a major turnover in membership in the foreseeable future. Having alternates will help make that a smoother transition. Ms. Barker said both candidates were seen as potentially valuable contributors to the Commission. Mr. Deschaine stated the history behind the composition of the Commission, which originally were five regular members and five alternates. At some point in time, the Commission asked to make all members regular members up to ten. Mr. Copeland moved to create an alternate's position to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland moved to appoint Tom Haslam as a regular member of the Recreation Commission. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland moved to appoint Shelley Brown to a three-year term as an alternate to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Barker then discussed a proposal from Aqua Tech for maintenance of the irrigation systems, which included servicing them and winterizing them. These are irrigation systems and seasonal water systems at Stratham Hill Park, Stevens Park, the Municipal Center, and the Police Station. The proposal did not include the cost of any parts or labor for repairs to the system. Mr. Canada saw the value in having the system winterized, but he did not see any advantage to the Town for having them turn the system on especially when parts and labor are extra. Mr. Canada asked for a revised quote that did not include the reactivation of the systems in the spring. Mr. Deschaine mentioned that the advantage of having Aqua Tech turn on the system is that they are there to make any repairs necessary rather than having to call them and schedule an appointment for the repairs. Mr. Canada admitted the added cost of turning on the system would be minimal so it might be beneficial to have them do it at least one more year so that Town personnel could learn how.

Ms. Barker reported that there are eleven acres at the Park in need of being treated and fertilized at a cost of \$2005. A quote from Biospray of \$2410 for fertilization and broad leaf control was

also provided. Mr. Canada asked if it included grub control. Ms. Barker said it did not. Ms. Barker also stated the \$434 estimate was the cost to also treat the Municipal Center. Ms. Barker will try to get better information on the price from Biospray for grub control.

Ms. Barker reported on fence repairs that occurred at the Park. The lower Little League baseball field was repaired last week in preparation for this weekend's opening day of the baseball program. There was also a gate that needed to be repaired on the upper field and a gate at Jack Rabbit Lane that was also repaired due to safety concerns. The Board questioned the cause of the damage to the Jack Rabbit Lane gate. By everyone's recollection and the nature of the damage, the damage most probably occurred during last year's Fair. The Board asked that Mr. Barker send a bill to the Fair for the cost of repairing that gate

Mr. Copeland mentioned that he has been questioned about the existence of the Stevens Park Construction Committee. Mr. Copeland would like to see the committee be reestablished to help advise during the construction of the ball field at Stevens Park. He proposed to appoint himself, Dave Short, John Hopping, Tara Barker, and Brad Russ to a committee. Mr. Canada asked if Ms. Barker had any thoughts on reestablishing the committee. Ms. Barker said she was not opposed to the committee but did not want the committee to further delay or slow the progress in the construction of that ball field. Mr. Copeland moved to create a Stevens Park Advisory Committee comprised of himself, Dave Short, John Hopping, Tara Barker and Brad Russ. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There was a discussion on the animal control ordinance at Stevens Park and its status. Mr. Deschaine mentioned that a draft of the ordinance was prepared but a re-draft was needed and was progressing. Once it is done, it can be posted for two public readings. Mr. Canada thought that it was important to have that ordinance adopted now for the summer use of the Park.

The Stratham Hill Park Association meeting scheduled for next week was next discussed. Ms. Barker will be preparing to make a presentation to the Association for funding of a new playground at Stratham Hill Park. This playground would be to replace the one that was deemed unsafe and removed down by the Little League ball field.

Police: Lieutenant Richard Gendron was present to give the Department report and to present the Highway Safety Grant application. It was noted that the Highway Safety Committee consisted of Mike Daley, Fred Hutton, and Tim Mason. With Mike Daley's retirement, there was now a vacancy. Mr. Copeland moved to appoint Lieutenant Richard Gendron to the local Highway Safety Committee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the Highway Safety Grant for the enhanced speed enforcement program. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Lieutenant Gendron reported that he has contacted the State DARE Program concerning the disposition of the local DARE funds. This is as a result of the Town having funds available for a DARE program that no longer exists. He stated there was about \$7,000 in the account and the bank holding the funds has contacted the Department about beginning to charge an inactivity fee. The State DARE program stated they have never been presented with this type of case before. Lieutenant Gendron reported that the Department no longer has anyone certified and trained in

DARE. Mr. Canada asked what the source of the funds was. Lieutenant Gendron said they were mostly, if not all, from local donations. The best advice the State DARE program could offer was that it could be used locally for a police related activity.

Lieutenant Gendron then distributed draft copies of the Department's most critical Standard Operating Procedures, i.e. SOPs, for the Board to review and adopt. He stated these are the minimum policies and procedures the Department needs to operate. Lieutenant Gendron pointed out that the current drafts need at least one revision to clarify the difference between the two Sergeant positions the Department currently has. It currently only describes one Sergeant's position. Mr. Deschaine asked about the cell detention policy. Lieutenant Gendron said one exists but it is not part of this packet and that he would add it if desired.

Various other organizational issues within the Department were discussed as it relates to how the Departmental structure exists today versus how it may exist in the future. Mr. Copeland noted the future structure of the Department would be the responsibility of the new Chief. Lieutenant Gendron mentioned that Bill Hart also contributed towards determining which SOPs were needed now versus waiting for action by a new Chief. The Board set a target of having reviewed the first drafts provided by next week.

At 8:45 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss matters of personnel with Lieutenant Gendron. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 9:45 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters of personnel that were discussed.

Administration: Mr. Canada then moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2009 Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada then moved to approve the May 4, 2009 Selectmen's minutes as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to abolish the fourth alternate's position on the Planning Board. In his discussion with the Planning Board, it was found the position was not needed. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine reported on his conversation with Mike Holton regarding air conditioning in the cafeteria room. That led to a further discussion regarding the heating and cooling of that area. Mr. Canada will also investigate getting a quote for a new heating system from another contractor.

Mr. Deschaine reported on the Engine 2 and Police cruiser disposals. Engine 2 is almost ready to be declared surplus. Two cruisers were being sent to the State auction and one cruiser had been delivered to the Fire Department for their use.

The discussion then turned to proposals to conduct the financial audit for Fiscal Year 2008. Mr. Canada had talked to a School Board member about their audit. The information was that, for all practical purposes, the cost of their audit was similar to ours or it was not applicable since they were part of an SAU and they got a group rate. Consequently, Mr. Canada moved to authorize

Mr. Deschaine to contract with Bernard & Johnson to conduct the audit for Fiscal Year 2008. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding the logistics of tomorrow's Recognition Coffee. Mr. Federico is picking up six platters of snacks. Mr. Copeland will help set up. Everyone will meet at the Municipal Center at 9:00AM tomorrow.

PARK PERMITS/ MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

M. Prince and Laurel Edwards of Exeter High School and C. M. Prince were approved to use the Municipal Center on May 15, 2009 for a drama boosters' party.

Melanie Cook, of H. D. Smith, requested use of the Park on August 15, 2009 for a company outing. The Board approved that request.

Terry Allen, of Newfields, requested use of the Park for a graduation party on June 21, 2009. The Board approved that request.

Kate McAfee requested use of the Park on June 6, 2009 for a birthday party. That request was approved.

Laura Batchelder, for Stratham Memorial School, requested the use of the entire Park on June 11, 2009 and June 23, 2009 for field days and requested two other dates for smaller school functions on June 19, 2009 and June 22, 2009. The Board approved all four dates of request.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Deschaine distributed the Purchase & Sales Agreement for the Doug Scamman Conservation Easement that the Board voted to enter into on May 5, 2009. The Board proceeded to execute the agreement based on last week's vote.

Mr. Canada stated he had a quote for a 200-piece extra letter, number and punctuation set for the Fire Department reader board on the freestanding sign. The cost for the 200-piece set was \$298 plus \$30 for shipping and handling for a total of \$328. A 466-character set was proposed at \$398 plus \$75 for a storage box or you could obtain two storage boxes for a cost of \$125. Mr. Federico asked if there was a breakdown of the different letters provided. Mr. Canada did not have that. Mr. Copeland thought the 466-piece set was the best choice. Mr. Deschaine questioned if the 466-piece set in addition to the 200-piece set we already had was more than we needed. He then retracted that statement because he realized that there are two sides to the sign. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the Chair to purchase the 466-piece set plus two storage boxes if he thinks they are of a quality necessary to hold that many characters. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico asked if there had been any further leaks in the Municipal Center roof since the roofer had looked into it. Mr. Deschaine said he was not aware of any.

Mr. Canada pointed out that the week during which Mike Daley might retire, the Board discussed improvements to the radio and dispatch systems. Specifically, it was suggested a memo be sent out to the affected Departments to get their input on the possibility of using Rockingham County Dispatch if it became an option. The Departments identified that would be affected were the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Highway Department, and the Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Federico did not think it was something we should put off but without a Police Chief, it would be difficult to fully evaluate the matter.

OTHER:

Mr. Federico reported that the Planning Board would like to next meet with all the landowners in the Town Center district to formulate goals for the future development of that district. The purpose is to revitalize the area. The target date for the meeting would be June 3, 2009.

Mr. Canada mentioned that the Highway Department is paying personnel to monitor the brush pile that is at the Highway shed. He questioned the need for doing so particularly by using full-time help at over-time rates. He stated that if it was really necessary, every attempt should be made to use part-time help. He asked the other Board members if they agreed to allow him to work with Mr. Hutton on this matter. Mr. Copeland and Mr. Federico agreed.

At 10:50 PM, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator