

MINUTES OF THE JULY 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 was opened at 7:31 PM by the Chair.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Town Treasurer Kevin Peck reported he had \$2,279,485.59 in the general checking account with \$4,500,000 invested.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police: Lieutenant Richard Gendron was present to give the monthly report for the Department. The Standard Operating Procedures are in their final version, between the Department's and Mr. Copeland's revisions. Preparations for the 2009 Stratham Fair are well on their way.

Lieutenant Gendron said that planning has started for Mr. Daley's retirement party. There is a potential need for funding the event. Invitees will be asked to pay \$30 per person with \$7 of the ticket price going towards a gift.

The discussion continued on the possibility of re-implementing the DARE program in the Elementary School. Lieutenant Gendron has begun discussions with School Board members but it is still in the preliminary stages. Regardless, Mr. Gendron said a DARE Program could not be offered this year because the school academic schedule has already been set. Officer Michael Gobbi has expressed an interest in receiving DARE training. If there were other members in the Department with an interest, the State DARE program would interview candidates and select the person they feel is most qualified. Mr. Canada asked if there is any need for a budget. Lieutenant Gendron said that the DARE fund should be adequate to support all the expenses for the program currently. Consequently, he would recommend not doing anything with those funds at this time.

Discussion turned to the status of the radio communications with Newmarket Dispatch. Mr. Gendron said that the recent improvements that Newmarket has accomplished have made a great difference and much improved reception throughout Town. Fire Chief Bob Law concurred in that assessment. Mr. Canada said the Town of Stratham was greatly appreciative of Newmarket Police Chief Kevin Sears' efforts to improve the situation. It was a great effort by Newmarket to resolve it to the greatest extent possible.

Mr. Copeland asked for more detail from the activity report. Former Chief Daley had started the additional detail and he would like Lieutenant Gendron to continue the effort. Lieutenant Gendron agreed that it was a need and has made a general effort to better report the Department's activities. For instance, Lieutenant Gendron is asking Sergeant Detective Pierce to report weekly on his investigations. Mr. Copeland asked for a bi-weekly activity log of Lieutenant Gendron's work.

Mr. Federico asked for a status report on the level of restitution to the Town for the vandalism at Stratham Hill Park. Lieutenant Gendron said that there has not been any additional damage. He is waiting for more information on the cost estimates to repair the damages from prior acts. Mr. Deschaine cautioned the reporting to date concerning the previous vandalism, which needs to recognize the nature of the juveniles involved. He had received an anonymous complaint from one of the fathers of the juveniles contending that the Town should not be classifying these acts as criminal, in that they were juvenile matters. Lieutenant Gendron concurred also in that assessment.

Administration: Mr. Canada reported that there had been three contacts so far regarding the sale of the Old Engine 2. The most promising and intriguing one was from a Fire Department in Oregon. Mr. Sapienza has discussed the technical specifications of the engine with that party. They will await a decision from the Oregon Fire Department some time in the near future.

Mr. Deschaine presented an engagement letter from Devine, Millimet & Branch for special legal services concerning the fire suppression district. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to accept the terms of the engagement letter. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine then reviewed other items for the Board to sign.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK/MEETINGS TO REPORT ON:

The Board reviewed meetings scheduled this week and the meetings held during the past week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The Board reviewed the following Park Permits and Municipal Center rental requests:

Mike Jordan for a barbeque at the Front Pavilion at the Park on October 3, 2009 was approved.

Nora Litzelman for a Life Work by Design Seminar at the Municipal Center was approved. These are to occur on August 15, 2009, September 12, 2009, and October 10, 2009 from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Board discussed some concerns with this request, particularly since these are three sets of sessions. This is the second round of this type of event. The Board questioned the appropriateness of continuing to approve having the event at the Municipal Center. They noted that if an additional request should occur the Board would like to review it in more detail next time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Caroline Robinson was present to discuss the offer by Unitil to fund the purchase of a solar array system for the Fire House at a cost of up to \$300,000. Mr. Deschaine summarized the efforts leading up to this point. Mr. Canada asked Dan Crow and Mike Keane if there were any concerns with installing the system on the Fire House. Mr. Crow said that there were some concerns with the roof warranty, which is for fifteen years when the panels are expected to last at

least thirty years. Mike Welty explained that the panels are removable and without roof penetrations. The panels are also much more efficient so the number of panels might be able to be reduced. There was a discussion on the potential need for greater maintenance particularly caused by snow drifting. Mr. Deschaine also mentioned that the solar system needed to be fully engineered to reduce the amount of maintenance. An electrical engineer will also be needed to analyze all the electrical systems at the Fire House to make sure they are fully integrated. Mike Bonham noted that this proposal would stabilize the electrical rates for the Fire House for the foreseeable future. Clay Mitchell said that the amount of energy produced would be slightly less than the total electrical use of the building. Matt O'Keefe stated depending on the demand charges and when they occur, the value of the electricity may vary. Regardless, any credits for power generated during the day would be used during the night. Mr. Keane expressed his support and welcomed working with the group. He asked what would happen if it costs more than \$300,000. Mr. Deschaine said that it is believed that the cost would be less, but if it were to cost more, he suggested using bond funds for the difference. Mr. Copeland asked what would occur during a power failure. Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Deschaine, and Mr. Welty said the solar array would continue to power and the generator would remain off until production and demand were (?) and the need for generation would require it to come on if the system is designed correctly. Mr. Law asked if there were further agreements to implement the project and to clarify the memorandum of understanding. All the members of the Energy Committee said that it was only a start. John Sapienza asked if the Town was responsible for any of the cost overruns. Mr. Canada and Mr. Deschaine said it was but there were no overruns expected. Mr. Sapienza questioned the need for access to the Fire House. The discussion continued under special metering required, whether it could be done on the outside of the building and how the system could be monitored via a web-based system. Monitoring and maintenance of the system were discussed. Mr. Canada moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Unitil and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Randy Claar was present to discuss the potential repairs and modifications to the Jack Rabbit Lane gates at Stratham Hill Park. He was obtaining quotes on the repairs. He questioned whether they could be done before this year's fair. The cost quoted for the gate so far was \$1,720 from GCAA Fence for an eighteen-foot gate. The Board concurred that additional quotes might be necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Deschaine reviewed the analysis he did as to the impact of the State budget on the Town's projected revenues and expenses for the remainder of this fiscal year. This projection showed a limited impact during Fiscal Year 2009 of approximately \$38,964. This was only a projection. The Board discussed the relevance of this impact and decided that no further action was necessary. Mr. Canada; however, moved to lower the expenditure limit to \$500 down from the previous \$1,000 set by the Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada suggested having a more specific discussion of possible cuts during next week's meeting, understanding that any cuts to this year's budget would not impact the 2009 tax rate without a special Town meeting being called. It would only increase the resulting fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.

The Board reviewed a revised job description for the custodian position, which will be open as a result of Joe Marchio's expected retirement on September 1, 2009. Specific changes to the job description were relative to snow removal efforts. The Board approved the job description as revised.

The Board discussed the known vacancies to occur and how to fill them. The Board agreed, at this time, to post internally the custodian's position.

The Board next discussed the continuing effort to purchase water at the Highway Garage. Mr. Canada moved to limit the purchases of water to \$7.00 per five-gallon container for the cooler and \$3.00 per case for bottled water. He also moved to authorize the purchase of the cooler not to exceed \$150.00. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:15 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a possible land acquisition. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 10:47 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the discussions of a potential property acquisition and to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator