

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2009 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

The meeting opened at 7:07PM. Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Federico seconded to go into non-public session to meet with Lieutenant Richard Gendron to consider a personnel matter and an issue that would affect the reputation of another who is not a member of the Board. The motion passed unanimously. At 7:35 PM, Mr. Copeland moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters of personnel and a discussion concerning the reputation of another who is not a member of the Board that took place. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Chair opened the regular session of the Board at 7:38PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Town Treasurer Kevin Peck reported that he had a balance of \$46,874.91 after releasing the school checks that were written last week.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Department: Lieutenant Richard Gendron gave the monthly report. He discussed the Department's request to purchase tasers using the drug forfeiture funds that were available to the Department. The total cost of the proposal was \$10,213.65. He stated there is approximately \$19,000 available in the drug forfeiture account. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the tasers as presented tonight and at a previous Selectmen's meeting for a total cost of \$10,213.65 and the authorize up to \$10,500 total with shipping. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The discussion next focused on scheduling details for the upcoming Stratham Fair. Lieutenant Gendron has started doing so and it has taken a lot of his time.

Lieutenant Gendron then discussed the training efforts undertaken by the Department including and updated training on the IMC software. Mr. Deschaine asked if our Unified Crime Reports, or UCRs, were being filed appropriately with the State and ultimately with the Federal Government Bureau of Justice Statistics. Lieutenant Gendron believed that they are since he has been submitting the report to the State. He was told by former Chief Michael Daley that the reports were being filed appropriately but he does not know directly himself. He can follow up on this request. Mr. Deschaine explained that one reason why we did not receive any of the recent Federal Criminal Justice Grants could have been as a result of not filing those reports.

Mr. Copeland gave Lieutenant Gendron a marked-up copy of the SOPs for his review and response on the proposed changes. Upon Lieutenant Gendron's response to those changes, the Board will then pursue adopting them. Mr. Canada asked about one of the SOPs, which concerned the use of our detention facilities by other outside agencies. He questioned if there was a need to allow that to occur at all. Lieutenant Gendron explained that it is very helpful if there are multiple arrests to occur in Town. Mr. Canada accepted that explanation but wanted to

know if the policy reflected a need to report the frequency of this occurrence. Mr. Copeland said that it was not appropriate to be part of the SOPs on the detention facilities. Mr. Deschaine suggested putting the reporting requirement in the Supervisor's job description. The Board concurred that that would be an appropriate place to put the requirement.

Mr. Canada questioned the policy regarding strip searches and Lieutenant Gendron responded adequately regarding the need, time, and place.

Mr. Canada then announced that Lieutenant Gendron has been formally appointed as Acting Police Chief by the Board. A decision to hire an outside Acting Police Chief has been found not to be necessary and he thanked Lieutenant Gendron for taking on the responsibility.

Administration: Mr. Deschaine gave his weekly report. He reported on the proposal received to replace the current boiler with either a replacement boiler or a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Both proposals are on hand and are available for review and later discussion.

Mr. Deschaine also reported that there was no further information from the IEU concerning the response to the Town's counter proposal for the disposal of the Old Engine 2.

Mr. Deschaine then presented to the Board a sample of two works by Ron Roberts concerning poetry and photos that he is willing to allow the Town to display in the Municipal Center. Mr. Canada was pleased with the pieces and moved to allow Mr. Deschaine to negotiate with Mr. Roberts for their display. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine discussed recent correspondence regarding the expansion of the Maritimes and Northeast gas pipeline system. Mr. Deschaine will file the appropriate paperwork to monitor the pipeline owner's application to the Federal Energy Commission.

Mr. Deschaine reviewed the invitation to the Rockingham Planning Commission's annual meeting. Mr. Federico said he would be attending.

Mr. Deschaine presented a report concerning the upcoming Committee on Government Affairs meeting at the Local Government Center. The issues being presented were HB283 and 675. Mr. Canada moved to oppose both bills. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board supported, in concept, the issue concerning range ways being proposed by another Town. Mr. Canada moved to support the issue. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented the newly revised employee manual for the Board to review. Any of the corrections and the item will be discussed next week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The following Park Permits were reviewed and approved:

Holly Hillsgrove of University of New Hampshire for a company picnic at the Scamman Pavilion on August 7, 2009.

Tara Barker requested to use the Scamman Pavilion on July 11, 2009 for a birthday party. Mr. Canada moved to waive the fee, as she is an employee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jay Diener, of the Great Bay Stewarts for the Great Bay Discovery Center, was present to discuss the Great Bay 5K. The Great Bay Community College will not be available to their group this year since it is closing. Mr. Diener asked to be able to use the Front Pavilion at Stratham Hill Park. To do so, they would also like to hang tent panels on the sides of the Pavilion in case of inclement weather. Mr. Deschaine said he was unaware of anyone else doing so but felt that it was appropriate to leave it to the discretion of the Park Ranger. Mr. Canada asked how long they have been doing the 5K. Mr. Diener's response was eleven years. Mr. Canada asked if the only change this year was the starting point at Stratham Hill Park rather than the Great Bay Community College. Mr. Diener agreed. Mr. Copeland noted that the difference requires participants to cross Route 33 for the first time. Mr. Diener explained that Police details and traffic control have been worked out with Acting Chief Gendron. Mr. Diener also asked to use the Gifford Fields for parking. The Board agreed to allow that use. Then the availability of restroom facilities was discussed. Mr. Canada was concerned that the water may be shut off and be winterized at the time of the event which is scheduled for October 24, 2009. There was a consensus that winterization could be held off until after the event. Then the number of toilets available was discussed. Mr. Canada moved to allow the event as described with the condition that the holding tanks be either pumped after the event at the cost of the Great Bay Stewarts or that porta-potties be required to be brought on site. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK/MEETINGS TO REPORT ON:

Mr. Canada reported on issues discussed during the construction meeting. Mr. Federico reported specifically on the results from the last Planning Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kathy Flagg had requested, on behalf of the Girl Scouts of America, to use the Fire Department Meeting Room for a Girl Scout event. Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to authorize the use as requested. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Federico moved to waive the fee for the event, being that Ms. Flagg is a Fire Department member. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented an application for the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grant. Upon review of the application, Mr. Canada moved to approve submitting the application as presented and further to authorize the Chair to sign the document where needed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Deschaine will set up a meeting date for a staff meeting with those in the Town Offices when it is appropriate.

Mr. Canada reported on the proposed timer on the Fire Department's free standing sign. Dan Whittier can do the installation for less than \$1,800, which was the total cost of the electrical work for the lighting of the sign. He also thought the additional lettering and a case to hold these letters have been delivered to the sign makers and only need to be picked up.

Mr. Deschaine reported on the results of the State audit of the Municipal Agent. The audit presented no defects or issues to report.

When asked about implementing the new fees for copies schedule, Mr. Deschaine said that he needed to incorporate the proposed new fee schedule into the existing policy document.

The Board returned to the request of John Law to remove the rocks in the Gifford field. Mr. Canada had investigated the need and there appears that there is no salvage value to the rocks being proposed to be removed. The Board, by consent, agreed to allow the removal at no cost to the Town.

The Board then discussed a proposal to install a water softener at the Fire House for a total cost of \$4,500. The recent water test showed the water was very hard and high in manganese. Mr. Canada questioned the need compared to the cost of the water softener. Mr. Federico advocated for its installation. He said the benefit over the long run was that it would decrease equipment maintenance particularly with regard to water heaters and valves. Mr. Federico moved to accept the proposal of Epping Pump and Well for the installation of the water softener at a total cost of \$4,500. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed with two votes for and one against.

There was a discussion about the appointment of a committee to organize for the Town's observance of its 300th anniversary celebration. Mr. Deschaine suggested putting an article in this coming year's warrant to generate interest. The Board felt that that was a good idea and would request Mr. Deschaine to put it on as a potential warrant article.

The Board then reviewed recently received applications for appointment to fill vacancies on Boards and Commissions. Mr. Federico moved to create a fourth alternate's position on the Planning Board. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico moved to appoint Robert Baskerville to fill this newly created alternate's position with a one-year term. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board postponed consideration of any further applications.

At 9:30 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter and also the negotiation to acquire property. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 11:02 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the personnel and contract negotiations discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada then moved to accept Charles Grassie's resignation. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to accept the proposal by Municipal Resources, Inc. Specifically, he was accepting items number 1, 2, 3, and 5 in their proposal with item number 6 being optional if needed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator